

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

Issue No 29 May 1983 Price 20p

COLIN ROACH INQUEST judge bans the people

The fight for the truth of what happened to Colin Roach on 12 January continues. The Roach family are fighting the manoeuvres of the British state to avoid a public inquiry. At the reconvened inquest in the tiny St Pancras Coroners Court on 18 April, the Roach family asked for it to be moved to Hackney Town Hall. The Coroner refused – the police had opposed the move on the grounds that there might be 'public disorder' in Hackney. So much for Commander Taylor's claim that Hackney police have the backing of the majority of local people! The police knew full well that an inquest in the Town Hall would be a focus for the massive local support for the Roach family.

The courts, as usual, have backed the police. The GLC took the question of where the inquest should be held to the High Court. The High Court upheld the Coroner's right to hold the inquest where he chooses. As an insulting sop to

public opinion, the High Court advised the Coroner to hold it somewhere bigger than St Pancras Court but smaller than Hackney Town Hall. The intention of the police, the Courts and the Coroner is to hold the normal cover-up inquest with

as little public attention as possible. All along, these forces have been trying to suppress and smash the protests against the racist police led by the black community in Hackney. The greatest unity, support and mobilisation is needed to prevent this.

In FRFI 28 we reported how the state's attack on the right of black people to demonstrate culminated in the vicious police assault on the 12 March Demonstration – the Roach Family Support Committee has decided to institute an action against the police for conspiracy to arrest, to use violence and to break up peaceful demonstrations. The state's attack on the right of black people to

continued on page 4



UNITY IN ACTION Part of the audience at the 150-strong City AAM Rally on 27 April. Unity in action of all forces opposed to apartheid was the rally's clear message.

ALBANY IRISH POWS call to unite

Solidarity Greetings

19.4.83

We the Irish POWs in Albany would like to give a short analysis and make some proposals in relation to the building of an Irish Solidarity Movement in Britain.

In November 1982 a conference was convened in London in an attempt to inaugurate an Irish Solidarity Movement, this conference was attended by Revolutionary Communist Group, Revolutionary Communist League, two Sinn Fein Cumainn and various independents and the end result was the setting up of Irish Solidarity Committees (ISCs) in many cities throughout Britain. The unifying criteria for these groups are the two demands 1. complete British withdrawal from Ireland, 2. self-determination for the Irish people. Their basic aims are to carry out much needed propaganda work on the Irish liberation war in the working class areas of all Britain's main cities amongst the poor and disaffected, ie the Irish, the blacks, the unemployed, the youth, in the trade union movement and the labour movement.

The RCG are the group who print Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! This group played an important role in inaugurating the ISCs but they do not control nor do they seek to control this broadly based anti-imperialist movement, in fact, the movement is open to all-comers. The RCG have over the years given consistent and militant support to the Irish war for national liberation, one hundred of their members have been arrested for selling pro-Irish war literature; they have produced ten pamphlets and one book advocating total support for the national liberation war in Ireland, therefore, in our opinion their credentials as a solidarity group are beyond question.

The Revolutionary Communist Party

(RCP) are the group who print the next step. They founded a solidarity group called The Irish Freedom Movement (IFM) which appears to us to be a party-controlled grouping so, this leaves them open to the charge of attempting to manipulate the solidarity movement in their own party's interests, we are not at all sure that this is the case, as, in the past they have performed much positive work on the Irish solidarity front, therefore they should be given every opportunity to play a positive role in the Irish solidarity movement in the future. We suggest that there should be amalgamation of the ISCs and the IFM on a completely democratic basis, ie this amalgamation must be impeccably democratic in character and organisation, every committed group or party however big or small must have equal voting rights on all matters and equal rights to speak on any Irish solidarity platform provided they adhere to the three demands. 1. complete British withdrawal from Ireland, 2. self-determination for the Irish people, 3. repatriation for all POWs to Ireland. We believe that no genuine anti-imperialist could quarrel with these demands on an ideological basis. The tactical differences that exist between the RCG and RCP on the most effective way of building an Irish solidarity movement can be overcome by allowing each group to concentrate on the people, institutions, or parties that they believe to be most important in building a cohesive solidarity movement. We, now, add two stipulations 1. no political demands whatever will be asked of the Irish Republican Army ie a tactical ceasefire etc. *The war goes on regardless.* 2. no pseudo-humanitarian calls for a ceasefire in England as a quid pro quo for our

repatriation, the continuation of the liberation war takes precedence over our repatriation.

We believe that this amalgamation can be brought to fruition if it is given full-hearted support by the Sinn Fein leadership in Ireland. Sinn Fein (Britain) should do everything to encourage this amalgamation especially as they already have Cumainn in both groupings. Sinn Fein (Britain) for perfectly understandable reasons have virtually no influence in the trade union or labour movements, therefore, they should concentrate on setting up ISCs in Irish ghetto areas throughout Britain's main cities.

The Troops Out Movement (TOM) has failed abysmally to build a genuine anti-imperialist movement in Britain. The leadership of this grouping is totally reformist in character, their failure to understand the true nature of British imperialism led them to pursue humanitarian solutions in lieu of participating in Realpolitik, therefore, their ability to build a solidarity movement must be treated with great circumspection. The leadership of this grouping are hostile to the national liberation war, however, many of TOM local branches adopt a progressive role in the liberation war, we believe that these branches should be strongly urged to join the proposed new ISC amalgamation. We further urge that this amalgamation should seek to attract every shade of political opinion from progressive social democrats leftwards to Revolutionary Marxism. These proposals can be implemented without any diversion of much needed resources from the liberation war.

The Republican POWs of Albany, Venceremos.

Soldiers on the cheap

Michael Heseltine, already noted in his short time as Minister of Defence, for his Thatcher-style, communist-baiting attacks on the peace movement, came up with yet another 'new' idea this month. From September this year, 5,200 young people aged 16-17 are to be taken off the unemployment register for a year while they train with the armed forces. 500 will go into the Navy, 1,000 into the RAF, and, significantly 3,700 into the army. Introduced as part of the Youth Training Scheme, volunteers will be paid £25 per week with £10 knocked off for food and accommodation.

After the uprisings of 1981 in all England's major cities, the political reality presented by ever increasing numbers of unemployed youth prepared to take to the streets is one that Thatcher's government knows it must eventually confront. Thatcher's primary response has, of course, been the massive increase of police powers and the arming of the police. However this latest scheme represents a political move towards winning over a section of the youth – by subjecting them to military discipline and training. (All, of course, on the cheap).

What opposition has the Labour Party put up to this latest Thatcher move? Denzil Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, said that the scheme was 'an insult to the armed forces and young people' (note which came first) and that the scheme offered young people 'neither the dignity of professional soldiering nor the dignity of civil work...'. Steeped in the traditions of decades of Labour loyalty to imperialism, Denzil Davies thinks that British soldiers have 'dignity'. He does not tell young people that British soldiers, at present engaged in killing and maiming children with plastic bullets in the North of Ireland, are a million light years away from having dignity – throughout the world they are known as butchers.

Heseltine has denied that the plan is a step towards conscription or any form

of compulsory military service. However, it is quite clear that in the current atmosphere of cold war hysteria deliberately being engendered by Thatcher following her military adventure in the Malvinas/Falklands, the government will be very interested in the outcome of this pilot scheme to militarise the unemployed youth.

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RCG supports call to unite

In the recent period there has emerged a growing call for unity amongst the various Irish solidarity organisations in Britain and a growing opposition to sectarianism in Irish solidarity work. This call is reflected in the debate in *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, initiated by Michael Doherty of Belfast Sinn Fein, David Reed's response to this debate in FRFI 28 and in the statement sent by Albany POWs to Liverpool Irish Solidarity Committee.

FRFI has received permission from the Albany POWs to print their statement in full in our newspaper. We are honoured to do so and it appears on the front page of this issue. This statement from the Albany POWs is undoubtedly the most important contribution so far to this debate. It comes from committed fighters for Irish freedom whose primary concern is the victory of the Irish people's struggle and the defeat of British imperialism. This carefully thought

out political statement demands very serious consideration from all those involved in Irish solidarity work in Britain.

The Albany POWs are calling for a democratically organised unified solidarity movement involving all active Irish solidarity organisations. They have proposed a political basis for such unity: (1) complete British withdrawal from Ireland, (2) self-determination for the Irish people, and (3) repatriation for all

POWs to Ireland. The RCG will, for its part, make every effort to bring about unity. Whether unity is possible can only be tested in practice. Therefore the RCG, following on from the David Reed letter in FRFI 28, will propose to BISM that a unity demonstration be held during the Autumn of 1983 on the demands put forward by the Albany POWs, this demonstration to be democratically organised with equal rights to all organisations willing to participate. The three demands allow the widest possible participation in the demonstration and all solidarity organisations could unite around them.

We will also propose that a unity conference be held on 27 November 1983 — this conference, like the demonstration, to be open on an equal basis to all solid-

arity organisations to come together and explore the possibility of building a unified solidarity movement and discuss the way forward for such a movement.

BISM, of which the RCG is an active supporter, from its beginning has committed itself to the building of an open, democratically-organised, non-sectarian and principled movement. At its founding conference in a keynote speech, David Reed declared that BISM must reject all sectarianism and seek joint work and unity with any individual or organisation helping to take the movement forward. The motion, passed at the same conference, said:

'Conference agrees to set up a co-ordinating committee consisting of representatives of all groups and local bodies which support the two demands Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now!'

There can be no doubt, therefore, that BISM will make every effort to bring about the unified solidarity movement which the Albany POWs have called for and which all genuine anti-imperialists in Britain will fight for.

Build a United Irish Solidarity Movement!
Victory to the Irish People!
Troops Out Now!

Labour Imperialism

In 1916 Lenin wrote *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. In it he pointed to the main features of capitalism in its imperialist phase. These features arose from a necessary development of the capitalist system of production, were independent of the strategy and policies of ruling class governments, and were determined by its fundamental laws. Imperialism is characterised by the concentration of production and capital into monopolies, the merging of banking and industrial capital into finance capital, the export of capital as distinct from goods, the formation of international monopoly associations which divide up the world between them and the territorial divisions of the world amongst the major capitalist powers. Finally the high monopoly profits arising from imperialism for a small number of very rich countries make it possible to create privileged sections of workers in those countries and detach them from the broad mass of the working class. Such workers have a vested interest in imperialism for it is the source of their material privileges and political status and influence.

67 years after Lenin wrote *Imperialism* ... and in the midst of yet another deep crisis of the imperialist system the monthly journal *Labour Research* in its

ordinated to the imperialist thirst for profits. To bolster profits, workers will be thrown out of jobs, capital will be invested abroad and increasingly go to those oppressed nations where wages are low and workers are under the yoke of viciously repressive regimes. As Lenin wrote in *Imperialism*...

'As long as capitalism remains what it is surplus capital will be utilised not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries...'

As the rate of profit on capital invested in British industry has rapidly declined, the flow of British capital abroad, particularly banking capital, has turned into a flood. (See *Revolutionary Communist* 9 and FRFI 6). Such is the essential character of imperialism. The only answer to this is a resolute struggle to destroy imperialism. Such a struggle would demand the unity of British workers with the oppressed masses fighting imperialism throughout the world.

Such an approach to the question of imperialism is far removed from what *Labour Research* has in mind. In line with the alternative economic strategy of the Labour 'left', *Labour Research* points to the 'alarming acceleration' of overseas production by British companies and states:

'This may make sense for those who dominate the boardrooms of these companies as better markets and more docile workforces are found overseas. But it runs directly contrary to a programme to create employment and wealth.'

Leaving aside the clearly racist reference to the 'more docile workforces' found overseas — the British Labour movement's recent record of struggle is no example to anyone — the point being made is not only reactionary but hopelessly misconceived. Wealth is only produced and employment created under the capitalist system where an adequate profit can be made. It is not a question of 'sense' or 'preferred policy' but financial survival that forces businesses and banks to expand their investments overseas. 'Patriotism' for the capitalist is a question of profitability. They have no time for the reactionary patriotic claptrap that underlies the British trade unions' 'National Awareness to buy British' campaigns (TGWU Special Discussion Conference 1980).

April 1983 issue has apparently rediscovered some objectionable tendencies of imperialism. Not, it should be said, for the vast majority of mankind but for the relatively privileged sections of the British working class. *Labour Research*'s political backers come from the 'left' of the Labour Party and the misnamed Communist Party. They are the main proponents of the so-called 'left' alternative economic strategy.

In an article 'Multinationals Better at Exporting Jobs than Goods', *Labour Research* points out that the top 50 British based multinational manufacturing companies are expanding their production abroad much more rapidly than they are in the UK. In 1981-82 overseas production accounted for 44% of the output of Britain's top 50 private multinational manufacturing companies compared with 39% the previous year and 36% in the year before that. Overseas production of these 50 companies increased from £25.4bn to £31.5bn, by 24%, while exports only grew from £8bn to £8.8bn, by 10%. And as these companies have increased their dependence on overseas production, unemployment in Britain has more than doubled in the last 3 years, and 1.5m jobs have been lost in manufacturing industry since 1979.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from all this is that the employment and living standards of the working people throughout the world are totally sub-

During the post war boom the leaders and representatives of the organised working class movement were happy to share in the spoils of British imperialist oppression and exploitation. Now that imperialism is in deep crisis all they can think about is how to clamber back to their previous privileged position. They don't want to fight imperialism — so they intend to 'reform' it with their hopeless utopian and reactionary alternative economic programmes for the re-creation of employment and wealth. But it is not on! The bourgeois *Economist* in commenting on the *Labour Research* report made this brutally clear:

'If British companies and British investors (eg pension funds, insurance companies and unit trusts) could find more growth and better profits in Britain than they have, there would be less incentive to go abroad. Given that profits in Britain are so low, it will be a blessing that income from those foreign assets has been built up to pay the pensions of the workers who might have to retire early here as the home factory closes down.' (9-15 April 1983)

In the plain language of the imperialists, capitalists will invest in Britain when the rate of profit compares to that overseas. That is, British workers will have to accept the same kind of conditions imposed by imperialism on workers in the oppressed nations — high unemployment, low wages and viciously repressive regimes. Meanwhile, says the *Economist*, British workers should shut up and count their remaining blessings — the existence of imperialism is at least the guarantee for a section of the working class that still has well paid jobs that they will get a pension should they retire early when their factory closes down. The *Economist* is also urging the working class not to fight imperialism, but rather be content with a few crumbs from British imperialist exploitation and oppression throughout the world.

To sum up. The conditions for the ruling class to remember its 'patriotic' duty to invest at home is a rapid increase of the rate of profit of British industry. This can only occur if the capitalists inflict a massive defeat on the British working class. *Labour Research* with its alternative economic programmes for the creation of wealth and employment hides this stark reality behind its utopian and reactionary schemes. It is yet another attempt to divert the inevitable anger of the British working class away from a direct attack on imperialism into harmless and respectable channels.

SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF

Community Leader Killed

Mr Saul Mkhize leader of the black community of Driefontein in the Transvaal, was shot dead by police at a community meeting. Saul Mkhize, had been leading resistance against the planned forced removal of the 5,000 black people in Driefontein to resettlement camps in their so-called 'tribal homelands'. Two days before his murder, he had appealed to Prime Minister P W Botha, to allow them to carry on living in Driefontein, their home for over three generations.

The funeral of Saul Mkhize was attended by about 1,500 people, including many black youth who had travelled from Soweto by bus, who with clenched fists, sang revolutionary songs. Greetings were also sent on behalf of Nelson Mandela, imprisoned leader of the African National Congress (ANC), and Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC.

Ruby Khan

CRC backs apartheid

In order to combat increasing racism in schools, the Community Relations Council in Bradford recently announced a national poster campaign which is to be promoted by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The purpose of this competition is to 'give children of school age an opportunity to think about race issues'.

However, 'Race Issues' are clearly of no concern to Bradford CRC when it comes to putting its money where its mouth is — for Bradford CRC banks with the biggest racist of them all, Barclay's Bank! The disgusting record of Barclay's regarding its loyal support for apartheid in South Africa is well known. Every year Barclay's makes millions of pounds in profit from its operations in South Africa, and every year it pays millions in taxes as well as lending vast sums to the racist regime so that it can continue its oppression of the black masses, and its illegal occupation of Namibia.

The blatant hypocrisy of the CRC led the Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group to demand that it withdraw its account from Barclay's immediately. This government body has reluctantly agreed to propose withdrawing the account at its next executive meeting. We await their decision with great interest.

Sylvia Robinson

Sanctions violation

In violation of the United Nations mandatory arms embargo against South Africa, the Department of Trade has issued Marconi Radar Systems Ltd with an export licence to supply South Africa with £5m of military radar equipment. The first consignment is due to be shipped out in the next few days and will eventually be sold to the South African government's Air Space Control Authority. The British government justifies its decision by claiming that the equipment will have 'a genuine civil application'. However, in reality the close link between civil and military air-space control, disclosed in the South African Defence 1982 White Paper makes this claim an outright lie. Thus this updating of the already highly sophisticated South African radar and air control systems will further strengthen South Africa's military capability and hence enable them to perpetrate more acts of aggression against the independent Southern African states and illegally occupied Namibia.

To his credit Labour spokesman on Southern Africa, Stanley Clinton Davies attacked and opposed the deal in the House of Commons. Unfortunately, in order to deflect this attack, the Tories were able to take full advantage of the Labour government's record of supplying arms to apartheid. Thus Winston Churchill pointed out that a Labour government had signed:

'a contract with the government of France under which over many years Puma helicopters, largely made by Westlands in this country, have been sold to South Africa.'

Such a response from reactionary supporters of apartheid like Churchill will remain possible unless Labour creates a new record — opposition to apartheid in deeds.

Ruby Khan

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REMEMBER KASSINGA

On 4 May 1978 South African forces raided a Namibian refugee camp in Kassinga, Angola, massacring over 600 people. 300 of the refugees were taken prisoner, and today 118 of them (all members of the South West African People's Organisation, SWAPO) are still being held in a detention camp in Namibia. 5 years since the raid they have still not been brought to trial. South Africa used the attack on Kassinga to attempt to destroy the strength of SWAPO and to undermine the People's Republic of Angola, a policy they have pursued ever since the MPLA (Popular Liberation Movement of Angola) fought for and won independence in 1975.

In 1978 4000 Namibian refugees were living in Kassinga, 250km north of the Namibia/Angola border. On 4 May South African aircraft bombed the camp. Puma helicopters, British Buccaneer fighter bombers and French Mirage jets were used in this raid. Repeated bombing raids were followed by a ground attack of 1500 troops of the South African Defence Force (SADF). Using armoured cars, grenades and rifles they began to massacre the mostly unarmed people. Paralysing gas was used on refugees to make them unconscious—they were then bayoneted or shot. One woman, Magdalena Nghantanga reported,

'At about 6.30 or 7pm, as it was beginning to get dark, the South Africans stopped fighting and came to set the huts, the hospitals, the kitchen and everything on fire. The helicopters came and started to shoot at the trenches where the people were lying.'

It was at this time that the first Angolan troops arrived and forced back the SADF. Later in the mass graves, which can only be compared with those of Nazi concentration camps of the second World War, 582 bodies were counted—mostly young people. Hundreds more are believed to have been murdered in the surrounding country and villages further south.

The SADF took approximately 300 prisoners. After months some were released. They reported of daily interrogation and torture. Prisoners had suffered permanent physical injuries including the loss of limbs, eyes and ears.

Today there are some 50,000 Namibian refugees in Angola (1 in 20 of the Namibian population) who have fled the barbarity of apartheid rule. Half of them live in a new camp set up by SWAPO in Kwanza Sul province, 800km inside Angola. South Africa openly boasts its policy of seeking out and murdering SWAPO supporters: since the vast majority of Namibians support SWAPO this means a policy of genocide against the Namibian people, which continues to this day.

It also means a policy of war against the People's Republic of Angola which fully supports both SWAPO and the ANC. When the MPLA defeated the Portuguese imperialists in 1975 South Africa invaded Angola but were forced to retreat. They have since launched 2 major attacks on Angola—Operation Smokeshell in June 1980 and Operation Protea in August 1981 (see FRFI 12). The second was the largest ever military operation in Southern Africa involving 4 South African brigades and 1 regiment of mercenaries. Since that invasion South Africa has continued to occupy Kunene province in Southern Angola with a permanent force of 5,500 troops. They work closely with the counter-revolutionary movement UNITA. Like similar forces in other frontline states (eg the MNR in Mozambique) UNITA is led by sections of the bourgeoisie

(including ex-Portuguese secret police) seeking direct imperialist rule in Angola. Its forces are armed and trained in South Africa.



Mass grave at Kassinga

In common with every single successful anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist revolution since the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, the imperialists' policy of destabilisation has seriously hindered the development of socialism and the satisfaction of the people's basic needs. At a conference in November 1982 President dos Santos described how, apart from the untold human suffering of the Angolan people caused by the South Africans, South African attacks have caused a minimum of £6 billion damage. One attack in November alone on railway bridges in Angola meant that the government had to set aside £8 million to enable the trains to run. In one of the most recent attacks, in January 1983, the second biggest dam in Angola, the Lomaum dam in Benguela province was sabotaged resulting in extensive flooding of agricultural land and power blackouts in 3 provinces.

Whilst the imperialist nations have openly or covertly supported South Africa in order to protect their financial and strategic interests in Southern Africa, the socialist countries have sided with Angola. Cuba has some 20,000 internationalist forces stationed in Angola in order to defend the revolution: forces which the US is insisting leave Angola before the US agrees to the independence of Namibia.

The Angolan and Namibian peoples are demanding to know what right Britain, the US, and other western nations in the Contact Group, have to decide their future. Whilst South Africa hopes that its policy of genocide and mass destruction will reduce support for SWAPO and the MPLA, the truth is in fact the opposite—the mass support for the MPLA continues and the fighting power of SWAPO will increase until victory.

Chris Fraser

PAUL MATTHEW IFL



End British collaboration with apartheid

The 150-strong audience at the City Group AAM rally on 27 April witnessed a remarkable meeting. The 11 speakers on a platform which included the ANC and SWAPO, ranged from the right of the Parliamentary Labour Party to the left of revolutionary politics. The struggle of black youth fighting police harassment was also represented when Ace Kelly spoke for the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign. Speakers included Stanley Clinton Davies MP, Frank Dobson MP, Richard Balfe (Member of European Parliament), Carol Brickley (City Group AAM), Jake Ecclestone (National Union of Journalists), Ace Kelly (SNHDC), FRFI, CPGB, WRP. This extraordinarily broad platform was the product of the committed and non-sectarian character of City Group's work. As Alex Mitchell (WRP) said

'City Group has distinguished itself by being totally open in the way it has fought a campaign and united forces which it would seem under normal circumstances impossible to unite in a campaign of solidarity with the freedom struggle in South Africa.'

Unity in action of those opposing apartheid was the theme of this rally. Most significantly the fight against racism in Britain and apartheid in South Africa were repeatedly linked as speakers showed the struggles faced a common enemy—British imperialism.

The rally was punctuated by freedom songs and chanting led by the youth in City Group. Richard, Charlotte, Charine and Amanda of City Group read the Freedom Charter and spoke of police attacks on City Group activities. This made the rally a unique event and the audience gave spontaneous ovations to the ANC and SWAPO speakers.

Introducing Stanley Clinton Davies, Chair of the rally David Reed reminded him of his pledge at the last City Group

rally, that Labour policy would be to break all links with apartheid. Stanley Clinton Davies condemned the Tory government backing for Marconi's supplying radar to South Africa and told the rally that the Labour Party's new policy included: comprehensive and mandatory UN sanctions against South Africa and a strengthened arms ban; an end to Anglo-South African trade agreements and export guarantees; an end to collaboration with apartheid by NATO and a pledge that:

'We will ensure unequivocal support for those in the vanguard of the struggle for liberation. We will discuss with the Organisation of African Unity and United Nations our wish to provide direct financial and military aid to the liberation movements.'

Frank Dobson (Labour MP for Holborn) attacked Thatcher's 'Victorian morality' and called her a stupid, ignorant and heartless woman. He told the audience of the poverty of the working class in the nineteenth century and he recounted the story of the 19th Century Coldbath Riot when local people in Holborn had been attacked as they demonstrated for their rights. The audience was fascinated to hear that a policeman was killed and the inquest had returned a verdict of 'justifiable homicide'. The ruling class had hastily changed the rules on inquests—'just like Colin Roach' a member of the audience shouted.

Ace Kelly offered solidarity to the ANC and SWAPO and condemned British imperialist backing for apartheid and racism. He told of the nearly 100 arrests suffered in Stoke Newington by those fighting for justice and the truth about Colin Roach's death. He was resoundingly applauded.

Dawn Trent for FRFI also took up the theme of a common struggle against a common enemy—British imperialism and the racist British state which backs

apartheid in South Africa and racism in Britain.

'People in this country are fighting the same enemy and are watching learning and taking note of the magnificent struggle in Southern Africa led by the ANC and SWAPO.'

One of the high spots of the evening was Richard Balfe's announcement that in July he will be accompanying Amanda Kitson to visit her father in gaol in South Africa to ensure her safety during the visit.

The major events of the evening were of course, the ANC and SWAPO speeches. Jacob Hannal of SWAPO described the imperialist countries' manoeuvres and 'negotiations' designed to keep the Namibian people 'under permanent oppression'. The Namibian people have 'no alternative but to intensify the armed struggle.'

Freedom Mkhwanazi for the ANC placed on record the ANC's appreciation of the tremendous solidarity of growing forces with their struggle. He catalogued the repression in South Africa but said that with every detention the struggle grew in strength and the oppressed people were rising up.

Of course, not a word about this rally has appeared in the capitalist press. Jake Ecclestone's speech explained why. Many major newspapers were owned by corporations with massive interests in South Africa. Lonhro, for example, owns the *Observer* and also has major mining interests in South Africa. It pays its workers below even South African poverty-line wages and refuses to recognise a union. Small wonder little of what appears in British papers exposes apartheid.

As this rally showed, solidarity with the liberation struggle in Southern Africa must and can be built here in Britain.

Maxine Williams

STOP DEPORTATION

Anwar Mahomed has been rotting in Manchester's Strangeways Prison for over a year—and is now awaiting deportation to Apartheid South Africa. Anwar Mahomed is a South African political exile who came to Britain in 1979 as a visitor.

In December 1974 Anwar was detained by the South African Security Police after a search revealed him to be carrying a leaflet issued by the banned African National Congress.

'I was taken to a room and I was interrogated and beaten by six Bureau of State Security (BOSS) men. During this interrogation I was standing all the time, and had strong lights directed at my face. If I blinked, turned my face or even shut my eyes, then I was either smacked in the face or I received a blow on my back or stomach. They never threw a punch at my

face, but always at my body or a kick at the back of my knee joint.'

Anwar however refused to admit to membership of the African National Congress or disclose names of his associates. After holding him in solitary confinement for three days the police took him to a cell 'where a man was hanging from the ceiling with his hands and legs tied behind his back'. They threatened to do the same with him.

Four days later Anwar was released, after promising to act as a police informer. He then fled the country using a forged passport. After going through

many countries Anwar arrived in Britain in 1979.

In Britain he was overtaken with financial problems and had issued cheques even though his bank account was empty. In December 1981 he was arrested and charged with deception.

His sentence has been completed months ago. Because of the British Home Office's refusal to grant him refugee status he has been rotting in Strangeways for the last ten months. Not satisfied the Home Office is determined to deport him to South Africa where he faces torture and possible death.

Manchester Anti Apartheid Movement has organised a street meeting at Longsight Market (corner of Stockport Road and Dickenson Road) for Saturday 14 May at 11am.

All readers are urged to attend the street meeting.

Refugee Status for Anwar Mahomed! No to Collaboration with Apartheid!

Malik Sivam
see letter on page 15

FIGHT RACISM

In the face of police harassment

GET ORGANISED

On Friday 8 April a number of supporters of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign attended the City Group AAM picket of South Africa House. As four black supporters of the Defence Campaign, Mark Hunte, Jillian Whitelock, Cirus Noor and Barry Ledgister, left the picket at 6.30pm, the police followed them to Charing Cross Station and arrested them. Two have been charged with threatening behaviour and two with obstruction. The police claim that the 4 were arrested because two of them were wearing 'military uniform' (ie green jackets worn by thousands of youths in this country!) Below, Jillian Whitelock reports on what happened during the more than 17 hours they were in police custody.

The police were very aggressive when they arrested us. Even the people in Charing Cross Station started to crowd around and some were disgusted at the police. (14 people gave their names and addresses to another supporter as potential witnesses).

Once at Cannon Row Police Station I discovered the importance of knowing our rights and having supporters outside pressuring the police. The picket of South Africa House, due to end at 7.30 pm carried on until after 10.30pm as a solidarity picket demanding our release. Defence Campaign supporters,

FRFI/RCG and City AAM members, friends and relatives came to the police station and made non-stop demands to see us, to send us food and to make the police let our solicitors in. I found out when I was released that protest phone calls came from all over London and as far away as Scotland.

All this backed up the protests we were making inside the police station. Even though they kept us in separate cells we joined in together in protest chants and singing. This annoyed the police who told us to shut up. But they couldn't silence us by beating us up as

cent support of the black groups on the CDC and the black people in the public gallery.

The grant itself is for basic clerical needs. But Tory Councillor Joe Lobenstein, thinking he smells blood, is taking the matter to the District Auditor. An *Evening Standard* article on 22 April quotes him as saying 'It cannot be right for ratepayers' money to be used to pay the defence costs of people coming before the courts... if people commit offences and are found guilty they must expect to pay the fine - not Mr & Mrs Hackney'. Such hypocritical garbage! Does not Lobenstein know that it is Mr & Mrs Hackney who, in the course of demanding the truth of Colin Roach's death, are being viciously attacked on the streets by the police, and then processed through the courts - criminalised! Indeed it is Mr & Mrs Hackney who are signing the campaign's petition in their thousands and giving donations towards the fines and costs of those arrested. The same *Standard* article goes on to quote Tory Undersecretary for the Department of the Environment George Young, 'This sort of grant upsets the ratepayers. The people awarding the grant must ask themselves the question whether grants like this actually lower the temperature in Hackney or raise it'. Messrs Lobenstein and Young & Co, where is your outcry when millions are spent on weapons of war and destruction, where is your outcry when thousands are spent on the police arming them with CS gas, plastic bullets and riot training? It's not grants which are making it hot in Hackney but years of racist police harassment, intimidation, gaolings and murder!

The British state hoped that it would wear down resistance by putting isolated individuals up for judgement in its racist courts. It has failed. The continuing mobilisations of the Defence Campaign are hitting back against the British state. The spirit of resistance that the youth have shown will continue at the courts and on the streets until the truth of Colin Roach's death is brought to light.

98 arrested! Drop the charges now!

Colin Roach - No Cover-Up!

Andy Goddard

they do so many youths because of all the support we had.

Before I was arrested I believed what they told us in school - that when arrested the police were supposed to give you your rights, eg a phone call to solicitor or family. But I soon discovered that you only get these rights if you know them and keep on demanding them. Take the so-called right to a phone call. I asked at least 4 policemen if I could make a phone call - they all refused. But I kept on asking them because I knew it was my right. When my solicitor arrived I asked again and was finally allowed a phone call. We also kept demanding to see our friends who were outside in the waiting room. Finally after 1am we were all allowed a visit.

The police wanted to take our fingerprints but we knew they couldn't without a Magistrates order - so we all refused. When we came to court in the morning the police told us they would send us to prison for eight days if we didn't give our fingerprints but we still refused. So the police then applied for a Magistrates Order and this was granted. (Because we refused to give our prints voluntarily this means that the police are supposed to destroy them if we are found not guilty.)



Hugo speaks at street meeting in Wood Green. (See Round up)

The police also asked the Magistrate for a bail condition that we couldn't go within one mile of Trafalgar Square. The friends and supporters in court protested at this and at police lies and one supporter was arrested for protesting but was released without charge. Finally even the Magistrate had to give way and grant us unconditional bail - a big victory for us.

Once outside the courtroom we were surprised and pleased to see 30 of our supporters who were cheering and embracing us. They had been picketing the court all morning.

Our advice to the youth suffering police harassment is simple - get organised! Make sure you know your rights and that everyone who is arrested and harassed gets support. That police stations and courts are picketed and that the police therefore know you have support and are not alone. That way the police won't be able to keep harassing and beating the youth up. And we can keep on fighting for our rights.

Jillian Whitelock

MARCH AND RALLY
Organised by Roach Family Support Committee
Assemble 12.30 Saturday 14 May at Bethnal Green Gardens (near Bethnal Green Tube Station)
March to Stoke Newington Common

STOKE NEWINGTON AND HACKNEY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN PUBLIC MEETING

Defend the right to demonstrate!
Drop the charges now!
Thursday 12 May 7.30pm
Stoke Newington Library
Small Hall, Edwards Lane Entrance
Stoke Newington Church Street
Stoke Newington N16

Chair: Ace Kelly
Speakers: Hugo Hunte, Jillian Whitelock and other defendants, Brinley Heaven - Chair Police Committee Hackney Council, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Beverly Jones - Solicitor, Socialist Action

COLIN ROACH CAMPAIGN IN THE COURTS

The trials of those arrested on Colin Roach demonstrations started at Highbury Magistrates Court on 29 March and will continue into June and beyond. The attack mounted by the police on those who go on the streets for the truth about Colin's death is continued in the courts by their racist ruling class allies on the magistrates benches. Indeed, to prevent defendants choosing to be heard before a jury in Crown Court, some charges have been reduced, even if this means resorting to little-used Public Order Laws.

So far 34 charges against 23 people have been heard. In spite of their desire to criminalise all who protest publicly - and as has come out in court, some whose only 'crime' is to be in the way of a police charge - these magistrates have had to throw out almost half (14) of the charges, when faced with contradictory police evidence and unlikely stories, revealing photographs and defence witnesses. The 15 defendants found guilty have been given fines totalling £400, conditional discharges and in 3 cases possible prison sentences after reports.

The trials started well when the key police witness did not turn up in the case against Patrick Stewart; the charges were dismissed. (If a defendant fails to turn up, a warrant is issued and further charges brought). The next day, however, a charge of threatening behaviour against Wellsworth Thomas was thrown out, but he was ordered to pay £25 legal costs - found innocent but fined!

Supporters in the public gallery (including members of the Roach family in a number of cases) are repeatedly appalled by the machinery of British 'justice'. Typically 2 or 3 police witnesses present a story based on identical notes, written together. The lengths to which the police will go was shown on 22 April in the case of Mervyn Martin. A police superintendent, a sergeant and a constable

This report is written by Charles Bolton who has, on behalf of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, attended all of the court cases arising from the campaign about Colin Roach's death.

spent all afternoon in court to deal with a single charge of highway obstruction, ie standing on the pavement. In another case, for this same 'serious' offence, a youth was fined £50.

And when police lies, are exposed no word of censure against them is given. In the trial of Dexter Irvine, charged with assault and threatening behaviour, photographs clearly showed him being pushed onto a car by Sergeant Wilson, exposing the police version of Wilson being attacked from behind and never seeing his attacker.

When photographs and defence witnesses consistently show up the police as liars they get desperate. Sgt Hunt complained that a photograph was 'not a very good photo of me'. Plain clothes policeman Butterworth and Long swore that they could identify the brand of a drink at 20 yards in failing light! One charge of threatening behaviour was backed up with the ridiculous story of two old ladies running past the police saying 'this is worse than the Blitz'!

Charles Bolton

The following statement was issued by the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign. Since the statement was written Malcolm Reed and Martin Spafford have decided to sue the police for their wrongful arrest and detention. Cirus Noor has been remanded in custody to Brixton Prison. Readers are urged to send cards to him. (HM Prison Brixton, Jebb Avenue, London SW2.)

STATEMENT

On Tuesday 12 April, Bethnal Green police arrested a black youth, Cirus Noor. The police allege that he was arrested at 9.40pm in front of Bethnal Green Police Station whilst in the act of throwing a petrol bomb or similar device. The police also arrested two white teachers, Malcolm Reed and Martin Spafford at 10.12pm. These two were simply walking up Bethnal Green Road and, noticing a commotion outside the police station, stopped to observe. For this they were arrested, detained for 23 hours, their houses raided and property confiscated. They were released without charges. Cirus Noor has been charged with 'intent to destroy' and remanded in custody.

Cirus Noor, Martin Spafford and Malcolm Reed are supporters of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign. Martin and Malcolm were questioned intensively about the Defence Campaign, its meetings and supporters. The police have already made every effort to harass and intimidate supporters of the Defence Campaign since it was set up in March to defend those arrested on demonstrations about the death of Colin Roach.

Police have:

- Harassed and moved pickets of the courts by threatening picketers with arrest.
- On 28 March arrested two Defence Campaign supporters (and 5 other black people) attending Old Street Magistrates Court. The courtroom door was locked and a Defence Campaign supporter who simply asked to be let out as he was a witness, was seized by 3 police who assaulted him in the courtroom, dragged him out, arrested him and charged him with threatening behaviour.
- Persistently stopped friends, relatives and supporters from entering the Public Gallery, and in one instance abused and physically assaulted the mother of a 17 year old defendant.
- Arrested Cirus Noor no less than four

times. Twice whilst on demonstrations about Colin Roach's death, once while leaving an Anti-Apartheid Movement picket of South Africa House (three other supporters were also arrested with him whilst leaving the AAM picket) and once whilst on a bus!

Nor is Cirus Noor's experience unique - many black youth are persistently harassed and arrested by the police.

The police have made it abundantly clear to black people, black youth in particular, that if they march, picket and protest they will be attacked and arrested. 98 people have now been arrested for demanding the truth about Colin Roach's death. Many of these people, including Colin Roach's father, James Roach, were beaten up. And with supreme contempt the authorities have even refused to hold the inquest into Colin Roach's death in a place with adequate public access.

And if, and when, the youths are driven to extreme acts borne of anger and frustration the police, courts and authorities always scream their outrage and condemnation. Those who have allowed the police to beat, harass and in some cases kill people, will suddenly condemn violence. They will try to exact heavy and vicious penalties. Already in Cirus Noor's case Bethnal Green police have brought in Sir Kenneth Newman, head of London police to discuss the case. Sir Kenneth Newman is renowned for his leading role in police torture and repression when he was head of the RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary - police) in the 6 counties of Ireland.

The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign has already made plain that it was in no way involved with the alleged events of 12 April. We are conducting our struggle to defend democratic rights through political activity and mass mobilisation. However we reserve our condemnations solely for the police, the courts and other forces which defend the brutal, racist police and who deny black and other working class people their basic rights.

If we are to win the fighting must begin

Most people that don't live here call it The Concrete Jungle – but for many people Broadwater Farm Estate is their home: Broadwater Farm is a large estate in Haringey. 80% of the people that live here are Black. A high proportion of people on the estate are unemployed. Many of these people are one-parent families living in the high rise flats. To the authorities it is a problem estate because we are organising and fighting for our rights. To us the problem is the authorities, especially the police.

In the late hours of Monday 1 November a youth was arrested and taken from the estate to Tottenham Police Station. As usual the police were trying to frame him on burglary charges when at the time of the so-called 'crime' he was with other youth in the Youth Club watching a video. When we found out about the arrest, a group of twenty people, mainly youth, went to Tottenham Police Station to demand justice. After an hour, four police transit vans pulled up outside the Station full of riot clad police. They waded into the youth beating people with truncheons and arrested four youths including one female. All five were released early Tuesday morning. The four arrested outside the Police Station had various charges of obstruction, criminal damage and assault. The original youth was not charged.

The Broadwater 4 Defence Campaign was set up and publicised the case. A Public Meeting was held on 25 April to raise money and to mobilise support for the picket on 3 May outside Tottenham Magistrates Court when all four come to Court. At the meeting two valuable points were made about getting together and fighting for justice against the police and the fascists. The fight must

continue because the Broadwater 4 are only four amongst many. This was repeated by Ace Kelly from the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign.

We feel that the police just come over here to provoke us youths so that they can arrest us, and when they get us inside beat us up and give us more pressure. The police don't seem to realise

that we are here to stay. The police try to break us, but we are not running, we will stand our ground and unite to fight down police harassment. We have but two choices: to win or lose. The struggle is ours and that we must choose. The police do not seem to come to terms with the fact that we, the youth of Broadwater, are one people and well organised. We youths have been faced with continuous harassment from the Babylon and this must stop. Haven't we suffered enough and have died by the thousands, millions – murdered. How much longer will this go on for. We will fight until the philosophy, which holds one race superior to another which is supposed to be inferior, is permanently discredited. We will fight until the colour of a man's skin is no more significant than the colour of his eyes. And the basic human rights should be guaranteed to all because until that day the dream of lasting peace, world citizenship and the rule of international morality, to me will remain but a fleeting illusion to be pursued but never attained. The police don't see this; they believe Black people as a whole and especially youth should not ever be seen, let alone heard. The police do not shadow fascist youth because they make life easier for the police force. The reason why the police see black youths as trouble makers is

because of what happened in 1981 when the black youth put their heads together and fought for freedom. They were seen as leaders and this is true because they were in the front line and showed the white youths the way to fight. We were seen to be together in the struggle of '81 and the fight for unity is still in sight. So let's get together and join as one to show that our struggle is won because we have the fascists on the run. The fight won't be easy – it won't be fun. We will fight for our freedom until true freedom we have won. We the youths of Broadwater Farm are very optimistic about our struggle because, as our motto goes:

**WE DON'T FIGHT NO LOSING BATTLE!
HANDS OFF OUR YOUTHS!
IF WE ARE TO WIN, THE FIGHTING MUST BEGIN!**

Join us in our picket of: Tottenham Magistrates Court, 9.30am, Tuesday 3 May. Send donations, messages of support to:

**BFDC, Unit 1, Tangmere, Willan Road, Tottenham, London N17.
Phone: 01-808 1667.**

Diane Anderson

PRECINCT SIX

Harassment continues

In the March FRFI we reported on the imprisonment of Leeds anti-racists, Les Haw and Mohan Pipial. The original two of the Precinct 6, they were imprisoned, as an example, for their political involvement in the Precinct 6 Defence Campaign.

Mohan and Les have continued to suffer the brutality of the racist and anti-working class 'law and order' machine – the police pick people up on the streets, the courts 'process' them and the prisons 'punish' them. Mohan was sentenced to 3 months in Gringley-on-the-Hill Detention Centre near Doncaster. He has lost 4 days remission for being assaulted by a racist and another two days for protesting about a screw who called him a 'Black bastard'.

Since being sentenced to 6 weeks in Armley Gaol, Les Haw has been violently attacked, maliciously re-arrested and subjected to intimidation and abuse from the police and prison screws. Les and his girlfriend, Nuala, talked to FRFI about their recent experience of state harassment.

Les describes what happened when he was admitted to Armley, where the screws already knew of him.

'When I got in reception I was put in a large cell. There were about 15 of us. Two prisoners had a disagreement. One called the other a grasser. Other prisoners were trying to prevent a fight. Suddenly all the screws just came piling in with us. It was a right big scuffle. They were thumping everyone. They charged through the door – coming in with boots and truncheons everywhere. As I tried to move away my head hit the wall. I was dragged away by the arms and taken down to the hospital wing. I was bruised and I had a headache for two days. They said it was concussion and they said they were going to take me for a brain scan. I was held in the hos-

pital wing for a week. They gave me some brown medicine (probably Largactyl – FRFI) and gave me yellow tablets for two weeks. I don't know what the tablets were or what they were for. The only other thing I got was when they took me to see a prison psychiatrist. All she did was give me a long lecture about how people who worked were supporting me and about being on the dole and she told me I was just a lazy drop-out.'

For the rest of his time at Armley, Les was locked in his cell for 23 hours a day. Nuala visited him and was subject to the abuse and harassment meted out to many prison visitors.

'It was awful. His sister and a friend went with me. We took birthday cards for Les and they wouldn't even let us hand them in. When we saw Les the screws were just watching you and listening to you. Les told me afterwards that they kept saying things to him about personal things we had talked about.'

Now that Les has been released his harassment continues. On Thursday 31 March the police arrived at Les's home in Wakefield. They said they were arresting him and took him to Wakefield police station where he was told he would be held for 2 hours. Three hours later he was handcuffed and whisked off to Wakefield railway station. He was then taken by train to London. His two police escorts cleared part of the restaurant carriage keeping other people apart from them. Les was handcuffed

throughout the journey. What was his crime? He had failed to turn up at court (he was in Armley at the time!) to face a charge of 'Threatening behaviour'. Les was held in Holloway police station for two days and then released.

Les and Nuala refuse to be intimidated by persistent state harassment. Nuala summed up: 'The coppers have said they'll know Les's face anywhere. They'll pick on him for nothing. He was arrested for sticking up for his rights and everybody

else's. And for sticking up for black people. It's daft to pick on people because of their colour. The coppers pick on black people. It should be brought out in the papers what they do. Les is not afraid to show his feelings about things that are wrong. I'll stand by him, even though they keep arresting him, because what he does is right. He's just bringing out the truth to make it known. And if people like him don't do it, nobody will.'

Alison S

OPPOSE POLICE REPRESSION

The Police Bill will soon become law. As predicted in FRFI 28, Whitelaw, not wishing to alienate middle class opinion, has withdrawn the clauses directly affecting journalists and other professions. The public outcry and campaign against these clauses was vigorous and successful. The Labour Party backed this opposition. But who spoke for the working class and oppressed whose lives will be terrorised by police with even greater powers under this new law? Already the full force of police repression is felt by black people, particularly the youth. The opposition to the Bill, including Labour opposition, has so far proved totally inadequate to the task of defending the democratic rights of working class and oppressed people. We welcome the National Demonstration called for 22 May. The campaign against the Bill must be sustained until the Bill is totally defeated. **Fight Police Repression! Defend Democratic Rights.**

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE POLICE BILL

Sunday 22 May
Assemble 11am Brockwell Park, Brixton. Move off 1pm to Hyde Park
Called by National Campaign Against the Police Bill

ASIAN TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE

Since March 14, 22 Bradford Asian textile workers have mounted a determined and militant strike against slave labour conditions and for democratic rights.

The strike began at Aire Valley Yarns Ltd. of Farsley near Bradford, after shop steward Liaquat Ali was sacked when he set up a branch of the Transport and General Workers Union. The other workers then came out to demand his reinstatement and were themselves sacked. The strike is official.

The basic rate of pay is £1.02 per hour for a compulsory 60 hour week. Workers actually do 72 hours. Overtime is compulsory. Conditions at the mill are atrocious. One worker lost an eye from the dust and chest ailments are rife. The machines cause many injuries. The owners of this sweatshop line their pockets with an annual turnover of £¼ million.

Police have harassed and arrested strikers and management drove a car into the picket, hospitalising a worker. Send all donations and messages to: L Ali, 34 Dirkhill St. Bradford 7, West Yorkshire.

Bill Hughes

IN BRIEF

● New threat to Mahmud Khan

Mahmud Khan, the Bradford Pakistani man, is continuing to battle the racist Home Office who are still trying to deport him. Mahmud's fight has lasted over 2 years and has involved two demonstrations, pickets, vigils, petitions and public meetings.

Last January, Mahmud won an important victory when the Court of Appeal quashed an Immigration Appeal Tribunal decision to deport him. A new hearing in May was ordered. Now, however, a local MP has received a letter from the Home Office stating that, '... the decision taken to deport him was fully justified.' As Mahmud says: 'The Home Office are prejudging the case. It clearly shows that by hook or by crook they will deport me.'

All FRFI readers are urged to write now, opposing these moves, to David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Please quote the reference no. K212778. **Bill Hughes**

● Brixton Police 1

Winston Rose, a 20-year-old black youth was found not guilty of assaulting two policemen. The police claimed he had assaulted them within the cells of Brixton police station.

Winston told of how the two policemen had beaten him up in the cells, whilst another policeman looked on laughing. His face was badly bruised and swollen. Of course the police claimed – as usual – that they had to 'restrain' him, that he went 'berserk', 'attacked' them etc. One Police Sergeant Farr brazenly said

'It is highly probable that my closed fist might have come into contact with his face.'

For once, the court rejected this tissue of lies. But still these police, proven liars and violent, racist thugs, walk the streets free to beat up more youths like Winston Rose.

● Brixton Police 2

Police in Brixton are not content with beating up black youth in the cells. They have now adopted a new tactic of humiliating black youth on the streets – public strip searches. So numerous have been these incidents involving police forcing black youths in Brixton publicly to remove their trousers and underpants that even Kenneth Newman has found it necessary to pretend that he disapproves.

What hypocrisy! It is Newman's appointment as Head of London police, coupled with the new powers they will get under the Police Bill, that gives the vile Brixton police the arrogant confidence openly to parade their racism.

● Depo-Provera – Racist Drug

The routine arrogance of the medical profession when dealing with working class patients is well known. Evidence given at the Inquiry into the contraceptive-by-injection drug Depo-Provera reveals the racism which is also deep-rooted amongst doctors. The drug Depo-Provera has many unpleasant and dangerous side effects. It is supposed to be used in cases where it is absolutely vital that pregnancy is avoided, although in fact it is probably too dangerous to use at all. For years it has been used in oppressed nations by the imperialist drug companies to experiment on women, whilst at the same time it was banned in the USA. The Inquiry has now revealed that it has been routinely given to black women in Britain often without their knowledge or consent.

A consultant, Mrs Wendy Savage, testified that women were injected immediately after giving birth or having an abortion – not knowing that they were being given this dangerous long-term contraceptive. Most of the women were, she said, Bengalis. A junior doctor told Mrs Savage why he did not bother explaining things to the women:

'It is no use explaining... she's an illiterate peasant from the bush.'

Already it is known that black women are sometimes sterilised after abortions without proper consultation about this. The medical profession is supposed to be dedicated to serving humanity. But in racist Britain, even this simple task of healthcare is corrupted and perverted. The doctors who carry out such foul practices should be exposed. Their colleagues who allow it to continue should stop collaborating with racism and publicly speak out against its use anywhere in the world.

Just over one year ago, a young black man, Paul Worrell, was found dead in Brixton Prison whilst on remand. The inquest failed to establish the cause of death. Prison screws said he hanged himself but his family and the black community hold a very different view. They place his death alongside the growing list of black people who have died in the hands of the state: Richard Campbell, Winston Rose, Colin Roach and many others. Their campaign raised the warning shout 'State says suicide - We say GENOCIDE! Abolish the death sentence in Brixton Prison'.



Thatcher's Britain

The police and prison system have one very convenient way of explaining away deaths in detention. Their answer is the same whether the prisoner was beaten to death like Barry Prosser (a white working class man) or murdered by neglect. They say the prisoner was mad, committed suicide or inflicted injuries upon himself. Their racism leads to the use of this story for many deaths of black prisoners. In such cases, though the truth is always concealed, the families know that, whether beaten up or whether it was neglected mental illness which led to

In 1981, suicides - the rate of which is directly related to oppressive conditions and unemployment - increased by 200 to 4471. In prisons the suicide rate is eleven times the national rate.

suicide, it is the authorities who are guilty of murder. If a person is depressed and suicidal they should be in hospital under expert care: to claim that Paul Worrell was suicidal and yet to fail to explain how he was allowed to commit suicide in a closely observed prison cell, is nothing but a conspiracy of lies.

In March of this year there could so easily have been yet another death in custody. The victim would have been a nineteen year old South London black youth, Glen. If the police had succeeded he would have been the latest casualty of Thatcher's Britain - this racist, repres-

National minorities are 4% of the people in Britain. Yet they make up an incredible 20% of prisoners. In some borstals and prisons for the under 21s the figure is over 40%, most of them black.

sive police state. Thatcher's Britain is a doubly lethal regime. The poor, oppressed and unemployed - and more so than ever if black - are hounded, spied upon, arrested, beaten up and imprisoned; and let there be no doubt that if the police get half a chance they'll kill you. On top of this, the incredible pressures that bear down on today's dispossessed youth give rise to inevitable mental

anguish and strain. Those who suffer the worst, who become depressed and anxious, are frequently equally the victims of police harassment. Black youth are particularly viciously dealt with and the racism they encounter from police, courts and prisons is resulting in a catalogue of murdered youth.

There are now 9 million people living below the official poverty line. Households claiming supplementary benefit have increased by 65% to 4.4 million from May 1979 to August 1982. Children living in poverty have increased 90% under Thatcher. Since 6 December claimants have had to answer 140 questions on a form before getting supplementary benefit, facing prosecution if any question is inadvertently filled in wrong.

Glen's story starts with the pressures of this racist hostile society on his family. The worry for his parents of how to rear their children to be strong and independent in the face of the constant fear of them getting into trouble with the police, who are on the prowl to victimise and fit up black youth and to criminalise them

in the courts and prisons. In summer 1982 Glen completed a sentence in borstal. He had been framed by the police on a charge of theft, which he did not do. His innocence and the wrong done to him played on his mind. He returned

696 prisoners died in detention between 1969 and 1980, 37% of which were certified as unnatural causes or suicide. In 1980 the figure leaped to 50%, 33 out of 65 deaths.

to his family three stones lighter and a changed person - he was depressed.

Early this year he became unemployed; for six weeks he tried to get the DHSS to recognise his right to social. They refused him any money, they wasted time, they lied, they asked more questions. His mother by ill-fortune had to go into hospital. Still the DHSS refused him money. By now he was completely broke. He became increasingly depressed and agitated and was

unable to sleep for five nights. He sought help. His friend took him to the psychiatric clinic and they explained how he felt. Yet they sent him away with sleeping pills. His sixth sleepless night ended with him going alone to the local casualty department early Saturday morning, where he caused some trouble.

The police were called, arrested him and took him to the station. By now he was seriously ill yet they wrote 'mad' on his door, abused him with racist remarks such as 'monster', assaulted him and planned to keep him the 48 hours to Monday morning, when they intended to remand him to prison.

His father and friend feared for his life. They asked a doctor to try to get in to see Glen. With persistence they succeeded, with the solicitor, in forcing the police to agree. The sign on the door had by now been changed to 'disturbed'. The police refused the right to privacy for the consultation and insisted on both the station inspector and sergeant sitting in the same room. They even refused to allow it to proceed within eyesight but out of their hearing. The police doctor soon joined them! So, under

protest, the necessarily restricted consultation took place. The doctor found Glen to be in urgent need of hospital care. He was very agitated, unable to concentrate, a little disorientated, very dehydrated and very frightened that the police would kill him. Glen gulped down a pint of water with relief. There were several bruises and lacerations, a tear inside his mouth and a very swollen, painful wrist with circular lacerations from handcuffs. Most of these injuries had been caused by the police. In the police doctor's report book there were two entries. The first time, on Saturday morning, she saw him for 5 minutes! With this cursory examination she noted the swollen wrist - 'not tender or

painful' - and found him 'obstreperous'. For this she prescribed Sparine, which is used for 'senile agitation, alcoholism, agitated psychotic patients and mental defectives'. Glen wisely refused. The second time lasted ten minutes, the afternoon of the same day Glen's doctor saw him. She noted merely that he was more calm. No mention of any other injuries or comments on his health.

In the worst traditions of police medical officers, she had just about checked that Glen was still alive and had not the slightest interest in his health. Glen's doctor demanded he be allowed bail so that urgent medical attention could be sought. The inspector refused and refused to give any reason. In court the next day, the police opposed bail. Their anger and fear at what the medical

An estimated 50% of the 1,499 Lambeth children in care are black, an indication of the pressures on black working class families and the scale of intervention of the social services. There is anger at the growing tendency in some areas to place working class children away from their families and into middle class homes, including placing black children with white families.

examination had exposed was barely concealed as a copy of all three reports from the two doctors were compared by the magistrate. He overruled the police and granted bail. At last Glen was out of their clutches.

Yet even now the racist forces of this society were working against Glen. The same hospital sent him home again, refusing admission. The young, white, arrogant, middle-class doctor was fully aware that if Glen got into further trouble, he would inevitably go to Brixton remand prison. Only fourteen months earlier Paul Worrell had died in Brixton in similar circumstances. Only a third visit and an angry exchange ensured that Glen would receive proper hospital care. This callous attitude from those individual doctors can only be

POSTSCRIPT

Glen has now fully recovered from his ordeal. He and his family have decided to fight back against what the police did. They are taking the police to court for wrongful arrest. They aim to get public support condemning the police actions. To win publicity on this would not only help Glen by restraining the police from further harassment, but would also help in the fight against

racism. They just would not have turned away white middle class people facing the same kind of health problems. Instinctively they were taking the side of the police. They were the cause of Glen being arrested on the Saturday, and for the 80 hours delay before he received help. They endangered his very life.

With a favourable medical report for the court, his defence argued that the charges must be dropped. The police refused pointblank. The magistrate jumped in with the old trick, suggesting Glen plead guilty and he would be given an absolute discharge. The defence refused and the police were forced to drop the charges. He is now out of hospital, fully recovered and determined to press a complaint against the police in the courts.

The message of Thatcher's Britain to the youth is stark. Fight back and organise or be crushed. Fight every step of the way and victories are possible. Publicise arrests, whatever the charges, get people to phone the police station, to visit it, to demand to see the prisoner. Get a solicitor in, get a doctor to visit - a GP is still responsible for the health care of a prisoner in police custody and is entitled to visit: s/he has a duty to do so if requested; don't do deals with the police - they are liars; don't be persuaded to plead guilty, fight for bail, fight like the family and supporters of Colin Roach, fight against the criminalisation and murder of working class youth, both black and white.

John Roberts

police attacks on the youth of South London. To show how important this is, within days of his leaving hospital Glen was rearrested by the local police held for 24 hours and charged on a serious unrelated frame-up charge. They go to Crown Court in May. Anyone in South London (or elsewhere) wishing to assist the family's fight-back, in person or with a donation, or who knows of similar occurrences, please contact John Roberts through FRFI.

LABOUR PARTY & ZIONISM

As the prospect of a General Election approaches, the Labour Party, once again, is attempting to portray itself as a party which defends the interests of the working class and oppressed peoples. In fact the Labour Party has always consistently upheld British imperialism's interests throughout the world. FRFI has demonstrated time and again the Labour Party's criminal role in Ireland. We now intend to publish a series of articles exposing the Labour Party's equally criminal record in defending British imperialism's interests against oppressed peoples fighting for freedom in other parts of the world. This series begins with an article on Palestine.

The fascistic genocidal butchery perpetrated by the Zionists in Lebanon last year may seem to be a long way away. Yet the responsibility for establishing the Zionist state of Israel lies right here, in Britain.

The 1917 Balfour Declaration of the British government supported the 'establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people'. Though the Balfour Declaration had been issued by Tories, it was rapidly endorsed by the Labour Party and the TUC in their 'War Aims Memorandum', adopted in December 1917:

'Palestine should be set free from the harsh and oppressive government of the Turk, in order that this country may form a Free State, under international guarantee, to which such of the Jewish people as desire to do so may return, and may work out their salvation free from interference by those of alien race or religion.'

The Declaration had several imperialist aims. One was an attempt to counteract the struggle of the Bolsheviks to overthrow the Russian government and take Russia out of the imperialist war then raging. A later Colonial Office memorandum, written for Winston Churchill in 1922 explained:

'The earliest document is a letter dated 24th April 1917 in which a certain Mr Hamilton suggested that a Zionist mission should be sent to Russia for propaganda purposes. It is clear that at that stage His Majesty's Government were mainly concerned with the question of how Russia (then in the first stages of revolution) was to be kept in the ranks of the Allies. At the end of April the Foreign Office were consulting the British Ambassador at Petrograd as to the possible effect in Russia of a declaration by the Entente of sympathy for Jewish national aspirations. The idea was that such a declaration might counteract Jewish pacifist propaganda in Russia.'

The British imperialists were contemptuous of the indigenous Palestinian population - and said so quite openly to one another. Balfour explained in a Memorandum to Curzon that:

'in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants of the country... Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad is rooted in age-long traditions, in present needs, in future hopes, of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit that ancient land.'

The Declaration had been made without reference to the Palestinian people, who overwhelmingly opposed it. It was therefore inevitable that a Zionist state in Israel would be a racist state, and an

outpost of imperialism in the Middle East.

It was the racist British Labour Party which was to be the midwife to the birth of the Zionist state. This was the logical outcome of the strong Zionist ties and sympathies of the Labour Party, allied to its unswerving support for British imperialism. In 1920, Paole Zion, the British section of the International Organization of Socialist Zionists, had affiliated to the Labour Party, and from the early twenties, the Zionist current in the party grew rapidly.

The British were the cause of our catastrophe, and the catastrophe was Zionism. So we asked the people, 'Who is your first enemy?' 'Britain'. 'The second enemy?' 'Zionism', 'Why?' 'Because Britain is responsible. Britain protects them and persecutes us'.
Ahram Znayer - veteran organiser 1936 General Strike

The central problem which taxed the Zionists, following the Balfour Declaration, was the need to build up the Jewish Zionist colony in Palestine, the Yishuv: in 1918, Jews in Palestine - the supposed homeland - formed less than 10% of the Palestinian population. Without massive Zionist immigration into the country, the plan for a Zionist state would have collapsed. By 1929 the Jewish population had nearly trebled to 156,000. The Zionists owned 4% of the land, but 14% of the cultivable area. The Zionists, vigorously supported by their racist trade union Histadrut, strictly enforced a policy of exclusively Jewish employment, both on the land and in industry.

THE MACDONALD LETTER

In August 1929, weeks after a new Labour Government had taken office, hundreds were killed and many more injured in violent riots in Jerusalem. A government enquiry showed that the root cause of the hostility between Palestinian Arabs and Jewish settlers was the expulsion of peasants from land acquired by the Zionists, and recommended curtailing further Zionist immigration. Labour Colonial Secretary, Lord Passfield (formerly Sidney Webb), issued a White Paper recommending caution over unrestricted immigration to Palestine.

The Zionists unleashed a storm of fury. The Labour Prime Minister, Ramsey MacDonald, took control of Palestine out of Passfield's hands and passed it over to a Cabinet committee which, jointly with the Zionist Jewish

Agency, drafted a letter which MacDonald read to Parliament on 13 February 1931. The letter, addressed to Chaim Weizmann, the Zionist leader who was to become Israel's first President, overturned the White Paper:

'the obligation to facilitate Jewish immigration and to encourage close settlement by Jews on the land, remains a positive obligation of the Mandate, and it can be fulfilled without prejudice to the rights and position of other sections of the population of Palestine'

It was a testament of Labour support for Zionism, and as Weizmann remarked, the reversal in policy had a decisive effect on the establishment of the state:

'it was under MacDonald's letter to me that the change came about in the Government's attitude, and in the attitude of the Palestine administration, which enabled us to make the magnificent gains of the ensuing years. It was under MacDonald's letter that Jewish immigration into Palestine was permitted to reach figures... undreamed of in 1930.'

MacDonald also expressed the Labour government's support for the Zionists' policy of apartheid in employment, which was directed against the Palestinian Arabs:

'it is necessary also to have regard to the declared policy of the Jewish Agency to the effect that in "all the works or undertakings carried out or furthered by the Agency it shall be deemed to be a matter of principle that Jewish labour shall be employed." His Majesty's Government do not in any way challenge the right of the Agency to formulate or approve and endorse such a policy.'

Labour's complete contempt for the Palestinian Arabs was further confirmed by another incident recounted by Weizmann:

'The first indication I had of the seriousness of MacDonald's intentions was when he consulted me with regard to the appointment of a new High Commissioner to replace Sir John Chancellor.'

There is no record that the Labour Party consulted the Palestinian Arabs, expelled from land acquired by Zionists,



The Arab rebellion, 1938

over who they would prefer as High Commissioner.

Throughout the thirties, Arab resistance in Palestine to Zionist encroachment increased until it broke out into open rebellion against the British state in 1936. The rebellion began in April with the launching of a general strike which lasted six months. The British responded by dynamiting houses, criminalising Palestinian freedom fighters, and killing 1,000. Even as the general strike was still in progress, the British TUC, meeting in Plymouth, showed its racist support for Zionism and contempt for the Palestinians:

'the Congress earnestly hopes that the British Government... will take all the necessary measures to bring the present disorders to an end.'

The Government followed this advice. The rebellion was crushed after three years by 20,000 British troops who left more than 5,000 Arabs dead and 14,000 wounded.

A Zionist militia had been formed, armed and trained by the British, called the 'British Settlement Police'. It was similar in composition and purpose to the 'B Specials' or UDR in British-occupied Ireland, and by 1939 it numbered 21,500 Zionists - 1 in 20 of the Jewish population! The British also formed joint terror squads with the

British troops constantly harassed the Palestinians



Zionists, similar to the SAS, known as the 'Special Night Squads'. Led by a British officer named Orde Wingate, these provided training for future members of the Zionist terror gang known as the Irgun. The Zionist deputy head of these squads was Moshe Dayan, later to become notorious in the 1967 'Six-day war'. Dayan later remarked that:

'In some sense every leader of the Israeli Army even today is a disciple of Wingate. He gave us our technique, he was the inspiration of our tactics, he was our dynamic.'

After the rebellion was crushed, remaining opposition was further undermined by the policy spelt out in the Tories' 1939 White Paper. This recommended sharply restricted Jewish immigration, regulation of land sales, and rejected a Jewish state, holding out promises of Palestinian self-government in the future. At its May conference, the Labour Party condemned these immigration restrictions at a time when European Jews were being brutally massacred by fascism, but it became clear that this criticism was simply ammunition to further Zionist designs:

'This Conference reaffirms the traditional support given by the British Labour Movement to the re-establishment of a National Home

for the Jewish people in Palestine. It recognises that considerable benefits have accrued to the Arab masses as a result of Jewish immigration and settlement. This Conference is convinced that under the policy of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate, the possibility exists for continued and increasing peaceful cooperation between the Jewish and Arab peoples in Palestine.'

1944: 'THE STATIC ARAB'

In December 1944, the annual Labour Party Conference passed its strongest pro-Zionist motion to date:

'there is surely neither hope nor meaning in a "Jewish National Home", unless, we are prepared to let Jews, if they wish, enter this tiny land in such numbers as to become a majority. There was a strong case for this before the war. There is an irresistible case now, after the unspeakable atrocities of the cold and calculated German Nazi plan to kill all Jews in Europe. Here, too, in Palestine surely is a case, on human grounds and to promote a stable settlement, for transfer of population. Let the Arabs be encouraged to move out as the Jews move in. Let them be compensated handsomely for their land and let their settlement elsewhere be carefully organized and generously financed. The Arabs have many wide territories of their own; they must not claim to exclude the Jews from this small area of Palestine, less than the size of Wales. Indeed we should re-examine also the possibility of extending the present Palestinian boundaries, by agreement with Egypt, Syria or Transjordan.'

The racism behind this motion was made clear by its drafter, Hugh Dalton, later Labour Chancellor:

For the past thirty years, our people have had to struggle against British occupation and Zionist invasion both of which had one intention, the usurpation of our land. Six major revolts and tens of popular uprisings were staged to foil these attempts, so that our homeland might remain ours. Over thirty thousand martyrs (the equivalent in comparative terms of six million Americans) died in the process. Yasser Arafat, Speech to UN, Nov 13 1974

'in Palestine we should lean, much more [!] than hitherto towards the dynamic Jew, less towards the static Arab.'

This shameless racism proved embarrassing even for the Zionists. Commented Weizmann:

'I remember that my Labour Zionist friends were, like myself, greatly concerned about this proposal. We had never contemplated the removal of the Arabs, and the British Labourites, in their pro-Zionist enthusiasm, went far beyond our intentions.'

THE 1945 LABOUR GOVERNMENT

After the war, another Labour government was returned to power. Its policy towards Palestine was dictated by the Labour Party's concern to safeguard Britain's overall imperial interests. The war had weakened British imperialism. Britain had negotiated a massive dollar loan from the US imperialists. Since sterling could not be freely exchanged for other currencies, scarce US dollars had to be conserved to pay off the US imperialists. Since oil from the Middle East did not have to be purchased with dollars, the control and security of these resources was therefore of vital importance to British imperialism. Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, expressed Labour's problem very clearly:

'His Majesty's Government must maintain a continuing interest in the area, if only because our economic and financial interests in the Middle East are of great importance to us and to other countries as well. I would like

this fact faced squarely. If these interests were lost to us, the effect on the life of this country would be a considerable reduction in the standard of living. Other parts of the world would suffer too. The British interests in the Middle East contribute substantially not only to the prosperity of the people there, but also to the wage packets of the workers of this country. Nor can we forget our old and valued friendships with the peoples of the area.'

To defend its empire, the Labour government, as Bevin hints, attempted to draw conservative elements of the Arab states into support for its designs. From this perspective, the establishment of a Zionist state in Palestine was, at this time, a threat to imperialist interests. Richard Crossman, strongly pro-Zionist, claims that this was because Bevin identified Zionism with communism:

'I tried to convince him that it was just *because* the leaders of the Yishuv were of Russian origin that nearly all of them were fanatically opposed to Russian Communism. Moreover, apart from a minority of fellow travellers, I added, the leadership of the Histadut... felt that the one Labour movement in the world whose ideals they shared was the British. But nothing could shake his *idée fixe* that the British position in the Middle East was threatened by a Jewish-Communist conspiracy...'

More plausibly, Mayhew, then Bevin's Under-Secretary, argues that Bevin was opposed to a Zionist state because it would stimulate radical nationalism in the Arab states which might be directed against imperialist interests:

'its success would condemn the Middle East to decades of hatred and violence, and above all - this was his immediate concern - that by turning the Arabs against Britain and the

Western countries, it would open a highroad for Stalin into the Middle East.'

Bevin's fears of communist influence in the Middle East were not fanciful: the Labour government was already waging war against the Greek people led by communists, and in Azerbaijan and Kurdistan autonomous republics with Soviet backing had been established after the war.

But the Zionists began a war of terror against the British in Palestine; in the Labour Party, tension on the question mounted. Within the Cabinet there was deep sympathy for the Zionists. At one point Richard Crossman visited John Strachey, a member of the Cabinet Defence Committee, and asked his advice about an act of sabotage planned by his Zionist friends:

'The next day in the Smoking Room at the House of Commons, Strachey gave his approval to Crossman. The Haganah went ahead and blew up all the bridges over the Jordan.'

It is impossible to imagine a British Cabinet approving a similar IRA operation!

MICHAEL FOOT

The political atmosphere inside the Labour Party can be gauged from a pamphlet which Michael 'Peacemonger' Foot wrote together with Crossman entitled *A Palestine Munich*. Dismissing the danger to the future Zionist state from the surrounding Arab states, the pamphlet remarks:

'there is nothing which any of these states can do in the nature of formal

warfare either individually or collectively, that could not be countered by an airborne brigade or even an air-force demonstration.'

The pamphlet explained the conflict in racist terms:

'tribal, dynastic and religious antagonisms take more fanatical forms in the Oriental than in the Western world... the liberal era has never dawned on these countries. Such political mass movements as exist have a closer resemblance to the mass movements of the European Middle Ages than to those of the era of enlightenment.'

Although it might be expedient to preserve friendship with the states of the Arab League, this would backfire and threaten British imperialism:

'Once we had defeated the Jews for them, the Arabs would demand immediate withdrawal of our troops from Palestine, and stage a revolt if this were not conceded. Then the last base for the defence of Suez would have gone.'

Far better to back the Zionist settlers and to partition the state:

'the government of the Judean State would be eager to negotiate a treaty of alliance with Great Britain... such a treaty would leave in British hands the port of Haifa and such airfields and installations as we require... Britain would be in a far stronger position than she is at present.'

In the event, it was the Zionist terror campaign, and not the danger of nationalism or communism which threatened imperialist stability. With the encouragement of US imperialism, the Labour government announced that it would withdraw British troops from Palestine by 15 May 1948. The Labour Party breathed a sigh of relief, and Weizmann remarked 'Now, thank God, we can live on friendly terms.' Labour had created Zionist Israel and paved the way for genocide against the Palestinian people.

The terror squads were now turned on the Palestinian people. On 9 April 1948 the Irgun, led by Menachem Begin, conducted the massacre of Deir Yassin, when the Zionists butchered 254 Arab men, women and children in cold blood. This was only a particularly gruesome example from a genocidal wave of terror which drove 900,000 of the 1,300,000 Arab population out of Palestine, and left the Zionists holding 77% of the land.

SUEZ 1956

With their state established, the Zionists began to threaten the countries bordering their statelet, carrying out repeated attacks on them. When the Egyptian leader Nasser requested arms from the United States to defend his country, he was told he could have them provided that he joined the US puppet states in the anti-Soviet Baghdad pact. Nasser refused

The British cheated us. They promised us freedom and instead we had the Mandate... they brought war to our land and made us homeless; you, the British, brought foreigners to Palestine and made us exiles. Now you, the British, and the rest of the Western world, say it is terror when our Palestinian fighters attack the Zionists. Our sons are not terrorists. They understand our tragedy. And we share their revolution. It is our revolution, the revolution of the old and young. Palestinian Village Leader

and negotiated for arms with Czechoslovakia. The US imperialists then withdrew finance from the Aswan Dam project, vital to irrigating the Egyptian land. On 26 July 1956, Nasser announced the nationalisation of the Suez canal; instead of its revenues going to enrich imperialists, they would be used to finance the Aswan Dam.

The British and French imperialists were up in arms. And so was the 'socialist' Labour Party which condemned the nationalisation as 'high-handed and totally unjustifiable'. A week later, Labour leader Gaitskell

likened Nasser to Hitler and Mussolini, and called on the government to supply the Zionists with British arms. Labour also made it clear that it did not rule out the use of force.

Despite weeks of imperialist wheeling and dealing, it became clear that Britain and France did not have the support of the USA to use force, while the socialist countries and oppressed nations were siding with Egypt. Labour became increasingly worried that the use of force might endanger imperialism's wider interests. This opposition was entirely limited to criticising the government's tactics, and had nothing to do with anti-imperialism.

One of the greatest factors in helping us to overcome our initial difficulties was the fact that from the first, since 1917, we constantly received encouragement from the British labour movement. Golda Meir

On September 12, Gaitskell told the Commons that:

'If the government do this, they will leave behind in the Middle East such a legacy of distrust and bitterness towards the West that the whole area will be thrust almost forcibly under Communist control. This is the greatest danger of all.'

The British and French secretly arranged for puppet Israel to invade Egypt at the end of October, so that they could intervene 'to keep the two sides apart' - in fact to attack the Egyptians. When the news of the British invasion broke, the Labour Party did not attack the violation of Egyptian freedom nor did it utter even a whisper against the slaughter of the Egyptian people. Instead it condemned the government for losing an opportunity to attack the socialist countries, threatened with counter-revolution in Hungary.

The British and French imperialists backed down after the US showed its opposition for its own imperialist reasons - and after the Soviet Union threatened Britain and France with rocket attack.

THE SIX DAY WAR

In the 1960s the Zionists staged a series of provocations against the Arab states. These reached a point where they could no longer be ignored, and Egypt, when she responded, was drawn into the carefully laid Zionist plans to occupy the Sinai and other territories. Nasser closed the Straits of Tiran on 22 May 1967. The British Labour Cabinet met the following day. According to Wilson, the Cabinet decided that:

'Though several ministers were committed friends of Israel and of Israeli leaders, we were all agreed to

urge the utmost restraint, at a very difficult time, on her.'

In fact, the Labourites had decided to give the Zionists full imperialist backing. The same day, Abba Eban flew to London:

'From the airport in London, I drove with Ambassador Remez to Downing Street...'

Wilson's reply was forthright. The Cabinet had met that morning and had reached a consensus that the policy of blockade must not be allowed to triumph; Britain would

join with others in an effort to open the Straits.'

Some 'restraint'? When George Thomson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, was dispatched to Washington, he was accompanied by a senior member of the naval staff in order to co-ordinate British plans to open the straits with the Pentagon.

Labour's plans to send a British-American naval force to sail through the Straits of Tiran had been delayed by the reluctance of the French imperialists to join in the adventure and was preempted by the Zionists' own attack on the Arab countries. Although the force never attempted to open the blockade, Labour had exhibited its usual enthusiasm for imperialist schemes. And this particular scheme had, without doubt, encouraged the Israelis to begin the Six-day war.

OCTOBER 1973 WAR

In his book *The Chariot of Israel*, Harold Wilson explains the Labour Opposition's reaction to the war of October 1973, waged by the Arab states against Israel, and which threatened to liberate the Occupied Territories from Zionist rule:

'It was Labour who provided all the activity. As soon as the news of the invasion became known I telephoned the Israeli Ambassador... I was in contact with him each day to hear of developments. The first thing he told me was that Mr Heath's Government had placed an embargo on the shipment of spares and ammunition to Israel needed for the Centurion tanks Britain had supplied when Labour had been in power. As soon as the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, returned to London, I went to No. 10 to press him to change Government policy on spares and ammunition. When he refused, James Callaghan and I took up the issue publicly.'

With such obliging support from the Zionist errand-boys of the Labour Party, it is a wonder that the Israelis bothered keeping their own Ambassador in London! Wilson goes on to quote the Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban:

'The decision of Edward Heath and his government in London came as a specially harsh blow... the British example affected other European countries... It was only when Harold Wilson's Labour Government came to power that the scar in our relations began to heal.'

CONCLUSION

This brief survey of recent Palestinian history shows Britain's responsibility for conceiving and nurturing the Zionist monster. It also exposes the key role consistently played by the Labour Party in this process throughout the entire period - at times even outdistancing the Zionists themselves. A golden testimony to services rendered by Labour comes from the late Zionist Prime Minister, Golda Meir:

'one of the greatest factors in helping us to overcome our initial difficulties was the fact that from the very first, since 1917, we constantly received encouragement from the British labour movement.'

The fact is that today's Labour Party is true to its history. It is thoroughly pro-Zionist and pro-imperialist. Some 120 Labour MPs are members of the Labour Friends of Israel. Among the Zionists are many of the so-called 'left', including Tony Benn and Eric Heffer. Another Labour MP is Greville Janner, who returned from a visit to Zionist occupied Lebanon, remarking that 'the soldiers' restraint has been remarkable'. Opportunists like this form the core of the Labour Party and determine its political standpoint. The wretchedly pro-imperialist Labour Party did not call a single demonstration during last summer's Zionist butchery in Lebanon. Surely that says it all?

Steve Palmer

R ~ E ~ V ~ I ~ E ~ W ~ S

■ One day in My Life by Bobby Sands. The Mercier Press, Dublin and Cork and Pluto Press, Britain, 1983, £2.90.

This is the book which the British-owned Easons chain of bookshops banned from its bookshelves while the editor of the green tory 'Irish Independent' newspaper had a favourable review literally ripped from the presses.

The book is about a typical day in an H-Block wing of Long Kesh POW camp where Bobby Sands was one of 400 Republican prisoners protesting at the removal of Special Category Status and the criminalisation policy of the British government. The day begins with a wing shift – a chance for the screws to beat up isolated prisoners and perform humiliating anal searches on them. The three hated screws on his wing are labelled 'A', 'B' and 'C' by the publisher to conceal their identities. 'A' is the psychological torturer 'on a constant ego trip', 'B' a sectarian bigot and drunkard, 'C' is the gutless sadist who enjoys torturing younger prisoners. The three are typical of the cowardly scum you will find lurking in any prison corridor but these being Loyalists in charge of Republican POWs they relish the task set them by their British masters – to break the prisoners' resistance and make them conform as ordinary criminals. The screws with their Loyalist orderlies licking at their heels used every method from petty harassment such as stealing the prisoners' food to systematic torture during cell searches, wing shifts and slop outs. The twisted minds of the prison administrators always thinking up new torments for their lackies to inflict on the prisoners, like boarding up cell windows to block out natural light and fresh air and then chucking buckets of suffocating ammonia-laden disinfectant under the cell doors.

Bobby gives a vivid description of conditions inside the cells where protesting prisoners endured the freezing cold wrapped only in a blanket while snow blew in through broken windows. The cell floor was perpetually wet with urine which soaked the mattress and the rubbish and excreta piled up in the corner where bluebottles would hatch their eggs. He describes waking up one morning under a carpet of wriggling larvae and how they provided a welcome feast for the birds outside. Conditions were worse in the punishment block. Bobby sees eighteen year old 'Pee Wee' O'Donnell being unmercifully savaged by screws during a cell search and dragged off to the punishment block for 'assaulting' one of his assailants. He remembers his experience there being forcibly scrubbed in an ice cold bath, beaten unconscious and starved for three days. Two weeks later he was again on the boards for 15 days – 'It was the same nightmare only multiplied by five'.

To have suffered one day in that hell hole would have been enough for most people but Bobby Sands and his comrades suffered five years of torture, nakedness, filth, disease and cold to smash the criminalisation policy. This book is a testimony to the courage and resolve of the Republican blanketmen, a courage which finally led Bobby Sands and nine of his comrades to sacrifice their lives during the heroic hunger strikes of 1981, thus exposing to the world the callous brutality and ignorant barbarity of British imperialism. The story does not end there, however. Republicans are still held in Armagh, Crumlin Road, Long Kesh and Magilligan, a serious crisis is developing in Portlaoise prison in the so-called Irish Republic while in Britain there are over 60 Irish POWs selflessly enduring more severe hardships – 6 of them innocent men framed for the Birmingham bombings and due to begin a hunger strike on 1 June. But Bobby Sands, always optimistic throughout his sufferings, ended his book with the appropriate Gaelic phrase – 'Tiocfaidh ár lá' (Our day will come). Indeed it will.

Niall Power

■ Underdeveloping Bangladesh: 255 years of British involvement by Tom Learmonth and Francis Rolt. Published by War on Want. £1.95

This excellent readable pamphlet is a clear and simple introduction to how British imperialism has for two and a half centuries mercilessly cheated, robbed and exploited the people of one country. Bangladesh today is one of the poorest nations of the world. Over 80% of the 100 million population live in terrible poverty and in a state of near-permanent starvation and famine. Three-quarters of Bangladeshi children under 3 years are severely malnourished. 50,000 children go blind every year from Vitamin A deficiency. The Bangladesh economy is entirely dependent on foreign, particularly British, multi-nationals, banks and governments. The authors show why this is so.

600 years ago an Arab traveller to the region wrote: 'This is a country of great extent, and one in which rice is extremely abundant. Indeed, I have seen no region of the earth in which provisions are so plentiful'. The wealth of Bengal attracted British traders, and by 1757, the British East India Company had by bribery, trickery and brute force begun to loot it on a massive scale. After only five years its thirst for profits had created a famine in which one-fifth to one-third of the population died. The textile weaving industry of the capital city, Dacca, was destroyed. Bengal became nothing more than a source of wealth, markets and raw materials for British imperialism. It was also used as a

springboard for British colonial expansion into India, China and South-East Asia.

British multi-national companies today (Unilever, Metal Box, ICI, Reckitt and Colman, GEC, Burmah Oil and many more) invest in Bangladesh and reap enormous profits. Fisons (UK) Ltd invested only £130,000 in 1965 – since then the firm has continually expanded, and in 1980 had a turnover of £3.8m. Many of these companies perpetrate massive frauds on the Bangladeshi people by marketing products that are useless and often dangerous. Mothers are urged to buy expensive baby milk powder, which frequently is over-diluted with contaminated water, causing diarrhoea, malnutrition and death. Robinson's Barley Water is advertised by Reckitt and Colman as a baby food, with appalling consequences. British drug companies make huge profits from selling tonics, elixirs and vitamin drinks that have been proved to be medically useless. Drugs banned in Britain are sold freely without warnings or instructions – many of them cause death if administered improperly.

British companies today still control most of the tea plantations that were set up in the 19th century. While companies like James Finlay and Co made £6m profit in 1979, the tea plantation workers are used as a virtual slave labour force. They are paid 20p per day or less, have no health facilities and are forced to live in mud and straw houses. Finlays donated £2,500 to the Conservative Party in 1979.

One of the most valuable sections of the pamphlet is its analysis of how so-called 'aid' to Bangladesh is nothing more than a cover for British governments to extend and deepen the impoverishment of the Bangladeshi masses. Under the guise of 'helping the poor', British governments channel large amounts of money through the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) – an arm of the Civil Service. Most of this so-called 'aid' is in fact diverted to the coffers of the corrupt and rich Bangladeshi elite who use it to better their own already decadent lifestyles. Between 1979 and 1981 less than 1% of the ODA's £80m expenditure on Bangladesh has actually been spent there. It has been used to import British goods and pay for the salaries of the hordes of so-called 'experts', who have built well-paid careers on the backs of the people's sufferings. An ODA booklet makes clear Britain's real intentions – 'British industrial and commercial considerations are taken into account before decisions are made'. British firms thus make even greater profits, while Bangladesh becomes even more dependent on these firms for equipment and spare parts.

On behalf of British imperialism, a brutal military regime suppresses all popular and democratic opposition to ensure 'stability'. Both Labour and Conservative governments have enthusiastically given military aid to the Bangladesh army and police. British Army officers, some from the SAS Regiment, train the Bangladesh military in counter-insurgency techniques. With British help the Bangladesh army have carried out genocidal massacres against the mainly Buddhist tribal people in the Chittagong Hills area, who have resisted the forcible seizure of their lands. Is it mere coincidence that Shell has signed a \$60m agreement to prospect for oil in the Chittagong Hills?

In February of 1983 progressive students and their allies staged an uprising against the hated military ruler Lt Gen Ershad, demanding an end to martial law and attacks on education. The military responded by jailing over 1,000 opposition leaders and killing demonstrators. Despite this repression, the time is near for a mass democratic peoples' movement to take the stage and boot out both the bloated British imperialists and their corrupt local puppets.

Bill Hughes

■ Independent Kenya by Anonymous Kenyan Authors Zed Press, 1982, £5.95

Kenya, achieved political independence from Britain in 1963. Yet 20 years later the anonymous Kenyan authors of *Independent Kenya* write:

"Independence" in Kenya has led to the looting and squandering of our resources, and the virtual silencing of our people. It had led to increasing misery and impoverishment for the many. Aspirations for better lives under Uhuru have been betrayed by predatory politicians who talk of "nation building" while fattening on the nation's wealth and people's labour. (pX1)

This book supplies a Marxist communist analysis of the causes for this situation.

During the 1950s, under the leadership of the Mau Mau – The Land and Freedom Army – Kenya's peasants and workers fought bitterly to free themselves from the barbaric social and political oppression of British imperialism. To defeat this mass popular and armed movement British imperialism combined the tactics of ruthless repression and bribery. It created a dependent African middle-class and petit-bourgeoisie who identified their interests with capitalism and imperialism and acted as lackeys in the struggle against the popular movement. In the 1950s Colonial Governor Mitchel and Labour Colonial Secretary Crech Jones relaxed colonial laws to allow the development of a small group of African capitalist farmers. In addition an African 'petit-bourgeoisie' of shopkeepers, skilled workers, government clerks etc, a group with access to higher incomes than most of their countrymen' (p40) was brought into being. From this strata dependent on British imperialism emerged

the Loyalists and the bourgeois wing of the national liberation movement who collaborated in the suppression of the Mau Mau.

British imperialism, in alliance with the Loyalists, suppressed the Mau Mau social and national liberation struggle with unrestrained brutality. Dedan Kimathi the great popular leader of workers and peasants was captured and killed. 30,000 Kenyan patriots were murdered and hundreds of thousands thrown into gaol and concentration camps. In the towns revolutionary workers, and their main leader Markham Singh were rounded up and replaced by pliant US trained 'trade unionists' like Tom Mboya who opposed trade union involvement in politics.

Having suppressed the popular masses, British imperialism legalised the bourgeois wing of the liberation movement. The Kenyan African National Union was formed under the leadership of Jomo Kenyatta to advance the narrow class interests of this emerging dependent bourgeoisie. In return KANU actively assisted the further isolation of the revolutionary wing of the liberation movement. In the early 60s it helped destroy the Kiama Kia Muingi (KKM) peasant organisation which was committed to a revolutionary resolution of the land question – the touchstone of Kenya's liberation struggle.

When independence came in 1963 KANU formed the government. It was the vehicle of

'a puffed up African middle class, a group of nascent grabbers and looters whose prosperity grew out of treachery to our people... They share with foreigners an interest in stamping out the revolutionary energy of our people. They could be trusted to make "independence" safe for the continued operations of international capital.'

Indeed! Today 125 US conglomerates, British, Japanese, German and Scandinavian companies control Kenya's economy. Imperialist companies such as Del Monte and Brooke Bond own vast tracts of land cultivating tea, coffee, sugar and fruit for export while 66% of Kenya's peasantry is either landless or does not have enough land to live off. Agricultural workers earn a mere £20 a month and regard tea with sugar as a luxury. What meagre industry there is is dominated by multinationals such as Firestone, Unilever and Union Carbide paying starvation wages. In the towns thousands upon thousands are unemployed, driven into poverty and squalor in Nairobi's shanty towns. Meanwhile Kenya's foreign debt has quadrupled to over £800m since 1963 and KANU willingly abides by IMF and World Bank dictates to ban strikes and curb wages.

In return for the fat profits it makes, imperialism has allowed the tiny African bourgeoisie to grow immensely wealthy. Through its control of KANU this bourgeoisie has accumulated wealth by corruption, nepotism, speculation and theft. Allowed to indulge in the worst and most decadent of imperialist pleasures, this bourgeoisie has acted to defend imperialist interests by suppressing all democratic and popular opposition. Radical MPs like J. M. Kariuki are murdered. Communist writers like Ngugi wa Thiong'o are detained and forced into exile. Peasant uprisings are suppressed by British and Israeli trained GSU units and workers strikes for a living wage are banned and their leaders imprisoned. Following the 1 August 1982 attempted coup and the brief popular movement of workers and students which followed, over 2,000 Kenyan people were murdered by the KANU led counter-revolutionary GSU and army units.

The authors of *Independent Kenya* conclude their devastating attack on neo-colonial Kenya by recognising that the struggle for social and political liberation must be led by the workers and peasants and directed both against imperialism and the new Kenyan bourgeoisie. They raise the banner of the class struggle against imperialism and all its local agents.

Eddie Abrahams

■ Gandhi Richard Attenborough. 1983. 188 minutes

The film *Gandhi* opens with a spectacular view of Gandhi's funeral in New Delhi in 1948. It is at this point that you realise that Richard Attenborough's film cost millions of pounds to produce – and you do not forget it for the next 188 minutes. It is a lousy film. It is boring, in the way only a film which concentrates on one man can be. Its message is a complete distortion of both Gandhi's role in South Africa against the early pass laws introduced by the British, and the later struggle for Indian independence from British rule. It is a lie of historic proportions – Indian independence was achieved by millions of people in struggle, not by one man with pretensions to saintliness.

Neither is the film the product of 20 years dedication on the part of Richard Attenborough to 'the spirit of Gandhi' – non-violence, self-discipline and self-denial. It is a film with a political purpose. The Indian government led by Indira Gandhi (no relation) backed the film to the tune of £2.5 million. Mrs Gandhi vetted the screenplay and saw the film before it was finally edited. Its purpose is to create a myth about the struggle for independence, and on a wider scale, a myth about how humanity changes society. The bourgeoisie would prefer us to believe that history is made by the individual great figure advocating non-violence, not by the courage of the masses of oppressed people against vicious, tyrannical rule. *Gandhi* is

dedicated to Lord Mountbatten, one of the biggest imperialist blackguards of all time.

It would be impossible in this short article to recount all the lies and half-truths told by the film. I will give just a few examples.

In 1907 the Transvaal government in South Africa planned to introduce pass laws for Indians. All Indian men, women and children over 8, were required to register, be finger-printed and carry a registration certificate at all times. If they were caught without it they could be fined, imprisoned or deported from the Transvaal. The Indian population was incensed and Gandhi attended a mass meeting where all those present pledged that they would not register under any circumstances.



Gandhi leans on the shoulder of Lady Mountbatten as they enter the Viceregal Lodge, New Delhi

In January 1908 Gandhi was arrested and gaoled for failing to register. Three weeks later he was taken to see Smuts and he negotiated a compromise. Smuts proposed that the Indians register voluntarily instead of compulsorily. Smuts insisted that unless the Indians registered there would be no check on Indian immigration and the State might be inundated with unwanted Asiatics. Gandhi accepted this and told a public meeting that 'we do not intend to bring a single Indian into the Transvaal surreptitiously or by fraud'.

Attenborough glosses over Gandhi's collaboration with the racists, as indeed he does throughout the film. An Indian stood up at the same public meeting to challenge Gandhi's statement. He said 'We have heard that you have betrayed the community and sold it to General Smuts for fifteen thousand pounds. We will never give the finger prints nor allow others to do so. I swear with Allah as my witness that I will kill the man who takes the lead in applying for registration'. Gandhi was severely beaten up by fellow Indians when he tried to register. And of course Smuts in the end refused to hold to his promise and compulsory registration became law. Don't expect the film to tell you that.

In April 1919, in India Gandhi called off the civil disobedience campaign against British rule when violence broke out in many major cities and small towns. He said '...I have just heard that some English gentlemen have been injured. Some may even have died from such injuries. If so it would be a great blot on Satyagraha (non-violent, civil disobedience). For me, Englishmen too are our brethren'. On 13 April the British, under the leadership of Brigadier General Dyer, murdered 379 Sikh men and women, and wounded 1,137, at a peaceful open-air meeting in the city of Amritsar in the Punjab. In the film the uprisings in the cities are portrayed as the actions of mindless mobs. The Amritsar massacre is followed by the interval for ice-cream. Dyer is portrayed as an isolated maniac, not as the servant of British imperialism.

Gandhi, despite his pretensions to humility, came from a wealthy merchant family and was educated as a lawyer in Britain, as were so many of India's nationalist elite. The Indian Congress Party, with Gandhi as its leading figure, fulfilled the role the bourgeoisie always plays in the struggle for national liberation. Their main concern is that they are deprived of their right to prosper as a ruling class. When the struggle which they are part of looks as if it will go beyond their own ends under the leadership of the masses, they back down. They do all in their power to betray the struggle. This is what Gandhi did throughout his political career. Despite his fancy disguise of special diet, pacifism, mysticism and concern for the untouchable caste, he never once betrayed his bourgeois origins. When Gandhi said the British were his brethren he meant it. With Gandhi at their head, the aspiring Indian bourgeoisie could be sure that the working class and the peasants would never be allowed to organise themselves independently, nor would the struggle for independence take a working class direction.

The India we see today, under the corrupt leadership of Mrs Gandhi, is Gandhi's true inheritance. The unions are corrupt, the government is corrupt. Industry is undeveloped, the masses of people starve and die of disease, the untouchables are still a downtrodden caste.

Richard Attenborough wanted to go to South Africa to an all-white premiere of his film in the spirit of Gandhi's tradition. He was correct in one thing. It would have been in the tradition of Gandhi to ignore the wishes of 22 million black people in South Africa, for the sake of a false ideal.

Carol Brown

Grenadian Prime Minister MAURICE BISHOP IN LONDON

One thousand five hundred mainly black people packed Kensington Town Hall on Saturday 16 April to greet Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of the Peoples Revolutionary Government of Grenada. To the cheers and applause of his audience Comrade Bishop delivered a two hour speech of searing clarity which closely analysed the links between the capitalist crisis, the horrifying impoverishment of the oppressed nations, the imperialist attack on progressive movements and socialist countries and the need to unite all democratic and revolutionary forces in struggle if the assault is to be defeated and the future secured.

Showing exemplary solidarity in the anti-imperialist struggle the Grenadian High Commission invited the Nicaraguan ambassador and a representative of the FMLN/FDR revolutionary fighters of El Salvador to share the platform. Alongside the audience's fraternal rejoinders messages of solidarity were delivered to the meeting from the African National Congress (South Africa), striking BL Cowley workers and FRFI.

CAPITALIST CRISIS: DISASTER FOR THE OPPRESSED

With stark figures Comrade Bishop spelled out the unprecedented toll that the capitalist crisis is having upon the oppressed underdeveloped nations. With the US economy shrinking by 1.7% last year and Britain's by 3.5% in the last three years, resulting in 35 million people unemployed in the developed capitalist countries imperialism is forcing its problems onto the oppressed nations. The prices of their food and raw material exports are being forced down relative to a rise in the prices of the manufactured goods they import from the imperialist nations. For example, Grenada must now sell five times as much nutmeg, its principle export crop, to buy an imported car or tractor as it had to six years ago. The underdeveloped economies have lost \$85 billion of purchasing power in the last three years. As a result of this increased exploitation Comrade Bishop explained that the oppressed nations had been driven to loans in order to buy even the minimal requirements for their economies. Last year they were soaked with over \$600 billion of debt for which the imperialist banks are paid an enormous \$151 billion in interest payments. Increasingly, the IMF and World Bank who coordinate the plunder have demanded that loans be tied to the destruction of welfare services, health care, education and food subsidies in the oppressed nations. British banks have even attempted to tie loans up with Grenadian farmers' incomes used as security, as if they could ransom the land.

Hand in hand with this dire indebtedness imperialism is directly responsible for the mass starvation which results from its policies: 20 million children die from malnutrition every year; 800 million people go to bed hungry every night; and almost half of all adults in Africa, Asia and Latin America are held in illiteracy.

GRENADA BUILDS - IMPERIALISM ATTACKS

The experiences of Grenada show that the purpose of imperialism's huge armory is to keep the oppressed in absolute misery and crush all their attempts to haul themselves out of it. What makes Ronald Reagan 'blue mad', said Comrade Bishop, were the achievements of Grenada since the 1979 revolution: the 5.5% growth last year, 15% growth since throwing out Gairy and neo-colonialism and the reduction of unemployment to a quarter of its pre-revolutionary levels. (see FRFI Nos 27 & 28).



Grenada now has free health care, free education, and villages that for three centuries of British colonial rule had never seen such things, now have firm roads, clean running water, electricity and decent housing. However, for Grenada's neighbours still suffering under the multi-nationals and their local stooges the threat of starvation and abject poverty looms as jobs are taken away, trade union rights written away and their so-called 'democracy' where the oppressed 'put a cross for 5 seconds every 5 years' gives them no real rights to defend themselves with at all. Comrade Bishop said that 'the Caribbean people are uptight about these attacks on their rights won by centuries of toil and struggle' and they are looking at revolutionary Grenada and they are beginning to ask questions. We heard of the string of lies which the imperialists use to legitimise their economic sabotage and military preparations against Grenada. The tales of rockets pointed at neighbouring islands, floating pontoons under Grenada itself, the submarine base and worst of all the new international airport for holiday makers that was really a launching pad for an attack on the United States! 'Little Grenada has become a superpower' Prime Minister Bishop mocked. Then, of course, there was the spyplane evidence from invasions of Grenadian airspace showing the 'sophisticated military airbase' through telephoto lenses. Meanwhile, US tourists armed to the teeth with instamatics make a regular point of visiting the tourist airport under construction to take pictures themselves and ABC TV comes down to make it a party! Because of his obsessive interest in it Comrade Bishop wondered if they should not name it 'Ronald Reagan Airport'. 'Having got licks with the airport', said the Prime Minister, the imperialists found 'a sophisticated Soviet-style obstacle course', then an impressive 'sophisticated barracks' (whatever that is!) and he quite expected them to produce a finally damning set of photos showing Grenadian troops in sophisticated underwear!

SOLIDARITY AND STRUGGLE

While this farce is served up to the US and British people the imperialists are launching an all-out offensive on Grenada and Nicaragua. Comrade Bishop said that if they attack 'they will not find Grenadians asleep but an alert, con-

scious and vigilant people. He urged us to play our part for our own sakes. We must work to prepare for that 'decisive response' on the side of democracy and liberation, for victory in the Caribbean and Central America is a victory in the fight for democracy and against oppression in Britain.

In a rousing farewell Comrade Bishop warned the imperialists that Grenada was in no one's backyard, that it was in its own lake, and that the Grenadian people pledged their solidarity with the oppressed people in Britain. To the shouts of 'Victory to the FMLN', 'Victory to SWAPO and the ANC', 'Long Live Revolutionary Nicaragua', 'Long Live Revolutionary Angola', Comrade Bishop led us forward in the struggle knowing that great victories can be won and their gains must be safeguarded against the desperate and frenzied imperialists.

**Forward Ever, Backward Never!
Long Live Revolutionary Grenada!**

Trevor Rayne

FOR NICARAGUA AT WAR

You who trampled truth in Chile rode roughshod over rights in Haiti bulletted ballots in Jamaica burnt two year olds in Vietnam tried to murder Fidel more than fifty times you with your two-gun kid psychology computerized technology F15s and M16s body count and overkill, now dare threaten one more time a peoples sovereignty?	We are not the fools you think us to be sitting idly sipping rum. We have learnt your ways your lies your treachery, we have dug our trenches deep, oiled our AKs loaded extra magazines and when you push your ugly head over the hills will blast it off bury your body deep in the rich soil, plow the earth, plant green peas: and our children will sip peas soup under our flag and over your corpse, singing songs of victory
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by Brian Meeks. Taken from the 'Grenadian People'.

non-aligned summit

The representatives of 2 billion of the most oppressed peoples of the world - the 101 states of the non-aligned movement - met in New Delhi in March and gave the most striking confirmation that their movement has embarked upon a determined, anti-imperialist course.

The 7th Summit Conference of the non-aligned movement gave notice to imperialism that a unified, powerful new force is emerging in world politics, at a time when one quarter of the Third World's people are under or unemployed, when 1000 million live in extreme poverty, and when every year 40 million - half of them children - die of starvation.

The member states showed their recognition that the source of this oppression is the imperialist stranglehold on the world economy. In particular member states vented full fury on the major props of this system of exploitation in the Third World: racist South Africa and Israel. The illegal occupation of Namibia by the 'notorious outlaw' South Africa, its aggression against its own people, and against Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Lesotho were condemned by all states. The US was accused of complicity in the genocidal war waged by Israel against the people of Palestine and Lebanon, and a unanimous declaration was made against Reagan's war on the peoples of Central America. Britain was condemned for its aggression against Argentina, and by Sam Nujoma of SWAPO for its role in the Western Contact Group 'clearly devised to rescue Pretoria from its isolation'. An attempt at an anti-Soviet motion on Afghanistan was massively defeated with only 5 of the 101 states voting for it.

On the economic front, the non-aligned countries determined to oppose the 'conditionality' imposed on loans made by the IMF and World Bank to indebted nations; that is to say, the conditions by which a nation must starve its people and throw them out of work in order to regain 'profitability'. Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of revolutionary Grenada, proposed that nations use their debt as an economic weapon by threatening to default and force a collapse of the world banking system if demands for unconditional aid were not

met. It was agreed that nations should renegotiate stringent debt repayments by acting collectively against the banks.

The greater unity, defiance and sense of purpose shown by the 7th Summit was most forcefully expressed by Fidel Castro, the outgoing Chairman in his keynote address.



The 2 hour long speech was packed with statistics indicating the crimes of the imperialists; it ranged over every subject of concern to oppressed peoples: the problem of building unity; the intense world economic crisis which hits the poor nations hardest of all; US military expansionism, the threat of holocaust, and the criminal expenditure of \$650,000 million on arms each year.

Castro spoke against South African and Israeli aggression, against the British attack on Argentina, US threats of war on Cuba and Grenada, and actual war in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Above all he demanded a struggle against the economic destitution forced on the Third World, and its attendant problems of unemployment, illiteracy, ill-health and premature death.

Fidel Castro spoke of the achievements of the liberated countries in overcoming these immense problems, and the way in which 'the imperialists boil in the face of a small, hard-working country, that leads a humble and dignified life, such as Cuba'.

On the interrelation of all struggles against imperialism he said,

'The very same people who turn military superiority into a prerequisite for negotiations; the very same people who attempt to turn Europe, dozens of times devastated by war, into another territory planted with nuclear missiles; the very same people who raise their military budgets at the expense of their peoples' social security, education, medical care, and international development assistance, are those who establish strategic alliances with Israel, build up that country and make it more arrogant and self-confident; who ally themselves with South Africa in order to act on the continent to further their economic interests and military strategy, who, in order to perpetuate their exploitation and control over Central America and the Caribbean, intentionally distort the drama resulting from the poverty and backwardness of those peoples, presenting it as part of the East-West conflict.'

And on the means of overcoming such enormous problems:

'In the face of the nuclear tragedy threatening us, the drama of underdevelopment and exploitation that oppresses us, and the economic and social crisis that plagues us, there is no place for resignation or accommodation. The only solution in keeping with man's stature is TO STRUGGLE.'

This speech should be more widely reproduced, for it contains a mass of experience, knowledge and information. It ends with this defiant statement:

'We have never been characterised by resignation, submission or defeatism in the face of difficulties... We have strived together, we have struggled together and together we have scored victories. In this same spirit and with this same determination, we must be ready to wage the most colossal, just, worthy and necessary battle for our peoples' lives and futures.'

William Grey

IN BRIEF

● Ghana

Since the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) headed by Jerry Rawlings took state power in December 1981 swearing to rid the country of neo-colonialism, it has faced four coup attempts, three since last October. Ghana has been drained of its wealth by multinationals like BP, Lonrho and Reynolds Metals which generate a corrupt elite of government officials who encourage the smuggling of Ghana's gold, diamonds and cocoa while helping themselves to state funds and making a habit of bribery. Two thirds of government spending is regularly consumed by this privileged caste. This situation is typical of surrounding West African states.

Under the PNDC People's and Workers' Defence Committees have been formed to fight corruption and provide welfare services. Struggling for self-determination and to wrest resources back from the multinationals' clutches, the government has declared plans to nationalise the major corporations. Imperialism's response has been to combine economic sabotage with a flurry of CIA activity. Multinationals have sacked workers and withheld loans; industry is running at less than a fifth of its capacity and Ghana's shops are barren of household and farmers' goods. The CIA, along with Israeli intelligence officers based in Zaire, are forming mercenary bands stationed in neighbouring Ivory Coast. The CIA officer who designed the 1966 overthrow of Nkrumah is reported back in Accra, this time using tensions resulting from the arrival of a million refugees from Nigeria to fan the embers of tribal discord in the Ghanaian Army.

Meanwhile, states the *Ghanaian Times*, these counter-revolutionary operations are being coordinated with the misnamed 'Campaign for Democracy in Ghana', headed by Major Boakye-Dan and based in London.

Trevor Rayne

● Lies about Ethiopia

Last month the *Sunday Times* ran a sensational story claiming that food aid from the EEC to Ethiopia was being bartered for arms from the Soviet Union. Immediate moves were begun by imperialist politicians to suspend all aid to the country. The story broke at a critical moment: appalling drought has destroyed the crops leaving some three million people on the verge of starvation. There is only some 15,000 tonnes of grain in the emergency stockpile - enough for only a few weeks.

On 14 April, Edgard Pisani, the EEC Development Aid Commissioner confirmed that there was no evidence to support the story, and that food aid was being properly managed and reaching the people. Oxfam and Save the Children Fund have corroborated his report.

Once again it has been shown how the greedy lying vultures of Fleet Street make their fat salaries at the expense of the very lives of oppressed people.

● Riots in Brazil

One man was killed by the police and hundreds arrested following demonstrations and riots by the unemployed and shanty town dwellers in the main industrial city of Sao Paulo. Rioters looted shops, fought with police and broke down the railings surrounding the Governor's mansion.

The riots are a spontaneous response to the increased misery inflicted on the working class by the government, acting on behalf of imperialist banks and the International Monetary Fund. Austerity measures to ensure repayment of international debts has pushed unemployment towards the 30% mark and increased inflation to over 10% per month. The middle-class 'oppositionist' Governor claimed that right-wing provocateurs were responsible, and announced limited relief measures, after unleashing the police on the demonstrators.

However, candy-coated lies will not deflect the masses from struggle against the Brazilian military regime and the opportunists. Latest figures show that Brazil cannot deliver the loot demanded by the banks and IMF, heralding further austerity - and further rebellion.

Steve Palmer

REAGAN AND CENTRAL AMERICA

In preparation for a major escalation of US aggression against the Central American revolution, and in the face of growing opposition in the USA, President Reagan addressed a joint Congress meeting on 28 April. The sense of imperialist desperation and crisis was evident:

'The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America. If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble and the safety of our homeland would be in jeopardy.'

Beating the drum of anti-communism, Reagan sought to win approval for further military aid to the crumbling regime in El Salvador and for \$600m aid to fascist regimes in Central America for 1984. The day before he had declared that the USA:

'... can no longer ignore the fire that is burning in our own front-yard. The peoples of this hemisphere are all Americans, and all of us share a vital stake in a future of democracy and freedom...'

What Reagan lacks in intellect and sophistication he well makes up with anti-communism, astounding imperialist arrogance and hypocrisy.

Imperialism is indeed accustomed to treating oppressed nations as 'its front-yard'. British imperialism does so in the Six Counties, US imperialism in Central America and the Caribbean. But the people of Nicaragua refused to be the USA's frontyard! They threw out US imperialist puppet Somoza and began burning away the heritage of imperialist 'democracy and freedom' which meant 40% unemployment, 46 per 1,000 infant mortality, 57% illiteracy and misery, poverty and oppression for workers and peasants but massive wealth for US multinationals and the local bourgeoisie. Far from 'ignoring' these progressive and revolutionary developments, US imperialism has spent millions of dollars in Honduras where the CIA and the US ambassador



Sandinista women's militia

to Honduras have trained and equipped counter-revolutionary bands. These bands are now engaged in a major military offensive to try and overthrow the revolutionary Sandinista government. In the words of a US politician:

'Women and children are being kidnapped, tortured and killed by terrorists financed by American taxpayers.'

Yet Reagan hypocritically declared to the Congressional meeting:

'We should not and will not protect the Nicaraguan government from the anger of its own people.'

The real people of Nicaragua recognise Reagan's 'people' for what they are - defeated remnants of Nicaragua's puppet bourgeoisie. A peasant mother speaks of them as 'the same animals' as Somoza. In response to US organised counter-revolution the Nicaraguan government has called on the people to take to the streets:

FPL leaders dead

Two of El Salvador's outstanding communist leaders are dead. Commander Ana Maria, 54, deputy leader of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) and member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command was brutally murdered in Managua on 6 April. Six days later Salvador Cayetano Carpio, 63, founder of the FPL and also member of the FMLN General Command committed suicide on hearing that his comrade in arms was murdered by agents who had infiltrated the FPL.

The death of Ana Maria and Salvador Cayetano Carpio is a great loss to El Salvador's working class and popular masses. Fascist President Magana gleefully declared 'This is going to change a lot of things' and predicted disarray among the revolutionary forces. What a fool! The only disarray to be observed is among the forces of imperialism and its puppets - Magana included. Since April 12 the FMLN has intensified its military offensives. The revolutionary organisation and broad unity that Ana Maria and Carpio played such a role in building will survive their passing because it was built within, alongside, and in unity with the masses.

'... carrying your rifles, machetes, clubs and any other weapon to show the ability of the Nicaraguan people to defend themselves against aggressions planned by Mr Reagan.'

The people of El Salvador are also engaged in fighting against US 'democracy' which for them means only 16% of the population has full time employment, 75% of the children under 5 suffer severe malnutrition, in San Salvador 50% of workers live in mud or tin shacks and 60% of the fertile land is owned by 14 families whilst thousands of peasant families starve. Since Reagan



Sandinistas search out counter-revolutionaries

came to power, El Salvador's fascist regime has received \$700m aid, and massacred over 36,000 people in the most brutal and horrific ways. Yet as this barbarous regime disintegrates under the blows of the FMLN, Reagan is desperately trying to persuade Congress to grant further military assistance. Speaking to the press, Reagan stated:

'We have always taken for granted friendly, independent neighbours.'

These 'friendly', 'independent' neighbours are the fascist regimes of El Salvador and Guatemala. US imperialism has been able to take such neighbours for 'granted' by the use of force and violence against the people of the region. Since 1900, US troops have mounted 20 invasions to try and destroy progressive and truly independent governments or movements in Nicaragua, Honduras,

Panama, Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Today in the face of severe blows, US imperialism, under the banner of anti-communism, is once again preparing for direct military intervention to smash popular movements for democracy and freedom. Reagan's attempts to restore Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba as 'frontyards' for US imperialism will fail as will his attempts to crush the revolutionary movement in El Salvador. The people of Central America, and all oppressed peoples throughout the world, refuse to be imperialism's 'frontyard'. Revolutionaries and democrats in Britain demand an end to US intervention in Central America, and declare their solidarity with the struggling masses in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Grenada.

Eddie Abrahams

INTERNATIONAL JET-SET BANKING

Capitalism thrives upon the degradation and suffering of the poor just as it fears their pride and organisation. Today its transnational banks have spawned a flourishing new trade out of the huge debts which trap and impoverish the oppressed nations. From London, Paris and New York a new breed of jet-set bankers swarm the skies offering what they neatly term 'the export of financial know-how' to the multiplying numbers of debt-ridden regimes. 'Everyone's trying to get into the business', said a London banker, whose 'know-how' fetches a million pounds a time.

Leading the field in this scramble are the London based banks SG Warburg and Morgan Grenfell. Their services include introducing client state officials to a steady flow of companies that are interested in low wage rates and the tax concessions on offer, or they may suggest a gamble of state revenues at the world currency and Euro-dollar casino. However, their stock-in-trade is in using their 'know-how' to convince their clients that the food subsidies, welfare and educational services upon which the poor depend really should be dispensed with if the banks are to be paid on time and their profits are to set new records.

Of course, the clients slide remorselessly towards bankruptcy, like Bolivia and Guyana, but for the bankers it proves to be both a lucrative and pleasurable interlude. One World Bank official commented that 'A lot of these bankers swoop into a country for a day or two and do their homework on the airplane'. *Institutional Investor* magazine reveals in a poll which hotels these jet-borne parasites prefer to spend their few days in. Understandably, being a major banking capital for the

imperialist world and having a ruling class that has long lavished itself in grand imperial splendour, London boasts five of the top forty hotels listed. However, many bankers found that the accommodation and services provided by the Asian and Latin American hotels was more to their liking, with the 'Oriental' of Bangkok topping the poll.

As they lounge in their hotel suites these carriers of the modern plague look out upon an oppressed world where the most defenceless of the poor are paying with their lives for the bankers' luxury jaunts. Each child born into the underdeveloped economies is bridled with a \$260 debt while 800 million of their parents have an annual income of less than \$150. So it is that forty thousand children die each day from malnutrition, and that in Bangkok the International Labour Organisation estimates there are some two hundred thousand young people forced into prostitution, many sold into the trade by their destitute parents at twelve years of age.

Trevor Rayne

Sean Mac Stiofain Interview PRESS LIES

During the last week of March Irish and British press reports announced that Sean Mac Stiofain, ex-IRA Chief-of-Staff had called upon the IRA to proclaim a ceasefire and stated that Sinn Fein should join the All-Ireland Forum advocated by Garret FitzGerald, the 26 County State Prime Minister. To check these reports FRFI phoned Sean Mac Stiofain. The reports were a calculated attempt to counter, by distortion and falsification, a principled political intervention by Sean Mac Stiofain in the debate on the proposed All-Ireland Forum.

In Ireland, a lively discussion is taking place on the Forum. An Irish language newspaper *Inniu* therefore interviewed Sean Mac Stiofain on the subject as he had advocated an all-Ireland forum in the early '70s. In the interview, Sean Mac Stiofain stated that Sinn Fein could consider the Forum seriously *if* it was a sincere and honest attempt for an all-Ireland discussion to eliminate the 26 County State, the 6 County Statelet and replace them by a united 32 County Republic. Further, the Forum could be judged as sincere and honest only if it was really an All-Ireland Forum which extended invitations to Sinn Fein, the IRSP, the trade union movement and the unemployed alongside other political forces. In addition, Sean MacBride and not FitzGerald should take charge of the Forum. Under such circumstances, Sean Mac Stiofain expressed the view, Sinn Fein could participate in the Forum, and the IRA could consider a 'temporary suspension of offensive operations.' However, the IRA could only suspend, temporarily, offensive operations, if the British army ceased its harassment of the nationalist community. And, in any case, the IRA would have to put its entire resources into readiness for defensive action against an upsurge of inevitable Loyalist sectarian attacks which would follow the formation of such an All-Ireland Forum.

Subsequently Sean Mac Stiofain told the nationalist community paper *Andersonstown News*

'I never used the word "ceasefire"... it is not my business to call for a ceasefire. That decision lies with the leaders of the Republican Movement who understand what they are doing... As long as the British are in Ireland the war must go on.'

Nevertheless the media distortion and falsification began with a sloppy translation of the initial Irish language interview. The Irish word for temporary suspension of operations was translated into 'ceasefire'. The English language Irish press, followed by the press in Britain, then chopped, distorted and reversed Sean Mac Stiofain's remarks

STOP PRESS

On Saturday 1 May 800 marched in Birmingham in a demonstration organised by Sinn Fein to commemorate the second anniversary of Bobby Sands' death. In addition to Sinn Fein the demonstration was supported by a 200 strong contingent of ISCs from Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, East, West, North and South London, as well as the RCG, RCL and Bristol TOM. Others present were from ISF - Iran, the OIPFG, South London TOM, the Pakistani Workers Association, the Indian Workers Association, Nottingham and Birmingham Solidarity Groups, the IFM, Workers Power and Red Action.

At the end speakers from Ireland, including a representative from Sinn Fein addressed the rally and messages of solidarity were read out from the RCG, RCL and IFM. The chair ended the rally calling for a united solidarity movement.

and publicised him as calling for an IRA ceasefire to be followed by Sinn Fein participation in the Forum.

The purpose of this wanton and unscrupulous distortion is self-evident. Sean Mac Stiofain's interview exposed the charade of FitzGerald's 'All-Ireland Assembly'. The majority of the Irish people were not invited to attend. Sinn Fein, the IRSP, the unemployed and trade union movement were all excluded. On the other hand, the SDLP, Loyalist organisations and other reactionary forces had an open invitation. As it stood, the FitzGerald Forum proposed only to gain him some republican credentials and bolster the flagging fortunes of the SDLP. At best it could only serve to confuse people, at worst it would become a Forum to discuss the suppression of the Irish working class and liberation movement. Sean Mac Stiofain's presentation of the conditions for a truly All-Ireland Forum, which took into account the majority of the Irish people and the fact of British occupation, exposed the reactionary nature of FitzGerald's proposals. That is why it was distorted and falsified by the Irish-British press.

Eddie Abrahams

GILLESPIE SISTERS

The Home Secretary refused permission for the Gillespie sisters, Ann and Eileen, to attend the funeral of their father who was buried in Binnbeg, County Donegal on 18 April. The sisters are Irish POWs sentenced to 14 years in 1975 and are due to be released in August of this year. They have not seen their father for a number of years due to his long illness.

The Home Office refused compassionate parole on the grounds that British prison officers escorting them in the Irish Republic would have no authority in Ireland. This argument did not stop the arrest, trial and the imprisonment of Gerry Tuite in July last year for alleged offences committed in Britain!

The hypocrisy of the Dublin government was also exposed. A spokesman for the Irish government said

'While the reasons for the refusal are appreciated, it is nevertheless regretted that it was not possible for the British authorities to give greater weight to the humanitarian factors applying in this case.'

This is the same government that continually ill treats Republican prisoners in Portlaoise prison.

The same government that keeps Nicky Kelly imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. The same government that recently refused both Eamonn Nolan and Bill Hayes compassionate parole to see their mothers who are seriously ill after a car crash while they were on their way to see their sons in Portlaoise.

This case shows us once again what lengths British imperialism and its Free

COMMANDO HARASSMENT

The Royal Marine Commandos, well known for the brutal methods they use to defend British imperialism, are currently engaged in a three month 'tour' of South Armagh. During the past weeks the nationalist people of Armagh which includes Crossmaglen, face daily harassment, beatings, arrests and imprisonment at the hands of the men in Green berets.

Towards the end of March an 11 year old boy was thrown from his pony when a Commando at a checkpoint threw a spiked chain across the road. The boy escaped bruised and shaken. Not content, the brave Commandos later tripped up a seven year old boy in the Dundalk Road. The boy fell and was later detained in hospital overnight with concussion.

On 26 March two men left a bar in Crossmaglen when they were confronted by a group of Commandos. The two men were asked some questions before being told to move along. As they walked away they were attacked by the Commandos. The noise of the beatings brought people out of the bar. These people were also attacked by the soldiers. The baton wielding Commandos inflicted black eyes, swollen jaws, cuts, bruises and torn clothes on the nationalist men before dragging five of them off to Crossmaglen barracks. Two were later charged with assaulting a British soldier and an RUC man.

On 9 April the Royal Marine Commandos were back in action. This time they invaded a memorial to the H-Block Hunger Strikers at Fordscrass outside Crossmaglen. The Commandos dug up the 10 white crosses, a tricolour and an memorial plaque erected by Raymond McCreesh's brother which read,

'My brother is not a criminal'

When Sinn Fein's Jim McAllister went

to ask the Commandos why they had removed the memorial he was told 'It could have caused offence.'

On Easter Sunday a car carrying two men and their children was stopped by the Commandos at Cullyhanna the occupants of the car were threatened by a Commando waving a hammer.

Danny O'Callaghan is another youth from Crossmaglen who has been roughed up a number of times by the Commandos over the past few weeks. His father was stopped on 10 April by a Commando patrol and was told 'We'll have something for Danny the next time we meet him.'

Jim Mallon of Rathview Park, Crossmaglen has also been on the end of Commando harassment. At the beginning of April they slashed his car tyres. Then on 16 April Mallon refused to open his boot and take out his spare tyre at a Commando checkpoint. For this he was arrested and taken to the local RUC barracks. Two days later a Commando patrol drove past Jim's house denting the bodywork of his car in a number of places.

Having failed to defeat the Republican Movement both politically and militarily, British imperialism's so-called 'Professional Army' with its deflated morale is turning its energy to intimidation in an effort to undermine the victories of the nationalist people.

Alan James



Ann and Eileen Gillespie

Alan James

IRA ATTACKS

As well as forming colour parties at Easter commemoration ceremonies throughout Ireland IRA volunteers have launched twelve attacks on British occupation forces in the recent period.

On 17 March an RPG7 rocket attack by an IRA Active Service Unit on a Saracen armoured car injured a British soldier in the Whiterock area of West Belfast. On the Falls Road, Belfast, on 30 March an anti-personnel bomb fatally wounded a British corporal on foot patrol. In Omagh on 9 April the Tyrone Brigade IRA booby-trapped a car belonging to Queens Regiment soldiers, killing one and seriously injuring a second.

On 11 April a 4-man ASU delivered a crushing blow to the elite image of Britain's SAS regiment in Derry city. Semi-automatic rifles were used to attack a green Sherpa van containing five undercover SAS men in a brilliantly planned

and executed operation. Eyewitnesses reported that one SAS man was killed and another seriously injured.

On 13 April the IRA South Armagh Brigade in Keady executed a sergeant of the British Army Territorial Reserve who was also Armagh press officer for Ian Paisley's DUP.

These operations by the IRA are further evidence that British imperialism whatever methods it resorts to - shoot-to-kill, frame-ups or the use of informers such as Raymond Gilmore - cannot defeat the popular resistance of the nationalist working class.

Frank Coughlan



IN BRIEF

● 26 Counties - unemployed told to emigrate

If you haven't got a job, you should emigrate. That's the solution put forward by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Hugh Coveney, at the annual conference of the Association of Secondary Teachers in April. Coveney, a Fine Gael TD, was adding his voice to that of another Fine Gael TD, Professor John Kelly, who made the same suggestion a couple of months ago.

In the neo-colonial 26 Counties unemployment soared to 189,404 at the end of March with more redundancies announced each week since. In a state slavishly loyal to British imperialism, with a long history of mass emigration, it's really not surprising that the neo-colonialist bourgeoisie should come up with this brainwave. Coveney however tried to sweeten his talk with flattery. He said that whereas in the 40s and 50s emigrants were 'ill-equipped' and ended up doing menial jobs, today 'Ireland' was full of well-educated young people who would 'benefit' from the 'experience' of working abroad in the EEC. What an insult. Britain, France and Germany have record levels of youth unemployment. Furthermore, the Fine Gael/Labour coalition government has raised the price of a passport from £12.50 to £27 so these capitalist robbers stand to make some money for their lavish expense accounts out of these future emigrants.

The real reason for this emigration talk is not hard to find. It was in Lord Mayor Coveney's own city of Cork that only this January 300 youth battled on the streets with the hated Gardai police thugs who harass them daily.

Gerald Johnson

● Birmingham 6

In the last issue of FRFI we reported that a number of Irish prisoners serving life sentences in English gaols for the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings are planning to go on hunger strike on 1 June. The strike is a last bid by these prisoners to win justice and expose the frame-up they were subjected to. Confessions extracted by police torture led to their conviction. Yet in 1980 Lord Denning refused them leave to press charges against the police.

As evidence of the frame-up mounts, John Farr Conservative MP is to table a question in the House of Commons asking that the 1974 Public Enquiry be reopened. John Farr and Lord Longford recently visited Patrick Hill, one of the 6 convicted prisoners. Patrick Hill told them that the prisoners were willing to be interrogated again using truth drugs, lie detectors or hypnosis. They also challenged Farr and Longford to subject certain Birmingham and Morecambe police to the same tests, if they believe in justice and truth.

Farr's action, whatever his motives, sharply reveals the scale of Labour's reactionary and imperialist stand. Whilst a Conservative MP is prepared to raise questions about the Birmingham 6 frame-up, Labour MP Kevin McNamara in a speech in March during the Parliamentary debate to renew the PTA declared:

'... ordinary decent coppers using ordinary decent police methods apprehended those responsible for the Birmingham outrages.'

In their speech for justice against British courts, police and the likes of McNamara these prisoners are preparing to give their lives. FRFI urges all readers to support the prisoners and demands their immediate release.

Eddie Abrahams

● Nicky Kelly

Nicky Kelly who is serving a 12 year prison sentence in Portlaoise for a train robbery he did not commit has begun a Hunger Strike on 1 May to protest against his imprisonment.

See Letters page for details and information about what to do.

Round-up

● Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign street meeting

On Saturday 23 April, supporters of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign and Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! held a street meeting at the 'free speech area' by Wood Green Shopping Centre. Hundreds of people signed the SNHDC petition, took leaflets and gave donations as a succession of speakers used the megaphone to tell of the death of

Colin Roach, racist policing in Hackney and the work of the Defence Campaign. 120 copies of FRFI were sold. As well as bringing this work to the area, it was a good introduction for young SNHDC supporters to public speaking and street meetings, as previous work by NLISC and others had got the area declared a 'free speech' one by Haringey Council, and the meeting could not be broken up by the police. This experience will be used to build street meetings in Hackney.

Charles Bolton



● After 23 months – Victory for Leeds Three!

On Monday 25 April FRFI supporters Gordon Teal and Bill Bolton overcame 23 months of harassment by the police and judicial system to have their appeal against conviction for 'threatening and abusive behaviour' and 'obstruction of a police officer' upheld by Leeds Crown Court – a victory for the democratic right to

sell FRFI door to door in Chapel-town.

This victory was sweetened by the court awarding costs against the police – a sum which will amount to thousands of pounds.

But in spite of being found innocent twice, Gordon Teal has to pay £309 in legal aid contributions as a result of the police taking the matter to the Divisional Court. True imperialist justice – you pay a financial penalty even when found innocent!

G Teal



● Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group is launched

On 28 April Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group held its first, very successful public meeting. 85 people saw the film 'The Sun Will Rise' and heard speeches from the African National Congress (ANC) and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM).

The first speaker, Abdul Bham for the ANC, commented on the difficulty of speaking after such a tremendous film. He called for support for the campaigns of the AAM and in particular for the 6 ANC freedom fighters currently facing death sentence. The AAM's local group's co-ordinator Beverly Howe described the current activities of the AAM and especially attempts to force the British government to revoke the export licence granted to Marconi for £5m of military radar equipment for South Africa. FRFI supporter Jenefer Thomas spoke for Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group. Describing the conditions of the black majority in South Africa she explained how British imperialism is responsible for their oppression and went on to say that oppressed people in this country have every interest in siding with the struggle of the people of Southern Africa under the leadership of the ANC and SWAPO. She recalled how black youth from Hackney joined pickets organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid Group and started the slogan ANC-Colin Roach: one struggle – one fight, to tremendous applause.

The collection speech, given by an ex-South African political prisoner, raised £40 and the ensuing discussion included a contribution from a representative of City of London Group and a question from a black youth who sought to draw the connection between apartheid law and the Police Bill currently before the British parliament.

The audience was urged to come forward to organise Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group's forthcoming 24 hour picket in support of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners on 18/19 June.

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● Court goes for Alastair Logan

The latest twist in the 'May Day 2' appeal is an attack on the solicitor, Alastair Logan, who is well known for his defence of Irish political prisoners and pro-Irish activists. He personally has now been ordered to pay costs estimated at £600.

At the first appeal hearing the key witness, Inspector Summers did not turn up. Although he was a defence witness, the police agreed to bring him to the trial. At the second appeal hearing on 4 March there was insufficient time for the trial owing to the court's incompetence and the appeal was re-set for 28 April. Summers did not come. Judge Aron Owen demanded to know why. The police claimed that it was the fault of the defence and so the judge summonsed Chris Proctor's solicitor, Alastair Logan, to appear before him the following day (29 April) to explain the non-appearance of Summers. Chris Proctor's barrister, Nigel Seed, told the judge that the police had agreed to get Summers to the trial and that he had therefore told Alastair Logan that it was not necessary for him to try to contact Summers. The judge chose to disbelieve both barrister and solicitor which is exceptional and ordered Alastair Logan personally to pay both defence and prosecution costs for April 28 and 29 – an estimated £600.

It would appear that Alastair Logan has been set up. The reason is not hard to find – he is in a small minority of lawyers prepared to defend democratic rights: prepared to defend the interests of the working class. Alastair Logan is appealing against this decision.

● Croydon meeting

On Monday 18 April over 30 people attended a showing of 'The Patriot Game' in the Stanley Halls Croydon. The meeting was organised at very short notice by a local Irish family who had attended the 12 March demonstration and wanted to do something in their own area. The success of the meeting, attended by local Irish people, members of Croydon LP, Croydon CND supporters and SLISC supporters, showed that there is potential for work in a new area. No doubt other comrades could follow this example in their own areas!

● Precinct Six Defence Campaign Rally

The Precinct Six Defence Campaign held a successful rally in Dortmund Square on Saturday 23 April as part of their campaign for a Free Speech Area in Lands Lane Precinct and Dortmund Square. Hundreds of signatures were collected on the petition for a Free Speech Area to add to over 4,000 already collected. The petition will be presented by a Precinct Six delegation to Leeds City Council on Wednesday 27 April.

The police had tried, at a meeting with the organisers before the rally, to stop the rally. But it

passed off without major incident, despite it being on St George's Day and the British National Party (BNP) holding a march in Leeds.

The black and anti-racist white youth in Leeds city centre came up to the rally to support free speech. Many of the youth helped to give out leaflets and to sell FRFI. It was their strength that stopped the fascists from entering the city centre and it will be these forces that will rid Leeds city centre of racism.

Chas for the Precinct Six Defence Campaign

● Correction

Mick Murray, Irish POW in Hull supported the 12 March 'Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now!' demonstration. In previous issues we had omitted his name from the list of other POWs supporting the demonstration.

● London rally calls for unity

70 people attended the all-London ISC rally on Monday 25 April. They heard a broad platform of speakers – Helen O'Brien, relative of an Irish POW, Michael Holden, Republican and shop steward, Frank Coughlan, SLISC, Keith Anderson, RCL, and Terry Marlowe, RCG – call for the building of a united principled Irish solidarity movement.

The rally restated the ISC's commitment to unity among all anti-imperialists.

This theme of unity was also shown in solidarity messages from South London TOM, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, the Re-instate Lionel Vida Campaign and the Workers Party.

● Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee defends its right to speak out on Ireland

MISC has been forced to wage a fight on two fronts to defend its democratic right to speak out on Ireland. As was reported in FRFI 26, the Labour-controlled Manchester City council had refused to let Longsight Library be booked by MISC to hold a meeting mobilising for the Bloody Sunday demonstration. Longsight Library is used by many political organisations to hold public meetings and rallies, the decision to ban MISC was a blatant act of censorship. Immediately we launched a campaign, taking a petition out on the streets, writing to all the Labour councillors on the City council and picketing the City council meetings. The campaign has been successful, MISC has now been

informed that we can book Longsight Library to hold public meetings. Victory number one!

Our second fight has been against the police, in defence of our right to be on the streets campaigning for Britain out of Ireland. On Easter Saturday, MISC was holding a street meeting at Longsight market commemorating the Easter uprising and as part of our work to build support for the 1 May and 7 May demonstrations. After about 10 minutes the police arrived in the shape of a chief inspector who immediately told us to pack up the street meeting or be arrested for

'incitement to cause a breach of the peace'.

The only incitement was coming from the police, but we decided to make a tactical retreat and come back on 23 April better prepared to defend our ground. We immediately contacted the local MPs, councillors, the NCCL, in fact anyone who had an interest in defending democratic rights. On 23 April we went back to Longsight market and set up our banner and placards; taking turns to speak through a loudhailer we voiced our opposition to British troops in Ireland, and told people about the police attack on MISC. Many people came forward to give their support for what we were doing and to sign the petition. After about half an hour a police inspector arrived; he was informed that the NCCL had official observers present and that the Labour candidate for Stretford was also present observing the street meeting. At this he said he had no objection to our carrying on. Victory number two!

By campaigning on the streets for Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! MISC has exposed the attempts of the British state to censor all those supporting the Irish peoples' right to self-determination. But by carrying on and drawing in wider forces concerned with the erosion of democratic rights in Britain, we have successfully defended our democratic right to speak out on Ireland and begin the hard work needed to build an Irish Solidarity Movement.

Bob Shepherd

● Southampton Irish Solidarity Committee

Following the 12 March demonstration 6 comrades have come together in Southampton to form a local ISC. Already they are planning their first public meeting and will be making an intervention in the local May Day events. Anyone living in Southampton who wants to join in this work can contact Southampton ISC c/o BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX.

EVENTS

7-13 MAY

● LONDON

Hunger Strike Commemoration Speakers: Owen Carron MP, Tom Devine – Mayor of Camden, Ken Livingstone – GLC leader. Thursday 5 May, 7.30pm MacNamara Hall, Camden Irish Centre, Murray St, London NW1. Called by Bobby Sands Commemoration Committee

● LONDON

National Demonstration Saturday 7 May Assemble 1pm Hyde Park. Britain Out of Ireland! Self Determination for the Irish People! Called by May 7th Committee.

● DUNDEE

Public Meeting What we Stand For – Building an anti-imperialist movement Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm, Wellgate Conference Room. Admission 25p. Called by Dundee FRFI

● EDINBURGH

FRFI Forum Peace Campaigners Defy the State Thursday 12 May, 7pm, Crosswinds Community Centre, Tollcross, Edinburgh. Admission 25p. Called by Edinburgh FRFI

● NORTH LONDON

Public Meeting Defend the Right to Demonstrate! Drop the Charges Now! Speakers: Hugo Hunte, Jillian Whitelock and other defendants, Brynley Heaven – Chair Police Committee, Hackney Council; Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Beverly

Jones – Solicitor, Socialist Action. Thursday 12 May 7.30pm Stoke Newington Library, Small Hall, Edwards Lane Entrance, Stoke Newington Church Street, Stoke Newington, N16. Called by Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign

14-20 MAY

● LONDON

March and Rally For an Independent Inquiry into the Death of Colin Roach in Stoke Newington Police Station Assemble Saturday 14 May 12.30pm Bethnal Green Gardens, nr Bethnal Green Tube Station. March to Stoke Newington Common. Organised by Roach Family Support Committee

● MANCHESTER

Street meeting: Refugee Status for Anwar Mahomed! No Collaboration with Apartheid! Saturday 14 May, Longsight Market (corner of Dickenson Road and Stockport Road) 11am-1pm. Called by Manchester Anti-Apartheid, c/o 300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS

● SOUTH LONDON

Public Meeting on Ireland Speakers: SLISC, Labour Committee on Ireland, Labour Campaign for Representation in N Ireland. Monday 16 May 8pm. Ruskin House, 2 Coombe Road, Croydon. Called by Croydon Labour Party

● EDINBURGH

Solidarity Evening Iran – Ireland, One Struggle Thursday 19 May, 6.30pm Mounbatten Building, Heriot Watt University, Grassmarket, Edinburgh.

Called by Student Supporters of OIPFG and Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee

● LEEDS

Public Forum If you want Peace, Fight Imperialism! Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7. Admission free. Called by Leeds FRFI

21-28 MAY

● SOUTH LONDON

Street meeting: Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Saturday 21 May 1.45pm Balham Tube. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● SOUTH LONDON

National Demonstration Against the Police Bill Sunday 22 May. Assemble 11am Brockwell Park, Brixton. Move off 1pm to Hyde Park. Called by National Campaign against the Police Bill

● SOUTH LONDON

Public Forum Colin Roach – we want the truth! Tuesday 24 May 7.30pm Lambeth Town Hall, Acre Lane, Brixton, London SW2. Admission 20p. Called by South London FRFI

● LIVERPOOL

Public Forum Victory to the ANC Two videos: 'Towards a people's republic' and 'Generations of resistance' Wednesday 25 May 7.30pm. Stanley House, Upper Parliament St, Liverpool 8. Admission 50p; 30p unwaged. Called by Liverpool FRFI

● MANCHESTER

Public Forum If you want peace, fight imperialism! Thursday 26 May 7.30pm The Black Lion, Chapel Street, Manchester. Called by Manchester FRFI

● LEEDS

FRFI Supporters Group Thursday 26 May 7.30pm Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7. Admission free

28 MAY - 3 JUNE

● SOUTH LONDON

Street meeting: Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Saturday 28 May 1.45pm Brixton, outside The Prince of Wales Pub, opposite Lambeth Town Hall, nearest tube: Brixton. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

4-10 JUNE

● SOUTH LONDON

Street meeting: Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Saturday 4 June 1.45pm Tooting Broadway Tube. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

● LEEDS

FRFI Supporters Group Thursday 9 June, 7.30pm Leeds Trades Council Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7. Admission free

IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

BRADFORD

Irish Solidarity Committee. For details contact BISC c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, The Left Club, 6 Edmund Street, Bradford.

DUNDEE

Irish Solidarity Committee – contact FRFI sellers

GLASGOW

Irish Freedom Action Committee meets weekly. For details write to GIFAC c/o Box 15, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

TYNESIDE

Action Committee on Ireland meets weekly. For details write to A S King, c/o Porters Lodge, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NORTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets on Thursday 12 May and Thursday 26 May at Camden Labour Club, Carol St, near Camden Tube at 7.30pm For details write to NLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

SOUTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meetings are held on Friday at 7.30pm, at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Next meetings 13 & 27 May. For details write to SLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

MANCHESTER

Irish Solidarity Committee. Details and information on activities can be obtained from MISC, Box 47, 164-166 Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

EAST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For information and details write to ELISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

WEST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. The next meetings are on 13 and 27 May, at Hammersmith Labour Party Rooms, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12. For more information about the work of the committee write to WLISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

EDINBURGH

Irish Solidarity Committee. Meets fortnightly – organising meetings, filmshows, street campaigning, discussion and education. Contact EISC c/o Box 110, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

LIVERPOOL

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For details write to LISC, PO Box 94 Liverpool L69 8AY

SOUTHAMPTON

Following the 12 March demonstration people who attended from Southampton are now planning to set up an Irish Solidarity Committee there. All those living in the Southampton area who would like to participate in this initiative should contact BISM, BM Box 4835 London WC1N 3XX

EDINBURGH

**Irish Solidarity
Weekend of Action
VICTORY TO THE IRISH
PEOPLE!**

TROOPS OUT NOW

Saturday and Sunday 18 and
19 June

Saturday

Rally at 'The Mound', Princes
Street, 11am start. Social in
the evening

Sunday:

Dayschool at Crosswinds
Community Centre, Tollcross,
Edinburgh 10am to 5pm.
Speakers, Exhibition, Video,
Workshop and Plenary
Sessions

Creche:

A creche will be arranged for
Sunday, all day.

Costs:

Social and Dayschool:
Waged £2.50, unwaged £1.50
Dayschool only:
Waged £1.50, unwaged 75p

For further information and
registration contact:

**Edinburgh Irish Solidarity
Committee, Box 110, 43
Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh**

24 HOUR PICKETS

LONDON

Release Nelson Mandela!
Release all South African
political prisoners!

Friday 24 June 5.30 –

Saturday 25 June 5.30

South Africa House,

Trafalgar Square

Called by City of London

Anti Apartheid Group

LIVERPOOL

'Remember Soweto! Free all
South African political
prisoners!'

Friday 17 June 5.30 –

Saturday 18 June 5.30

Church Street, Liverpool

Called by Merseyside

Anti Apartheid Movement

BRADFORD

'Release Nelson Mandela!
Release all South African
political prisoners!'

Friday 17 June –

Saturday 18 June

Venue to be announced

Called by Bradford

Anti Apartheid Movement

LEEDS

'Release Nelson Mandela!
Release all South African
political prisoners!'

Friday 17 June 5.30 –

Saturday 18 June 5.30

Dortmund Square, Leeds

Called by Leeds FRFI

FUND DRIVE APRIL £617.50

A magnificent effort this month raised £617.50. This is the effort we need to keep FRFI at 20p.

Our special thanks to those FRFI readers who achieved this improvement with their generous contributions: Mary from Canada sent £100, Andy from North Wales £50 and £93.50 came from many different supporters all over Britain. The FRFI supporter groups raised £374 of the total: £93.84 in South London and £93.15 in Edinburgh, followed by North London with £78.18, Manchester £46.75, Dundee £31.90, Leeds £13.27, Liverpool £10.17, Bradford £6.75.

FRFI defends the rights of the poor, the unemployed, the most oppressed. FRFI aims to involve more people in building an anti-imperialist movement. It can succeed only if its message reaches those who stand up for their rights and want to join the organised fightback against injustice and oppression. It can succeed only with your help. Act now by subsidising FRFI! Send us your donation or hand it in to your FRFI seller. Organise fundraising events – jumble sales, socials, collections.

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

Make your donation 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 _____

I do/do not want you to mention my name/organisation _____

~ LETTERS ~

Stop deportation to apartheid

Dear FRFI,

As a South African, I am, was and always will be opposed to the obnoxious practice of Apartheid, and I am very pleased to note that FRFI has similar detestation for that regime.

My case is taken up by the Anti-Apartheid movement nationally through the Manchester Group of AAM, headed by Mr Neil Murtough and Mr Mark Stein, they could be contacted at the Movement's office at: c/o 300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS.

It is not a laughing matter when one is detained for over 16 months without trial in a free and democratic Britain. But it is amusing to note that the British government should summon the Soviet Ambassador to the Foreign Office and request that the Kremlin should release the Shrenko family on – 'Humanitarian Grounds'. Now take special note of this, the Shrenkos are not British subjects or nationals, so one can without a shadow of doubt say that it was a humanitarian gesture by the British government. But then what about Nelson Mandela, David Kitson and others held in the dungeons of Apartheid in South Africa? Why wasn't the SA Ambassador summoned to the Foreign Office in the same manner as the Soviet Ambassador was? There is no need to speculate because the answer is visible in a crystal clear fashion. 'The Soviet Union is an Enemy' and the 'Boers' Apartheid Regime an Ally', so how could they make a request for the release of Mandela to the Boers. If they did, then how would the blood-stained Kruger Rands reach their pockets? They are even so determined to send me to South Africa that they would go to the extremes of fabricating lies in order to say that they are right in doing so. But I was not and I am not fooled by their deceit, because I have indisputable proof in writing as evidence how corrupt, racist and inhuman the Home Office is. They will be shown on Granada TV tomorrow 26 April 1983.

Yesterday I was a captive of Apartheid at the hands of BOSS, today I am the 'Hostage for Apartheid' by orders of the British government. I wonder how many millions of blood-stained Kruger Rands the South African government is paying for my return there?

But no matter which government of what country detains and persecutes us for the greed of Kruger Rands, they can never destroy our ideals. They can torture us, kill us or even exterminate us, they will never deter us from forming a United South Africa. This is our cause, knowing full well that the fight will be hard, and it won't be fun until our freedom is won, because we can never gain without pain. The same pain that I bear now, each day that I spend cooped up in this cell, somewhere deep within me there is a signal saying 'Hark my words – Victory is near' and those that have tormented us, and those that have colluded with the tormentors will have to stand trial for their inhumanity. This trial will make the 'Nuremberg Trial' look like a Christmas Dinner, because the mother lava of the oppressed South Africans is about to erupt, and that eruption will flow so far and deep within the Universe, that nothing, bar sanity, is going to stop it.

These are the words of a South African patriot, who will die for the cause but never betray it.

Yours sincerely,
Anwar Mahomed

British justice

Dear FRFI,
Audrey Jennings, Wells Street Magistrate, has struck again. In 1982 she excelled herself by convicting 4 out of 4 supporters of the South London Irish Solidarity Committee; the Tooting 3 for standing on an empty 15 foot pavement and 1 of the Mayday 2 for charging at a gang of youths who never existed.

Following the uprisings of Summer 1981 3,400 people were taken through the courts and 700 imprisoned. Everyone knew that the police had caused the uprisings by their incessant harassment of working class people, especially the black youth and everyone knows that those who fought back were brutalised by the police. The press had to find a few 'bad

ALMOST Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett ... Our FRFI Runners!

Spurred on by your sponsorship and through hard training (... practice on demonstrations, up & down the steps on estate sales, marathon meetings ...) both FRFI Runners completed the 26-mile London Marathon on Sunday 17 April – and both are fully recovered now! Beating their running times of last year, David made it in 2 hours 47 minutes 52 seconds and Alan completed in 2 hours 55 minutes 30 seconds. So you see: working with FRFI not only helps building an anti-imperialist movement, it also keeps you fit! Want to give it a try?

The reward for these excellent results now comes into the FRFI kitty – £166.24 has arrived so far: £5.20 from individual supporters, and from the FRFI Groups in North London £55.80, Edinburgh £33.88, Manchester £30.06, Bradford £13, Liverpool £11, Leeds £7.20, Bristol £7.10 and South London £3.

£171 more has been pledged. If you want to make a spontaneous donation you are more than welcome. Make your postal order/cheque out to 'Larkin Publications' and send it to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX.

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

RELEASE NICKY KELLY

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you to help publicise the case of Nicky Kelly, a young Irishman serving 12 years in prison for an offence he didn't commit.

In March 1976 a mail train was robbed at Sallins, County Kildare, in the 26 Counties of Ireland. After the robbery more than 40 members of the recently formed Irish Republican Socialist Party were arrested, interrogated, and in many cases systematically beaten up. Most were released without charge.

In December 1978 three of the IRSP members were convicted of the robbery in their second trial at the Dublin Special Criminal Court, which sits with no jury. Just before sentencing, one of the three – Nicky Kelly – jumped bail and fled to the United States. He felt he was not getting a fair trial, because a false statement tortured out of him by police was allowed in court – despite medical evidence of very heavy beatings. He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, in his absence.

In May 1980 the IRA stated that

apples: the few exceptions to the 'decent British cop!' They selected 7 particularly vicious members of the SPG who were brought to court accused of, amongst other things, taking black youths into their vans and then systematically beating them.

On 22 April the 7 were brought before Audrey Jennings and just to prove that she doesn't always convict, she ruled that there was no case to answer against the 7 and dismissed the charges.

Yours fraternally
Chris Procter

Thanks from the ANC

On 18 March Leeds and Manchester FRFI held very successful 24-hour pickets in solidarity with the struggle against apartheid led by the ANC in South Africa. The pickets collected thousands of signatures of the petition demanding the release of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners. £30 was collected and sent to the ANC. Below we print a letter received from the ANC:

Dear Comrade,
Enclosed please find receipt for £30 donation you sent.

Through you we would like to thank the comrades in both Leeds and Manchester for their support and solidarity with the ANC and also their magnificent efforts in demanding the release of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners. Comradely yours,
A Jassat

Shocked out of complacency

Dear FRFI,
I happened to read a copy of your paper last weekend for the first time. I must say, after reading it from cover to cover, I was rather impressed.

I'm a half Nigerian, half English girl who has been brought up in rather protected surroundings. I've tended to regard cries of racism and oppression, by the police and other agencies, with some doubt, as happening only within a few cases. However I think they will receive greater

consideration from me in the future. I have been shocked out of my complacency!

The only reason which prevents me from joining your group is your support of what I basically consider as appalling acts within Northern Ireland. Do not think I, in any way, support the present conditions within Ireland. However terrorism, for me, is another name for murder which I cannot support whatever the cause.

Please do not consider this letter an attack in any way as I intend it to be congratulatory, but I couldn't keep quiet my feelings. I'm sure (after reading your paper) you would not have me suppress my opinions to paint only half a picture.

Yours sincerely
JS
London

We urge JS to read the series 'The Communist Tradition on Ireland' in FRFI 7-24 in order to understand that the Irish people use violence against their oppressors because experience shows that there is no other way to freedom in Ireland. (Ed)

Clearer explanations

Dear FRFI,
I would like to draw your attention to your lack of clear explanation of the terms used in your paper. I am referring specifically to 'capitalism', 'imperialism' and 'the state'. I feel that the absence in your paper of clear explanations of these terms does tremendous damage to your attempts to persuade people to become anti-imperialists.

At practically all the political meetings I have attended the term 'Western Imperialists' etc was frequently used. At the time I had no understanding of what imperialism meant. I assumed it was the socialist term for 'oppressor'. Consequently I failed to understand the significance of what was said in the rest of the speech.

I have managed to persuade a few of my friends to come to some political meetings. After the meetings they told me that it bored them because the speakers were going on about 'capitalism' and 'imperialism' and

Nicky Kelly is being held as a hostage – a warning to young Irish people who may join socialist, republican or other progressive groups, that they may end up serving many years in jail for something they didn't do.

The case highlights the fact that, although British rule over the 26 Counties of Ireland ended officially in 1921, the British presence in the 6 Counties has a detrimental effect on people living in the south too. Civil liberties are infringed, and an innocent man lies in jail, as an attempt to counter the influence of socialist and republican ideas and organisations.

I urge you to support the growing campaign to release Nicky Kelly. Write letters (saying that you are aware of the facts of the case and demand his immediate release) to the Justice Minister, Dept. of Justice, Upper Leeson St, Dublin 2; and to the Irish Embassy in London. Also write to the press, and inform as many people and groups as you can. You can send letters of support to Nicky Kelly at Portlaoise Prison, County Laoise, Ireland.

More information is available from, and donations can be sent to, the Release Nicky Kelly Committee, 11 Grange Terrace, Blackrock, County Dublin, Ireland.

Yours in solidarity,
T Harris, for Leeds TOM

they didn't understand what these terms meant.

I used to be put off from reading socialist papers because I thought they were too boring – this was because I did not understand the terms which were being used.

I became a socialist when I read a paper which explained what capitalism is, and its relationship to events occurring today. It is very important that people who are fed up with this sick society are not isolated from the information which they must have in order to change it. It is sad that so much energy being put into the fight against capitalism is going to waste. I recommend that somewhere in the front page of each issue of FRFI you allocate a space for explaining the meaning of 'Capitalism', the 'State' and 'Imperialism'. These terms should also be explained to the audience before every meeting where they are going to be used.

Yours respectfully,
KB

BECOME A FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

If you are willing to help the work which FRFI is doing, become an FRFI supporter.

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HANDS OFF IRELAND

INFORMERS AGAINST THE PEOPLE

The use of the 'supergrass' has become a major weapon in the British government's war against the Irish people. There are, at present, nearly 300 nationalists facing imprisonment on the uncorroborated 'evidence' of informers. This figure compares with the internment operations of August 1971 - it is a major escalation of judicial terror against the nationalist people of the 6 Counties.

The use of informers is not new. What is new is the scale of the operation. This massive use of informers reflects the successful campaign against torture in Castlereagh. The Diplock non-jury courts rely on confessions for convicting and imprisoning nationalists. However the international exposure of the use of torture and the unbroken resistance of the nationalist people has forced the imperialists to turn to the 'supergrass' tactic whereby a single 'confession' can be used to imprison scores of nationalists. Raymond Gilmour's 'evidence' for example, has already led to 71 arrests; 38 nationalists were arrested on Christopher Black's evidence; 23 were arrested on Jackie Goodman's 'evidence'. The efficiency of this tactic is clear: the maximum number of arrests on the minimum possible evidence. In non-jury Diplock courts there is no fear of the uncorroborated claims of touts being rejected. The real character of the Diplock court system stands exposed: judicial internment.

KIDNAP AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE

Three cases have exposed the RUC techniques of kidnap and psychological torture which are an essential part of the 'supergrass' tactic.

Bobby Brown was arrested on 9 July 1982. A week later 16 arrests were made in Belfast and the RUC claimed a major 'breakthrough' against the IRA. At the same time Bobby's wife Fiona disappeared. *An Phoblacht/Republican News* revealed that Fiona had left home voluntarily to escape RUC arrest. Bobby Brown, meanwhile, retracted his statements revealing that they had been extorted from him. He smuggled a letter out of Crumlin Road prison saying:

'I am being held hostage in the basement wing of Crumlin Road Prison by the British Government... in the hope that I take their rotten deal.'

Fiona then appeared at a Sinn Fein press conference confirmed that she was in hiding to avoid RUC arrest. It was the RUC who hoped to kidnap Fiona

Brown in order to force her husband to turn informer.

Raymond Gilmour was arrested in 1982 on hijacking charges. The charges were dropped when he turned informer. On 16 August 1982 he, his wife Lorraine and their two children were taken into 'protective custody' by the RUC: they were kidnapped. Lorraine suffered this 'protection' from 16 August 1982 to 18 April 1983 when she was finally reunited with her family in Derry. In an interview published in *AP/RN* (21 April 1983) she exposed the brainwashing methods of the RUC.

The Gilmours were first held under RUC armed guard in Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn. Lorraine was told that her children would be attacked by the IRA if they returned to Derry. This vicious use of her children and the RUC lies about IRA 'revenge' was emotional blackmail used to control the Gilmours. The family were taken to Britain, then to Cyprus, then back to Britain. Shuttled from place to place, cut off from relatives in Derry, subjected to 24 hour indoctrination mixed with threats and bribes, the Gilmours were kept under the control of their captors. The RUC calls this 'protective custody'. At one point this 'protection' led Raymond Gilmour to attempt suicide.

Whenever Lorraine or Raymond Gil-

mour privately contacted relatives in Derry they were assured of their safety if they returned to Derry. This is why contact between informers and the nationalist community is cut off by the RUC. Isolation ensures the constant confusion, fear and disorientation necessary to create and maintain the 'supergrass'. Far from being 'voluntarily' in 'protective custody' it took Lorraine some three months to force her captors to allow her to go home.

The case of Bobby Quigley confirms that what the RUC calls 'protective custody' is kidnapping. His wife Linda appeared in court on 19 April 1983 and demanded to be allowed to meet her family. The RUC whisked her away and a writ of habeas corpus was refused. A telephone call from Bobby Quigley to Sinn Fein member Martin McGuinness was cut off by Quigley's captors. As Martin McGuinness said 'recent developments are proof that neither Bobby nor Linda Quigley are free agents.' Finally it took the Northern Ireland appeal court on 29 April to grant a writ of habeas corpus requiring the RUC to produce Linda Quigley before a judge.

BRIBERY

Alongside fear and psychological manipulation stands bribery. Jackie Goodman, INLA informer, after retracting his statements, when his wife Marion finally forced their captors to allow her to return home, revealed that he was offered a job with job training, a home, and £30,000. He was told that he would be given a new life in South Africa (a fitting choice), New Zealand, England or Canada and given protection. In the UVF informer trial based on Joseph Bennett's 'evidence', the RUC refused to say how much money had been paid to Bennett.

BENNETT TRIAL

The first 'supergrass' trial to be completed involved 14 UVF members imprisoned on the 'evidence' of self-confessed sectarian murderer Joseph Bennett on Monday 11 April in Belfast Diplock court. By using a case involving Loyalist sectarian paramilitaries the British imperialist ruling class has given a spurious appearance of 'even handed justice' to the informer tactic thus paving the way for the imprisonment of hundreds of nationalists.

The UVF's horrific record of sectarian slaughter - aided and abetted by the 'official' terrorists of the British Army, RUC and UDR - is well known. The Bennett trial however, was not aimed at curbing Loyalist terror - this is encouraged or discouraged as it suits British imperialism. No it was designed to make easier the acceptance of the use of uncorroborated 'supergrass' 'evidence' against the nationalist people.

However, the nationalist people and the Republican movement are fighting this latest form of imperialist attack. Already over 50 nationalists have been released following the retraction of statements. The cases of Fiona Brown and Lorraine Gilmour have shown that the nationalist community will not allow the imperialists to use families as a means of pressure against those in the hands of the RUC. That such methods as kidnap, brainwashing and bribery are necessary to maintain British imperialism's rule in Ireland is yet further evidence that that rule can only be maintained by terror and corruption. Communists, anti-imperialists and democrats in Britain must raise their voices in condemnation of the sordid, vicious and corrupt 'supergrass' tactic.

Terry Marlowe



Bobby Sands Francis Hughes Raymond McCreesh Patsy O'Hara Joe McDonnell Martin Hurson Kevin Lynch Kieran Doherty Thomas McElwee Micky Devine

In memory of Bobby Sands

On 5 May 1981 Bobby Sands died on hunger strike in Long Kesh concentration camp. He was the first of ten Irish Prisoners of War to be murdered on hunger strike in the fight for political status. To commemorate the second anniversary of Bobby Sands' death we reprint the speech given by Michael Holden, Republican and shop steward, to the all-London rally on 25 April. This speech commemorates the heroic sacrifice of the hunger strikers in the most fitting way by calling for the building of a united solidarity movement in this country. As comrade Michael Holden says:

'Comrades, let us build a solidarity movement worthy of the memory of such a man.'

Comrade Chairman, Comrades and Friends,

A few weeks ago, we commemorated the Rising of Easter Week 1916, and following on from those days, we can easily compare the scorn poured on those men and women of that day, with the attitude to the freedom fighters in present day Ireland. The men and women of 1916 were the 'criminals and terrorists' of their time, as were those who came after them, the IRA, the Prisoners of War, the felons of our land. But within two years the British state was forced to confess that it could no longer contain or cope with the risen people, who had proclaimed their will without any shadow of doubt at a general election in 1918, and efforts to intimidate, terrorise, and coerce them by the introduction of the Black & Tans, and RIC battalions and murder gangs failed to

crush the risen people. Imperial Britain, on its knees, called for a ceasefire, a truce, which was foolishly agreed to by men who in hindsight should perhaps have had greater vision. Then followed compromise, the partitioning of the nation - and imperialism's favourite and ultimate weapon - civil war, which brought in its wake the collapse of a nation on the march, and the return of a disillusioned people to serfdom and the abandoning of part of the nation together with its people. Those abandoned people, comrades and friends, have risen again after more than 60 years, and as in 1916, and 1920, are today again branded as 'terrorists and criminals' by their enemies in Fleet Street, Downing Street, Dublin and Stormont. But their suffering and sacrifices have generated even further resistance, and modern communications have enabled

the world to offer its judgement for the first time. International pressure on Britain has mounted and intensified. Elections North and South have been heavily influenced. Resistance, parallel to that which gripped the nation in 1916 and 1918 is growing steadily day by day in a new generation who are not intimidated, nor will be intimidated, by the great and powerful, and spurred on by the deaths on hunger-strike of 10 of their comrades in Long Kesh concentration camp, and two more in Britain. The longest campaign in the history of 800 years of bitter conflict has been in progress for more than 13 years, conducted by a generation of freedom fighters totally worthy of that name. In the occupied area an embattled minority - alone - has found the courage, the determination to rid itself of that occupation, while in the South, ignoring their struggle over the years, the Free State politicians have joined hand in glove with the oppressors at every opportunity, hence the duration of that struggle and its tragic consequences.

Witness the effect of institutionalised torture in Castlereagh interrogation centre which has destroyed itself and its creators by producing those it failed to break, the blanketmen, the hunger-strikers, and a people more determined than ever to destroy everything it stands for. They believe, as Connolly and Larkin believed, that the great and powerful are

not great, they only appear great if we are on our knees. In Britain, the oppression continues and intensifies. The PTA remains on the statute books, a vivid reminder the war in Ireland is real, and can't be ignored. And those who operate it have made it very clear it is to be strengthened, extended and made permanent. It didn't prevent what they call terrorism, it is now used exclusively to frighten, intimidate and oppress, not only Irish people but British people as well, especially those who oppose Britain's war in Ireland, and are campaigning to bring it to an end. It is used to suppress the beleaguered people in occupied Ireland by preventing their elected representatives from coming to Britain and telling the British people what the war is really about, and why it should be ended. And, comrades and friends, on the subject of intimidation, I hope it is in order for me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Chris Procter on having the charge of obstruction against him dismissed by the court on 21 March. It is very obvious the state machine now sees the emergence of an Irish solidarity movement in Britain as a real and genuine threat, and I have no doubt whatsoever that further arrests and charges and intimidation will occur, in an attempt to suppress Irish solidarity members and supporters in Britain. It is something we have to be ready for, and prepared for. And, comrades, without

mentioning names or organisations, there are those also, no doubt misguided comrades, who would play down the work of building an Irish solidarity movement in Britain. I would appeal to them, be they Irish or British, to think very carefully about what they are doing, to be wise and just in their assessment, to ask themselves who benefits from division? Is the need not greater now than ever before to build a united solidarity movement in England, do we not need to mobilise the maximum possible general participation of all who oppose the war in Ireland? Can we not find common ground around the Irish struggle to work together? Finally, comrades and friends, as we approach 5 May, let me conclude with the words Bobby Sands wrote in his prison diary on the first day of his hunger strike:

'I am dying not just to end the barbarity of the H-Blocks, or to gain the rightful recognition of a political prisoner, but primarily because, what is lost in here, is lost for the Republic and those wretched oppressed whom I am deeply proud to know as the Risen People.'

Comrades, let us build a solidarity movement worthy of the memory of such a man.

Victory to the Irish People, Troops Out Now!