

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group Issue No 53 October-November 1985 Price 30p - 20p unwaged

Day of the Jackals

At the Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth Neil Kinnock became a 'statesman' by doing what comes naturally to him -

- attacking the miners
- pouring scorn on his party's left-wing
- opposing black rights
- attacking local councillors and so on.



Kinnock & Co's message to the working class and oppressed was short and simple: NO.

- NO withdrawal from Ireland
- NO withdrawal from NATO
- NO black rights
- NO breaking diplomatic links with apartheid
- NO women's rights
- NO equal rights for lesbians and gays
- NO to the miners
- NO to the youth fighting police racism
- NO! NO! NO!

Ron Todd said he would rather be led by a donkey than a jackal. He is led by a jackal. See 'Day of the Jackals' p2 for full report.



Black and white youth defend communities Newman threatens London

Britain Burns

From 9 September to 6 October, from Handsworth to Brixton to Tottenham, the revolutionary anger of the dispossessed, led by black youth, has once again exploded in people's violence against racist police terror. In Tottenham the people engaged in the fiercest street fighting yet seen in Britain. The people of Broadwater Farm Estate added guns to the petrol bombs and bricks of Handsworth and Brixton. It was, indeed, a 'life for a life' as one police officer was killed and hundreds injured - including three with shotgun wounds and one hit by a .38 calibre bullet. For decades the police have harassed, imprisoned and murdered black people. Each of the three risings was a response to escalating police violence against black people. Organised state violence against the oppressed is being met with people's violence rising in intensity to match the accelerating terrorism of the police.

The risings of 1985, building on the experience of 1981, have once again confirmed that the dispossessed black youth, supported by white youth and whole communities, are a new fighting revolutionary force in the British working class. A force which is anti-racist,

imposes on the people. We say that black people and all oppressed people have the right to fight back in whatever way they choose.

Police against the people

'The degree of violence, the arson, the



Police equipped with long truncheons in Brixton, 28 September

In Tottenham, for the first time in Britain, plastic bullets were issued to the police. Wherever the oppressed rise up in determined struggle against their oppressors, the plastic bullet is used to drive the people off the streets: in Ireland and South Africa the people are murdered and maimed with plastic and rubber bullets. Repression and escalation

'It is now war. From now on it's a life for a life.' Black youth in Tottenham.

anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist. A force free of all illusions in British 'democracy' and in the opportunist Labour and trade union leadership. A force of the future. Communists stand 100% with the dispossessed youth in fighting back against this system and the poverty, racism and police violence it

deaths is not something which can just be regarded as one more racial incidence. It is taking on some of the qualities we have seen on the TV in Northern Ireland and South Africa.' Eldon Griffiths, Tory MP and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, speaking after Handsworth.

ting police violence is the only response the decaying British system can make to the demands of the oppressed. Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said 'I have put London on notice', threatening plastic bullets, CS gas and other forms of police violence.

continued on centre pages

Anti-Apartheid Movement
National Demonstration
Saturday 2 November



London

March Against Apartheid
Join FRFI, City AA and others marching under the banners 'No to racism in Britain! No to apartheid in South Africa!' The main body of the demonstration is assembling at Hyde Park. Meet us there from 12 noon - by the big tree at Speakers corner

INSIDE

- News and anti-racist campaigns pages 2,3,4
- South Africa pages 6&7
- Black Sections page 5
- The political economy of Thatcherism page 10
- International pages 10&11

Todd meets Apartheid Envoy

Many anti-apartheid activists must have been shocked by the disgraceful decision of the Transport and General Workers Union to meet South Africa's ambassador. This is the union which has just appointed black full-timer Bill (The-System-Works) Morris as Deputy General Secretary. Not surprisingly, Ron Todd's invitation to Dennis Worrall was seized eagerly and the racist envoy even imposed two conditions:

1. There should be no demonstration outside Transport House;
2. He should be heard without interruption.

The Transport and General Workers Union made their resolve clear. Yes, but there'll be no tea and sandwiches. Billed in *The Guardian* as a 'meeting in the lion's den' and the *Morning Star* as an 'eyeball to eyeball confrontation', what actually happened was typified when the ambassador was asked why segregation was removed from the trains (perhaps because only whites can afford first-class tickets) but introduced on platforms. Worrall replied that his wife had asked him the same thing only the other day and that he would write to President Botha and ask the reason.

Of course, the T&G's meeting with Worrall was a pathetic failure. What did Todd expect? That the ambassador would support sanctions or renounce an apartheid regime he has faithfully served for years? Worrall was the handsdown winner. He

was given a platform at the highest level of the union and his defence of apartheid a new lease of respectability. No doubt Worrall hopes to follow up this success by meeting other union leaders and may even invite some to South Africa where they can see the 'reforms' for themselves. This breach in the campaign to isolate apartheid must be filled. The T&G should be bombarded with protests to ensure such a meeting never occurs again.

Not for the first time the AAM Executive are on the wrong side of the issue. In violation of Anti-Apartheid Movement policy that there should be no debate with representatives of apartheid, the Executive applauded the meeting. This underlines the entirely submissive relationship national AAM has with the TUC and Labour Party. Instead of urging the labour movement to take action against apartheid, particularly by refusing to handle trade with South Africa, they provide an alibi for most unions to do nothing—except pay their affiliation fee to AAM.

Their endorsement of the shabby meeting between Worrall and Todd marks another shift towards compromising with apartheid. They have yet to welcome Neil Kinnock's pledge to maintain diplomatic links with Pretoria but by approving the behaviour of the T&G Executive they are backing Ron Todd who is putting Kinnock's weasel words into practice.

Mick Gavan

Fight police disorder

At the Tory Party Conference on Thursday 10 October, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd announced that a new offence of 'disorderly conduct' would be included in proposed changes to the Public Order Act. The 'disorderly conduct' charge will be a catch-all offence allowing the police unrestrained control over any gathering of youth, demonstrators, trade unionists, peace campaigners and so on. FRFI has joined the broad-based Campaign for the Right of Assembly and Dissent (CROWD) which is working to mobilise opposition to the Public Order White Paper (see FRFI 50) and all other attempts to restrict democratic rights of assembly and protest.

CROWD has got off to a good start by accepting the position put forward by FRFI that all participating groups had the right to sell their literature and put forward their political views at CROWD events. A proposal to restrict speakers to six at the forthcoming CROWD demonstration was rejected in favour of the FRFI proposal that all participating organisations were entitled to speak. However, CROWD has yet to seriously set about the task of turning outwards to win active support from the people most threatened by the ever-increasing police powers. The

recent risings are already being used as an excuse for escalating police violence against the people and for the creation of yet further repressive legislation. As James Wood, barrister and CROWD member, said at the ISM rally: 'We must unify, mobilise, defeat this legislation and defeat Thatcher.'

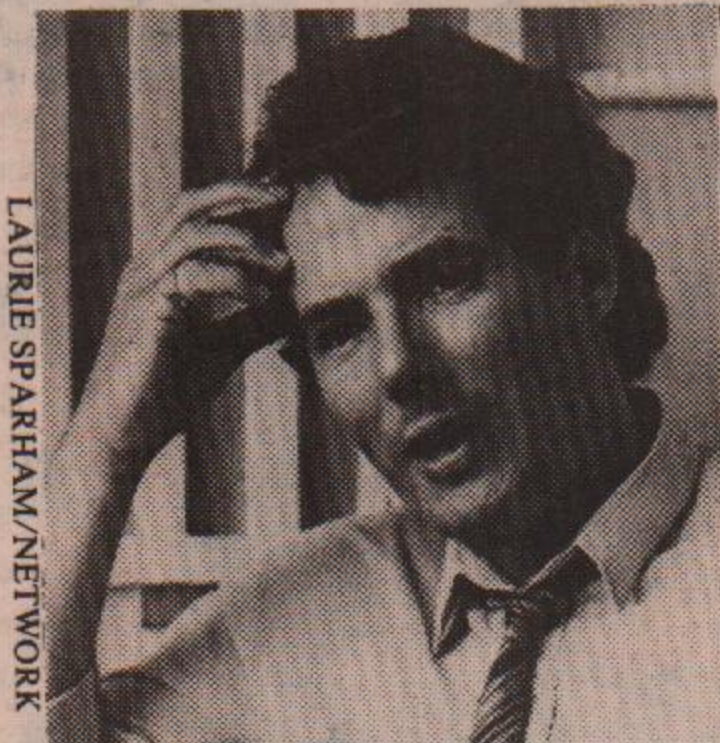
Terry O'Halloran
(CROWD media committee member)

CROWD: 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1.
National demonstration: London, Saturday 7 December.

End of the line for Liverpool's Militants

Liverpool City Council has gone further and held out longer in defiance of Tory spending targets than anywhere else. Yet the crisis in Liverpool is now revealing more sharply than ever the real limits of 'municipal socialism', as practised in this case by the Militant-led Liverpool City Council. (Ken Livingstone, its most famous proponent, sold out long ago.) In the final analysis, it is not possible, through council motions and manoeuvres, to administer an island of socialism within a capitalist whole. In the end, the money runs out and the council ends up issuing redundancy notices to the very 31,000 strong workforce it wants to protect. This is the logic of capitalism.

To win, the Tories' power had to be challenged and Militant's strategy, while being broader than elsewhere,



Derek Hatton deputy leader

on their influence in the unions, Militant have failed to forge the alliances rights across the community which could have brought on to the streets the powerful fighting force which would have stopped the Tories in their tracks. In fact, over the past year, the enormous support for the council has been setback by Militant's manoeuvres. Chief example of this was the appointment of Sam Bond, a Militant supporter,

While Kinnock's arrogant, anti-working class stand met opposition from a minority of the Conference it received substantial agreement from the bulk of the Labour Party and trade unions. The Labour Party is not being reluctantly dragged to the right by scab Kinnock, for the most part it is following him quite happily. Nor is this any accident. The Labour Party has always been based on the secure and privileged sections of the working class. As the crisis has deepened so has this section grown smaller. Where else then would the Labour Party try to widen its appeal than amongst middle class and prosperous voters? In Kinnock's words:

'...the only way to help the poor, the only way to help the unemployed...the only way to help the victimised is to get the support of those who are not poor, those who are not unemployed, those who are not victimised'.

What does this appeal to the social backbone of Thatcher's property owning democracy actually mean? It means Labour resolutely turning its back on the unemployed, the poor, black people, all the oppressed. It means pandering to the bigoted, narrow-minded chauvinism and racism of those with a stake in British imperialism. It means soothing their nightmares about the oppressed fighting back by assuring them of less 'riots' under Labour and a commitment to uphold British law and order. Such was the aim of the Conference and on every major issue Labour's true character was revealed.

Whilst the delegates were arriving in Bournemouth (and being treated to a huge police security operation) London police were shooting Mrs Cherry Groce in her Brixton home. The Brixton community rose up in protest against yet another police attack. And what did Labour's NEC say? They reserved their attack not for the police gunmen but for the people of Brixton whose 'violence is to be strongly condemned'. It is those who fight back against the military might of the British state who are condemned by the Labour Party. Labour's demand for police accountability, which the Conference discussed, springs not from any opposition to the role of the police—protecting the wealthy and powerful—but from the fear that police excesses will cause a fightback by the oppressed. As Shadow Home Secretary Gerald Kaufman told the conference, lack of police accountability is 'undermining the public confidence that is essential for police success'.



Demolition taking place in Urban Regeneration Scheme

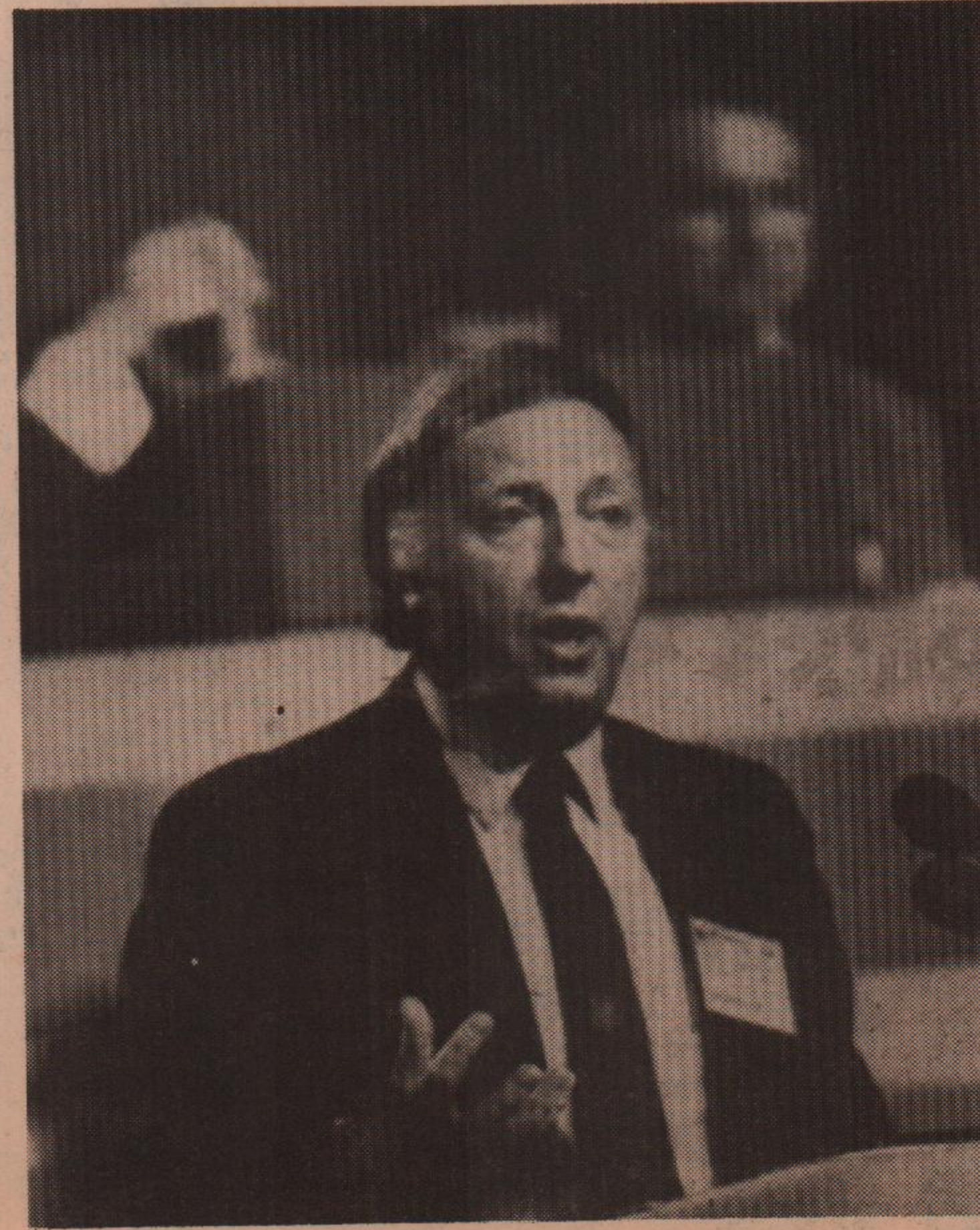
Adviser to the City Council, over the head of a number of local candidates. Such a move was bound to alienate the Liverpool 8 community, for whom the fact that only 160 out of 31,000 council workers are black is the most striking example of decades of City Council racism.

There is no doubt that an all-out strike by council workers was necessary to defend Liverpool. Yet even within the unions support is divided, particularly between white collar and manual workers. While the GMBATU voted 58% in favour of a strike, NALGO voted 66% against. NUPE and NUT officials prevented ballots from taking place. The council's decision to issue redundancy notices for all 31,000 workers in order to be able to borrow

Labour Party Conference

THE DAY OF THE JACKALS

What was Neil Kinnock doing whilst the black youth of Britain, supported by sections of white working class youth, were on the streets fighting back against poverty, racism and police violence? He was, in the words of the many glowing Fleet Street tributes showered on him, 'becoming a statesman'. To earn such praise Kinnock only had to do what came naturally to him—attack the miners, pour scorn on his party's left-wing (calling them loud mouthed minorities) and make clear that a future Labour government would in no way threaten those things held precious by the British ruling class—its profits, its laws and its state.



The racism of the Labour Party was also starkly revealed in the debate on black sections. The motion for black sections was defeated by 5,358,000 to 1,181,000. Roy Hattersley, opposing the motion, said:

'We believe black sections to be wrong because it is, or ought to be, an article of socialist faith that all men and women are treated the same.'

Small matter for Hattersley and Co that both inside and outside the Labour Party black people are not

Arthur Scargill speaking at this year's Labour Party Conference

treated the same, they are oppressed and discriminated against. Small matter also that black members themselves are demanding the basic right to organise together. No, the big white chiefs of the Labour Party know what is best for black people. Little has changed (except the language) since the 1917 Labour Party programme referred to black people as the 'non-adult races'.

And while the Labour Party was

attacking what it insultingly referred to as the 'apartheid' which black sections would create, it was at the same time failing to give a two thirds majority to a motion calling for Britain to break diplomatic links with the actual apartheid regime that is murdering and torturing black people in South Africa. Even now the Labour Party is not convinced by a 2:1 majority that apartheid should be isolated. But it is convinced by a 5:1 majority that black people in the Labour Party should not have the right to organise.

Women in the Labour Party fared little better. Motions calling for women to get guaranteed places on election and candidate short lists and for the Womens' Conference to have the sole right to elect the five women's division members to the NEC, were both overwhelmingly defeated. The Labour Party could breathe again—women and blacks had been put in their place.

There are minorities and minorities in the Labour Party. Whilst the oppressed black minority in the Labour Party get short shrift, the fascist loyalist minority in the Six Counties are accorded the right of vetoing the wishes of the majority of the Irish people. Once again the Conference overwhelmingly threw out a motion calling for withdrawal of troops from Ireland. Even a motion calling for open debate within the Labour Party and for consultation with Irish nationalist parties on the issue of withdrawal was defeated by 4,383,000 to 899,000. Nothing else was to be expected from the party which sent troops into Ireland, introduced the PTA and withdrew special category status from Irish prisoners.

Labour's full support for imperialism was also shown when the Conference defeated a motion calling for withdrawal from NATO by 5,529,000 to 965,000. Their 'opposition' to nuclear weapons is a sham—the Labour Party remains committed to full participation in a military imperialist alliance bristling with weaponry, both nuclear and conventional, aimed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Every section that has been in struggle against the government and the state came under attack. Kinnock was venomous in his treatment of the Militant-controlled Liverpool Council. Unfortunately Militant's arrogant tactics of riding roughshod over the wishes of trade unionists and black people in Liverpool made Kinnock's task easier. He did not have such an easy time over the issue of the miners' strike. For a year miners, under the leadership of Arthur Scargill, fought a courageous and principled struggle for jobs. They faced an onslaught from every section of the ruling class. At the Conference they faced an onslaught from the Kinnock wing of the ruling class. The NUM's motion would commit a Labour government to reimbursing the NUM for its financial losses, reinstating sacked miners and reviewing the cases of imprisoned miners. Kinnock was horrified that a Labour government should be associated with such an affront to sacred British law. In the course of his diatribe against the miners he even managed to blame the massive police operation during the strike on the NUM's tactic of mass picketing! During the debate the openly reactionary EETPU leader Eric Hammond (whose union consistently scabbed on the miners) said the miners were 'lions led by donkeys'. Ron Todd, leader of the TGWU, who supported the miners' motion, responded by saying that he preferred donkeys to jackals. Jackal-in-chief Kinnock lost the vote but the NUM motion did not get the necessary majority to become part of the Labour Manifesto.

Labour's 1985 Conference was yet another chapter in its eighty year history of services to imperialism. But the Conference and Neil Kinnock did do one service to the working class and oppressed. They made it abundantly clear (for anyone who still doubted) that the Labour Party is not the party for the working class and oppressed. Black people, the unemployed, the miners—all those in struggle—must create a new movement, a fighting anti-imperialist movement. And any genuine socialist still in the Labour Party should leave this party of the privileged and join the movement of the oppressed.

Maxine Williams

FOWLER'S LIES

The indifference of the Tories to all except the rich is only matched by their disregard for the truth. Social Services Minister Fowler and his friends have embarked on a propaganda campaign about the ravaged welfare state that would have made Goebbels blush.

For example, the Tories describe YTS cheap labour as 'an undoubted success'. Yet recent figures show Birmingham 'Mode A' schemes employ 94.9% white school leavers.

Again: DHSS staff walked out after Fowler's TV claim that payments were available for fuel debts and clothing - benefits virtually abolished by his own government. A union official described Fowler as 'totally ignorant of regulations or lying in his teeth.' Advice bureaux rejected DHSS leaflets describing Fowler's proposed 'reforms' - 2 civil service unions called them 'deliberately misleading propaganda'. The one million leaflets, with Fowler's personal message, didn't mention £500m housing benefit cuts, that the proposed £100m Social Fund represents a cut of £122m from single

payments, and that claimants will lose any right of appeal.

Fowler calls his massive cuts 'radical but sensible'. The reality is: that the DHSS is reported paying £25 to those who inform on 'moonlighting' neighbours. Benefit to strikers' families will be cut by a further pound. And when a couple won a tribunal appeal that would have restored board and lodging payments to 85,000 youth, Fowler simply blocked the ruling.

Fowler's claim that the NHS is thriving is a similar travesty. Under the Tories 17,000 hospital beds and 10,000 ancillary jobs have gone. By refusing fully to fund the nurses' pay award, the government has forced service cuts of £130m. While wards close and cash for kidney machines and liver transplants runs out, the

Tories widen sales of profitable bits of the NHS. The American Medical International company plans a private service to rival the NHS by 1988 - 'regardless of which party wins the next election.'

Private firms extract profits by reducing wages and lowering standards. 150 workers have picketed Addenbrooke's hospital for a year: their wages were slashed by 50%, holidays cut and sick pay abolished when OCS Hospital Services took over cleaning. OCS have employed child labour, surgeons have refused to operate in bloodstained theatres and hospital visitors have cleaned filthy wards themselves. Psychiatric wards in Kent were closed because Crothalls - the same contractors against whom the women of Barking Hospital have picketed for 18 months - had left them unfit for use.

Those who mobilise against privatisation face Tory laws and union apathy. The 1980 Employment Act rules on 'secondary picketing' were used against 600 workers who came out in support of sacked ancillaries in Sunderland. At Addenbrooke's a porter said, 'We get £15 per week strike pay and fine words. When we do see a national official it's to tell us that a hospital has settled, with the implication that we should too.'

Dave Burton

EDITORIAL...

FORCES OF REVOLUTION

'The theoretical conclusions of the communists... express only, in general terms, actual relations springing from an existing class struggle, from a historical movement going on under our very eyes' Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*

Marxism is not a dogma. As the scientific standpoint of the working class it is a guide to revolutionary action. In Britain today that concerns the possibility and necessity of making the socialist revolution in a world torn apart by imperialism. The test of marxist theory is in political practice, in the class struggle unfolding before our very eyes.

Last month saw once again uprisings of black youth, supported by sections of white working class youth, on the streets of Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham. It also saw the Labour Party make a decisive turn to the right, with Neil Kinnock attacking the violence of the youth defending themselves against the racist British police, attacking the miners and the whole conduct of the miners' strike and arrogantly dismissing any left-wing minority groups, black and white, in the party. The Labour Party this year finally turned its back on the poor and oppressed and appealed to well paid workers, house owners, and the British middle classes to return to the fold and vote it back into power at the next election. These two developments should have answered one question at least for communists - the question of the potential revolutionary forces of the British working class.

The Revolutionary Communist Group is alone on the British left in arguing that we are witnessing the emergence of a truly revolutionary working class movement in Britain. We are alone in seeing black youth as a vanguard force of the British revolution. As early as June 1979 we wrote

'Black and immigrant workers in this country suffer a dual oppression, both from racism and class exploitation. They have been forced into direct confrontation with the British state. No other section of British workers is involved to anything like the same degree in such a determined struggle against the British state. This puts black and immigrant workers in the vanguard of the struggle for the overthrow of the British state and against imperialism' (*Revolutionary Communist* 9 p1)

We were clear that the greatest threat to British imperialism is a movement which unites the struggle of the working class in Britain with the struggle against national oppression at home and abroad. The economic and social position of black workers creates the conditions for bringing this movement about.

'As part of the oppressed they know there is no way forward other than the struggle against the state. As members of the working class they are better placed than any other section of the exploited to help raise the consciousness of the mass of workers' (*ibid* p6)

The uprisings in British cities in the summer of 1981 decisively confirmed the revolutionary vanguard role of black youth. They provided the impetus for the most significant challenge that the British state had met for decades. Their lead was readily followed by sections of dispossessed white youth. At the time we wrote

'The corrupt and imperialist Labour Party and its middle class allies with their peaceful constitutionalism belong to the past. The future of the communist movement in Britain is with the forces of St Paul's and of Brixton, of Southall and of Liverpool 8 and Manchester - the forces of revolution' (FRFI No 11 July/August 1981)

Those uprisings were eventually put down: by physical repression, 4,000 arrests and 700 gaoled; by the failure of the organised working class to support the uprisings and defend those arrested; and by black opportunist currents, many closely allied to the Labour Party, who deserted the youth who were arrested, and limited their campaigns to what was acceptable to their respectable friends in the Labour Party.

For four years no new uprisings took place although there were many skirmishes with the police and 'mini-riots', in the words of Kenneth Newman, 'which had the potential to escalate to Brixton

1981 proportions'. In May last year in defending our political standpoint we wrote:

'the conditions which gave rise to the uprisings - police harassment, racism, unemployment - have not disappeared; on the contrary they have got worse. Inevitably the struggle will reach new heights. This time it is important that organised communist forces exist which will fight alongside the youth and with them begin the process of creating a more sustained, anti-racist, anti-imperialist movement in Britain'. (FRFI No 39 May 1984)

This year the struggle has been renewed on the streets of Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham and has even greater political significance than before. It has become clear to all that any determined resistance to ruling class power and privilege, whether on the streets, in the workplaces or in the council chambers, will be met by organised state power - the police, the law and courts - to crush it. Not only that. With the representatives of the more privileged sections of the working class subordinating every significant political action to the election of a Labour government under Neil Kinnock, anyone whose fightback, in or out of the Labour movement, threatens this political goal will be isolated, attacked and left to fight alone.

The heroic and courageous struggle of the miners was not only brutally attacked by the organised forces of the state. It was also betrayed by the organised Labour movement. That attack and betrayal has continued. Arthur Scargill and the forces he represents are being isolated. While NCB/government pit closures and the breakaway scab union are undermining the long-term fighting ability of the NUM, the Labour Party under Neil Kinnock is rapidly destroying Scargill's political influence. Trade unionists who want to fight are being increasingly isolated and will have to build alliances with the new forces emerging outside that movement if they are to take their struggle forward.

Bernie Grant, Haringey council leader and Labour candidate, is receiving the same treatment as Scargill for defending the resistance of the oppressed black youth. Not only is he being hounded publicly by state functionaries like Hurd and Newman but he is also being viciously attacked by Kinnock and his allies. 1,000 mainly white TGWU and NUPE council workers have joined in this attack by calling on him to resign and organising a 24 hour strike as a protest against him.

The involvement of local predominantly white trade unionists in the reactionary attack on Bernie Grant shows how far the rot has gone in the British trade union movement. These trade unionists have lined up with the state against the fighting black youth. At the same time local predominantly black trade unionists have come out and demonstrated in support of Bernie Grant. As we saw during the miners' strike, the two sides in the British working class movement directly confronted each other. This political development was brought about by the action of the youth on the streets which inevitably forced all political forces to come out into the open and choose their side. By doing this the youth have raised the political consciousness of the workers involved and exposed the opportunist agents of the state in the working class movement. This is how real class politics develop.

The issue for communists is how to build on these developments. This can only be done if the vanguard role being played by black workers and especially the youth is recognised and the necessary political conclusions drawn. First, the youth must be unequivocally defended against the state and its opportunist allies in the Labour and trade union movement. Second, all attempts to isolate this vanguard force must be opposed. Third, as the miners' strike and the Liverpool Council struggle shows, all those within the existing Labour movement who genuinely want to fight must unite with forces outside that movement to win. As recent events have again confirmed, black workers, especially the youth, will undoubtedly play the leading role in this process.

We must build anew. The black and white youth are showing the way. The foundations for building a fighting principled communist movement are now being laid.



Amidst the highest security ever, following last year's successful IRA bombing of the Brighton Grand Hotel, the Tories met for this year's conference in Blackpool. Every conceivable security measure was employed - from undercover RUC units trained to spot IRA 'suspects', to Securicor, video cameras, electronic screening devices, vehicle and body searches.

With Thatcher's popularity at a low in the polls - five to eight per cent behind Labour, the aim of the conference was to present the Tories' unchanging racist and anti-working class policies in a glossy and acceptable package. But Thatcher's Cabinet reshuffle, intended to provide the party with a much-needed face-lift, failed abysmally. Jeffrey 'I know what unemployment is like' Archer, best-selling novelist and new deputy chairman of the party, told unemployed youth that 'a lot of it is getting off your backside and finding yourself a job'. Tebbit pronounced the uprisings in Tottenham and Brixton to be the result of 'wickedness'. Meanwhile, ex-Party Chairman and Cabinet minister Cecil Parkinson skulked

Tory facelift slips at Conference

in Scotland while the publication of his ex-girlfriend Sara Keays' memoirs in the *Daily Mirror* revealed the Tory leaders' real commitment to the values of family life, protection of the unborn child and the integrity of state secrets.

Added to the usual frenzied rantings against 'Marxist revolutionary' Arthur Scargill was the racist abuse poured on Bernie Grant, black leader of Haringey Council, whose refusal to condemn the Tottenham youth new Home Secretary Douglas Hurd described as 'evil'. Hurd called on the Labour Party to cross Grant off its list of prospective parliament-

ary candidates. Another speaker called on Grant to be expelled from the country. Hurd promised more back-up for the police in terms of manpower and equipment and the inclusion of a new catch-all offence of 'disorderly conduct' to be in the new Public Order Act.

Finally Thatcher announced there would be no change in Tory policies in the run-up to the General Election - just more police and more armory for the police - to contain the fightback of the oppressed.

Olivia Adamson

Thatcher's unconvincing Red-scare

Imperialists are old hands at creating 'red scares' whenever things look like they might be getting a bit out of hand. So with Thatcher facing uprisings in Handsworth, isolation over her opposition to sanctions against South Africa and opinion polls showing her popularity dwindling, the expulsion of 25 Soviet officials as spies should have come as no big surprise. The defection of a Soviet embassy official in London, Oleg Gordievsky, provided the excuse for the expulsions. The real reason was to resurrect Thatcher's 'Iron Lady' image prior to the Tory Party conference. The fact that 4 Soviet journalists who had reported to the Soviet people on the miners' strike, Britain's war

in Ireland and Greenham Common were amongst those expelled was an added bonus. As a government source put it in *The Observer* 'we know what we're doing'. Unfortunately for Thatcher the whole thing backfired when the Soviet government took a firm stand against what they rightly called this 'gross provocative action' and expelled 25 British personnel from Moscow. Thatcher responded by expelling 6 more Soviets from Britain, but when the Soviet government immediately responded by expelling 6 more British subjects Thatcher was forced to back down. Like any imperialist politician, Thatcher has to balance her wish to whip up anti-communism with immediate business interests, and to have had British business representation in the Soviet Union cut any more would have seriously endangered business contracts with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union's firm refusal to be intimidated shook Thatcher, forcing the Iron Lady to concede defeat. This recent red scare is also part of

imperialism's build-up to the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Geneva in the autumn. Whilst the Soviet Union offers to reduce nuclear weapons and shows a real desire for peace, imperialism tries to draw attention away from these peaceful initiatives and to create an atmosphere in which the Soviet Union is seen as threatening and aggressive, an adversary requiring a firm stand - ie more nuclear weapons. So we get ridiculous stories about 'spy-dust' being sprayed on American diplomats in Moscow; travel restrictions on Soviet, Cuban, Afghan and Vietnamese representatives at the United Nations in New York, violating the UN's own rules; and this recent fantasy of Soviet spies running about London. As the real terrorists - Thatcher and Reagan - plan to increase their weaponry on the ground and expand it into space, we can expect many more attempts to convince us that the socialist countries are our real enemy - ever more red scares, ever less convincing.

Colin Thorn

Cortonwood miners take redundancy

At Cortonwood pit, where the 1984-85 strike began, miners have voted by 176-67 for closure, withdrawing the pit from the colliery review procedures. Miners at Brookhouse in South Yorkshire and Aberpergwm and Penrhydyddion in South Wales have also voted for closure. The threatened loss of employment and redundancy top-up payments, totalling, in some cases, tens of thousands of pounds (due to insufficient contributions because of the year's strike) if miners delay redundancy until 1986, is now assisting the NCB to push through their post-strike closure programme.

In addition it was officially confirmed by the NCB in September that they intend to make a further 20 million tonnes cut in capacity over the next 2 years, involving the loss of 50,000 jobs. So far, only 9 out of the 206 Scottish miners sacked during the strike have been offered their jobs back by the NCB. The terms - loss of all length of service, sickness and holiday entitlements and that they drop their cases at the industrial

tribunals almost brought the Scottish coalfield to a 24 hour strike. Negotiations are now taking place between the NUM and NCB.

The Notts scab breakaway union has still not held the ballot which will formally establish its existence. The NUM has continued its campaign in the area and has received a boost from the decision of the Leicestershire Area and the white collar section of the NUM, COSA, to remain

in the NUM. It has been officially confirmed, however, that the NCB will be negotiating directly with the scabs, even before their ballot, which has been further postponed. The government took the surprise step of announcing MacGregor's successor nearly a year before he is due to go. Sir Robert Haslam, at present in charge of British Steel, will become a non-executive deputy chair of the NCB in November this year. Clearly, with yet another resignation this month - Michael Eaton - from the NCB's top managers, MacGregor is now a liability for the Tories.

On 25 September 7 miners and an unemployed man were cleared of charges of riot and affray at a miners' rally in Mansfield Notts in May 1984. The trial lasted 57 days and cost £1.5 million. Out of the initial 18 on trial, 10 were acquitted due to lack of evidence and the remaining 8 have now been found not guilty. At the end of September 17 Yorkshire and 2 Notts miners were cleared of unlawful assembly outside Babington Colliery, Notts last year - they agreed to be bound over for a year for £100. Charges against a further 100 miners awaiting trial are now expected to be dropped.

Olivia Adamson

Anti-racist strike over

On Thursday 12 September NALGO members in Islington Council returned to work after a 5½ week strike against racism. 450 workers had struck to force the Labour-led Islington Council into taking a known racist employee out of contact with the public. While the strike, with its open political demands, was historic, breaking with the racist traditions of the labour movement, it confronted scabbing, hostility and indifference within the Council. Many Labour councillors defied mandates from their party branches and voted against our demands that they implement their declared anti-racist policies. Even more, a ballot of all NALGO workers calling for an all out strike was defeated by a two-thirds majority.

The involvement of hundreds of NALGO members in anti-racist activity, with mass meetings of 300-400 people was nevertheless a significant development. A key lesson of the strike for many of us was that for an effective struggle against racism we will have to look for allies outside the traditional labour movement.

NALGO striker

JUSTICE FOR THE PRYCES

This month black people are on trial again at the Old Bailey for daring to fight back against racist attacks. Five black youth - Asian and Afro-Caribbean - face charges of affray for defending themselves from racists on 9 November 1984 in Newham, East London. On that day, 16 year old black youth Eustace Pryce, who was not involved in the fighting, was stabbed in the neck and died almost immediately. Three plain clothes police who witnessed the murder arrested not the racist murderer, but Eustace's brother Gerald because he was about 'to do something dangerous'!

While Eustace lay dying, Gerald was bundled into a police van and taken to Plaistow Station. Only when he was released hours later did he learn of his brother's death. On 18 December, Gerald was again arrested and this time charged with affray. The police who acted with such enthusiasm to arrest Gerald, only arrested his brother's white racist killer after mounting community pressure. Even then their racist arrogance continued. Gerald was denied bail over Christmas, while his brother's killer walked out of Newham police station unhindered. When Gerald was finally granted bail on 7 January this year, conditions prevented him entering Newham where his family live.

The Justice for the Pryces cam-

paign has been set up to defend Gerald and the other youths charged with affray. From Tuesday 22 October, it will be organising a week of action. It will begin with a picket of Forest Gate Police Station that day from 6.30-8.00pm at Romford Road and end on Monday 28 October with a Public Meeting at Newham North East Labour Party Halls, 241 High Street North, London E8. The meeting will start at 7.30pm and will include speakers from Handsworth Legal Defence Campaign.

For further information contact Justice for the Pryces, PO Box 273 Forest Gate, London E7 (phone 01 555 8151)

Keinde Olawale/Hugh Lewis

TUC compromise

Only a back down by the TUC General Council prevented a right wing split at this year's TUC Conference over the decision by the AUEW and EETPU to take government cash for ballots, in direct opposition to TUC policy. Suspension from the TUC of these and other sympathetic smaller unions would not only lose the TUC 2

million out of its 10 million members, but lead also to the formation of a right wing breakaway organisation.

Any action by the TUC has now been postponed until a further ballot of the AUEW's members in late November. Previously AUEW members had voted by 12-1 to take state cash for ballots, but the voting papers had not made explicit the TUC position.

The AUEW ballot result is expected in January and it seems likely that, as before, there will be a big 'yes' vote. Already, the AUEW executive has shown its disregard for the TUC by announcing that the ballot paper, while making it clear that a 'yes' vote will mean suspension from the TUC, will also carry a statement saying that the majority of the AUEW executive are in favour of a 'yes' vote!

Olivia Adamson

Greenpeace scandal - French watergate

When French Secret Service agents blew up the Greenpeace protest ship off New Zealand earlier this year, President Mitterand denied official involvement. Now the Minister of Defence has resigned and the secret service chief has been kicked out. The socialist government was clearly involved up to the hilt in the murderous affair.

Few people are so naive as to swallow the claim that teams of spies specialising in underwater combat could carry out a criminal mission in New Zealand without official sanction. Henu, the Defence Minister, has carried the can for the socialist government who hope the buck will stop there. They are eager to save their own necks and to protect the armed forces from further attack. So far their attempts at limiting the damage have failed. The media greeted the news that vital documents had been 'accidentally shredded' with disbelief. Copies are believed to be safe in the secret service's hands.

New Zealand was shocked at the intrusion of government-sponsored 'international terrorism' into their waters. Other countries can feel no such surprise at the consequences of French foreign policy. Chad, Guadeloupe, New Caledonia, French Guyana, are well-acustomed to the terrorism inflicted by uniformed and non-uniformed agents of the French government. The tactless error was to do it in New Zealand rather than in a colony.

We should remember that Mitterand came to power posturing much further to the left than Kinnock does today. We can well imagine the lengths a future Kinnock government would go to with similar British 'socialist' policies. As we go to press, Greenpeace are active in the testing area and have damaged a French ship.

Sheila Marston

PICKET THE HOME OFFICE!

Wednesday 6 November, 1pm

Viraj Mendis Must Stay!

Queen Anne's Gate

Free coaches from Manchester depart St Alberts Square, 7am

Both events organised by the VMDC

PUBLIC MEETING

Viraj Mendis Must Stay!

Monday 4 November,

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,

London WC1.

(Nearest tube Holborn)

7.30pm

Invited speakers include: Rajes Bala - Tamil Refugee Action Group, Jeremy Corbyn MP, City AA and FRFI

SACK RACIST HONEYFORD

Racist headmaster Ray Honeyford is back, for the time being, at Drummond Middle School despite popular opposition. For over two years the Drummond Parents Action Committee fought to remove this man from the school. In April this year they nearly succeeded when the Council suspended Honeyford from his post. However, in September, the campaign suffered a major setback as a High Court judgement directed Bradford Council to reinstate him. The Bradford Education Authority backed down when the High Court judged that it had been wrong to overrule the Drummond School Board of Governors who had called for the racist's reinstatement.

The Education Authority went so far as to issue a statement declaring:

'The Council will do all in its power to support the head and its staff in providing satisfactory education to all the people who go to the school. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly...'

So much for the Education Authorities' commitment to anti-racism in schools. Although the Council has stated its intention to appeal, nothing has yet been done on this.

The fight to reinstate Honeyford was led by none other than the National Union of Head Teachers, who had threatened to sue the Council when it first suspended Honeyford. Since then, Margaret Thatcher has invited Honeyford to 10 Downing Street giving racism in schools, and Honeyford in particular, her seal of approval.

Despite this setback, the Drummond School Parents Action Committee is not surrendering. It met Honeyford's return with daily pickets and boycotts of the school. No amount of press hysteria ('Dad beaten taking children to school') could conceal the success of the protest and the overwhelming support it received from the children and their families. Every day the pickets grew in size with placards made by the children themselves saying 'This is not South Africa'. The election of 3 parents from the Action Committee, with massive majorities, to the Board of Governors shows the community's support for their stand. A day of Action has been planned for 5 November when the Board of Governors next meets, with a lobby and a demonstration.

The Sack Honeyford Campaign will continue, despite the noticeable silence of the NUT. The parents and the children will continue the fight for their right to an anti-racist education.

Jenefer Thomas

The British Home Office working

Viraj Mendis must stay

The campaign against the deportation of Viraj Mendis, an FRFI supporter and prominent anti-imperialist activist in Manchester, has reached a crucial stage. Viraj has appealed against the deportation notice from the Home Office and awaits the appeal date. This is the final stage of our fight and we must win.

Viraj will face certain persecution if deported to Sri Lanka. At a VMDC public meeting on 20 September held in Manchester in support of Tamil refugees, Rajes Bala spoke on behalf of the Tamil Refugee Action Group. She explained how the Sri Lankan regime has turned Tamil homelands into torture camps, and how the Tamil people are being subjected to political, cultural and economic destruction. Further she explained that the barbaric torture used against the Tamil people is also being used against non-Tamil socialists opposing the regime.

Viraj's political standpoint and his support for the Tamil people's struggle is well known. Most recently, in September, he spoke at the Eelam Solidarity Campaign rally following its national demonstration in London. It is inconceivable that the Sri Lankan government does not know about Viraj's activities in Britain.

In collaboration with the British police are determined to deport Viraj because of his political activity in Manchester. They are quite prepared to hand Viraj over to the British backed fascist regime in Sri Lanka. Viraj's only defence is the campaign. The Home Office will only let Viraj stay if they know that there is a massive campaign behind him.

The VMDC is organising a major picket of the Home Office in London on Wednesday 6 November. It will be a crucial show of strength. We urge all readers of FRFI to arrange to attend the picket. Write to us for more details. Send us a solidarity message.

For further information contact: VMDC, Box 38, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

Rosmina and Mohammad win

The day before their planned picket of the Home Office, 18 September 1985, Rosmina and Mohammad received a phone call informing them that Mohammad can after all stay in Britain. They were also asked to immediately cancel the picket of the Home Office.

Rosmina and Mohammad's Campaign has been well organised and active, they have on many occasions brought along their young daughters on events and have worked extremely hard to ensure their victory.

Comrades and friends will remember the speech that Rosmina made at Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism's! Anti-Imperialist Week-end 29/30 June:

'... What is British justice? Is it to take away the human right from us having a family life? ... There is nothing impossible. Everything can be possible if you fight for it. The time has come and we have to fight and we will win!'

FRFI congratulates Rosmina and Mohammad and the campaign and we are proud to have participated in the campaign right from the start.

Fighting hard all the way! Mohammad Azhar here to stay!

Karen and Malik

VASCO TATE IS INNOCENT

After a week long trial in Leeds Crown Court which began on 16 September, Vasco Tate faces retrial on charges of grievous bodily harm, assaulting the police and of insulting behaviour. The charges arose from an incident outside the Hayfield Pub, Chapeltown, Leeds in which a police officer was allegedly attacked. The police had breathalysed a black youth sitting in his car. A crowd gathered around to see what was happening. The police panicked and called for reinforcements. Violence erupted with the heavy handed behaviour of the police, and it was alleged in court that a police officer had his nose broken.

Two days after this incident the police went to Vasco Tate's house when he was out and smashed the door down. He later went to the police station to find out why his door was broken down. He was arrested, charged and then remanded in prison for a week before being granted bail.

During the trial the defence barrister proved that Vasco Tate, like many black people before him, was the victim of a frame-up by the police. The police were forced to admit they had concocted the evidence against Vasco. Despite this the all

white jury failed to reach a decision. Judge Recorder Grills refused to acquit Vasco Tate and suggested a retrial to allow the police to save face.

The Chapeltown Defence Campaign, set up to defend Vasco Tate and all innocent people from police harassment, is continuing to fight for justice and an end to all police harassment and intimidation of black people. Please send your donations and requests for further information to CDC, c/o Vasco Tate, 55 Grange View, Leeds 7

Break the Information Monopoly

SUBSCRIBE

Richard III is reputed to have offered his Kingdom for a horse. Exchange values change, and Napoleon was prepared to trade several army divisions for a newspaper. Almost five times as many people live in the oppressed nations as in the industrialised capitalist states, yet the flow of information from these states to the oppressed nations is 100 times greater than the flow in the reverse direction. The four biggest capitalist news agencies UPI, AP, Reuters and France-Press distribute millions of words daily, but the almost eighty countries of the non-aligned movement average a global distribution of just 60,000 words a day. This is information imperialism. We witnessed the role of information control most starkly during the Malvinas crisis and invasion of Grenada. But it is there every day in Ireland, South Africa and wherever the oppressed people come into struggle. Help us to break the transnationals' monopoly hold on information: subscribe to Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, tell your friends about it, and sell it! They serve the interests of the rich few, we serve the mass of humanity.

Subscription rates:

- Britain, Ireland £2.50 for 6 issues, £4.50 for 12 issues
- Overseas - surface PPR £3.50 for 6 issues, £5.50 for 12 issues
- Overseas - airmail PPR £6 for 6 issues, £11 for 12 issues
- Single issue: 30p + 18p p&p
- Back issues: available 30p + 18p p&p
- FRFI bulk orders: 10 or more copies post free

Make cheques/POs payable to Larkin Publications. Add £5.00 for foreign currency cheques. All overseas rates given are for printed paper reduced rate and are unsealed. If you wish your mail to be sealed please tell us and we will inform you of the cost.

RETURN FORM TO FRFI, BCM BOX 5909 LONDON WC1N 3XX

I wish to subscribe to FRFI beginning with issue _____

I wish to order _____ copies of FRFI issue no. _____

Name _____

Address _____

I enclose payment of _____ for _____ issues/copies at _____ rate.

PEOPLE and POLITICS

Black Sections in the Labour Party Value for Votes?

The Labour Party conference rejected black sections. Terry O'Halloran talks to Marc Wadsworth about the issues.

'We believe black sections to be wrong because it is, or ought to be, an article of socialist faith that all men and women are treated the same.' With these lordly words white Labour Party deputy leader Roy Hattersley dismissed the demand of black Labour Party members for the right to organise black sections. Hattersley's 'all treated the same' Labour Party has not one black MP. The party's power structures are all-white preserves. The sign on the door reads 'No blacks admitted'.

It is no surprise that sections of the black community who support and work in the Labour Party should now demand to be represented. The rising struggle of black people in Britain is bound to be reflected inside the Labour Party. Articulate, middle class blacks find their path to progress within the party blocked by racism. Many of the Black Sections activists would undoubtedly already be MPs... if they were white. Of black people who vote, over 80% vote for the Labour Party with its all-white leader-



ship. Marc Wadsworth, Vice-Chair Labour Party Black Sections National Committee, told FRFI that people wanted 'value for their votes'. Only a racist could oppose the right of black people in the Labour Party to organise themselves and be represented as black people. Only the racist Labour Party could oppose it by 5.36 million votes to 1.18 million. The real question, however, is can black people get 'value for their votes' from the Labour Party?

Marc Wadsworth thinks they can.

Dunnes strikers still fighting

The 13 Irish shopworkers at Dunnes Stores Dublin are continuing their sixteen month long strike against apartheid. Tom Davis, one of the strikers, talked to FRFI about the strike on Friday 27 September.

In September 5 major Irish supermarket chains, including Dunnes, agreed to phase out apartheid produce. Dunnes, however, said the phasing out depended on 'customer approval' and 'quality'. Tom Davis said 'We're not going back until we get the right not to handle South African goods.'

The strikers have had support from Sinn Fein, Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement, individual trade unions and trade unionists and many, many others. The story with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions is, however, a familiar one. 'The ICTU have

passed resolutions but so far we haven't had any support from the ICTU.' Tom told us. The same refrain comes from the British TUC. 'We met trade unionists at the TUC. They have policies on South African goods but when we asked them if they were going to issue these policies to the members they said "No". Their members would probably feel differently to the way we feel about South Africa.' Tom said.

Tom Davis told FRFI that the Dunnes workers were calling on people in Britain to provide financial support; to boycott South African goods; and to put pressure on the British government for effective sanctions. FRFI fully supports these demands and congratulates the Dunnes strikers for their courageous stand. Lorna Morgan/Terry O'Halloran

more advanced political consciousness'.

For FRFI this belief is a triumph of hope over experience. The vicious attack on Bernie Grant already shows that any black Labour Party member who publicly identifies with the revolutionary youth will be set upon by the leadership. As the next election draws nearer, and the struggle on the streets intensifies, that leadership will become more, not less, reactionary. It will not hesitate to drive black members out if they threaten its progress back to Downing Street. The Black Sections have stood by Bernie Grant but they have much sharper fights ahead.

Black youth, and white youth who have fought alongside them, have already gone beyond the racist Labour Party. To provide political organisation in the form of the Labour Party is to take the youth backwards rather than forwards. Marc Wadsworth disputes this. He says Black Sections should be judged on their record. So far they have defended the youth, exposed the racist character of the Labour Party, and taken progressive positions on a number of issues. But the real test lies ahead. As the political crisis of the Labour Party intensifies, will the Black Sections activists stand with the oppressed or with the Labour Party? Time will tell.

Terry O'Halloran (Marc Wadsworth spoke to FRFI in a personal capacity.)

Kinnock stages showdown with Scargill

Motions in support of the miners were passed at the TUC and Labour Party conference, but what do they mean? Olivia Adamson explains.

Six months after its end, the issues raised by the miners' strike still occupied the centre of the political stage at this year's TUC and Labour Party Conferences. In typical fashion however, it was not the plight of the 600 miners still sacked, or the 60 still in gaol, or even the fact that the NUM is prevented by the courts from touching a penny of its £8 million funds, that devoured the energies of labour movement leaders. These vital issues were eclipsed by feverish manoeuvres to blot out the memory of the most militant struggle fought by a section of the organised labour movement for decades.

Labour movement leaders could not forget how last year's conferences were dominated by the new realities of class struggle as experienced in the strike. Scargill and the NUM Executive were being served with writs on the floor of the Labour Party conference; miners were engaged in bitter battles with police to prevent the opening up of pits in militant areas; Scargill was given standing ovations as he refused to condemn miners for fighting the police. The mealy mouthed politics of Kinnock were threatened by the new solidarity and class consciousness of the miners, led by Scargill.

This year however, with the end of the strike and a corresponding shift to the

right in the labour movement, Kinnock and his allies were determined that Scargill should be confronted once and for all. The issue chosen was the miners' demand that a future Labour government would reimburse any cash robbed from unions by the courts. (The NUM have lost £1 million and the TGWU and NGA £200,000 each). This limited call for a future Labour government to behave as the Tories do every day—to stand by their class—was the last straw for the Kinnock-ites. They immediately raised the argument to an absurd pitch: the demand, they claimed, not only calls into question the entire British legal system, but would also, by its outrageous irresponsibility, prevent the election of a Labour government by alienating electoral support.

This argument was not restricted to the right wing of the movement. Pete Carter, industrial organiser of the CPGB argued in the Eurocommunist weekly *Focus* '... the argument that a Labour government should reimburse their allies when they are in power embodies a concept of clientelism and patronage which should be anathema to anyone seriously committed to a democratic and socialist society'. On the contrary, it should be argued that anyone calling themselves 'Communist' should find it 'anathema' to peddle the impli-

cation, as Carter does here, that the law can be a neutral instrument which transcends class. As the miners' strike showed, the law is a tool in the hands of the ruling class. Kinnock can either uphold ruling class law, or oppose it. There is no middle way.

At the TUC Conference the Kinnock-ites suffered a surprise setback when the miners' motion was passed by 64,000 votes. Norman Willis himself, speaking on behalf of the General Council, strongly opposed the motion: 'The TUC respects the law' he said. 'We want better, fairer laws but it would be particularly foolish to bring the idea of the law itself into disrepute'. Following this reversal, the manoeuvrings began in earnest in the build-up to the Labour Party Conference. Clive Jenkins, leader of ASTMS (132,000) announced that his delegation would reverse their position at the TUC and support Kinnock. Sogat '82 also went over. After days of media speculation, purposefully whipped up by Kinnock's camp, Kinnock announced that he would personally speak in the NUM debate at the conference. A setback for Kinnock's hopes of absolute victory occurred when the TGWU, with its massive block vote of more than 1 million, voted by 25-16 to continue support for the NUM motion. Scargill was summoned to meet top Labour Party officials but refused to back down. However, Kinnock won the Labour Party National Executive Committee to support him with a majority of one vote (Michael Meacher's), arguing that those voting against him should accept responsibility for losing the next election.

On the day, supporting the NUM were the TGWU, NUPE, NUR, TASS, UCATT, the bakers' union, furniture makers, seamen, firemen. Against were the AUEW, GMBATU, shopworkers,

electricians, ASTMS, SOGAT '82, APEX, ISTC and NACODS. While Kinnock knew that he could not possibly win the vote, he knew that Scargill's vote would not be big enough to guarantee the motion a place in the Labour Party programme. Kinnock's speech in the NUM debate openly attacked the conduct of the strike, especially the mass picketing and the failure to hold a ballot. Major right wing figures—Hammond, Laird and Basnett, were wheeled in to support Kinnock. Hammond said the miners were 'lions led by donkeys'. When Scargill attempted to reply to these vicious attacks, his microphone was switched off by the chair—a manoeuvre which would not have been possible a year ago. The motion was passed by 3.54 million votes to 2.91 million.

Despite the passing of the motion, it is clear that Kinnock's argument—that each and every struggle, including that of defending the miners' interests—is subordinate to the election of a Labour government, is gaining ground even amongst those who supported the striking miners. The experience of Scargill and the NUM at the TUC and Labour Party conferences, both now and during the strike itself, show the limits of what can be achieved even by a fighting trade union within the decaying and corrupt official labour and trade union movement. Scargill stated at a fringe meeting 'I witnessed at first hand the full fury of an organised state machine... I truly identified with the problem of black people in the heart of our major cities'. Such statements mark him out as unique amongst labour leaders. They also leave him increasingly isolated as the stampede to the right gathers pace.

Olivia Adamson



POLICE FILE

'I'm not expecting anything to happen on a big scale, but one should be wary and not take anything for granted.' That was Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, after Handsworth, on 13 September (it was a Friday). Tough luck Mr Hurd: his departure from the Northern Ireland Ministry has given a whole new meaning to the expression 'out of the frying pan...'. Many thanks to the *Daily Express* for an explanation of the rising at Broadwater Farm. The M15 house newspaper suggested that some of the 'rioters' had been 'trained in Russia'.

But enough of historic events: let's return to the mundane, grafting, corrupt and brutal world of everyday life on the force where the latest vogue is robbery. A 'former policeman' (euphemism for persuaded to retire just in time) of the West Yorkshire force, Graham John Fearon, 24, took to crime to finance his obsession with pornographic books and photography. He was found guilty at Wakefield crown court of robbery, attempted robbery and burglary, and gaol for 3½ years. His counsel told the court this was 'not a policeman who has gone bad—he is a young man who never matured properly.'

Two members of the Sweeney may have matured all too well: they are positively over-ripe. The two, Detective Sergeant Kenneth Day and Detective Sergeant Richard Chapman, have been accused of setting up an armed robbery and committed for trial at the Old Bailey. This particular type of blag is a favourite old chestnut with the boys of the Met's Flying Squad.

David Lawson, a young actor from Reading, received a stunning insight into police mentality as he innocently left a club in Leicester Square. He was set upon by police and bundled into a van where he was 'kicked and punched for about five minutes', then taken to Marylebone police station and charged with being drunk and disorderly. When he was released over two hours later friends said 'he looked as if he'd just done 10 rounds with Muhammed Ali... you could even see a boot print on his face'. Lawson had the temerity to ask his attackers their motive. He was told that one of 'their men' had just been knifed in Chelsea and 'we wanted to take it out on someone'. Scotland Yard is trying to look busy 'investigating'.

All postal deliveries to Broadwater Farm were stopped following the uprising. This caused residents, many of whom rely on posted benefit cheques, much hardship. Police explained that the suspension was caused by a misunderstanding arising from a conversation between a police officer and a postman. This shallow lie (what postman has the authority to suspend postal deliveries?) is doubtless a cover for the illegal examination of residents' mail.

Not only do police plant drugs, but they have their own stash at police stations specifically for that purpose—it's official.

Roc Standford, aged 27, a publisher from Soho, received £15,000 damages when it was proved in court that 1.54 grammes of cannabis was planted in his pocket by Inspector Norman McGowan. Mr John Matthew QC, defending, said, 'The drugs in this charge (sic) came from a stock of drugs kept at West End Central [police station] for the purpose of planting on people.'

Inspector McGowan is suspended from duty and awaits trial at the Old Bailey on charges of perverting the course of justice. His superiors will doubtless have something to say about his stupidity in getting caught out in the exercise of normal police practice.

Emergency fails to stem tide of resistance

President of the African National Congress, Oliver Tambo, has said that,

'The attacks on white houses merely point a direction, the way the struggle is moving and must move... We have reached this level and there cannot be any going back. There is going to be more bloodshed and the whole country will be involved.'

The apartheid regime is in the throes of its severest political and economic crisis. Unable to control the tide of black resistance, Botha is facing an increasingly divided white community, whose leading businessmen are losing confidence in Botha's ability to secure their interests. This period has seen the Rand plummet to an all-time low, and the introduction of a two-tier currency system to prevent large amounts of capital leaving the country. The repayments of South Africa's foreign debts has also been suspended for four months.

Mass resistance to apartheid

In the Western Cape, the area of South Africa where the so-called 'Coloured' population are concentrated, the youth almost daily battle with the soldiers of the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the police. In Guguletu, in Athlone, in Elsie's River, in Manenberg, in Mitchell's Plain, the police and soldiers face barricades of burning tyres and cars, petrol bombs and rocks as the youth defend their communities from Botha's sadistic butchers. Armed with shotguns, rubber bullets, teargas canisters, and whips these thugs have a licence to kill and maim. Their victims



The State of Emergency enters its third month in South Africa. Yet the unbridled terror and repression of this period has failed to terrorise the people into submission, but has continued to fuel the people's anger and determination to be rid of their oppressors once and for all. The uprisings have swept through the townships from the Eastern to the Western Cape. The fires no longer just burn in the black townships but have started to blaze in the white suburbs as well. In the Cape and in the East Rand, white homes have been petrol-bombed and attacked with rocks. A new stage in the struggle for freedom has been reached.

are often in their teens, often even younger. A three year old girl, Mita Ngobeni, was playing inside her home, when she had her brains blown out by a rubber bullet shot at point-blank range. A two-month old baby, Ayanda Limekaya, was suffocated by teargas.

In the Cape, as in other areas, it is the schoolchildren and students who are in the forefront of the struggle. Fearing the power of student organisation, the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), has been banned. COSAS is the largest affiliate of the United Democratic Front (UDF). Hundreds of thou-

sands of students throughout South Africa maintain their boycott of classes, now in defiance of emergency regulations. Hundreds of students have been rounded up, including over 500 members of COSAS. It has been estimated that two thirds of all those arrested since the beginning of the State of Emergency are under the age of 18.

On 6 September, 450 schools and colleges were closed down in the Western Cape, so terrified were the authorities of the militant youth using their schools to

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) 22% wage increase claim. Troops moved into many of the mines involved, and together with police and the mining corporations private army of security guards, attacked the strikers with teargas, rubber bullets and live rounds. At the Beatrix Goldmine, 7 black mineworkers were badly injured. The NUM was forced to call off the strike in the face of a threat of mass dismissals and brutal intimidation by the mining corporations.

One of the worst offenders, Gold Fields of South Africa (GFSA) is part of the British based Consolidated Goldfields, and pays the lowest wages in the mining industry. Another British subsidiary, this time of BTR Dunlop, the BTR Sarmcol Rubber factory in Natal, is also locked in bitter dispute with its black workers. For years the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) has been fighting for BTR to recognise the union. BTR have refused, and when 1,000 MAWU workers at the BTR plant went on strike in support of this demand they were immediately sacked. In support of these workers, the black communities in the area, launched a boycott of white-owned businesses and such has been the success of the campaign that many of the businesses are facing bankruptcy. BTR's subsidiary companies in other parts of South Africa have also been hit by similar actions.

Torture in detention

Since the declaration of the State of Emergency in July, almost 4,000 black people have been detained. In recent weeks, reports have been coming out of South Africa of the horrific and systematic mental and physical torture of the detainees—many of them children. In addition to the hours of interrogation, the brutal beatings, electric shocks, 'hooding' and various forms of suspension, the detainees are now being subjected to another form of torture, the forcible injection of unknown drugs during interrogation.

The death toll among the detainees is rising. George Thembalake, 15, Loyiso Ndzandse, 20, and Mbuyisela Mbotya, all died within a few hours of being taken into custody. All three were members of the King William's Town Youth League, an affiliate of the UDF, who were arrested with other students in Ginsberg for singing freedom songs. A Soweto schoolboy, Patrick Manyane, 16, also died from the head injuries he received after he had been detained.

The publicity from all these cases, and the pressure from parents and groups like the Detainees Support Committee, has forced a judge in the Eastern Cape to order the police to stop assaulting detainees in two gaols in Port Elizabeth, and not to assault all future detainees in two districts in the Eastern Cape. Two weeks later, on 1 October, Billy Nair, a UDF leader who has spent months in detention, was granted an injunction to stop the police from beating him up.

The UDF has had to cope with the fact that in almost every area its entire leadership is either in detention, or in hiding, in fear of detention or assassination by apartheid's death squads. Death squads are now being used to murder activists in both the UDF and AZAPO. Thabo Mokoena, Toto Dweba, Matthew Goniwe and Nunu Kheswa, are amongst the UDF activists who have been found brutally murdered by apartheid's assassins. But the racists have failed to immobilise the UDF, because as one of their organisers in the Western Cape described:

'Every time the State takes away one leader, two more take his place. There are enough people in the community to assume the leadership'.

Botha's con-tricks

Unable to stem the uprisings in the black townships, and faced with growing international pressure for sanctions against the racist regime, Botha has churned out more promises of 'reforming apartheid'. As usual the press and media have made much of Botha's promises that all South Africans will be granted a common citizenship; that the

Destabilisation campaign continues

On 16 September, South African troops once again invaded Angolan territory: the third incursion since South Africa officially withdrew its troops in April this year. South Africa had repeatedly broken the Nkomati Accord with Mozambique by supporting MNR terrorists.

The latest invasion of Angolan territory was intended to save Unita forces who were under severe attack by the Angolan army. On 17 September the South Africans announced that a South African 'medical orderly' had been killed in action between Unita and MPLA fighters. The invasion forces consisted of 500 troops in all, supported by air cover.

In May three South African commandos were captured near oil refineries in Cabinda province and in June after a three-day invasion, the South Africans claimed to have killed 57 SWAPO members. In reality, the aim of the South Africans is to continue to destabilise the Angolan economy.

During the current invasion, condemned in token fashion both by the USA and Britain, Minister of Defence Magnus Malan admitted that the apartheid regime was giving 'humanitarian and moral support' to Unita.

The apartheid regime had more explaining to do this month, when Mozambique revealed that diaries had been captured when the headquarters of MNR, apartheid's puppet army, fell into the hands of Mozambique troops. The diaries revealed that, South Africa has continued to support the 'rebel' army. A condition of the Nkomati Accord was that South Africa would cease this support and would not violate Mozambique territory.

South African Deputy Foreign Minister Louis Nel secretly visited the MNR headquarters three times, and just before the signing of the Accord the apartheid regime gave MNR 6-months-worth of supplies and arms. Further, radio communications between the South African Defence Force and MNR had continued, an airstrip had been built with the aid of the South Africans, supplies had been dropped, and MNR leaders had been transported between South Africa and Mozambique by submarine.

South Africa is once again resorting to its traditional methods of murder, torture, terror and lying, not only internally against the people of South Africa, but also against the independent Frontline States.

Carol Brickley

influx control system is outdated and that the pass laws are to go. These 'promises' may impress those who want to get rid of the unacceptable face of apartheid, but black people see them for what they are, meaningless gestures to perpetuate white rule. What is citizenship meant to offer, when Botha continues to rule out 'one man, one vote in a unitary state', when he refuses to grant black people any of the human and political rights which citizenship normally confers? When he continues to imprison the people's true leaders and will only talk to those stooges he has appointed to represent the people? None of these so-called 'reforms' will stop the fighting in the townships, because the people are fighting for real freedom, for true democracy, and justice. Even many whites are now growing impatient with Botha's tactics, and those leading businessmen who met with the ANC in Lusaka are clearly anxious that Botha's 'reforms' will be unable to stop the black revolution in South Africa. Nothing will—the South African people shall be free, and Botha's 'reforms' represent the desperate measures of a dying breed.

Ruby Khan

BRITAIN AND SANCTIONS

'We believe that the time has come that no longer should the relations between our peoples be decided by stockbrokers, bankers and paternalistic politicians.'

Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, at the Labour Party Conference 1985

In 1984 British banks and companies earned £1 billion from their investments in South Africa. British banks have helped finance ten loans to South Africa for a total of £380 million during the first seven months of 1985. Most of these were to state-owned companies, with one of £75 million directly to the South African government. British banks are responsible for \$5.6 billion of South Africa's total debt of \$20 billion. These are the facts which lie behind Mrs Thatcher's continued support for apartheid and her government's intransigent refusal to impose effective sanctions. Even closer to home, 47% of corporate donations to the Conservative Party are provided by companies with business interests in South Africa.

Four days before she was due to fly to the Bahamas for the Commonwealth Conference, Mrs Thatcher made it clear that the British government was prepared to risk isolation in the Commonwealth rather than impose sanctions. This was after considerable pressure had come from all the other countries in the Commonwealth for Britain to fall into line.

Early in September, Britain had stood alone in the EEC against the imposition of what were called 'restrictive measures' against South Africa, which were imposed by the other nine EEC countries. A turn-around in British policy was an-

nounced on 25 September and the decision was undoubtedly intended to stave off the pressure which will continue to come from the Commonwealth. The EEC package of 'restrictions' is not intended to have any real effect on the South African economy. The only real effect of the British acceptance of the deal was the recall of two defence attachés from the British embassy in Pretoria. The Foreign Office said that, after studying the other measures, Britain had concluded that it had been implementing them for some time.

At the Labour Party conference President Oliver Tambo exposed the

hypocrisy which lies behind the British government's stance. They have never cared for the plight of black South Africans in the past, they do not care about it at present, yet they claim to care about it in the future.

What is certainly clear is that economic sanctions against South Africa would have a devastating effect on the British economy. Britain is staving off its own economic crisis by viciously attacking the working class—not least of all through unemployment. In the face of widespread uprisings in the inner cities, Thatcher can ill afford to lose the profits to be made from apartheid. Sanctions would deal a crippling blow to the South African government and would sharpen the crisis in Britain. The continued rule of British imperialism depends on support for racism both at home and abroad.

Unlike the Labour Party, we do not believe that sanctions against South Africa will be achieved by parliamentary pressure, or by glibly dismissing the effect which sanctions will have on Britain. As President Oliver Tambo said at the Labour Party Conference:

'The masses of the British people can and must impose sanctions themselves. You have the power to stop all trade with apartheid South Africa.'

Carol Brickley

On Friday 20 September, the weekly picket organised by City AA was once again, after 2 years, directly outside the gates of the embassy! After 137 arrests and an escalation of the action the previous week, the police finally backed down and had to agree to allow picketers to stand right in front of the gates – but only, they say, when the embassy is closed!

The Friday before – 13 September – picketers, fed up with the police's petty restrictions on the picket, had moved the barricades and occupied the whole pavement. We held up a banner to the police saying 'You are obstructing the struggle against Apartheid! Please leave the area now!' 31 people were arrested – but a few days consideration about what they would face the following Friday made Cannon Row and Scotland Yard police climb down from their very obstructive behaviour.

Despite the sudden 'legality' of demonstrating once again directly in front of the embassy, the police did not drop the 100 plus charges immediately. Althea Ifeka's case which began on 20 September and concluded on the 30 September went ahead. The verdict was 'guilty' – her use of the pavement was 'unreasonable' according to the magistrate, despite the fact that no actual obstruction of pedestrians had been caused by her presence on the pavement. This ruling means that the police can arrest and get convictions against any demonstrator using any pavement – there is no right to demonstrate in Britain even though it is enshrined in the European Convention of Human Rights. Althea was given a six month conditional discharge – criminalised for no 'actual' crime but fighting apartheid! City Group is appealing the decision and will take it to the European court.

On 7 October City Group was informed, via our solicitors that the charges would be dropped if the defendants agreed not to seek costs from the police and that this decision was 'without prejudice' to future policing deci-

sions. So, the police manage to criminalise one young black woman.

The next twist in the tale was not long in being thought up – on 4 October, the picket was again split and prevented from being right outside the embassy gates. This was because the embassy was having a reception and the gates were open. Only three people were seen to pass through the gates during two hours of the picket – and they were all coming out! Picketers were even angrier at the news the following Friday – 11 October – the embassy was having another reception. This time we took action! Picketers lay down at the entrance, each holding a sign 'Murdered by apartheid!' The 'reception' for apartheid's guests that evening was a bit different to what they expected!

12 people were arrested. If they plan to hold receptions every Friday evening in order to split our pickets and take away our victory the consequences will be their's to suffer!

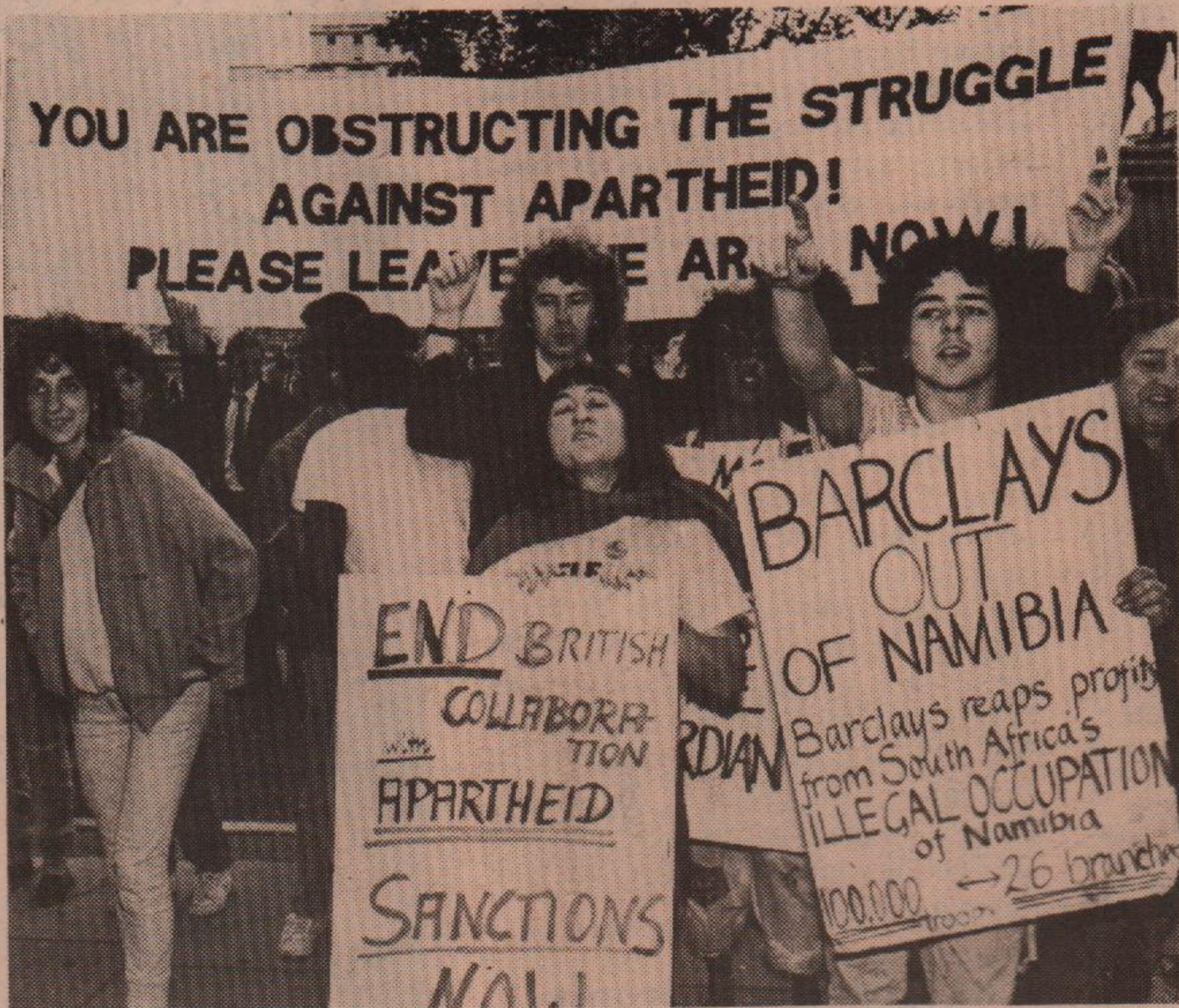
Susanna Lloyd

SUPPORT THE PICKETS – BOW STREET MAGISTRATES COURT – 21 AND 28 NOVEMBER

Seven people still face charges arising from the campaign: on 28 November Auriel and Simone are to be tried in Bow Street Magistrates Court on highway obstruction charges for chaining themselves to the gates of the South African Embassy on 2 August. On 21 November Auriel and four others face trial in Bow Street on obstruction charges arising out of the police attack on a protest picket of the court on 29 August.

Police back down at embassy

PAUL MATTHESSON



Bans and Proscriptions versus Unity

On Friday 11 October Dundee Anti-Apartheid Group held a successful rally attended by over 100 people calling for the freedom of Dundee to be given to Nelson Mandela. The meeting brought together Labour Party, Scottish National Party, Communist Party, RCG and other local groups in unity calling for an end to apartheid and for the release of South African political prisoners.

Bob Hughes, Chair of National AAM, called for support for the national demonstration in London on 2 November and Alan Norrie, of Dundee AA Group, reminded the audience that General Smuts had been given freedom of the City earlier this century – now is the time to redress this by making support for the people of South Africa a central focus. Labour councillor Peter Court, SNP councillor David Coutts and Raymond Mennie from the Trades Council joined in the call for united action against apartheid.

George Johannes of the African National Congress gave the major speech of the evening describing the struggle in South Africa as a struggle against imperialism. The rally was unequivocal in its support for the African National Congress and the struggle for liberation in South Africa – it was this standpoint which brought together different political parties and groups in unity with the freedom struggle.

Unfortunately George Johannes did not subscribe to this unity, either at the rally or before it. A week before the rally the ANC insisted that they would not speak on a platform with a speaker from FRFI, despite the fact that FRFI comrades had been instrumental in calling the rally and building for it. FRFI withdrew from the platform in the interests of unity, on the grounds that a rally called in support of Nelson Mandela should offer a platform to the ANC. However, George Johannes carried this attempt at censorship to the rally itself when he insisted that the FRFI banner, displayed on the walls alongside those of the Labour Party and others, should be removed or he would not speak.

Dundee AA Group responded to this in principled fashion, explaining that they were not prepared to ask any of the participants in the rally to remove their banner. George Johannes eventually decided to speak, and used what was an opportunity to forge unity to attack the RCG. He said that he was not prepared to see the AAM diverted from its path by groups such as the RCG. He further

went on to say that 'the ANC is firing warning shots across the bows of the RCG', followed by an assertion that the ANC does not interfere in the affairs of the British solidarity movement.

The Revolutionary Communist Group wishes to make it clear that we unconditionally support the ANC and other liberation movements in their struggle for freedom in South Africa. We do not believe that this gives them the right to impose bans and proscriptions in Britain. If they are intent on publicly attacking us, then we are forced to respond. It is of course the case that the ANC and other liberation movements have the right to conduct their struggle in whichever way they see fit in the interests of liberation. Only the masses of South Africa can judge their leadership. During the course of their struggle, the ANC and other liberation movements will forge alliances with other forces in Britain and elsewhere in order to aid their struggle. They have every right to do this.

The Revolutionary Communist Group, and other political organisations fighting racism and apartheid, have every right to argue their viewpoint about the way forward for the solidarity movement in Britain. We believe that the progressive movement in Britain is dividing over the issues of racism, law and order, and democracy. Black people in Handsworth, Brixton, Liverpool 8 and Tottenham have chosen a very different way forward from that offered by Kinnock, the majority of the Labour Party, and the TUC. We have chosen which side we are on. We are on the side of the black and oppressed in Britain who are fighting for freedom. It is these forces which will prove to be the most stalwart fighters against apartheid and against racism in Britain.

We are determined to fight for unity in the movement against apartheid. That unity cannot be based on bans and proscriptions, but only on the most complete and open democracy. That is what we are fighting for. *od. I ed. I A*
Carol Brickley

Fighting Apartheid

Edinburgh March Against Apartheid

500 people marched through Edinburgh against apartheid on 12 October, including a contingent of 100 people who marched with Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! What could have been a splendid display of unity of many different forces against apartheid was marred by the actions of John McKinnon, leading member of Edinburgh AA. ISF-Iran had marched with the demonstration, but when they arrived at the Assembly Rooms for the rally they were denied entrance and the police were called to deny them entry. Why? Because another Iranian group, CODIR, allied to the British CP, objected to their presence. 'Unity in Action' in the AAM is reserved only for sectarians, and enforced by the police.

Leeds rumours

During the Freshers week at Leeds University, the University AA group held daily pickets of Barclays Bank. Leeds FRFI supported these pickets. Our presence on these pickets was clearly not welcomed by some. Paul Brannen of the University AA group told us to leave the picket because we were communists!

The next day, 3 October, Brannen told us that the RCG was 'going the same way as City Group' and was 'going to be expelled from the AAM'. When challenged on his anti-communism, Brannen claimed that it was 'only a rumour' that there were CPGB members in the leadership of the AAM, and 'only a rumour' that the South African Communist Party was allied to the African National Congress!

Is his allegation that the RCG is to be expelled from the AAM true – or is it 'only a rumour'?

Gordon Walton

Merseyside Against Apartheid – Campaign grows

The local AA group in Merseyside has taken the struggle against apartheid out to the people with great results: a boycott campaign, involving pickets of shops selling South African goods and leaflets addressed to shopworkers explaining the campaign, has attracted further support in response to the open police opposition to it. Three AA activists including an FRFI member, were arrested and charged on a picket on Saturday 28 September – a large crowd gathered to argue with the police about this harassment. The following week the picket had grown to over 30 people! The police backed down and no arrests were made. On 11/12 October a 24 hour picket in Williamson Square attracted over 100 people and met with tremendous support from the great majority of those passing – it was supported by FRFI, other left groups, trade unions and many individuals black and white.

Edinburgh

Weekly picket of Barclays bank, St Andrews Square, every Thursday 5pm-6pm. For details of other activities contact Edinburgh FRFI Box 40, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

Glasgow

FRFI weekly picket of South African Consulate, every Saturday 11am-12.30pm, St Georges Place (off Buchanan Street)
Glasgow picket of the consulate every Friday 1-2pm

Dundee

Public meeting, 'Britain out of Apartheid, Apartheid out of Britain', Thursday 24 October, 7pm, Wellgate Centre

Liverpool

Merseyside AA pickets in City Centre every Saturday

Manchester

Weekly picket of South African Airways every Saturday 10am to 12, Peter Street, Manchester

London

FRFI supports City AA pickets every Friday 5.30pm-7.30pm, South African Embassy, Trafalgar Square

For details of other events write to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX or phone 01 837 1688

FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY AT AAM AGM

The Anti-Apartheid Movement's Annual General Meeting is on Sunday 1 December in the Town and Country Club, Highgate Road, Kentish Town, London NW5. Come with us and fight for an effective, democratic movement against apartheid!

We want the AAM to be open to all opposed to apartheid. We want it to be democratically run. We want the AAM to take a stand against racism in Britain. We want an AAM that really challenges British collaboration with apartheid. We want the complete isolation of apartheid – including its representatives in Britain. We want a firm defence of those arrested campaigning against apartheid.

The AAM leadership do not want these issues to be argued out in an open and democratic way at the AGM.

First of all members were informed that the AGM was to be held in Sheffield over the weekend of the 2/3 November. In order to be guaranteed a place, members had to register by 27 September. When it became clear to the AAM leadership that we had cleared the hurdles and had registered

over 200 people by the 27 September – they changed the date and the place of the AGM. All the registration formalities are now abolished. The AGM in London is now a one-day affair, and open-door to all members.

Information about these changes has leaked out very slowly to the ordinary membership. A mailing giving some information began to arrive in mid-October. Copies of motions and of nominations for the National Committee are not included in this mailing. Yet amendments to motions are due in by the 11 November! The AAM could be a movement capable of defeating British collaboration with apartheid – mounting a real challenge to racism here in Britain.

That is why we will be there on 1 December. That is why you should be there.

For more information about the motions we are supporting write to: FRFI, BCM Box 5909, WC1N 3XX or phone 01 837 1688.

Maggie Mellon



ISLINGTON RALLY AGAINST APARTHEID

The Islington Rally Against Apartheid was a great success. 270 people filled the Town Hall on 23 September to hear Tom Davis – Dunnes striker, Zolile Keke of the Pan African Congress, Charine James of FRFI, Valerie Veness – Islington councillor, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Action Against Apartheid Defence Campaign, City AA Singers, PAC poets, Nalogo anti-racist strikers, and Campaign Against Police Repression. Many of those who came to the rally were drawn by the street leafletting, flyposting and door to door work in the weeks before the rally. Seventeen local organisations supported the rally, including Islington Gutter Press, Islington Joint TUC, Tower Hamlets Trades Council, Holloway Bus Garage, Nags Head Claimants Union, local Labour Party branches, and North London Polytechnic Students Union.

PAUL MATTHESSON

'It is now war. From now on it's a life for a life.'

continued from page one

Newman justified his threats by claiming to protect 'peace' and 'prevent crime and injury'. It was the police who subjected Handsworth to unrelenting harassment; it was Newman's own police who shot and paralysed Mrs Cherry Groce; it was Newman's own police who killed Mrs Cynthia Jarrett. And it was the people of Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham who acted to put an end to police crimes and injury against black people.

After the risings of 1981 Newman was brought to London to re-organise the police to suppress any resistance. Newman drew on his experience in Ireland from 1973-79, when he re-organised the sectarian Royal Ulster Constabulary as an efficient intelligence-gathering, torture and murder squad against the Irish people fighting for self-determination. His strategy has three main elements: sophisticated spying and intelligence-gathering techniques (using both computers and so-called community policing) to identify potential sources of resistance; psychological operations (using 'community' policing, police-community liaison and the media) to isolate the 'genuine subversives' and win 'moderates' to the side of the state; and highly-trained, well-equipped naked police violence to put down resistance. These elements can be seen in the recent risings: media hysteria to portray the risings as outbursts of 'criminality'; the targeting of 'outside agitators'; and the threat to use plastic bullets following Tottenham.

The killing of PC Blakelock has seen the full flowering of Newman's psychological warfare against the people. 'Hacked to death by hyenas.' (*The Star*) and 'Moscow-trained hit squad gave the orders as mob hacked PC Blakelock to death.' (*Daily Express*). The death of two Asians in Handsworth was immediately labelled 'arson and murder' whilst the shooting of Cherry Groce and the killing of Cynthia Jarrett were labelled 'tragic accidents'. In fact, the first person to die in an inner city rising was David Moore. He was killed by the police in Liverpool in 1981. They cold-bloodedly crushed disabled David Moore to death with a police landrover. The government, police and the media have combined in a conspiracy to isolate and criminalise the revolutionary force of the oppressed. The emphasis on 'outside agitators' with its racist implication that black people are not capable of organising themselves, is designed to target and isolate anyone who seeks to build community organisation against the police.

In threatening to put 'London on notice' Newman (elected by no one), in his arrogance, has shattered the myth of the police as an 'impartial' 'non-political' force serving the people. The police are an armed force of the ruling class to protect the rule of profit against the people. As the crisis deepens the overtly political role of the police becomes more and more obvious. Newman is determined to isolate and crush the newly-emerged revolutionary force of the oppressed.

Labour against the people

He will be aided in this task by the Labour Party leadership. 'We are strong in our condemnation of lawlessness and we totally abhor the violence ...' Roy Hattersley, Deputy-Leader of the Labour Party, speaking about Tottenham and condemning Haringey Council Leader Bernie Grant who publicly refused to denounce the youth.

Labour Party leaders are ever-ready to denounce the violence of the oppressed whilst hypocritically wringing their hands about 'social deprivation' and playing 'down the organised state terrorism of the police. They have repeated Thatcher's and Newman's slanders about 'criminality'. The Labour Party stands opposed to the struggle of the oppressed.

The Labour Party does not represent the mass of the working class and oppressed in Britain. It is the political voice of the more privileged sections of the working class and middle class. The split in the working class between the privileged and the oppressed is widening

as the crisis deepens. The privileged sections find themselves increasingly squeezed between the uncompromising force of the ruling class determined to restore conditions of high profitability and the accelerating resistance of the most oppressed. This layer, desperate for the restoration of social stability, is moving rapidly rightwards. The Labour Party is obliged to move in step with it. In order to achieve electoral power they must regain support lost to the Alliance and the Tories. In their ruthless pursuit of governmental power the Kinnock-led Labour Party will betray any and every struggle that threatens to drive away the vote of the privileged. Kinnock and Co are anti-racist only so long as black people do not actually fight back. Just as they support trade unions only so long as trade unionists do not fight. The venom poured out on the miners is now poured out on black people.

The Labour Party has always ignored the endless catalogue of police murder and violence against black people. In power Labour has itself directed state racism against black people, as it directed state terrorism against the Irish and supported apartheid terror in South Africa. The last act of the last Labour government in April 1979 was to send 5,000 police into Southall to defend fascists. These police killed Blair Peach and injured hundreds of the people. There is no place in this racist party for the fighting youth of Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham.

'Left' against the people

'... vicious and brutal' (*Morning Star*) 'supremely Thatcherite' (*Focus*) 'blind, destructive, aimless violence' (*Militant*) 'a sign of... desperation' (*Socialist Worker*).

All these comments were applied to the people's resistance. They were written by people who call themselves 'communists' 'socialists' 'Trotskyists'. All would claim to be revolutionaries. All made exactly the same response to the 1981 risings. The British middle-class left, like the Labour Party, base their political strategy entirely on the more privileged sections, primarily the new middle class. Like the Labour Party they are forced to denounce and distance themselves from the revolutionary resistance of the oppressed in order to maintain their attempted alliance with the organised Labour and trade union movement.

Faced with the first steps towards the actual revolution that they talk about endlessly, they run scared.

Having paid lip-service to the revolutionary violence of the black masses in South Africa, they condemn revolutionary violence in Britain whether it be the military campaigns of the IRA or the community uprisings of the oppressed. Based as they are on the more privileged sections of the working class and middle class, they, like the Labour Party, want the restoration of 'normal' conditions in which they can conduct their 'normal' work of steadily building up support in the trade unions. Faced with real 'abnormal' revolutionary movements emerging in Britain, they can offer nothing. Their appeal to the youth is to stupidly demand that the youth join the very Labour and trade union movement that has always betrayed them.

Communists with the people

Communists do not fear or denounce revolutionary violence by the oppressed against their oppressors. We know that the British state and its ruling class are drenched in murder and violence against the people in Britain, Ireland, South Africa and throughout the world. We know that ruling class talk about 'looting and violence' is hypocrisy. The British ruling class and its banks are responsible, through their systematic looting of oppressed nations, for the mass murder of millions of black children by starvation, poverty and disease. British imperialist prosperity has been built on murder, racism and theft.

For communists, the risings represent the first steps towards the building of a new revolutionary movement within the



Above, brutal arrest at Brixton. Left, plastic bullets at Tottenham

BRITAIN BURNS

British working class. We know that no genuine mass revolutionary movement can emerge without passing through the experience of popular outbursts of spontaneous violence against the state and its agents. Only through such experiences does the movement learn and build up its strength. The risings are the living expressions of a new revolutionary force in British class society. The real issue that confronts communists is how to contribute to the development of the political organisation of that revolutionary force.

The fighting youth in the inner cities must develop new organisations to represent their needs and interests. After 1981 700 youth went to prison undefended because no organisation of the dispossessed emerged. Opportunists, both within and outside the black community, were able to isolate the black youth by taking over the campaigns, driving out the youth and excluding anyone who challenged their domination. This must not be allowed to happen again particularly as some youth face life imprisonment. Only the widest possible, open and democratic mobilisation can prevent the state from taking its revenge.

Communists will work for genuine defence campaigns led by the youth; involving all who took part in the risings, black and white; drawing in all sections of the communities and all who genuinely want to support the youth; and organised in an open democratic manner which is the only way to ensure that the voice of the youth is not stifled. United fighting people's defence campaigns are the only way to go forward and build on the gains of the risings. A new political force has emerged in Britain. It must now express and defend itself in political organisation. This is what communists will be fighting for in the days ahead.

FRFI comrade arrested

A number of FRFI comrades were in Brixton on the night of the rising. Among them was Kayode who was arrested the following day, Sunday 29 September. Here he recounts the incident of his arrest.

I was sitting on a wall outside the Town Hall with a number of friends talking to people. The police were periodically trying to move people along to prevent groups from gathering. One PC Green suddenly turned on me and demanded I move. I asked why. He replied that the Chief Inspector didn't want people 'lounging

Right, Brixton. This woman was felled after protesting against the treatment of other demonstrators

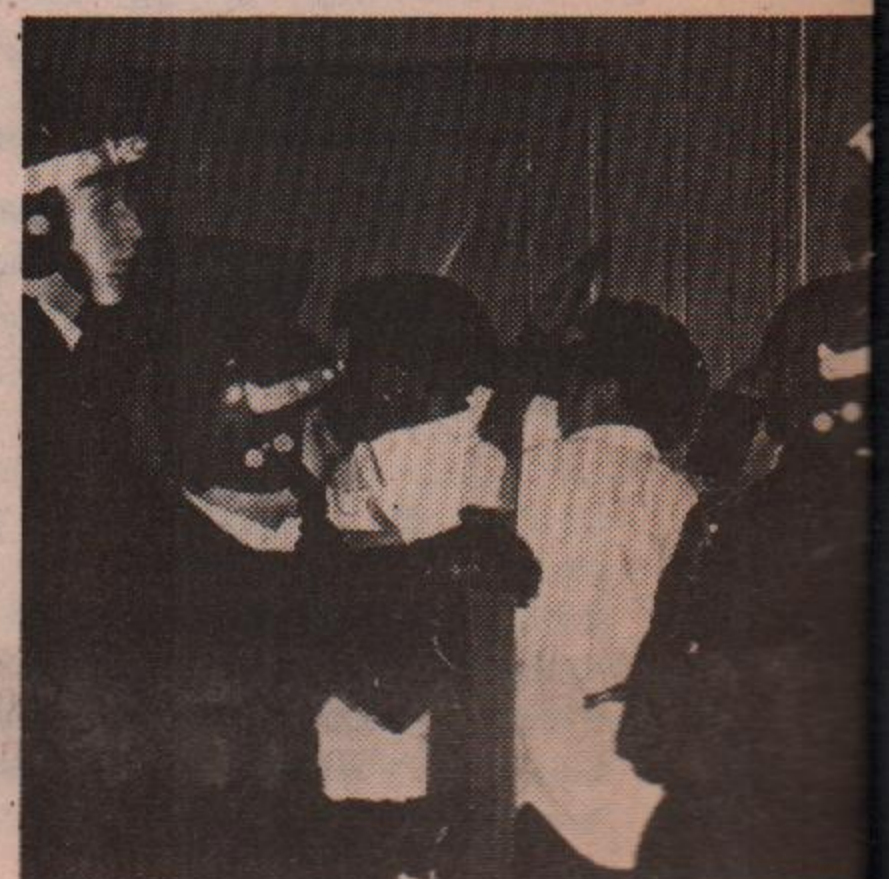
about'. I demanded to know his name and that of the Inspector. He knew his own but not the Chief Inspector's. He stomped off and returned yelling 'Chief Inspector Harris says if you don't clear the area you will be arrested.' I jumped off the wall to move when PC Green started pushing me. The next minute I was under arrest for obstructing him in the course of his duty. A charge of obstruction of the highway was later added at the police station.

At Cannon Row police station, responsible for harassing the City AA pickets of the South African Embassy, the scale of police intelligence gathering became clear to me. I knew, as is the practice with FRFI comrades, that I need only give my name and address. I refused to give any other information and in addition demanded my legal right to phone a solicitor. They were annoyed about this and identified me from my attendance at the South African Embassy pickets and Newham 7 demonstrations. I was then taken to a room where they took down my details and made racist jokes about my name. I noticed a print out from their computer. It had my date of birth, place of birth, accent, nationality, voice, hair colour and distinguishing features. They tried to take



my photo and fingerprints. I refused. They threatened that if I wanted to play 'little games' (ie insist on my rights) they would not release me. However, after my comrades started phoning the police station and demanding information they were forced to release me.

I appeared in court on 8 October. A picket was organised by FRFI comrades with a banner declaring: 'Racist Police Off Our Streets! Drop the Charges!' and plac-



Black youth in Tottenham



'(The police) have murdered black people on the street. The police are making war on people... All over East London black people have been burned in their own houses, murdered. And the only way to defend themselves is self-defence - that's called aggression. The only aggression I've seen on the streets of Tottenham has been policemen against the people... It's the people versus the police. My support is fully behind the people of Broadwater Farm.' *Miriam, white local resident speaking on LBC Phone in during the Tottenham rising.*

On Sunday 6 October, hundreds of youth, black and white, confronted the racist British police in the fiercest, most intense rising yet seen in Britain. Using guns, petrol bombs, bricks, hand to hand fighting, the people exacted revenge for the police killing of black mother Cynthia Jarrett the previous day. Children, the youth, older people joined together in a united community attack on their immediate enemy: the racist police. Tottenham was the fiercest rising to date not only because its immediate cause was a police murder, but also because it was built on the experience of Handsworth and Brixton. In the Tottenham rising, one policeman was killed, 3 injured by shotgun pellets, one injured by a .38 calibre bullet and hundreds more injured. This was evidence of the developing experience of the people. Youth told FRFI:

'They learnt from the mistakes of the past. Everyone stayed together. The police couldn't arrest anyone. If any snatch squads left the police groups they would have been beaten up.'

Handsworth, Brixton, Tottenham

Handsworth

The current risings began in Handsworth, Birmingham on 9 September. The spark for the Handsworth rising was the build-up of police harassment of the community under the guise of an 'anti-drug' operation. On 9 September, the people's anger exploded when yet another black man was stopped by the police allegedly for a motoring offence. Within hours the fighting began. Using petrol bombs, bricks and any other available weapons, black and white youth rapidly drove the police out of Lozells Road, establishing a no-go area. With 50% unemployment, rising to 70% for black youth - the anger of the dispossessed was directed against all signs of wealth. Over 50 shops were burnt out or looted and more than £2 million of damage was caused.

The fight back against the police had wide support within the community. West Indian, Asian and white youth immediately identified their rising with the black masses' rising against apartheid in South Africa. One youth said:

'Every night on the TV you see how the black youth are fighting back in South Africa. The same thing is going on here so we must fight back.'

The targets of the people's anger - the police, symbols of private property and privilege - and the people's identification with the liberation struggle in South Africa shows the anti-racist, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist character of the new revolutionary force emerging in the British working class.

By 10 September the police had regained control or so they thought. When Colonial Governor Douglas Hurd came to visit the 'natives' in his Daimler - costing many times more than the unemployed get in a year on the dole - the people drove him out under a hail of bricks and stones.

The tragic death of two Asians in a fire was seized on by the government, police, press and local Labour MP Jeff Rooker as an excuse to denounce the rising as 'inter racial, West Indians versus Asians' and, thus, to divide the community. This is a lie perpetrated by privileged people, fattened on racism, who do not give a damn about Asians or any other black people. Avtar Juhl,

General Secretary of IWA-GB (based in Birmingham) publicly dismissed any claim that the rising was anti-Asian: 'This was an eruption against the whole social order'. As a youth in the community said: 'They're trying to put black against Asians. But we are not against each other. We are all against the police.'

Brixton

The government, haunted by the spectre of 1981 when street fighting spread to more than 30 British cities, hoped that Handsworth would prove to be an isolated event that could quickly be forgotten. They reckoned without the renewed confidence that Handsworth gave to oppressed black communities in the inner cities. They also reckoned without the uncontrolled, and uncontrollable, racist violence of their own police. In Brixton the police did not content themselves with the daily routine of stopping, arresting and beating black people.

On Saturday 27 September uniformed armed racist police thugs burst into the home of Mrs Cherry Groce, claiming to be searching for one of her six sons. Within minutes the police shot Mrs Groce in the back at close range, with a .38 Smith and Wesson, without warning or excuse. These racist thugs believed that they could shoot a black mother with impunity. Today Mrs Groce lies paralysed in hospital.

The response of the Brixton community, black and white, to this murderous police assault was swift and certain. Within hours the people assembled outside Brixton police station, in support of the family who went into the station. Naturally, they got no satisfaction. The anger of the people grew and soon bricks, stones and petrol bombs were hurled at the station. Some youths got into the station itself. Soon parts of this local HQ for the organisation of police violence, were burning. An attempt by police riot squads to disperse the demonstration failed and the entire Brixton community backed the youth who engaged the police in fierce battles right across the area, at times reaching Stockwell and Tulse Hill.

It was impossible to slander the Brixton rising as being 'racist' or 'anti-Asian'. It was beyond any question, a rising directed at the escalating violence of the police against black people. For now the police were shooting black mothers in their own homes. However, two alleged rapes in the area were immediately linked with the rising by the police and their press allies, and used to bolster the lie that the rising was the action of 'criminals' exploiting the family's grief.

An eye-witness account from an FRFI supporter in the area gives the true picture of the rising and the feeling that inspired it:

'Just loads of people, mainly black.

But what struck me most was that they were all ages. The whole community was out on the streets, old men, women and many children too.

'I just felt so happy that we were giving the police a taste of their own medicine. I just remember laughing along with everybody else. I can't think of another time in my life when I felt that sense of triumph and exhilaration to be amongst people who were all fighting the same enemy; a sense of the people all rising up against the oppressors.'

This is not the selfish, money-grabbing, criminal greed demonstrated by the ruling class. It is the sense of liberation felt by the people when they unite in collective, effective resistance to the racist British state, its police and the poverty it imposes on the people. The seeds of the future are contained in this sense of people's struggle.

Tottenham

After Brixton it was clear that, as in 1981, the risings would spread. Smaller-scale street fighting in Liverpool 8 and Peckham, South London, indicated this. But it was in Tottenham that the revolutionary resistance of the people to racist police violence was to reach a new peak. Once again it was police violence and racism against black people that led to the rising.

A local resident told FRFI that after Brixton the police in Tottenham were attacking the youth, arresting and beating them, saying 'That's for Brixton'. For a long time Broadwater Farm Estate had been a particular target of police violence. Throughout Tottenham, Wood Green and Turnpike Lane the police had mounted a massive presence on the streets, harassing the local communities. This police violence culminated in the attack on the Jarrett family.

On Saturday 5 October, Floyd Jarrett was arrested for an alleged motoring offence - the same excuse used in Handsworth. The police took his key and used it to make an illegal entry into Mrs Cynthia Jarrett's home. Their violence and brutish behaviour led to Mrs Jarrett suffering a heart attack. Local people told FRFI that whilst Mrs Jarrett was fighting for her life, they stepped over her body and continued to check the serial number on a video to see if it was stolen. The family had to ring for an ambulance which took 45 minutes to arrive. Mrs Jarrett was dead on arrival at hospital. She was killed by the police. One of the officers involved was D C Randall who is well known in Tottenham for his harassment of black people. From shooting and paralysing Mrs Groce, the Metropolitan Police went on to kill Mrs Jarrett just one week later. The people of Broadwater Farm decided, with one voice, that enough was enough. As one said; 'It is now war. From now on it is a life for a life'.

Sunday afternoon people gathered outside Tottenham police station. Riot squads moved into the Farm to prevent people from joining the demonstration. In a meeting on the Farm, the youth declared that the time for talking was past. It was time to act.

The Tottenham rising showed greater preparation and organisation on the part of the youth. It was clear, after Handsworth and Brixton, that the police would attempt to invade the area to suppress any protest against the killing of Cynthia Jarrett. Eye-witness accounts confirm that riot squads were moved into the area very early on. The people of Broadwater Farm had also learned from Brixton and Handsworth.

The fighting was much more concentrated. The people stayed together in a single fighting force and used the layout of the estate and surrounding streets to their advantage. All sections of the community were involved in the rising. As an eye-witness told FRFI: 'Youngsters were keeping look out while the older ones were chucking Molotov cocktails.' The same witness confirmed the support of older people too:

'At one time they were running out of ammunition. They were using tins of

TGWU and NUPE take racist stand

Local unions in Haringey have split over the risings. On Friday 11 October two union demonstrations confronted each other: one, mainly black, called by NALGO and supporting Labour Council Leader Bernie Grant; the other, mainly white, called by TGWU and NUPE supporting the police. Council workers in the TGWU and NUPE called a march and 24 hour protest strike against Bernie Grant's public sympathy with the youth who took part in the Tottenham rising.

The issues were made plain by TGWU branch chairperson Brian Berritt who said he feared that Bernie Grant's sympathy with the youth would damage Labour's electoral prospects in the area. Bernie Grant is the prospective parliamentary candidate for the area. NALGO branch secretary Richard Cotton denounced the TGWU/NUPE action as 'a march against black people.' The Guardian reported that a black man who tried to speak in support of Bernie Grant at a TGWU/NUPE mass meeting was shouted down.

TGWU/NUPE workers, in attacking Bernie Grant, are carrying out Newman's dirty work. As we argue elsewhere on this page, Newman's policing strategy involves the isolation of anyone who defends the youth and an attempt to drive 'moderates' 'community leaders' etc into an alliance with the state. The media have already attacked Bernie Grant. Douglas Hurd called him a 'godfather of hate' and demanded that Kinnock prevent Grant from remaining as a parliamentary candidate. Roy Hattersley has publicly dissociated the Labour Party from him. And now local white-dominated unions have joined in the attack.

The developing split in the working class movement could not be clearer - between those determined to defend their own position and privilege at any cost and those who have no privileges to defend. As the pressure grows Bernie Grant will be forced to choose which side he stands on. FRFI fully supports Bernie Grant's right to speak out against racist police violence and urges him to resist the reactionary pressure mounted by Tories, cops, Labour Party leaders, the media and the local TGWU/NUPE workers.

soup to throw at the cops. A middle-aged woman told the youth: 'Tear my wall down. I can fix it later'. They did and used the wall.'

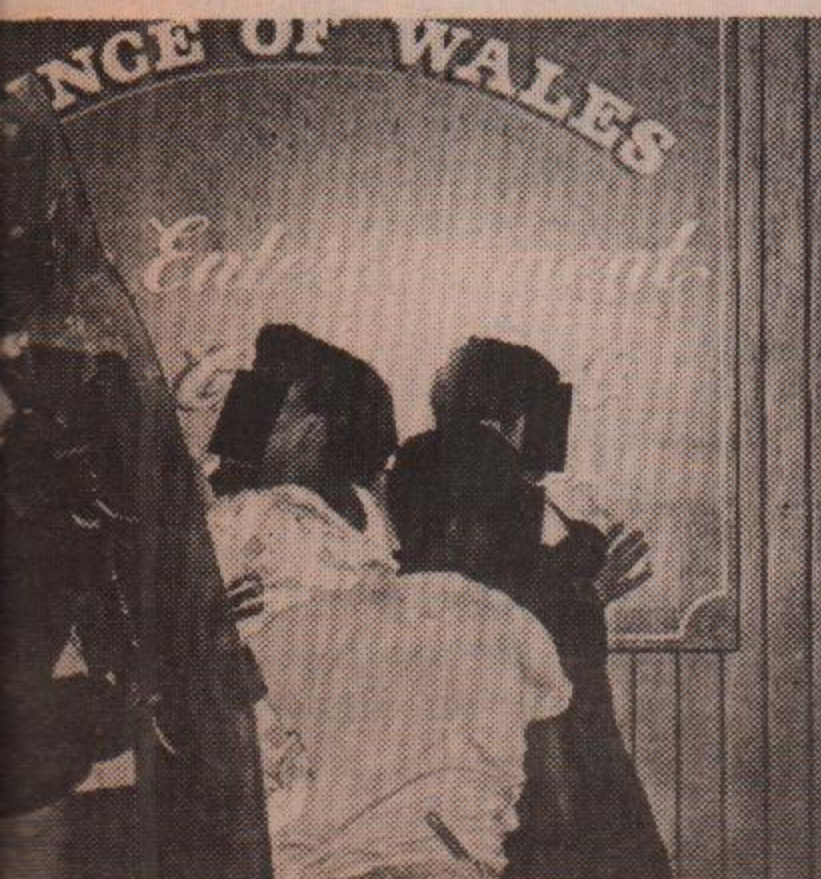
As petrol bombs rained down, police were panicking, dropping their riot shields and scattering. Groups of the youth then moved in to attack them in hand-to-hand fighting. Later in the evening, shotguns were used to drive the police back. It was not until about 4 am on Monday 7 October that the police could get into the estate.

Following a defeat at the hands of the people, the police are now trying to get revenge. Six people, aged 13-26, 5 black and 1 white, have been arrested for the killing of PC Blakelock. Two have been charged with murder, as we go to press. Nationally there have been over 700 arrests in Handsworth, Brixton, Liverpool 8, Peckham and Tottenham. There will be more arrests in an attempt to intimidate the oppressed into submission. The defence of those arrested, especially the Tottenham youth who could face life imprisonment, is the urgent task now facing the fighting youth and their supporters. FRFI fully supports the resistance mounted in Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham. We call on all organisations and individuals to join in the defence of those who have proved themselves to be revolutionary fighters on behalf of the working class and oppressed throughout Britain.



THESE PAGES HAVE BEEN COMPILED BY EDDIE ABRAHAMS, TERRY O'HALLORAN, KAYODE, KEN, LUCY AND RONNIE

ards saying Brixton, Belfast, Soweto, No Shoot to Kill. A group of fascists tried to attack the picket, one threatening to go away and return with his friends to drive us off the streets. The police used this as an excuse to begin harassing us. The case has now been adjourned to 3 December along with a number of others arising from arrests during the rising. We will be there with a picket. Kayode



JOHN STURROCK/NETWORK

THE POLITICS OF PROFIT

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THATCHERISM

Last month in the editorial 'Divided Nation' it was argued that the Thatcher government's attempts to radically restructure British capitalism at the expense of the poor and oppressed had run out of steam. The inner city uprisings and the relentless growth of unemployment to new record levels are witness to that fact. However, Thatcher is not concerned with jobs or the conditions of the poor and the oppressed but with protecting the profits and ensuring the viability of British capitalism. And certainly in the short term her government has had some limited success.

1984 saw a rapid rise of company profitability with gross trading profits at over £50bn, £9.3bn higher than in 1983. Since 1981 profits have grown much faster than incomes with the share of profits in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rising from 13% in 1980 to 18½% in 1984. While most of the early rise in the share of profits in GDP reflected the growth of North Sea oil production, since mid-1983 profits from non-North Sea companies have grown just as fast. In 1984 both North Sea profits and those from other activities grew by 22%. As a result the real rate of return on capital employed by non-North Sea companies (pre-tax profitability) averaged nearly 7% in 1984, its highest level since 1983 and twice that in 1981.

Thatcher's problem is that revenues from North Sea oil are likely to peak next year and then start to decline. As North Sea oil runs down the British economy will again be faced with balance of payment problems and British capitalism will be threatened with further instability and decline. It is this background which has determined the Tory government's economic strategy and, in particular, its support for and strong defence of the massive export of capital overseas since 1979.

In an interview with Robin Day in April last year, Thatcher defended the vast outflow of British investment overseas. She said that this investment and the income from it would provide a 'nest egg' when revenue from North Sea oil declined. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, made the same point in a speech at that time. He said that the rapid build up of Britain's overseas investments to a net figure of £40bn in 1982 compared with £10bn four years earlier would help Britain's balance of payments as oil exports declined. That net figure increased to £73.5bn in 1984 making Britain, temporarily at least (Japan will soon take over), the world's largest creditor nation. The tax cuts for the wealthy, the sale of public assets like British Telecom and the attack on public expenditure programmes by the Thatcher government, in spite of the massive revenues generated by North Sea oil, have not provided the large scale capital investment in Britain necessary to tackle unemployment. Nor were they meant to. A large proportion of that extra capital has been invested overseas building that 'nest egg' for British capitalists in the future. As Thatcher added in the Robin Day interview 'investment would go where it was profitable. There was no shortage of money for profitable investment wherever it may be'. And that will not be here in Britain until further and more ferocious attacks on jobs and living standards increase the rate of profit even more to the levels experienced in the 1960s of 10% to 14%.

British capitalism in the last decade has grown more and more dependent on the monopoly profits from North Sea oil and from the export of capital abroad.

1972 1982 1984

Rate of profit industrial and commercial companies (excl North Sea oil)	9.3%	4.0%	7.0%
Gross trading profits (excl North Sea oil) - £ million	7,725	21,145	31,047
North Sea oil profits - £ million	50	12,708	19,116
Profits, interest and dividends from overseas investment - £ million	1,748	10,584	14,104

The table shows that in 1984 North Sea oil profits were over 38% of total gross profits made in Britain (including North Sea oil). Profits from overseas investment were equivalent to 28% of those profits in spite of the rise in company profitability since 1981.

The low rate of return on British capital over the last decade led to a rapid increase in investment overseas - an increase which has accelerated since Thatcher came to power.

Year	Gross domestic fixed capital formation (£m)		Private investment overseas (£m)
	Total	Manufacturing private sector	
1972	7,100	2,044	1,402
1982	34,029	5,384	10,428
1984	41,284	7,083	14,585

Private investment overseas has grown from a size equal to 20% of total private sector fixed investment in 1972 (69% of fixed investment in manufacturing industry), to 35% in 1984 (more than twice the size of that in manufacturing). This means massive job-losses in manufacturing industries.

These figures, significant as they are, are totally overshadowed by the size of British banking activities overseas. Massive sums of money are borrowed abroad by banks based in Britain (UK banks) to lend out at higher rates of interest to other countries. The amounts are so enormous that banking and commercial claims are by far the largest component of Britain's private sector external assets.

	UK External Assets - Private Sector (£m)		1984 % of total	1972 % of total
	1984	1972		
Private direct investment	45,720	7,860	7.7	16.1
Portfolio investment	82,500	9,490	13.9	19.4
Other direct investment (mainly oil)	28,110	2,930	4.7	6.0
UK banking and commercial claims	428,812	28,640	73.7	58.5
	595,142	48,920		

Banking claims have grown from an amount equivalent to 51% of the GDP in 1972 to over 178% of it in 1984. The activities of the banks in borrowing and lending in foreign currencies earned them some £2bn alone last year. The total net earnings by UK banking institutions was £2,339m in 1984. The total net overseas earnings of all UK financial institutions ('The City') were a massive £6,056m in 1984, an increase of 15% on 1983 and 53% on 1982. It is the bankers and the City institutions - the most parasitical layer of the British ruling class - which have benefitted most from Thatcher's attack on the poor and oppressed in Britain.

So why is the outlook for the British ruling class still precarious? Precisely because the massive earnings of 'The City' and the parasitic banks will not be enough to compensate for the run down of North Sea oil revenues and the growing deterioration in the balance of trade (exports/imports) that has followed the run down of manufacturing industry. As we argued in the RCG Manifesto *The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain*:

'As the wealth from North Sea oil begins to dry up so British capitalism will be forced to depend more and more on the profits from its investments abroad, particularly those from its parasitic banks... In that lies its vulnerability. For as the oppressed peoples fight back and threaten the economic and political interests of British imperialism, as the wealth from North Sea Oil decreases, the British ruling class will be forced to dramatically reduce the living standards of major sections of the British working class. The conditions that have nourished and sustained privileged strata of the working class over the last 30 years in Britain will no longer exist. The domination of opportunist currents over the working class in Britain will begin to be undermined as new forces of revolution begin to emerge.'

Events are proving us right, Handsworth, Brixton, Liverpool 8 and now Tottenham show the writing is on the wall. David Reed

MEXICO: THE VULTURES WAIT

Earthquakes are a natural phenomenon but disasters are social and political events. So it was that as Mexicans struggled to recover lives from amidst the ruin of their cities the gentlemen of the City of London leafed through their accounts. No great damage was done, 'Virtually everybody will have a little, but nobody will have a lot' announced a Commercial Union spokesman on the spread of insurance cover throughout the City.



Less confident were Mexico's third and sixth largest creditors: the Midland Bank, with over \$1.85 billion in loans to Mexico, equivalent to 95 per cent of its shareholders' capital, and Lloyds Bank, exposed to the tune of \$1.37 billion, 58

per cent of shareholders' capital. Blue Circle Cement, with a major interest in the Mexican building trade, said nothing.

Mexico is being bled white for its \$96 billion debt. Last year debt repayments

consumed over half the nation's export earnings, this year repayments of \$12 billion were due, practically the entire oil revenue. On the very same day as the 19 September earthquake the IMF announced, after the quake had struck, that it was suspending further credits to Mexico for failing to adequately reduce its public spending, and Saudi Arabia, Mexico's major oil exporting rival, declared its intention to boost output by a million barrels a day. Every dollar drop in oil prices costs Mexico \$0.5 billion a year, every percentage rise in interest charges adds \$0.8 billion to its debt bills. Denouncing this obscenity President Castro called for an immediate end to the debt collectors' demands, 'who are like buzzards amidst death and disaster... tearing away at Mexico's resources when it needs them most.'

Confronted with the prospect of mass outrage forcing a complete default, the bankers donned an expression of empty sympathy. The IMF 'tentatively agreed' a special \$300 million relief loan to Mexico, and a consortium of creditors, including the British duo, agreed to delay the repayment date of \$950 million due in October for a further six months, but insisted it be included as part of an emergency loan that Mexico is seeking for the disaster. This is tantamount to throwing water over a drowning man.

Whatever fate befalls Mexico, for the bankers it is business as usual. But for the Mexican people it cannot go on; they have lost half their purchasing power in the last 30 months, infant mortality is growing, and the crumpled buildings symbolise the corruption that has eaten into the core of their state and squandered oil revenues. No doubt the US imperialists will attempt to use the earthquake tragedy to twist Mexico's arm and force it to follow the US line over Nicaragua in exchange for further credits. However, as his government reluctantly proceeds with the embarrassment of the death count, President de la Madrid can ponder the fate of the Somoza government after Nicaragua's 1972 earthquake and the recent CIA report on uprisings in Mexican cities.

Trevor Rayne

Havana gatherings forge Latin American unity

Two momentous gatherings this summer have shown the Latin American masses forging unity against the imperialist world economic order and the \$360 billion debt it has heaped upon them. From 15-18 July 330 trade unionists from 197 organisations in 29 countries attended the Trade Union Conference of Latin American and Caribbean workers on the Foreign Debt. Eighty delegates spoke! In August revolutionary Havana hosted the historic meeting on the Latin American and Caribbean Foreign Debt. One hundred and thirty speeches were delivered from representatives as diverse as guerrilla commanders to businessmen, radical priests to conservative politicians, military officers to academics and journalists. In the words of the representative of Columbia's revolutionary M-19 movement 'in the land of the dictatorship of the proletariat we have greater participation than in formal democracies'. Cuba's open initiative on the debt has strengthened Latin America's consciousness of itself as an oppressed continent, and isolated the fascists Pinochet of Chile and Stroessner of Paraguay.

Of Latin America's 290 million people 56 million of the workforce are unemployed and 100 million underemployed. Forty per cent of the population are at levels of extreme poverty, fifty million starve. Brazil is the fourth largest food exporter in the world, yet two thirds of its 130 million people suffer malnutrition. Last year Latin America transferred \$70 billion to the rich capitalist nations. The average annual income of a Latin American is less than the US spends per citizen on weaponry alone. Last year Brazil transferred \$11,337 billion to the imperialist metropolises; three times its total 1985 budget on education, health sanitation, and social security; thirty times the Brazilian Ministry of Health 1985 budget. And every 30 seconds a Latin American child under the age of five dies without having received any medical attention. These are the life and death facts of the debt, the stark exploitation that provided the

basis for the unity of the delegates.

All speakers recognised that the debt posed the most direct threat to the democratic advances achieved in Latin America: nine countries have turned from military to civilian rule since 1980.

Every nation told of how the IMF and international bankers would loosen a little more credit in exchange for policies that would extract ever more surplus from the Latin American people. The Malvinas and Nicaragua were symbolic of the Latin American fight for sovereignty. Sovereignty was the common ground uniting diverse trades and classes.

The revolutionary position, advocated by Cuba and supported by many of the peasant workers' leaders, calls for a united strike of debtors both on points of principle, the debt is the result of an unjust economic system, and because it is unpayable. The strike should be used to force the major imperialist nations to accept a New International Economic

Order not to renegotiate debt repayments.

The Social Democratic position, adopted by the Peruvian government and Michael Manley from the opposition People's National Party of Jamaica is that the debts may be repaid but not at the cost of the higher priority of economic development. It advocates a united campaign to reduce interest rates and limit the proportions of export earnings used to service the debt.

The Centre Right position, represented by Argentina and Ecuador, is that different countries face different conditions and can negotiate with the creditors on individual terms.

Fidel Castro believes that unity will not necessarily arise out of prior agreement, but will be the response when individual countries are punished by the bankers for failing or refusing to pay. Hence the significance of sovereignty.

The strengthening mass support for Fidel Castro's call for a debt strike has encouraged Peruvian President Garcia to stick to his stance of limiting Peru's debt repayments to 10 per cent of exports. Even this policy which, if applied to Latin America as a whole would result after 20 years (assuming extremely optimistic interest rate of 6 per cent) in the continent paying \$427.3 billion in interest and still owing \$444.7 billion, a hundred billion more than it currently owes! Yet the October annual meeting of the IMF/World Bank still rounded on Peru as a 'Pariah' embarked upon a 'rash experiment'.

Ultimately the masses have nowhere to go but to Cuba's position, and as their movement gathers momentum the financiers and corporations will be forced to assess whether the debt crisis is worth threatening their enormous investments in Latin America.

For a full analysis of the Latin American debt see David Reed, 'Castro Calls for a General Strike of All Debtors', *FRONTLINE*.

Trevor Rayne

The pathetic revenge of Reagan

The hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro by four Palestinians was seized upon by Reagan in a bid to restore US imperialism's tattered reputation as an invincible force in the Middle East.

It was in truth a pathetic exercise. Only after PLO officials and the pro-US Egyptian government ended the hijack and disarmed the Palestinians and only after they had been put on a plane and were in mid-air, did US fighter planes ambush and force them to land in Sicily.

This exercise in air-piracy was hailed by Reagan as a warning to 'terrorists' everywhere '... you can run, but you can't hide'. The Israeli government acclaimed it as a 'landmark in the fight to eradicate terrorism'. Such are imperialism's unashamed declarations that there is one law for the oppressed and another for the imperialists. In the name of 'democracy' and 'civilisation' imperialism claims exclusive monopoly to violence against the oppressed and hails state terrorism.

On 1 October, when Israeli planes bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, killing 50 and wounding another 50, Reagan gleefully proclaimed it a 'legitimate act of self-defence'. There was no indignant cry of 'punish the terrorists' which sounded so loudly after the Achille Lauro hijacking, where only one person is reported dead.

Reagan is tireless in denouncing the struggles of the oppressed as 'terrorist', but himself orchestrates air-piracy and state terrorism when it suits imperialism's political ends. It was Reagan who authorised CIA car bombings in Beirut, the mining of Nicaraguan harbours and gave the go-ahead to the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon which resulted in the massacre of 30,000 people.

The Achille Lauro incident, and the bombing of the PLO offices in Tunisia occurred against a backdrop of speculation about a joint PLO-Jordanian delegation meeting with British and US government representatives in search of a 'peaceful solution' to the Palestinian question. Recent events once again confirm that US imperialism's sole interest is the destruction of the Palestinian resistance. While offering promises of negotiation it gave the go-ahead for the bombing of the PLO headquarters. Such promises are designed to entice bourgeois trends within the PLO into further dependence on imperialism. These diplomatic shuffles aim to paralyse the fighting will of the Palestinian people, encouraging hopeless illusions and thus leading them into total impotence.

While engaging in such diplomatic moves, the US is single-mindedly rebuilding Israeli military power, with \$7.1m allocated for next year. This will be used to continue its efforts to crush the revived and increasingly militant resistance on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Reagan's pathetic revenge may impress backwoods US reactionaries, but will not stem the Palestinian resistance against Zionism and imperialism. Already the people of Egypt have expressed their anger against Reagan's terrorism: as we go to press news is coming in of fierce clashes in Cairo between thousands of demonstrators and Egyptian riot-police.

Eddie Abrahams/Trevor Rayne

UGANDA: PLOTS AGAINST THE PEOPLE

We are pleased to publish this article written for FRFI by comrades from the Uganda National Liberation Front (Anti-Dictatorship).

Following a brief lull in the fighting in Uganda after the coup on 27 July, during which time the leaders of Uganda's officially-recognised political parties joined General Tito Okello's new Military Junta, the warlords are at it again.

Four armed groups – the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), the Federal Democratic Movement of Uganda (FEDEMU), the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) and the Former Uganda National Army (FUNA) – have surrendered and been incorporated into the dictatorship's Military Council (MC).

Of the two organisations that have not joined the junta, it is only the Uganda National Liberation Front (Anti-Dictatorship) (UNLF (A-D)) that has done so for reasons of political principle. The UNLF (A-D) has rejected the new dictatorship's attempts to incorporate all political groups around itself. The Front has emphasised that only a Round Table Conference of all political forces can give Uganda a chance of peace and stability on a democratic platform.

As for the National Resistance Movement (NRM), its first and second rounds of talks with the junta failed to bear fruit. The NRM, which is demanding an equal sharing of power both within the Military Council and in the national army, as well as the disarming of the ex-Amin UNRF and FUNA, has resumed its military offensive.

These attacks have not been as successful as the NRA would have liked. Apparently one new element is the ex-Amin soldiers who have been deployed in or near NRA-held territory. It appears that these ex-Amin soldiers have been trained and supplied over the last five years by one western power in the expectation of an eventuality such as

a coup in Uganda.

This new balance of military power is what has persuaded the NRA to take the bilateral talks more seriously. Still making the same demands, the NRA has been attending the third round of talks in Nairobi, Kenya since 25 September.

Within Uganda itself, the killings and terror against innocent civilians by the Army has intensified. The NRA has also continued to harass the Army, presumably in an attempt to improve its somewhat enforced bargaining position at the Nairobi talks. The masses, who are not involved in these activities, are mere by-standers and victims.

Even more sinister is the emerging evidence of the direct involvement of British and American imperialism.

Firstly, there is much to suggest the direct influence of American imperialism in the planning of the coup strategy itself. The secret but vital role of the two ex-Amin groups in consolidating the regime after the coup points to this. The leaderships of the UNRF and FUNA had maintained contacts with and received supplies from agents in neighbouring countries linked to American imperialism.

Star Wars and the Geneva negotiations

In Geneva and in Paris this October the Soviet Union has stated that it will restrict the number of SS-20s in the western part of the USSR to 243. This satisfies an ultimatum from the Netherlands government, shortly facing elections, that it would not accept US cruise missiles if the SS-20s were fixed at this level. It is a unilateral Soviet decision. Nuclear strategic launchers of the USA and USSR – which can reach one another's territory – are to be cut by a massive 50% in both launchers and warheads, in exchange for the US halting Star Wars development. This goes a considerable way towards satisfying demands made by Britain and France, and also by the Chinese. The Soviet Union also announced that from 6 August it will employ a moratorium on all nuclear explosions.



Greenham Women cutting the wire

retaliation. Although the programme is billed as defensive, it is quite clearly offensive, reducing the ability of the USSR to deter imperialist nuclear aggression. If Star Wars really was a defensive programme, the US would be abandoning its strategic nuclear weapons, whereas they are, of course, building them up in the USA and Europe.

The US allies have given support to Star Wars, partly out of blind anti-communism, partly through swallowing the bait of supposed massive development contracts. In fact, Star Wars is a threat to other imperialists. These space strike weapons can be used to attack targets on earth, and will enable the US to shelter behind its defences, whilst allowing missiles to fall on its imperialist rivals.

The dangers that follow from the contemptuous imperialist dismissals of the Soviet proposals place a grave responsibility on the peace movement in the imperialist countries. The Geneva negotiations will only be successful in curbing the arms race to the extent that major demonstrations force the imperialists to make concessions. Unfortunately this is just what is not happening in Britain. The opportunist leadership of CND, closely aligned with the present Labour Party leadership, is literally leading its supporters in circles with its 26 October Rally around Hyde Park. Under the meaningless slogan of 'Save It' CND will equate aggressive, bellicose, war-mongering US imperialism with the policies of the Soviet Union by leading the march past both the US and Soviet embassies.

Anyone who is serious about nuclear disarmament will be demanding immediate unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain, withdrawal from NATO and an end to collaboration with US imperialism, and support for national liberation movements struggling against imperialism. Once again the Soviet Union is proving to be on the side of humanity and progress. Imperialism is proving to be on the side of destruction and death.

Steve Palmer



Full-alert for nuclear-armed US B-52 bomber

Recent moves by the US imperialists represent a grave danger to strategic stability between the USA and the USSR. For many years nuclear strategic stability has been sustained by 'mutually assured destruction' – that is, both the USA and the USSR have sufficient nuclear weapons to ensure that they can

retaliate overwhelmingly if the other were to launch a nuclear attack. The US imperialists have begun to upset this shaky stability by introducing new weapons – the MX missile, Trident-II submarine based missiles, the B1 bomber, cruise and Pershing missiles, the Navstar satellite system – whose techni-

cal characteristics give them a successful first-strike capability. The 'Star Wars' programme, announced by Reagan on 23 March 1985, takes this a step further, complementing the US nuclear sword with a shield designed to enable it to launch a devastating first strike against the Soviet Union without fear of any

Secondly, the bilateral haggling over power in Nairobi seems to be guided one side at least, by a certain large Multi-national Corporation with vast holdings in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and other countries.

Thirdly, in Uganda itself, the British Military Training Team that had managed to make Obote's army increasingly efficient at creating havoc in the countryside, is showing no signs whatsoever of leaving the country, in spite of popular demands that all foreign forces quit Ugandan territory, to let Ugandans settle their own affairs.

Indeed, one of the junta's proposals at the Nairobi talks is for a joint British, Kenyan and Tanzanian force to 'oversee' the process of merging the Uganda Army and the NRA into a single weapon to guarantee the foreign interests at stake in Uganda.

What does all this manoeuvring mean for the Ugandan people?

Obviously, the overthrow of the murderous Obote regime left many Ugandans hoping that for once in Uganda's troubled history, they would be able to elect the kind of government they want at the earliest opportunity.

The UNLF (A-D), in rejecting the new junta's conspiratorial approaches, has reflected this viewpoint, it has demanded the convening of a Round Table Conference of all political forces in Uganda with a view to forming an interim Government of National Unity whose programme would address these and other popular demands. 'Otherwise', the Front has maintained, 'Ugandans can only expect more factional fighting and even generalised civil war'.

Given the amount of imperialist-backed conspiracy and intrigue going on in Kampala and other capitals, the holding of such a conference – an idea supported by growing sections of the population – seems unlikely.

It is more likely that the warlords will persist in advancing the competing interests of British and American imperialism at the expense of the democratic aspirations of the Ugandan masses.

This means, firstly, that the militarist factions may be forced to come to some temporary common understanding in order to contain the population's democratic demands. Already, there is talk of postponing the elections that the Military Council had earlier promised 'in twelve months'.

This can only set the stage for a future civil war as the warlords continue to scheme against each other, even if they come to a temporary agreement.

Secondly, as it becomes clearer that the issue in Uganda is that of imperialist-backed dictatorship against the popular democratic demands, the Ugandan people will take the initiative and transform the imperialists' civil war into a revolutionary war for a New Democracy.

PRIEST MISSING

As the economic and political situation in the Philippines continues to deteriorate, incidences of violence, kidnapping and murder by police, army and pro-government death squads have become commonplace. One case which has given rise to particular concern is the abduction of Catholic priest Father Rosaleo 'Rudy' Romano, vice-chair of the Cebu branch of Bayan – the New Nationalist Alliance. On 11 July a band of heavily armed men were seen forcing him into a Ford Cortina with a government licence plate. The car belonged to a certain Major Ebuén, and was formerly owned by Col Lyle Paras, ex-chief of Cebu's Military Intelligence Group.

Fr Romano has been missing for three months, and prison authorities refuse to confirm or deny rumours that he is being held at Camp Lapu-Lapu.

Requests to know the whereabouts of Fr Romano can be made to the Philippine Embassy, 9a Palace Gate, W8. Tel 937 1609.

Jonathan



UNDERSTANDING MARXISM

The working class as revolutionary class

There could be no greater contrast than that between the well fed, well off, respectable delegates of the official Labour movement at the TUC and Labour Party conferences this year and the black and white youth, fighting the racist British police with stones and petrol bombs on the streets of Handsworth, Brixton, and Tottenham over the past month. The former are close to the establishment, mimic its ways, are prepared to administer its economic system, uphold its laws and condemn all violence especially that of the fighting youth on the streets. The latter reject all that this brutal and degrading economic system stands for, will fight its racist police, and condemn its ruling class laws and courts.

Yet both the respectable delegates of the Labour movement and the fighting youth from the inner city areas are said to be part of the British working class. Many however, even those who claim to be Marxists, state that the authentic voice of the working class is to be found *only* in the official Labour movement.

We totally reject this view and believe it has nothing in common with Marxism. On the contrary the Marxist tradition sees the authentic voice of the working class being given expression on the streets of the inner cities and not in the conference halls of the official Labour movement. How can this be so?

Marx and Engels argued in the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848 that the capitalist system creates a revolutionary class which will eventually destroy it. The ever-recurring crises, the vast inequalities of wealth, the poverty and unemployment within the capitalist system throw up forces which have a fundamental interest in destroying that system. Those forces are the working class or proletariat. This class being forced to work, to sell its labour power in order to live and owning no property or capital has no interests in the existing property relations - capitalism. Marx and Engels said in 1848

'The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.'

Who does this apply to in 1985? - the delegates at the Labour movement conferences building their careers and dreaming of the political power and privileges which could come with the election of a Labour government or the fighting youth on the streets of the inner cities?

Marx and Engels said that the working class, having no ties to the capitalist system, would oppose the exploitation of one nation by another. Who does this apply to in 1985? - the Labour Party and trade union movement which has throughout its existence backed British imperialism's brutal exploits throughout the world, the Labour Party which sent troops into the Six Counties of Ireland in 1969, and administered a regime of institutionalised torture there from 1976-9; or the fighting black and white youth of the inner cities who identify their struggle with the fighting black youth in the townships of South Africa, and the fighting youth on the streets of Belfast and Derry in Ireland?

Marx and Engels recognised that the working class was splitting into two. One section which had developed ties to the capitalist system and the other the mass of the working class which had not. Speaking of the changes in the organised working class movement in 1858 Engels wrote to Marx

'... the English proletariat is actually becoming more and more bourgeois ...'

And in a letter to Kautsky in 1882, when asked what the organised English working class thinks about colonial policy, he answered

'Exactly the same as they think about politics in general: the same as the bourgeois think... the workers gaily share the feast of England's monopoly of the world market and the colonies.'

Engels' words apply to today's Labour Party and TUC.

David Reed

PRISONERS FIGHTBACK

EUSIF RYAN

Inquest farce

The inquest into the death of Eusif Ryan at Horseferry Road Coroners Court was not an impartial investigation into the death of a young black prisoner in Wandsworth prison. It was a rigged tribunal for the purpose of quietly disposing of the body. Wandsworth prison doctor Dr Khan, politely assisted and prompted by Coroner Dr Powers, succeeded in so confusing the jury as to get a verdict of cause of death unknown leading to an open verdict.

Eusif Ryan died in Wandsworth on 28 May. All his medical history showed that he was epileptic. Certainly he had fits, as fellow prisoners have told FRFI (see FRFI 50, 51, 52). On 27 May he had two fits before a visit and three during it. He was not taken to hospital, he was not put under any observation, he was thrown back into a shit-smear cell and left to die. It transpired that Dr Khan had reduced Eusif's medication on 16 May and stopped it on 22 May. Why did he not instruct prison staff to observe Eusif to ensure that he did not suffer from this withdrawal of medication? Why was Eusif not placed in the hospital wing? Why was no notice taken of his five fits on 27 May?

None of these questions were answered. The coroner had refused to allow prisoners to be legally represented as 'interested persons'. After all, why should prisoners be interested in ex-

posing the systematic neglect that killed their comrade Eusif Ryan? The Ryan family was unrepresented. The Home Office was unrepresented. The POA was represented. And do not forget the coroner himself.

Keith Fassentel gave evidence. The coroner refused to call any other prisoners. Keith movingly exposed the brutal conditions in which Eusif had been kept and the medical neglect he suffered from. Official witnesses were then wheeled in to deny Keith's evidence. Had all the prisoner witnesses been called then the jury might have realised that Keith was telling the truth.

FRFI says that Eusif Ryan's death is just the latest in the long line of crimes against prisoners committed by Wandsworth prison. At the inquest, this truth was suppressed.

Terry O'Halloran

Albany and Wakefield

PRISON PROTEST

Protests have taken place at Albany and Wakefield prisons in the last month. On Thursday 12 September Albany prison officers used a minor incident as an excuse to put all prisoners on 24 hour lock up; to reduce exercise to 1/2 hour in half the exercise yard; and to allow only one landing to exercise at a time. By Sunday 15 September prisoners had had enough. Fighting took place between prisoners and prison officers. In the following days at least 50, possibly more, prisoners were ghosted out. All the Irish POWs, except Billy Armstrong, were ghosted.

Some were sent up to Wakefield F wing for solitary confinement under C1 10/74. John Bowden and Robert Mawdesley, held in the 'D' suite also called the Nutcracker Suite, had their own protest in Wakefield on Thursday 19 September. They barricaded themselves in, smashed up the unit and set fire to furniture. Other prisoners in F wing, including some fresh from Albany, soon joined in protesting. Both John and Robert were ghosted out along with others. John Bowden is now in Durham, Robert Mawdesley Hull, Sean Kavanagh Wormwood Scrubs, and others are also in solitary following the two latest protests.

Terry O'Halloran

PRISONERS BIRTHDAYS

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

- Harry Duggan**, 338638, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX. 31 October.
- Roy Walsh**, 119083, HMP Love Lane, Wakefield, Yorkshire, WF2 9AG. 1 November.
- Martin Coughlan**, 507955, HMP Hedon Road, Hull, North Humberside, HU9 5LS. 4 November.
- Sean Kinsella**, 758661, HMP Southall Street, Manchester, M60 9AH. 5 November.
- Paul Norney**, 863532, HMP Hull (see above). 11 November.
- Brendan Dowd**, 758662, HMP Welford Road, Leicester, LE2 7AJ. 17 November.
- Andy Mulryan**, 461576, HMP Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 5TZ. 18 November.

PRISONERS EXHIBITION



A unique exhibition was on display at Islington Council Central Library, London, 5-11 September. It collected together paintings, poetry and handicrafts produced by Irish ex-POW John McCluskey, Graham Little, black prisoner Shujaa Moshesh, Jimmy Anderson and Mrs Hill, mother of Irish POW Paul Hill. The theme was: Ireland and the spirit of resistance. The artworks had been donated by the prisoners to the Irish Solidarity Movement and the poetry sent to FRFI for publication over the years. To these we added poems by Bobby Sands and the late Ray McLaughlin, Irish ex-POW. The ISM was delighted to have had the opportunity of showing people the comradeship, political insight and talent flourishing within British prison walls. The exhibition included displays and a selection of prison writings. Amongst the many people who visited and enjoyed the exhibition were relatives of two of the artists.

Tony Sheridan

INSIDE

NEWS

● Comrades at FRFI were very pleased to hear this month from Jimmy Anderson after a long period of silence. Jimmy is currently in HMP Frankland having been moved continually since May, and as a result has had his mail constantly interfered with and numerous copies of FRFI not passed on, despite this correspondence being sent recorded delivery. FRFI has written repeatedly to the Prison Department and various prison governors in protest, but received inadequate replies and excuses. We have been very worried about Jimmy's welfare, as has his family. We had good cause, for whilst in Leeds prison Jimmy was locked in the strong box in a 'new form of body belt'. This consists of a plastic tube with arms that lock on, and the prisoner can only be freed by being cut out of it. Jimmy was subjected to this barbarity for a week with no washing or toilet facilities.

Also in Leeds, Jimmy had all his political literature confiscated including the RCG manifesto, a book of poems by Irish poets and a letter from a comrade in Scotland - because it was written on red paper! All this has been sent to the Home Office 'for their attention'.

Jimmy informs us that Frankland is similar to the asylum in the film 'One flew over the cuckoo's nest'. He writes, '... every guard a pseudo welfare/sociologist worker'. But as he goes on to point out, the veneer wears very thin and the punishment block and strong boxes are always full.

We urge all readers to send Jimmy cards and letters and to protest to the Home Office about the attack on his rights and disgusting treatment he has undergone over the past six months. He specifically asks for any republican posters to be sent to him; as he says he's '... Right in the enemy stronghold and still the word of liberation's armies shall be heard...'. Send letters to Jimmy Anderson B40396, HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham.

● Douglas Hurd's debut as Home Secretary was to announce that the first two new isolation units will be in Parkhurst and Lincoln prisons (as we predicted in FRFI 52). It is expected that the Parkhurst unit will simply be the re-opened C1 psychiatric wing.

On 12 September, Wandsworth prison opened its 'new' refurbished E1 punishment block. Cells are all concrete with no furniture except for a concrete bed platform. All cells have small opaque perspex 'windows' restricting natural light.

The £15 million to be spent on opening RAF Lindholme 'temporary' prison camp is to be taken from the prison refurbishment budget which is supposed to be used to make Victorian prison slums fit for human habitation. Three other sites for 'temporary' prison camps have been selected. Meanwhile, Lord Glenarthur (Home Office minister responsible for prisons) stated categorically on 2 October that, despite the prison population reaching record levels this summer - 48,000

and rising - the government will not grant an amnesty for some non-violent offenders. On the contrary, he said, 'we are determined to provide the prison places necessary to accommodate all those the courts decide must be committed to custody. That is a central plank of our criminal justice policy'. Meanwhile, 5,000 prisoners are imprisoned 3 to a cell that was built last century for one, with no toilet facilities and locked up over 20 hours a day.

● At the Lurigancho prison outside Lima, Peru on 4 October political prisoners of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) revolutionary organisation, fought massed lines of police and army. The prisoners have made their block a no-go area to screws for the last two years and used dynamite, home-made arrows and fire bombs to ward off the attack. Police attempted to bulldoze their way through but were foiled by the prisoners who set fire to a massive barricade of mattresses they'd erected for defence.

As the army moved in to fire, people in neighbouring tenement blocks came out to fight the soldiers and police on the street in solidarity with the prisoners. Twenty police were wounded. Thirty four prisoners were killed - four shot dead by police and thirty burnt to death. Thousands of the gaol's 6,700 prisoners protested for hours at these killings.

● Early this month a black prisoner was shot dead by police in Ashburn, Georgia, USA. Hundreds of black people took to the streets of the town hurling rocks and bottles at the police in anger and protest.

● On 24 September a report was published in the Prison Officers Association official journal giving details of a protest that took place at HMP Strangeways, Manchester in July this year. Three prisoners were staging a roof-top protest about the appalling conditions and overcrowding in the prison when visitors tried to storm the main gate and join the protest in solidarity. The gates were nearly demolished by the visitors who would have succeeded in breaking them down if POs hadn't backed a swill lorry against them to prevent collapse. After the event, the POs passed a vote of no confidence in John Lewis, the governor!

● Many thanks to Danny Breaks and his comrades at Albany jail for sending their excellent message of solidarity to Islington Rally Against Apartheid (ISRAA). The message was passed on to ISRAA and read out at the very successful rally on 23 September.

● Thanks also to all prisoners who have written to FRFI this month. Please keep us informed of events and let us know what your opinions are of issues in the paper and elsewhere. Also please inform us as soon as possible of any change of address so we can send FRFI on immediately.

Alexa Byrne

MEDICAL NEGLECT

John Reid, a life prisoner presently in Broadmoor 'psychiatric' prison, has been waiting since March 1984 - 18 months - for an urgently-needed heart operation.

John Reid was one of the prisoners in the Hull prison protest in 1976 and gave evidence in the trial of Hull prison officers that followed the protest. Since then he has been marked out for harassment. In March 1982 he was transferred to Broadmoor, allegedly suffering from 'severe personality disorder'. Yet he has received no psychiatric treatment whatever in Broadmoor.

In September 1983 he began to suffer heart attacks. In March last year he was told he needed a bypass operation. His operation has been delayed by Broadmoor who have failed to provide medical records when needed and contin-

ually refused to tell him what was happening. John also told FRFI about conditions in the hospital ward at Broadmoor.

Although hospital staff are supposed to provide round-the-clock supervision, at night they frequently leave the prisoners completely unattended. One prisoner fell during the night and was left overnight with a broken hip. John himself has had to ring the general alarm bell (there is no bell for the so-called nurses) to get attention during attacks. He has waited up to two hours to be taken to an outside hospital after suffering heart attacks. His condition is deteriorating yet he has still not been given a date for his operation. He was even asked, at one point, to pay to be taken to hospital!

Terry O'Halloran

The Anglo-Irish monologue

As a London-Dublin agreement draws nearer loyalist politicians are outdoing each other in their threats. They are talking of withdrawing their elected representatives, strikes and bloody opposition to any deal. This despite the fact that Thatcher and Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King have been at pains to assure them that nothing will actually change and the agreement would:

'not impinge on the sovereignty of the UK or Northern Ireland's position within the UK.'

And nothing will change. Ireland will remain divided and under the domination of British imperialism and its agents North and South, the Six Counties will remain a sectarian state under British rule.

The rumoured elements of the deal have included: stepped up cross border collaboration between the Gardai and the RUC; 'reform' of the UDR - possibly having the RUC patrolling with them; Southern judges sitting with their Northern counterparts in non-jury courts; the establishment of a council on which Southern representatives would be 'consulted' about developments in the Six Counties.

Such an agreement would mean only that the oppression of the nationalists in the Six Counties would be sanctified by the participation of the Twenty Six Counties. Both Thatcher and Fitzgerald share the same aim: the isolation and destruction of the Republican movement.

However, both governments face major problems. The South is smouldering as unemployment and poverty grow. There would be enormous opposition to any abandonment of Ireland's claim to the Six Counties. This strength of feeling has even prompted Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey to say:

'Fianna Fail cannot and will not accept any agreement which would not be in accordance with the basic principles of Irish unity enshrined in the Constitution. Nor can there be any question of an agreement which would purport to guarantee what is euphemistically called "the constitutional status of Northern Ireland".'

On the other hand Thatcher faces a loyalist population which views even the meaningless changes being considered



as an attack on their privilege and power. Already sectarian attacks on nationalists, especially Sinn Fein activists, are on the increase.

But the real stumbling block for these imperialist governments remains the revolutionary struggle of the Irish people led by the Republican Movement.

Maxine Williams

Red faces north and south

In December 1982 Dominic McGlinchey was the first nationalist victim of the 'Free State's' craven decision to extradite those facing political charges to the north and to British jurisdiction.

This is a key part of the cross-border collaboration on 'security'. He jumped bail rather than face a life sentence. After a shoot-out with 40 Gardai in March 1984 he was recaptured and extradited to Belfast within 24 hours. He was convicted of murder by the Diplock no-jury courts in December 1984 amidst a blaze of prejudicial publicity.

On 9 October he won his appeal in the High Court. With overseas legal observers and journalists present, Lord Justice McGibbon was forced to admit that there had been no evidence to convict McGlinchey. This decision is a great embarrassment to the British and 'Free State' government. McGlinchey was released 48 hours later from the Crumlin Road jail, when the prosecution decided not to appeal. The RUC rearrested him outside the Crumlin and extradited him back to the south where he faces charges originating from the March 1984 shoot-out when he was first captured. The Free State will now try to complete Britain's dirty work.

Tony Sheridan

BRIXTON STRIP SEARCHES

Two Irish women prisoners in Brixton are being subjected to continual strip-searching. Ella O'Dwyer and Martina Anderson are two of the people facing charges in the so-called 'seaside bombs conspiracy'. They are being strip-searched before and after every court appearance, after every visit and at other times. Between 5 and 10 August Martina was stripped 34 times and Ella 26 times.

The two are being held, with an East German woman, in complete isolation from other prisoners. They had 'privileges' withdrawn for a week for the 'offence' of talking to other prisoners through a window. Their solicitor, Mike Fisher, is now considering legal action to end the humiliating and degrading treatment being meted out to the two women.

Terry O'Halloran

Loyalist bigots disrupt councils

Sectarian manoeuvring by loyalists continues in the council chambers of the Six Counties. Wherever Sinn Fein attempts to improve appalling conditions in nationalist areas or to expose loyalist discrimination, they are faced with anti-democratic, sectarian behaviour from unionists: in Belfast Sinn Fein councillor, Sean McKnight was voted off the management committee of the Divis Community Centre to which he'd been elected by the people of Divis; in Dungannon, where half the votes cast in the last elections went to nationalist candidates, at least 90% of council administrative staff are unionists!

The behaviour of unionists in the face of Sinn Fein election successes has rendered the sectarian statelet practically ungovernable. In Craigavon the council has not met for over a month: the unionists are demanding a meeting with Tom King at which they intend to press for legislation to exclude Sinn Fein from local councils. There are splits in the loyalist ranks, with a few councils following Craigavon's lead and quarrels blowing up between the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Official Unionist Party (OUP) in Fermanagh, where DUP councillors have accused OUP'ers of 'betrayal' - why? for addressing Sinn Fein's Paul Corrigan (council chair) as 'Mr Chairman'!

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) cowardice and opportunism is being exposed daily. When Mickey Hasson (Sinn Fein) was arbitrarily and forcibly removed by the RUC from attending, just as an observer, a com-

mittee meeting of Limvady Council, the SDLP councillors made a weak verbal protest and just continued their meeting! SDLP in County Down proposed a motion to adjourn a meeting in respect for an RUC inspector executed by the IRA.

DUP councillor in Magherafelt, William McCrea, announced during a debate on strip-searching that 'prisoners have no rights'. A proposal from Derry council to establish a delegation to visit all prisons in Ireland and Britain containing Derry POW's, which would investigate strip-searching was muted, again by SDLP, to the compilation of a 'statistical record' of the use of strip-searching. Only in nationalist-majority Fermanagh, did the council succeed in passing a resolution calling for the immediate end to strip-searching in Armagh Jail and the withdrawal of plastic bullets.

Louise Wells

BRIT TERROR

The armed thugs of the Royal Ulster Constabulary can stoop no lower than the despicable act committed in North Belfast last month. Three children, the eldest only ten years old, were snatched from the streets where they were playing and thrown into Landrovers. Two were taken to North Queen Street Barracks, and the third boy would have followed them but for the intervention of local women who prevented his seizure.

Like these latest victims of British brutality, over half those murdered by plastic bullets have been children. A five and a half hour operation saved the life of 18 year old Terry McMenamy, whose skull was badly damaged by a plastic bullet fired at point blank range. As he fell unconscious Terry was dragged on the ground to a police landrover. Only days after his discharge from hospital, on 27 August, he was arrested and charged with riotous behaviour. He was held overnight in a Belfast police station and taunted about his operation scars.

These incidents are only a tiny part of the reality of British terror on Irish streets. The last few weeks have seen repeated attacks by the RUC and Army on the nationalist people.

23 August: Two Derry men are kicked, beaten and dragged into landrovers in Rossville Flats. Local Sinn Fein councillor Mitchel McLaughlin describes the RUC men as 'impressed by the TV film of South African police'.

25 August: Dungannon. Patrick Donnelly is arrested, threatened with a revolver, and complains about his treatment. He has since been detained in Gough Barracks in Armagh.

30 August: Two shots are fired into a bus carrying passengers to Omagh in the 26 Counties, which has been stopped at an army roadcheck. A week later, a second bus travelling to the 26 Counties is petrol bombed by the UDA. 6 September: Limavady Sinn Fein councillor Mickey Hassan's home is attacked by a loyalist assassination squad. Mickey and his family escape unhurt.

8 September: Kevin O'Kane from Derry attacked by RUC. Having sustained a wound requiring three stitches he is held at Strand Road Barracks. He is not cautioned, questioned or charged.

13 September: Two Derry men arrested and held in Castlereagh Barracks. During detention one is shown photographs of the body of recently murdered Volunteer Charles English and told 'You'll end up like that'.

None of these incidents was reported in the British press, yet the truth about life in Belfast and Derry becomes more apparent every day. Shoot to Kill has come to Brixton, plastic bullets have come to Tottenham - now more than ever is the time for united opposition to British rule in Ireland.

Beth Summers

RAY MCLAUGHLIN

On Monday 9 September IRA Volunteer Ray McLaughlin died whilst on holiday with his wife, Mary, and their son, Patrick. Ray McLaughlin will be remembered by all readers of FRFI for his determined and courageous resistance to the British prison system during the nine years he spent in British prisons.

Ray McLaughlin was arrested in Coventry in November 1974 following a premature explosion in which his comrade James McDade died. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Throughout that time he fought for his own rights as an Irish political prisoner and for the rights of all prisoners.

In Gartree 1975 he took part in a blanket protest and hunger strike against visiting conditions. In 1976 he joined with other POWs, black prisoners and other prisoners in the great Hull prison rising. He suffered brutal beatings and punishment but continued to fight. In 1978 he spent two months on the blanket in the notorious control unit - F wing - at Wakefield prison. In 1983 he was one of ten prisoners who went on strike in the Albany prison mailbag workshop in the build up to the Albany prison protest. He spent the remainder of his sentence in solitary confinement. He was released at the end of 1983. Ray McLaughlin's unbroken record of struggle earned him the admiration of all resisting prisoners and revolutionaries outside the prisons.

Ray McLaughlin was a Republican fighter, a socialist and an internationalist. Knowing that the revolution in Ireland and the revolution in Britain are part of one struggle against a common enemy, he warmly supported all struggles of the working class and oppressed in Britain. In 1983 he was the author of the Albany POWs letter which charted a course for a principled united solidarity movement in Britain. He gave his support to the ISM's efforts to build such a movement.

FRFI mourns the death of Ray McLaughlin, an outstanding fighter for the working class and for Irish national liberation. At his funeral in Buncrana on 13 September the Free State neo-colonial regime paid its own 'tribute' to his memory by flooding the area with Garda thugs attempting to interfere with the funeral.

FRFI sends its deepest sympathy to Mary McLaughlin, Patrick McLaughlin and all Ray's family, friends and comrades. We will cherish the memory of Ray McLaughlin.

'It gives me great pride to know that I am struggling with the true humanity, with the struggling people right across the globe.' Ray McLaughlin speaking to FRFI in April 1984.

PAT GUILFOYLE EXCLUDED

On Friday 11 October Irish POW Pat Guilfoyle was released from prison. He was immediately excluded to Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. His solicitor, Gareth Peirce, told FRFI that he would be appealing against the exclusion order.

FRFI welcomes Pat's release and will support in whatever way we can his fight against the PTA. Terry O'Halloran

IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

At an emergency meeting of the Irish Solidarity Movement Executive Committee, Sunday 6 October, it was agreed to expel the Proletarian group from the ISM for acting against the interests of the ISM. This decision was taken after the disgraceful behaviour of Proletarian at the ISM Rally the evening before. Proletarian attempted to disrupt the Rally by interrupting the Chairperson as she introduced the speaker from the Uganda National Liberation Front (Anti-Dictatorship). The ISM condemns this racist and sectarian behaviour. As an affiliated group to the ISM Proletarian were entitled to speak from the platform of the rally. However they refused even to sponsor or give any support to the Day of Action and therefore relinquished their right to speak.

Irish Solidarity Movement Executive Committee

Never to return to the working class

Noreen Branson, *History of the Communist Party of Great Britain 1927-1941* Lawrence & Wishart 1985 £6.95 Pbk; Max Adereth, *The French Communist Party, a critical history (1920-84)* Manchester University Press 1984 £27.50 Hbk

'Comrades, India is ablaze. The great national revolutionary movement is sweeping the country. Ground down for centuries by the blood-sucking British capitalist hundreds of millions of Indian workers and peasants are breaking their fetters and striking mighty blows for freedom... Comrades, if the imperialist Labour government sends us there, what must we do? Must we obey the orders of the parasites who, for centuries, have batted on the blood of the Indian masses?...

No, a thousand times no! The fight of the Indian workers and peasants is our fight too...

Our course is clear. If the imperialist Labour government sends us to India, and calls on us to shoot down the heroic Indian workers and peasants, we must refuse... Our guns must be turned against our real enemy - the thieving, robbing British ruling class and its lackey, the Labour government.'

(quoted in Branson, p72). Such in part was the text of a leaflet distributed by CPGB members outside army barracks in Wales in 1930. The two involved were arrested, tried and sentenced to 9 and 12 months hard labour under the 1797 Incitement to Mutiny Act.

India was indeed ablaze - 1928-29 had seen a massive upsurge in working class struggle, which was beginning to challenge the bourgeois pacifist leadership of the Indian National Congress. In March 1929, 31 of the best leaders of the Indian working class, revolutionaries and communists, were arrested in an

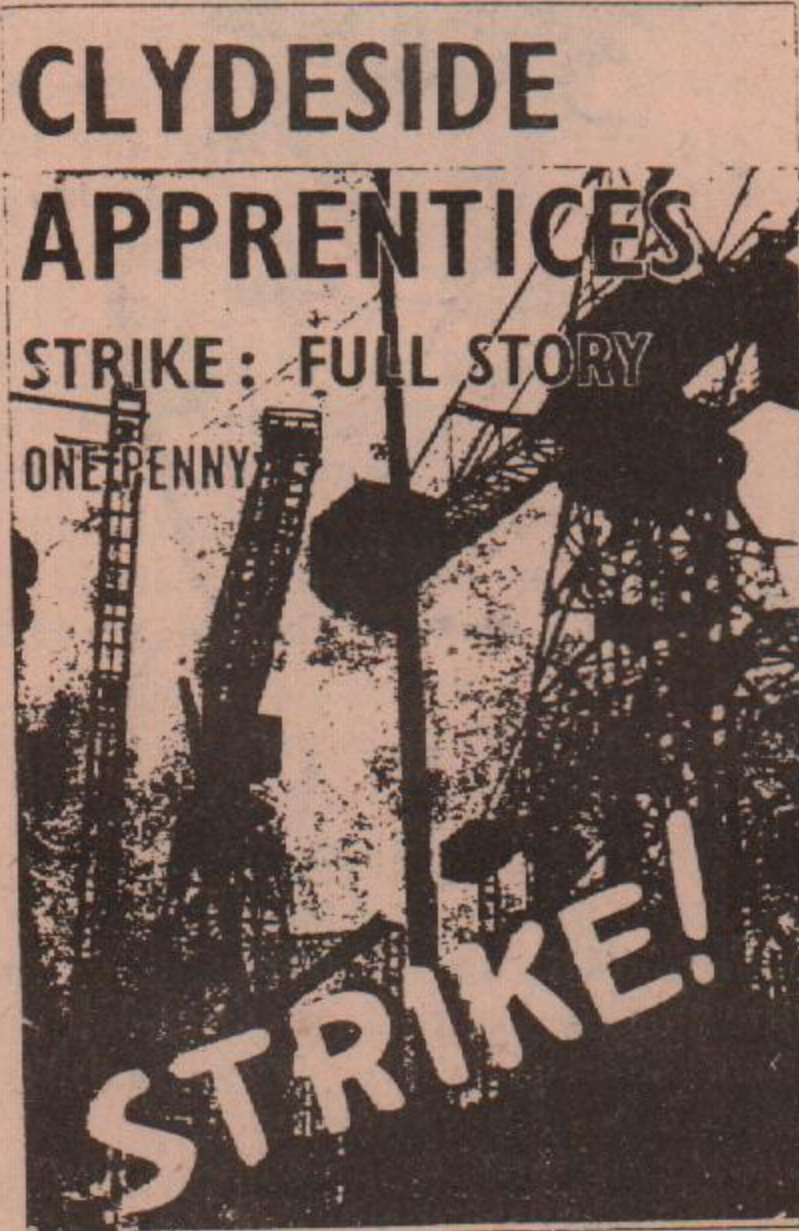
attempt to behead this growing movement. The incoming Labour government arrested another, and brought all 32 to trial for conspiring to 'deprive the



King of his sovereignty of India'. As Indian troops were proving unreliable in suppressing demonstrations against the British occupation, British replacements were sent in. British communists went out on the streets campaigning against the Labour government; many were arrested and sentenced to hard labour for leafletting outside army barracks. Reporting one such trial, a leader in the CP's paper, *Daily Worker*, described the judge as a 'bewigged puppet' and referred to the 'strong class bias' of both judge and jury. The paper was summonsed for contempt; two of the three controlling 'partners' and one journalist were arrested; and the prosecution was personally conducted by the Labour Attorney General. The three refused to back down or apologise, one saying that the leader had been '... a truthful political commentary on Mr. Justice Swift and on the entire capitalist legal machinery

which is not a fair and impartial machinery but part of the capitalist dictatorship.' (p65) They were sentenced to between 5 and 9 months hard labour.

The merit of the latest instalment of the official history of the CPGB lies in its account of episodes such as this where it proved itself committed in deeds to the anti-imperialist struggle. There is of course no comparison with the CP of today. The CP leadership has consistently attacked the national liberation movement in Ireland, and opposed the building of any campaign to support the Irish people's right to self-determination. The so-called 'hardline' minority has consistently supported this position, its paper *Morning Star* carrying virulent attacks on the IRA (see 'At the end of the British Road' *FRFI* 46 February 1985 pp8, 9). In short, in the choice be-



tween the privileged and the oppressed, the CPGB of 1930 and that of 1985 would end up on opposite sides.

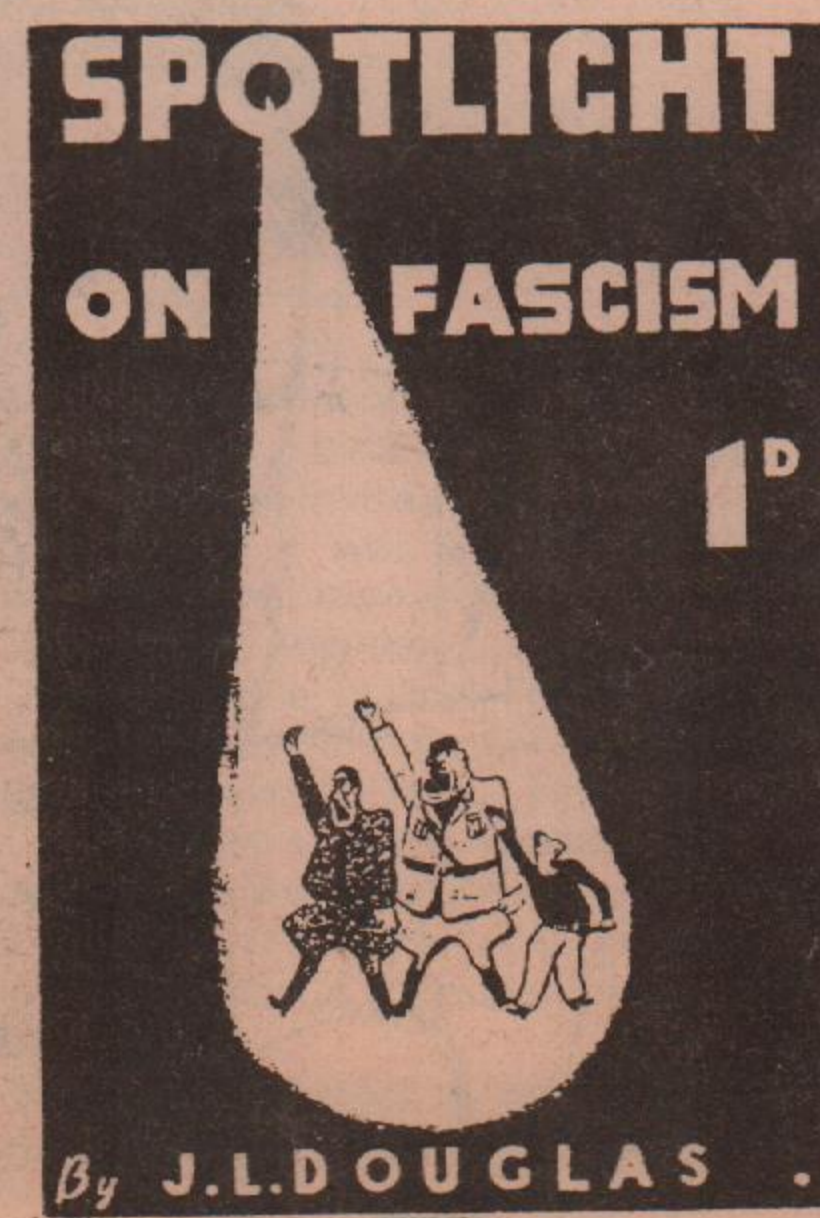
Whatever its merits, this book does not include a serious study of the reasons why the CPGB of 1930 became the CPGB of 1985, yet they do originate in the period it covers. The victory of German fascism (1933) was a crushing blow against the European working class, causing great demoralisation. It gave an enormous impetus to the infiltration of opportunism in the ranks of the European communist parties. Within a couple of years opportunism had completely triumphed.

By 1935-36 the French CP was condemning anti-imperialist struggle in Africa, and the Spanish CP was refusing to call for the freedom of Spanish Morocco. By 1945 the process was complete, when the CPs of the imperialist powers were no more than the left face of opportunism. In the ensuing 40 years

the only change has been that they have become more and more enmeshed in the labour aristocracy and new petit bourgeoisie, and have come to form part of the right wing of opportunism.

The history of the French Communist Party (PCF) by Eurocommunist Max Adereth has none of the merits of Branson's book. At its 1920 Conference in Tours the PCF accepted the Third International's condition for affiliation that member parties struggle directly against imperialism. The young Ho Chi Minh joined the PCF because to him it gave the right answer to the question, 'Which International sides with the colonial countries?'. It made a serious attempt to transform its words into deeds. In particular, in 1925 it supported the national liberation struggle in Morocco, staging a 24 hour protest strike supported by 900,000 workers. One of the demonstrators was shot dead by the police, and many PCF members were imprisoned. Adereth makes only a passing reference of a few lines (p50), quickly moving on to the more congenial task of attacking the PCF for its committed support of the Soviet Union.

Worse still, he fails to record the management of imperialism by the PCF



when in government. The government formed on 21 November 1945 included 5 PCF ministers (out of 21 in all), as the PCF had won 26% of the votes and was the largest single party. One of these was the Minister for Armaments (this post was held by a PCF member as long as it was in the Cabinet), and it soon became clear against whom the armaments would be directed. After its paper, *L'Humanité* had complained: 'Are we, after having lost Syria and Lebanon yesterday, to lose Indochina tomorrow,

HANDS OFF



WHAT IS THIS MINORITY MOVEMENT?



North Africa the day after?' (24 July 1946, quoted in Ellen J Hammer *The Struggle for Indochina 1940-1955* Stanford 1966 p190), French imperialism arms completely destroyed the Vietnamese quarter of Haiphong. Some 6,000 Vietnamese were killed (23 November 1946), and the French government refused to negotiate with Ho Chi Minh. This is completely ignored by Max Adereth, who also gives a distorted account of the war against the Algerian national liberation movement (for the PCF's role, see *FRFI* 27 p12).

The CPGB and the PCF are today thoroughly opportunist - in words and deeds they support imperialism, and are in truth a current 'which can never return to the working class' (Lenin).

Robert Clough/Patrick Newman



Incapable of any vision beyond the constitutional, respectable and opportunist British labour movement, the British left's judgement of the risings in Brixton, Handsworth and Tottenham is that they are hopeless, negative, futile and desperate. Displaying middle-class prejudice and fear of the oppressed, the left sees the risings as 'vicious and brutal' (*Morning Star* - MS) with 'mobs' (MS) of 'frustrated youths' (*Focus*) 'looting and burning' (*Focus*). The risings are 'signs of... desperation' (*Socialist Worker*), 'blind' and 'aimless violence' (*Militant*) 'leaving fear and destruction in its wake' (MS).

The *Morning Star*, one wing of the so-called Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) regard the youth who fought racism in Handsworth as: '... mobs (who) surged towards police chanting Zulu type chants'. Borrowed, word for word from the *Daily Telegraph*, this open racism was supplemented by the MS's fear

and hatred of the youth:

'In the darkness, young people smashed out against their own community, terrorising their own neighbours.'

Thoroughly imbued with labour aristocratic illusions in the racist British police, the MS pathetically asked:

'What prevented the police from knocking on the door (of Mrs Groce's home), showing a search warrant and acting in a normal civilised way.'

This supposedly Marxist newspaper seems to forget that police 'normality' and 'civilisation' is one thing for the ruling class and another for the oppressed.

Focus representing the new middle-class wing of the CPGB was even more shameless in grovelling before the police. It did not wish 'to express hostility to the police' for 'a police force' (we are talking about the racist British police!) 'is a necessary part of society.' Nevertheless *Focus* felt it necessary to criticise them for their:

'... failure to act swiftly to stop the looting and burning'

Terrified of the power of the oppressed, of the youth fighting back, *Focus* feeds its middle-class readers with nightmares of 'vigilante groups being formed' which 'could be catastrophic' if 'community-police relations' break down. It has a hideous prejudice for the poor and dispossessed who are described as '... being supremely Thatcherite -

take what you can for yourself and get away with it while no one is looking.'

Militant, well ensconced in the racist Labour Party, opposing the ANC, Republican Movement and even black sections in the Labour Party sang the same reactionary tune:

'Socialists have never condoned riots... (which are)... an expression of blind, destructive, aimless violence.'

A socialist newspaper is supposed to be a tribune for the people, not an expression of bigotted middle class prejudice.

The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) depicted the risings as an exclusively black revolt against racist oppression in which the participation of white youth only served to:

'... obscure the nature of the (Handsworth) riot as an explosion of black anger against oppression.'

Thus the RCP tried to conceal the vanguard role black workers will play in the future struggles of the working class as a whole.

Indeed, the RCP want to isolate black people from the British working class movement. They write:

'We support the right of black youth to take action against police repression. And we organise within the labour movement to build solidarity with black people.'

You fight the police, but leave us to carry out the 'superior' task of organising within the labour movement.

This is the RCP's message, a fundamentally racist message in which black people are seen not as a vanguard revolutionary force, but as passive recipients of labour movement solidarity.

The RCP, who appear to resent the fact that white youth participated in the risings, also appear to oppose white youth participating in any anti-imperialist struggles. The following disgusting attack on Ian Davidson, a working class youth who left Britain to go and join the PLO in its battles against Zionism and imperialism appeared in *the next step*, the RCP's newspaper:

'As long as the people of Palestine are denied their rights, the antics of a South Shields skinhead who ran away to join the PLO can spark fresh fighting in the Middle East.'

As long as the RCP have ink in their pens and wind in their lungs courageous working class youth like Ian Davidson, who is now in a Cypriot prison for executing top Israeli agents, can expect to be vilified.

The Socialist Workers Party, while sparing us the virulent chauvinism and racism of the above nevertheless dismissed the risings. In an article the SWP newspaper, *Socialist Worker* states that the Handsworth 'riot is an inspiration'. Yet not for very long. For a few paragraphs on it states: 'riot is not a sign of the confidence of the working class but rather of its desperation.'

The one common feature of all these left organisations is their blind refusal to see the reality - that the

risings represent the emergence of a new revolutionary force in Britain. As for considering what contribution they could make to assist its political organisation and development - that is beyond the bounds of their comprehension. Their entire concern is to bring this movement under the control of the official labour movement and middle classes. So *Socialist Worker* tell us:

'In Britain in 1985 there is chronic youth unemployment in the inner cities. But still a large proportion of rioters and their sympathisers in

Handsworth will have jobs... and therefore

'The job now is to create fighting workplace organisation.'

Do they mean the 5% of 1984 black school leavers in Handsworth who managed to find jobs?

The left's call on the trade union to 'mobilise young people in their own defence', for 'renewed effort' to fight racism, for 'rank and file organisation in the workplace' are hollow and empty.

Eddie Abrahams

JOIN THE RCG!

Take the side of all those struggling against imperialism - whether in Tottenham, Belfast or Soweto - Join the RCG!

A movement must be built in Britain in solidarity with the struggling peoples of Ireland, South Africa, Palestine, Central America. Help us do this - Join the RCG!

A movement must be built here in Britain which stands with the oppressed fighting racism, repression and poverty. Help us build this movement - Join the RCG!

A movement must be built which challenges and defeats the treachery of the opportunist leaders of Britain's Labour and trade union movement - Join the RCG!

Help us build a revolutionary anti-imperialist alternative. Work with us in our anti-racist, Irish solidarity, anti-apartheid and other struggles - Join the RCG!

I wish to join/receive more information about the RCG

Name _____
Address _____

Return to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

FRFI SUPPORTER GROUPS

meet regularly in the following areas to plan and carry out our work – education, discussion, funds, sales and campaigns are all on the agenda.
JOIN US!

LEEDS

Next meeting Thursday 31 October. Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mount, Leeds 7 at 7.30pm.
For further information contact: **Box FRFI, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2**

EDINBURGH

Meets regularly to discuss the politics of the Revolutionary Communist Group and plan our activities. Forthcoming discussions on: PTA – Public Order Act – Unite to defend democratic rights, Communism and British imperialism
For details contact:
Edinburgh FRFI, c/o Box 40, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

SOUTH LONDON

Meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at the North Peckham Civic Centre, corner of Old Kent Road & Peckham Park Road, 7.30pm. Next meeting **Tuesday 22 October**. For details contact: **South London FRFI, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX**

GLASGOW

Meets every fortnight on a Tuesday. For details contact FRFI sellers or write to **FRFI Box 10, 340 West Prince's St, Glasgow**

BRADFORD

Meets fortnightly on Mondays. For details contact **Bradford FRFI, c/o 6 Edmund St, Bradford 5**

NORTH LONDON

Meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7.30pm at the Red Rose Club, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 (Finsbury Park tube or Buses 253 and 29). Next meeting on **Tuesday 22 October**

DUNDEE

Meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7.30pm. For details contact: **Dundee FRFI, PO Box 27, Dundee DD1 9DR**

MANCHESTER

Meets fortnightly on Thursdays at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Slade Lane, Longsight, Manchester 12. For further details contact: **Manchester FRFI, Box 38, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 4BN.**

Heartening news

Dear Comrades

Revolutionary greetings to you! I found it heartening to read your August issue of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!*, especially the article on Reagan on your front page. Few, if any newspapers, or organisations ever mentioned that Reagan boasted of enjoying his breakfast after the bombing of the mental hospital in Grenada at the time of the invasion which resulted in the murder of forty seven patients and staff. But who would expect anything to upset a pigs breakfast? And, after all, they were only black. For those who believe that America is a democracy they ought to ask why is it that the original inhabitants insultingly referred to as Indians are on reservations? And, do they have a choice as to the locations? So much for American democracy.

We know that no one had asked Reagan to invade Grenada, he simply summoned one of his leading puppets (puppies) to Washington, told her of his plans and asked her to endorse them! Those cowardly 'leaders' agreed because they feared the wrath of America and bearing in mind what happened to Manley in Jamaica, they simply bowed. By the way, the complete removal of Reagan's entire intestines might slightly affect his breakfast and other meals.

Your principled stand in support of the South African people is to be applauded. The pickets outside

South Africa House show up the opportunist boneheads for what they are. Their silly slogan, Black and White unite and fight, should be addressed to the white colonialists in South Africa. Black people have not been reluctant to seek unity, it is the white forces occupying the country who are unwilling to forge some (any) form of unity. As for their silly chant, Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out! Words fail me. Whether we have Maggie Kinnock or Neil Thatcher as prime minister of this country, it is business as usual with the regime and the imperialists. Maybe, those elements should seek immediate psychiatric attention. Any good capitalist government would do well to finance such wreckers. I wonder!

Your paper seems to improve with every issue. You can be justly proud of your achievement. Let those super revolutionaries, those experts, burn themselves. With the exception of a few gullible students, they do not even possess the ability to confuse many people. The struggle continues! Forward Ever, Backward Never!
Yours in struggle
Gerald Calliste

PS I think that we must bear in mind that what is abstractly referred to as colonisation is in fact armed robbery. Anyone with financial links through investment or otherwise is in fact an accomplice and benefitting from the proceeds of crime.

A Lesson in Class Consciousness

Dear FRFI

Former Tory Party chairman John Selwyn Gummer was brief and to the point in his 18 July letter to Dr Tom Smith of the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. 'Thank you for your recent letter. We are a democratic party and we are not given to conducting a witch-hunt. The regime in Nicaragua is a poisonous one and the main opposition party was driven to take no part in elections. I cannot easily take your sympathetic view of the situation as I wonder what I would do as a democrat faced with Marxist dictatorship if I were a Nicaraguan. Might I not take to the hills?'

Gummer was defending the right of the Federation of Conservative Students to promote the cause of the terrorist contras with posters declaring 'Nicaragua – Victory to the Contras – Support the Democratic Resistance'. This summer the FCS vice-chairman David Hoile visited a contra training camp in Nicaragua. The Tory Party's refusal to restrain the FCS is no oversight. The British

ruling class sees nothing wrong with supporting terrorist bands fighting to overthrow legal and democratically elected socialist-orientated governments. A clear demonstration of class consciousness!

What a contrast with the servile performance of Kinnock at the Labour Party conference who denies the right of the working class to use any other than legal and peaceful means to defend its interests. Who condemned the NUM and Liverpool council and then wondered out loud why the British government, 'a government of democracy' and 'a friend of freedom', didn't impose sanctions against apartheid.

How much longer will Kinnock profess support for the Sandinista Peoples' Revolution? After all, it must have occurred to him that the Sandinistas are guilty of at least 3 of the mortal sins for which he denounced the NUM: they used violence against the Somoza dictatorship, they launched the 1979 insurrection without a national ballot, and they accepted aid from Libya...
Mike Webber

Battle in the Labour Party

Dear Sir,

I have recently come across the paper FRFI through a friend who gives me his copy. I have been a Labour Party member for ten years and am fighting for change to make the party socialist. We are having some success, it is Militant and Labour Herald and some Tribune supporters who are fighting for change. It is fair to say we are losing at present.

I think FRFI is an excellent paper, good international coverage, pro-Soviet, world revolution like myself, with exemplary anti-apartheid, Ireland coverage.

The position of FRFI seems to be a belief that Labour is a waste of time and new trade union structures should be built. I can understand that position. I would say that my older brother is a Yorkshire miner, he has told me how the left in Yorkshire fought long and hard to win Yorkshire to the left. I would hope

FRFI would lend its support to the Miners Union. The only forces seriously challenging capitalism in Britain are black and ethnic groups, National Union of Mineworkers, Liverpool/Lambeth Councils, these forces must be supported by all on the left.

Finally I would argue that FRFI could make a far greater contribution to the British left if it was inside the Labour Party as a group, fighting with us against the right wing leadership. Inside the reformist Labour and Trade Union Movements is where the mass of the working class resides, this is where the battle must be won.

I understand this idea may be controversial, but please do not write off the Labour left and left unions completely.

Yours fraternally,

D Green

PS Groups like you who support Irish liberation movements etc are greatly needed inside the Labour Party.

Out of prison

Dear Friends at FRFI

This is just a short letter to inform you that I've been discharged from Nottingham prison...

I wish to forward my deep gratitude for your help and kindness in forwarding me as a prisoner, your extremely interesting newspaper. Yes it's a truly fabulous paper and

very educational.

Thank you for everything but most important, for opening my eyes to this despicable government and to the pure evils of the capitalist system.

Yours in the struggle
Tony Hughes

All comrades at FRFI send Tony greetings and solidarity and are very pleased to hear he is out of prison.

Help us write FRFI

PAY FOR A JOURNALIST!

The risings in Britain, the Irish struggle, the international fight against imperialism, the political crisis of the working class movement in Britain: these are just some of the issues FRFI investigates to draw out the political answers we need to fight the racist British system. To do this job we need full time journalists. Not to wallow in the Fleet Street trough but to get the truth about the people's struggles. YOU need revolutionary journalists opposing imperialist lies with revolutionary truth. WE need YOUR MONEY to do the job. We cannot employ another full time journalist without the money to pay for it. We need at least £5,000.

Send money in NOW or take out a standing order or send a regular monthly amount. FRFI is YOUR paper. Help to build it NOW.

* I enclose £_____ for the journalist fund.

(cheque/PO made payable to Larkin Publications.)

* Please send me a standing order form for a regular donation.

Name _____

Address _____

* delete if not applicable.

FRFI FUND: WE NEED £500 A MONTH SEPTEMBER: £340.14

We need £500 every month to subsidise the unwaged rate of FRFI. After our fundraising success over the summer, the FRFI Fund dropped sharply in September to well below £500. We therefore appeal to all our readers and supporters to redouble their fundraising efforts and help make up the September shortfall of £160.

Individual readers donated £8 and FRFI Supporter Groups raised in South London £152.63, North London £63.88, Edinburgh £44.82, Dundee £18.15, Manchester £16.31, Bradford £15, Leeds £13.85 and Glasgow £7.50.

Please help us raise more next month!

Make your donations payable to 'Larkin Publications' and return to: **FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX**

I/we want to donate £_____ to the FRFI Fund.

Name/Organisation _____

Address _____

do not want you to mention my name/organisation

The revolutionary road to communism in Britain Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group



170pp £1.50 plus 45p p&p

First published in 1983, the Manifesto recognised 'the revolutionary role of black people' in Britain. This truth has again been confirmed by the risings in Handsworth, Brixton and Tottenham. The Manifesto discusses the revolutionary role of black people in the context of the severe economic, political and social crisis of British imperialism and the deepening split in the British working class movement.

Miners Strike 1984 – 85 People versus State

David Reed and Olivia Adamson
144pp £2.50 plus 40p p&p

Ireland: the key to the British Revolution

David Reed
450pp £3.95 plus 65p p&p

South Africa: Britain Out of Apartheid, Apartheid Out of Britain

Carol Brickley, Terry O'Halloran and David Reed
56pp £0.95 plus 28p p&p

Order from Larkin Publications
BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

Larkin publications

Leeds RALLY

From Tottenham to Soweto –
One Struggle One Fight
Fight Racism Fight Apartheid

Thursday 28 November, 7pm
Leeds Trades Club
Concert Room, Savile Mount,
Leeds 7

Speakers invited include: Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, Black Consciousness Movement, Sheffield AYM, Wakefield AA, Rose Alaso Campaign, City AA Group
Organised by Leeds FRFI

Dundee Public Meeting

Unite Against Racism!
Unite Against Apartheid!
Thursday 24 October, 7.30pm
Meeting Room
Wellgate Library
Organised by Dundee FRFI

South London

Public Meeting
Apartheid Comes to Britain – Fightback!
Wednesday 23 October, 7.30pm
St Mathews Meeting Place
Brixton

Demonstrate in Birmingham Maire O'Shea is Innocent Drop the Charges



Saturday 9 November
Assemble 11am at Sparkhill Park, Park Road, by Stratford Road

Rally at 2pm in Digbeth Civic Hall

Coaches leave London 8.30am York Way (near Kings Cross Station) £5/£3 unwaged

Organised by Dr Maire O'Shea Support Campaign

Leeds

Public Meeting
Repeat the PTA
Tuesday 29 October, 8pm
Leeds Trades Club
Savile Mount, Leeds 7
Speaker Maire O'Shea
Organised by Leeds

Inflammatory

Dear FRFI,

I really feel I must protest about your article 'New Home Office attacks on black community' in FRFI No 52. I am just an occasional reader of your paper but agree with many of the articles. The article referred to above, however, was inflammatory without any real justification. After outlining the new immigration rules introduced by the government your journalists then make the statement 'Immigration is thus restricted to the whites and the rich'. Whilst agreeing that immigration is likely to be easier for the rich in this country I must object to the unnecessary mention of colour. I think there is enough racism in this country without us inventing it!

Yours faithfully,
Keith Miller
Edinburgh

We are not the ones who introduced race into immigration controls. These laws were designed to keep black people out of Britain; that is why the distinction between 'patrials' and 'non-patrials' is enshrined in the laws. In nearly all cases 'patrials' are white. That is why Viraj Mendis faces deportation whilst Zola Budd got a British passport in 10 days.

Crawling cops

Dear FRFI

While cycling through Brixton last Saturday morning I heard somebody whistling 'Singing in the Rain'. I couldn't work out where it was coming from as there was no-one around, being early in the morning.

I carried on cycling and the noise seemed to follow me. I then realised that it was coming from a police van over the loud hailer system, and that it was crawling up behind me.

When they realised that I had seen, they pulled up beside me and with foolish grins on their faces leered out of the window at me. I asked them if they hadn't anything better to do and cycled on. Again, they followed me and asked 'Where's your sense of humour?' I replied that there wasn't much sense of humour around in

MESSAGE TO THE IRISH SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE ON 5 OCTOBER 1985

I regret not being able to be at the conference and send you solidarity greetings. Your continuous work on Ireland, the way you have highlighted the political situation in your newspaper on what is important to your large readership.

I cannot emphasize how important your articles on prisons are. In an article on Rule 43 this year we all learned a lot in a short time in that we know how difficult it is for a prisoner to fight the rule which keeps him locked up 23 hours a day in his cell at the word of the governor. In fact the article highlighted the plight of one prisoner who is at present fighting the rule himself through the courts in this country, the so called country of justice and the Mother of democracy!! As a result of that article many more prisoners may see that when they are put on Rule 43 at the word of a prison governor they can challenge it if they get a good solicitor.

The struggle for justice is a long hard struggle but the more of us who join then the sooner we can get justice. We will always support the fight for justice and the men in the prisons fighting harder than any of us on the outside. Some of us were lucky enough last year at the ISM conference to hear what my brother had to say on the 10 years he spent in jail.
Helen O'Brien
Sister of ex-Irish political prisoner John McCluskey
Released in October 1985 from Parkhurst Prison Isle of Wight

wasn't particularly funny for police to be whistling at cyclists anyway.

One week after the cops shot Cherry Groce they are having a pathetic attempt at their 'community policing' tactics again – it won't wash.

HANDS OFF IRELAND

Solidarity

The Irish Solidarity Movement was proud to have the support and solidarity of many Irish POWs in English and Irish gaols and of many other prisoners in English gaols. Messages of solidarity were received and read out at the rally from:

Vincent Donnelly, Irish POW, Armley Prison; Sean Kinsella, Irish POW, Strangeways Prison; Paul Hill, Irish POW, Gartree Prison; PRO Republican POWs, Portlaoise Prison, Ireland; Republican Socialist POWs, Portlaoise Prison, Ireland; John Bowden, Durham Prison; Jimmy Anderson, Frankland Prison; James McCaig, Broadmoor Hospital; Danny Grimes, Blundeston Prison; Liam Tierney, Frankland Prison; Michael Russell, Wakefield Prison; Alan Reeve, imprisoned in Holland, Patricia Ford, Holland and the Breakout! Prisoners Collective sent solidarity messages. Helen O'Brien, sister of ex-Irish POW John McCluskey was unable to speak and sent a message.

'... At the time of writing I learn of the death of a true comrade and revolutionary - Ray McLaughlin. Ray was the author of the 'Albany letter' whose contents speak both for themselves and the man. I would once again ask you all to broaden your work, to work whenever possible with those who may differ from your own perspective, that we may attain the unity necessary for the final push against imperialism - the common enemy. That would be a tribute to Ray and all the heroes of the past who died as a result of a long war in defence of their class. I'd also like to ask you to observe one minute's silence in memory of a true and honest revolutionary... Unite! Fight and publicise the evil intentions of the high financiers behind the establishment, foil their attempts to criminalise political expression. Freedom for the Irish! Justice for us all!'

Vince Donnelly, Political Prisoner, now in Armley Prison, Leeds

'The Republican prisoners in Portlaoise prison extend greetings and solidarity to all those who participate in and support this day of action organised by the Irish Solidarity Movement... The Irish Solidarity Movement has a part to play in showing to the British people the war that is being waged in their name... British oppression in Ireland must be smashed. Only then can Ireland be free. We thank you for the work you have done and encourage you on to greater efforts. We hope that October 5th will be a successful day for you and for all of us. Freedom for the Irish, Justice for All.'

PRO Republican Prisoners, Portlaoise Prison.

The Irish Solidarity Movement sends special thanks to the Republican POWs for the donation of £20 to the Day of Action.

'The Republican Socialist POWs, Portlaoise Gaol, send fraternal greetings and wish every success to the October 5th rally and demonstration organised by the political activists of the Irish Solidarity Movement... We as prisoners are indeed heartened by the work of anti-imperialists in Britain opposing British mis-rule in Ireland, and urge you all to persevere in the face of national chauvinism and state-hostility just as anti-imperialist POWs and progressive prisoners have resisted criminalisation and oppression in jails throughout Ireland and Britain. Finally we hope that the theme of the rally 'Freedom for the Irish - Justice for All' will indeed become reality. If we bear in mind a quote from James Connolly 'The fellow worker of another country is my natural ally, just as the capitalist of my own country is my natural enemy' then we are well on the road to achieving our objectives'

Sean McGuinness on behalf of the Republican Socialist POWs, Portlaoise Prison

FREEDOM FOR THE IRISH! JUSTICE FOR US ALL!

Freedom for the Irish! Justice for us all! was the message that resounded through Conway Hall on 5 October. Justice for prisoners, for liberation struggles in Africa, for peace campaigners, anti-deportations activists, for black people, civil rights groups, women, gays and lesbians. The speeches were living proof of the potential of an alliance of such forces in common cause with the Irish people in their struggle for freedom from British rule.

The anti-imperialist content of the speeches was drawn together in the speech from David Reed who pointed to the forces in struggle that can and will be won to real support for the Irish people and in doing so take forward the building of a movement for socialism in Britain.

Unity was the message from Irish POWs and prisoners in English gaols. Their messages of support and solidarity were greeted enthusiastically throughout the evening. The Irish Solidarity Movement was particularly proud to receive messages from all the Irish POWs, Portlaoise Prison, Ireland. Lorna from Edinburgh ISC read their contributions to loud applause and the chairperson, Maxine Williams, echoed the feeling of the Rally when she said '...it's important to know that although they can't be with us, they are with us in spirit... 140 revolutionaries are with us in spirit...' As the message from Vince Donnelly was read out by Shaun from Leeds FRFI the prisoners were indeed 'with us in spirit'. One minute's silence followed the moving tribute by Terry O'Halloran to 'a true and honest revolutionary' - Volunteer Raymond McLaughlin who died recently.

Unity of the oppressed in Britain in common cause with the Irish people was the clear message from Pauline Sellars, ISM. Throughout the evening every mention of the courageous fightback of black and white youth in Handsworth and Brixton was greeted with applause. The next day was to see black youth leading the most significant rising there has yet been against the racist British police. 'Justice for us All' was their shout outside the police station in Tottenham.

Yet, an event which saw the seeds of unity with new forces in struggle being sown, an event which received so much solidarity from prisoners, was boycotted by all the other groups in Britain who claim to support the struggle of the Irish people and their prisoners. Only one such group, Proletarian, attended, not to show solidarity and support, but to attempt to disrupt the Rally. They showed racist disregard for the comrade from the UNLF (A-D) who was being introduced to speak at the time. These unwanted racists were swiftly ejected from the hall to loud applause.

The rally continued to greater enthusiasm by those present, many people joining the ISM and ending in a jubilant song of solidarity to all those fighting racism and imperialism.

The following motion proposed by Comrade Kayode, FRFI supporter and Brixton defendant, was unanimously carried by the Rally:

'This Rally condemns the shooting of Mrs Cherry Groce, calls for the disarming of the racist British police; agrees to send a message of support to Mrs Groce and her family, and furthermore agrees to send a letter of protest and condemnation to the Home Office'

DAY OF ACTION

PAUL MATTHESSON



Freedom for the Irish! Justice for us all! led the slogans as the Irish Solidarity Movement marched through the busy streets of North London on Saturday 5 October. FRFI, Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign, GLAIR, City Anti-Apartheid Group banners and supporters marched with the ISM. 160 FRFI were sold and many leaflets for the ISM Rally were given out.

Pauline Sellars on behalf of the Irish Solidarity Movement

'Just as the Irish people are united in a common aim - the defeat of British imperialism in Ireland - so we must build a movement that unites all those prepared to oppose the British presence in Ireland. The Irish Solidarity Movement has consistently campaigned for unity in action on the Irish question... Today more than ever, the possibilities exist for building a fighting solidarity movement... there are those in Britain who will take the side of the Irish people... Black people, peace campaigners, gays and lesbians, prisoners, civil rights campaigners and all those fighting against injustice and oppression are seeing that what they face when they fight for their rights the Irish people have had to face for years... James Connolly... wrote in 1915,

'None so fitted to break the chains as they who wear them, none so well-equipped to decide what is a fetter'

Comrade Kato, Uganda National Liberation Front (Anti-Dictatorship)

'... We recognise in our common struggles against imperialism notably the use of religious and ethnic diversities by imperialism to divide us... The Ugandan people look with admiration at the people of Ireland, who have resisted in the past and continue to heroically resist all the attempts by imperialism to stamp out their national aspirations. We salute too those British people who have consistently given their support to this just struggle. We assure you that in the Ugandan people under the umbrella of the UNLF (A-D) the Irish people have a consistent, firm and reliable ally.'

Hugh, Gays and Lesbians against Apartheid, Imperialism and Racism (GLAIR)

'... We face the media orchestrated hysteria over AIDS while the Irish people face the same hysteria over their military campaign. Black people are attacked by racist thugs, we are attacked by thugs whether in uniform or not. Black people and the Irish must not stand alone against the state and its tactics. Neither must we as lesbians and gay men stand alone in our struggle for our rights'

Viraj Mendis, facing deportation to Sri Lanka

'... recently they falsely arrested me, racially abused me, strip-searched me - all these methods are used in the North of Ireland... We know that the only thing imperialism understands is strong political force against it. We have learnt that the same way that the Irish people have learnt - we have to struggle even harder...'

Julie Howard, Greenham Common peace campaigner

'... We don't support a system that perpetuates and supports the injustices and discrimination like the immigration act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act. We've got no respect for this political system at all...'

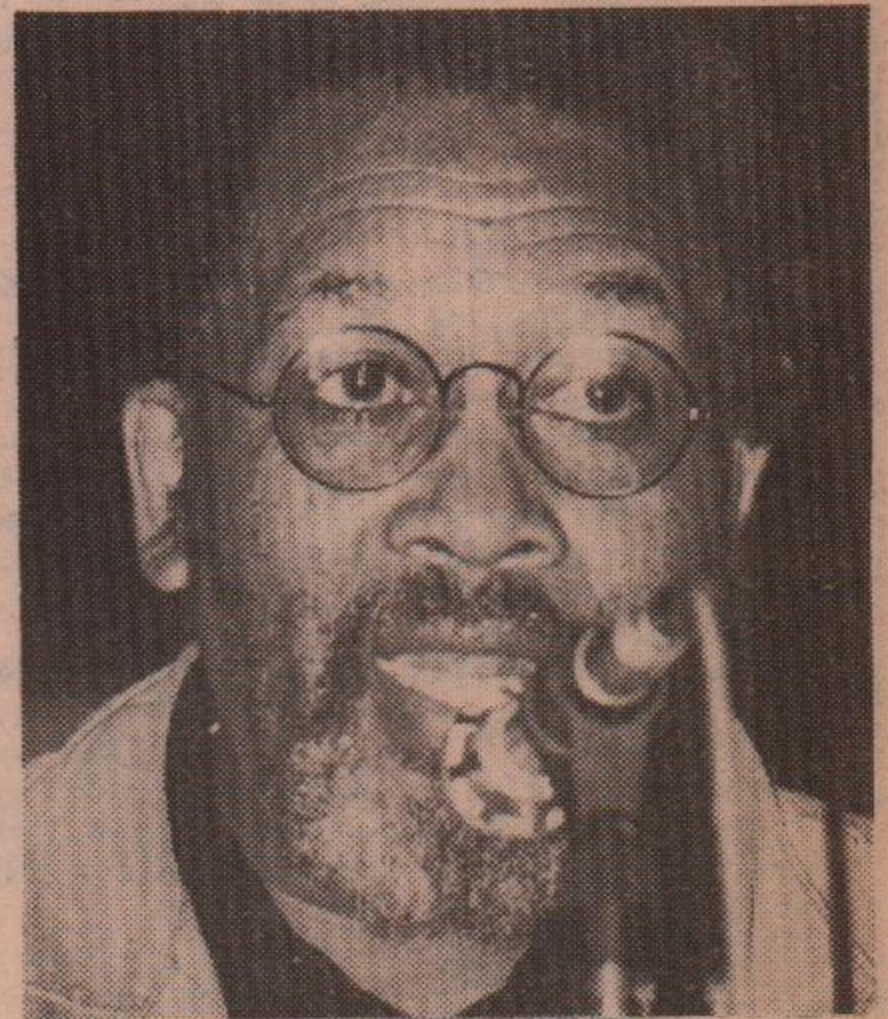
John Davis, Campaign against Police Repression

'... We've seen what a repressive law the Prevention of Terrorism Act is. Imagine how much more repressive it will be next year when we're not allowed to protest against it. The struggle of the Irish Solidarity Movement must be supported by everyone who wants to put a stop to the onward march of police repression...'

David Reed, Revolutionary Communist Group/Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

'As communists we support the Irish people's struggle for freedom, not just out of considerations of 'justice' and 'morality', not just because communists are against all national oppression, but also because the freedom of the Irish people is the pre-condition of our own freedom here. We have the same enemy British imperialism. United in struggle we can defeat it. That is why the Revolutionary Communist Group argues that an anti-imperialist movement on Ireland which unequivocally stands for the victory of the Irish people against British imperialism has to be built in this country.'

PAUL MATTHESSON



Molefe Pheto, Black Consciousness Movement of Azania

'... When I was a youngster we used to read in the ghettos of Azanian townships in South Africa... literature from Ireland... we took a lead out of that example... we read about James Connolly, we read about the 1916 uprising and we were able to debate... that that is what we ought to be doing at the time... There is no way in which our victory, the Irish victory, the victory of the working class all over the world can be negotiated, these victories will have to be taken... stand tall and take victory.'

Alf Lomas, Labour Member of the European Parliament

'... The struggle of the Irish workers is a part of the international struggle that is going on between capital and labour. The same struggle of the workers and peasants in Latin America or in South Africa... Part of the same struggle that organised workers in Britain are having to take, such as the miners...'

James Wood, CROWD - Campaign for the Right of Assembly and Dissent

'Political victories in the courts are not won by lawyers, political victories in the courts are won by organising on the streets... we'd better get good at that because we ain't seen nothing yet... Here we have the most major attack in this country on the right of assembly and dissent - did we hear one word about it from the Labour Party conference? NO...'

Nicola, South London Womens Hospital Action Group

'... Fighting for health is also fighting against conditions that make us sick in the first place. When women stop everything stops...'

Join the Irish Solidarity Movement!

Join the struggle for freedom for the Irish people. Join the struggle for justice and democratic rights in Britain. Join a fighting solidarity movement that will unite with all those who oppose British rule in Ireland. Join a movement that demands repatriation to Ireland for all Irish POWs in English gaols, that defends the rights of all prisoners fighting for justice.

Join the ISM NOW!

Fill in the form and send it off NOW with your affiliation fee:
Individuals: £5/£2 unswaged
Organisations: £20

Name _____

Address _____

Organisation _____

Telephone _____

Return to ISM, BM Box 1320, London WC1N 3XX

The ISM is working now to produce a pamphlet of the speeches, the solidarity messages, the songs and the poems from the 5 October Rally. The message 'Freedom for the Irish! Justice for us All!' must go out to the people in struggle who will join a fighting Irish Solidarity Movement. Send us donations, large or small, as your contribution to building the ISM.