

Communist Party of England (Marxist Leninist)

Denounce the Police Murder of Anti-Fascist Fighter Kevin Gately

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WORKERS' DAILY

Weekend Edition

DENOUNCE THE POLICE MURDER OF ANTI-FASCIST FIGHTER KEVIN GATELY!

A new upsurge in the mass movement to defeat fascism

STATEMENT OF THE BATTERSEA PARTY COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)
-- Sunday, June 16th, 1974

On Saturday, June 15, around 2,000 progressive people -- workers, national minorities, youth and students -- staged a militant anti-fascist demonstration in London to oppose the Hitlerite National Front and its racist and fascist policies. They marched in opposition to a march and meeting held by the National Front.

The demonstration was viciously attacked by the police and twice was charged by mounted police with batons drawn. On the second occasion, police rode into the crowd, rearing their horses to kick at the demonstrators and trampling them underfoot. As a direct result of this charge, one demonstrator was killed -- Kevin Gately, a 21-year-old student from Warwick University. The police and hospital have been issuing statements that he mysteriously collapsed, but the fact is that he was one of the group who were seriously injured by the police during this charge. The police are directly responsible for his death whatever the post-mortem might reveal. This is a most heinous crime for which they will pay. It was their policy to inflict as much violence on the anti-fascist forces as possible. They succeeded in killing one and seriously wounding many more.

The overwhelming spirit of the demonstrators was to fight valiantly for the thorough defeat of fascism and racism and the defeat of the Hitlerite National Front. All along the march, which went from Charing Cross to Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, militant slogans resounded continuously: "Smash the National Front!", "Death to Fascism!", "Death to Racism!", "Defeat the Hitlerite National Front!"

As the march entered Red Lion Square, the demonstrators launched a valiant surge in the direction of the hall in order to

take it over and prevent the Hitlerite National Front from holding their meeting. Hundreds of police barred the way but such was the militancy of the demonstrators that the police could not hold their lines. In desperation they charged on horseback with truncheons drawn, viciously laying in to the staunch demonstrators. In the ensuing struggle the demonstrators fought tit for tat inflicting damage on more than 40 police, braved concerted charges by foot and mounted police, regrouped several times, rescued arrested comrades and despite the massive police defence of the National Front managed to inflict damage on more than one of these Hitlerite fascists. The demonstrators resolutely denounced the police, the agents of the monopoly capitalists, in their criminal role of acting as front-line in protecting the Hitlerite fascists and allowing them to organise.

As the National Front approached the square they were met with a solid wall of anti-fascists and they stopped in their tracks as massive police forces assembled to protect them. One fascist National Front arrogantly ran forward and started dancing up and down shouting abuse. A worker representative of the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) ran towards him with a red flag on a solid stick and smashed him over the head with it. This cowardly fascist limped off back behind the police protection. The decaying forces of the National Front, carrying Union Jacks and shouting obscenities and abuse, began to sing "God Save the Queen" and the anti-fascists drowned them out with a militant rendering of the Internationale, battle song of the proletariat.

Altogether 54 anti-fascists were arrested. Many were wounded by the police, who spared no efforts or vicious-

ness in defending the Hitlerite National Front.

The demonstration reflected a great new upsurge in the anti-fascist movement in Britain, characterised by the consciousness that fascists have no right to promote their views or to organise and that the working class and people must organise to defeat and suppress the forces of fascism. The scale and militancy of this upsurge was unprecedented since the struggles of the sixties against U. S. imperialist aggression in Viet Nam. It upholds the heroic anti-fascist fighting tradition of the British working class, which waged tremendous struggles in the thirties to crush the forces of Mosleyite fascism, sent its finest representatives to fight in Spain against Franco, and participated alongside the anti-fascist people of the whole world in wiping out the fascist hordes of Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo.

The sending of police to viciously attack the workers, national minorities, youth and students struggling against Hitlerite fascism is a vivid reflection of the fact that the British monopoly capitalist class is facing a growing economic and political crisis. They are financing, promoting and protecting the Hitlerite National Front and other fascists as a last-ditch reserve to hold onto state power in the face of the growing organisation and militancy of the working class.

It is the Labour Government who are treacherously carrying out this task for the monopoly capitalists today. Two weeks ago the Labour Government were responsible for the murder of the Irish patriot Michael Gaughan and then threatened to sup-

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press marches by Irish patriots, and on Saturday June 15 they sent police to protect the Hitlerites, upholders of great nation chauvinism and colonial domination.

The Labour Government, which mouths opposition to racism, sends police to attack national minorities and to protect the forces of Hitlerite racism. The Labour Government, which poses as the representative of the trade unions, attacks working people and protects the Hitlerite forces which dream of completely smashing and suppressing the trade union movement. Clearly, the Labour Government's talk of "voluntary restraint" means simply that the working class should lie down and give up struggle whilst the monopoly capitalist class intensifies its economic and political attacks on the working class and nurtures Hitlerite fascism for a final onslaught. This was the role of the social democrats in Germany and this is the role that the Labour Party is bent on playing today.

In the course of the demonstration, a small handful, claiming to 'lead' the demonstration in particular and the anti-fascist movement in general, seriously organised to subvert the militant fighting spirit of the demonstrators onto the road of "peaceful opposition to fascism". They attempted to lead the militant demonstrators into a police ambush, held

a "meeting" to divert attention from the struggle raging against the police, maliciously slandered the majority trend to militantly oppose fascism as "splittist" and taunted the demonstrators making sacrifices in the struggle against the police and fascists that they should attend the splittist, pacifist meeting which they claimed was the "real way to oppose fascism". While the demonstrators were fighting a running battle with the police this tiny handful preached "peaceful opposition to fascism" and went so far as to claim that they were the successors of the great anti-Mosley battle of Cable Street in the 1930's. This is the height of hypocrisy.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, a representative of the Battersea Party Committee of the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) started a meeting to support the militant line of actively fighting fascism and to oppose all pacifist activities and speeches. The representatives of the 'peaceful road' arrogantly turned their loudspeaker to oppose this meeting and made the monstrous claim that it was CPE (M-L) who were splitting the forces. There can never be any unity between the line of peaceful opposition to fascism and the line of actively smashing it up, and in the demonstration on Saturday 15th, the main trend was to fight. Who, then, is splitting the anti-fascist forces when the vast majority fight militantly to oppose the fascists and defend themselves against police attacks while a tiny

minority says that police attacks should be opposed "peacefully"? Who is fighting fascism and who is acting as a lackey of the monopoly capitalists?

The main victory of the demonstration is that the line of fighting militantly to defeat and suppress the Hitlerite National Front, under the banner that fascists have no right to promote their views or organise and nobody has the right to defend the fascists, won overwhelming support while the line of "peaceful opposition" won scarcely any support. The two lines were brought into the open for all to see.

By persisting in struggle and building their unity around a Marxist-Leninist party the genuinely anti-fascist forces will certainly achieve victory in wiping out the forces of Hitlerite fascism.

DENOUNCE THE POLICE MURDER
OF ANTI-FASCIST FIGHTER
KEVIN GATELY !

DEATH TO FASCISM AND RACISM !

DOWN WITH THE LABOUR PARTY'S
DEFENCE OF HITLERITE FASCISM!

DOWN WITH THE LINE OF "PEACEFUL
OPPOSITION TO FASCISM" !

DEFEAT THE HITLERITE NATIONAL
FRONT !

LONG LIVE THE HEROIC ANTI-FASCIST
FIGHTING TRADITION OF THE
BRITISH WORKING CLASS !

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