

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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NO TO RACIST IMMIGRATION LAWS!

An increasing number of black people are facing the risk of deportation for nothing more than the 'crime' of staying too long in Britain. As one of our correspondents has commented, "This is no crime; it is layabouts like Thatcher and Callaghan who have stayed too long in Britain" (see back page).

DENIED BASIC RIGHTS

An example of what the racist Immigration Laws mean for immigrant families is the case of Nasira Begum, a Pakistani woman who lives in Stockport. She is married to a British citizen, but has been deserted by her husband.

Now the Home Office has classified her as an 'illegal immigrant' on the basis that her marriage was not valid. Their evidence is so flimsy that it would immediately be flung out of a court of law, but under the Immigration Laws she has no access to a lawcourt. She has to appear before an Immigration Appeals Tribunal, where all the rules will be loaded against the chance of a fair hearing.

Her case is typical of many in which black people are denied basic rights which are granted to white people. Under constant threat of arrest without a warrant or indefinite imprisonment without trial or charge, hundreds of people have had their families broken apart. For example:-

* Anwar Ditta. Since 1976 her three eldest children have been denied entry. The Home Office has consistently refused to accept evidence proving that they are her children.

* Ibrahim Ali. The Home Office has made him wait 9 years to have his family with him. One



A broad campaign has been built in defence of Anwar Ditta. This was one of many demonstrations.

of his sons has died during this time.

* Shukar Mohammed. Lived and worked in Oldham for 20 years. After returning from a visit to Pakistan, he has only been granted a temporary visa as his poor health is now seen as a burden on the health service.

NEED FOR WORKERS' UNITY

The case of Nasira Begum comes before the Immigration Appeals Tribunal on Wednesday July 23rd. A public campaign has been mounted which has already succeeded in preventing her arrest and stopping the Home Office from quietly deporting her before the hearing as they have done in so many other cases.

**BIRMINGHAM
COMMUNIST
ASSOCIATION
UNITE WITH
RCLB**

see page 4

A demonstration of support (details below) has been called to demonstrate opposition to the way in which she and many others like her are being treated under the racist Immigration Laws. Support for such actions is vital, not only by black and Asian people, but by all those concerned with workers' rights.

Demonstrate July 19th

DEFEND NASIRA BEGUM FROM
DEPORTATION!

DEMONSTRATE IN SUPPORT OF
ALL THREATENED BY THE
IMMIGRATION LAWS!

Assemble 12.30, Whitworth Park, Manchester. Phone 272-5894 for details of coach from London.

"It is not the sincerity, the willingness, the class position of the Indian workers and the black workers which is on trial. It is the internationalism of the British working class which is on trial. If it is the black workers who are oppressed today, they cannot sit back and say it won't be their turn tomorrow."

Comrade Jagmohan Joshi, late General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (GB).

INCORPORATING

NEW AGE

Monthly Paper of the Communist Workers' Movement

Editorial

The Immigration laws are designed to force black people out of this country. Under these laws, the Home Office can decide that it has 'evidence' that someone does not have a legal right to be here and have them deported.

This evidence does not have to be judged in a court of law. Immigrants have no access to a court of law. All that is open to them is an Immigration Appeals Tribunal, which can accept any evidence it likes, no matter how flimsy. The 'adjudicator' of this Tribunal is appointed by the Home Office itself, and all the rules are loaded against the chance of a fair hearing.

The ruling class hopes that by depriving black people of legal rights and by propagating racism, they can undermine the unity of the working class. However, the effectiveness of this 'dirty trick' tactic is being undermined by the excellent stand of militancy that is taken by so many black people, of whom Nasira Begum is a prominent example.

As an article in our last issue commented, the stand of the striking Asian women workers at the Chix factory in Slough was another example of the fact that "national minority workers brought here as a source of cheap labour do not split the working class but are more and more coming to the fore in workers' struggles." In particular the downtrodden Asian women workers are showing themselves to be a tremendous source of working class militancy.

Such struggles as those at Grunwick and Chix, and those of Nasira Begum and Anwar Ditta, show that the bosses' filthy 'divide and rule' tactics can be made to backfire. Such struggles by black workers must be supported by the whole working class, black and white. No white worker should sit back and think that, if black workers face such oppression today, it won't be the turn of white workers tomorrow.

NO TO IMMIGRATION LAWS!

From our Postbag

POLICE RACISM IN HACKNEY

Dear Comrades,

I recently attended a public meeting at the All Nations' Club, Hackney, at which Hackney police chief Mitchell tried to prove that he will listen and talk to anyone. "I don't believe the black community is being harassed", he said...The shouting that followed this remark held up further progress for some time!

A lad of 18 spoke of the number of times he and his friends were stopped by police on their way home from that very club. They knew that people leaving the white drinking club weren't stopped, but they were - 8 nights out of 10. "Are you telling me", he asked very politely, "that next time that I'm stopped, I shouldn't think it's on account of my colour?" Laughter from the audience.

There were differences amongst the black people. Some wanted to shout, others wanted a quiet discussion and didn't approve of militant speeches. Many applauded the view that things would be better if old and young police were sent out together because the young ones are the worst.

Whatever the differences among the audience, all were united on one thing - "We are not prepared to be pushed around and pushed around."

From,
A reader in Hackney.

SINGERS' MICROPHONE APPEAL

Dear Editor,

For almost three years, the New Era Singers have been trying to make a small contribution to developing revolutionary culture. We think this is a vital task for winning people to a revolutionary stand, not just an optional extra.

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As a part of trying to improve our work we are getting together our own PA system. We have had some generous donations but we are still short of two mike stands and a microphone. Could we appeal through your columns to any ex-rock and rollers or others who might have some old gear lying in a cupboard or drawer to donate it to us if they no longer need it? We would be most grateful and could make good use of it.

Comradely greetings,
JB for New Era Singers.

c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

CULTURE

Dear Comrades,

Congratulations on publishing the poems by Comrade Joshi and the Consett steelworker. They show the truth that workers are capable of much more than being mere factory-fodder.

Under capitalism the arts are either the property of an elitist few or shoddy mass-produced pop music and programmes like 'Crossroads' and 'Dallas'. They are a source of massive profits for the capitalists and a small minority of performers. I don't know "who shot JR" but at £40,000 per episode Larry Hagman is not my idea of an artist of the people.

Let's see "Class Struggle" carry on the good work and publish more progressive songs and poems. We have got to combine all forms of struggle if we are to get rid of capitalism.

From,
A Reader in Birmingham

CAPITALISM KILLS

Dear Editor,

It was recently revealed that St Marys Hospital (one of the most

modern hospitals in the country, and No.1 in the recent surveys of maternity hospitals) was having to refuse at least 100 premature babies the benefit of treatment that could save their lives.

What angers me as a midwife is that whenever health workers talk of any sort of industrial action, moral pressure is immediately applied; but when because funds are not forthcoming and people die as a consequence, no comment is made.

The faults in the health service lie at the door of this and the previous government - they are the ones who 'kill'; but yet again the public is asked to contribute to the health service that they have already paid for and should be entitled to on demand.

From,
A Health Worker,
Manchester (ex of St Mary's)

TAC STARTS TO FIGHT BACK

Dear Comrades,

Workers at Turners Asbestos have been held back for a long time by a T&G branch whose officers seem to regard being a shop steward as the first step towards promotion to a foreman's job. No one can remember a strike, even when the workforce was cut by three-quarters last year!

For example, the union chairman recently told a miller to use a machine without a guard which was getting in the way of a job. When the miller argued that guards were designed to stop the deadly asbestos fibres escaping to where he would undoubtedly breathe them in, it was implied that he was just being awkward and that guards were only there to keep the safety officer happy.

Just before the May 14th Day of Action, the unions called a mass meeting of the shop floor

and office staff to vote on whether to strike. Never had I heard such a half-hearted call to action, and when the vote was to work, these weak-kneed 'leaders' refused to back anyone who still wanted to strike as individuals. A rather hot-headed friend of mine was actually sacked for fighting this by going over their heads to the full-time officials. I wonder how many more people were given the same choice that day - work or get sacked.

The management clearly saw this vote as another sign of weakness, and two days after the Day of Action they put up a notice announcing more redundancies and a complete ban on further investment. They even offered redundancy payments reduced below last year's level.

Now we have had enough, and a recent mass meeting voted unanimously to take strike action if necessary, despite the union refusing to recommend any course of action.

Whether our nerve will hold without any effective leadership remains to be seen, but a similar vote in all the other TAC factories has at least given us a fighting chance.

From a TAC shop floor worker, Manchester

POLICE RAID AT MAINS GAS

Dear "Class Struggle",

The recent police raid on Mains Gas in North London sparked off a lot of discussion at my factory nearby. What has particularly incensed national minority workers is the way the bosses, Home Office and police worked hand in glove to make the raid a real South African style 'pass-laws' attack on African and Asian workers.

It seems that the Home Office asked the bosses at Mains (a subsidiary of the Thorns Electrical Group which includes Ferguson TV and Audio among others) for a list of the names of all Asian and African workers. They then arrived with a general warrant, herded the 60-odd workers together with the aid of police dog handlers and interviewed them one by one about the length of stay and entry into Britain. 22 workers were arrested.

All those taken in were charged with illegally 'overstaying' in this country. Now, if the Home Office and police can do this and get away with it, then how long before they seal off Edmonton Green one Saturday morning and run in everyone with a black face for interviews at Edmonton police station. Or it could be Brixton, Southall or Bradford. How soon before we have to carry our papers just in case of such a raid?

Workers everywhere should be opposing this style of attack. But one problem is that the phoney charge about overstaying confuses a lot of workers. Of course it is true that 'illegal immigrants' have broken the law, just like mass pickets break the bosses' law. But there are two points here. The first is that it is the bosses' law and it suits the bosses to enforce it when they feel like it. In this case Thorns have announced a lot of redundancies, so it saves them a lot of money to get rid of 22 workers just like that.

Secondly the law is unjust because it's racist. Note that the bosses were asked for names of Asian and African workers - not any foreign workers, or any immigrants. So it is not the case that the police and Home Office were 'just doing their job'. They were doing the bosses' job by attacking a group of national minority workers.

AUEW shop steward, North London

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The growing fightback of the working class and people against the capitalists' offensive needs and deserves a better revolutionary press to serve it and help it move forward. Help us produce a better paper. Send a contribution to: CS, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

"ALTHOUGH WE CAN IDLE, OBSTRUCT OR STRIKE our way down, we can only work our way up," said Thatcher recently. In the first three months of this year 1488 companies collapsed, 735 were compulsorily shut down because of money troubles, and over 200 were given into 'receivership' (one step this side of going bust). You will look in vain for advice from Thatcher or any other capitalist politician about how to 'work your way up' when your job is destroyed.

FARES IN BIRMINGHAM are to go up by 15% in August, followed by a 10% reduction in services. This is part of the plan to put the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive "back on its feet", as the local radio put it. It's not the bus company, however, that will be getting back on its feet, but the public.

THE RIGHT TO BE EDUCATED has been reduced to a lottery at South Deal (Kent) primary school. A raffle is to be held to raise money to buy essential books and equipment. Parents have been told it is the only way the school can afford them because of spending cuts.

NO PUBLIC SPENDING CUTS for those who run the bosses' state. That is the view of the Boyle Committee on 'top people's pay'. It recommends rises of £8000 a year and upwards for the handful of people whose job it is to keep the rest of us in our place. A quick glance will show how 'underpaid' they are already: Sir Michael Edwardes (BL) £52,000 p.a.; Ian MacGregor (BSC) £48,500 p.a.; Sir Derek Ezra (Coal Board) £44,000 p.a.; High Court Judges, Admirals, Generals, Air Chief Marshals £28,000 p.a. and upwards.

HOSPITALS FACE A £400 MILLION bill for urgent repairs, a bill which has accumulated due to spending cuts. This money is needed to patch up existing hospital facilities, and would do nothing to shorten the long hospital waiting lists. The problems of our hospitals have built up over several years, showing clearly that the Tories' cuts are only building on those started under the Labour government. Labour never took steps to stop private practice; if you are going to be ill, it is obviously a good idea to be rich.

CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION is planned at the BL Longbridge paint shop by staggering rest breaks. Introduced on the pretext of 'shortening tea breaks', the management's move has led to a strike in which 4000 workers are laid off. The management aimed to reduce the rest breaks from 20 minutes to 10 minutes. This obviously does not allow paint shop workers time to wash, let alone have a cup of tea. Needless to say the Birmingham Evening Post is trying to make out that the whole question is one of tea-breaks but the workers there are perfectly well aware that wider issues of workshop organisation are involved. They refuse to bear the burden of the bosses' profit crisis by suffering increased exploitation and suppression on the shop floor.

NEWSPAPER BOASTS that a clothing firm near Sunderland "is expected to double within the next year" are small comfort when it turns out that it currently employs 6 people! In the same week, another engineering firm in the same area received over 300 applications from skilled workers for one vacancy.

TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED in Birmingham in the early hours of Friday 30 May for spraying slogans along the route of Prince Charles's visit later that day. The slogans which included "TROOPS OUT NOW!" were sprayed on a railway bridge in Clifton Road, Balsall Heath using black and white spray paint. A police spokesman said: "It would appear from the nature of the slogans that it was done for some political motive".

Birmingham meeting celebrates BCA merger

A meeting in Birmingham on Saturday June 28th marked the merger of the Birmingham Communist Association (BCA) with the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB). Attended by members and friends, the meeting heard messages of congratulation from Indian, Kashmiri and Bengali groups.

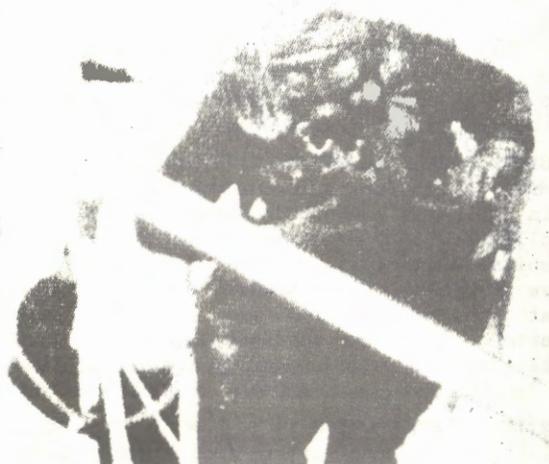
A speaker from the BCA outlined that organisation's history, and spoke of the various struggles in which it had engaged. She paid tribute to comrade Joshi's influence in the formation of the group. (Comrade Jagmohan Joshi, who died last year, was General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (GB); he lived in Birmingham). She welcomed the fact that the BCA had found it possible to merge with the RCLB. The BCA comrades had always sought unity with other Marxist-Leninists on a national scale, and welcomed the opportunities that were now available for a further development of their work, for instance in organising around the RCLB's paper.

A speaker from the Birmingham branch of the RCLB outlined the branch's history, and welcomed the step forward that can now take place in its work on the basis of unity with the BCA. A representative of the Central Committee of the RCLB pointed out that unity

with the BCA had been reached during the same period that the RCLB had united with the CWM, confirming a welcome unity trend in the Marxist-Leninist movement. The RCLB has already learnt much from the revolutionary experience of the BCA, which is in many respects complementary to the past experience of the RCLB. Unity will consequently have effects that reach beyond Birmingham, and will strengthen the RCLB's fighting capacity not only on a local but on a national scale.

The meeting was followed by a social, at which there was a very wide variety of revolutionary music. Friends from Banner Theatre sang some well-known songs of the labour movement, and also some of their own compositions, including a ballad composed about struggles on a picket line during the recent steel strike. Asian comrades performed revolutionary songs in Bengali, Kashmiri and other languages. The BCA's own singers also performed, as did Red Flag from Liverpool and the New Era Singers from London.

All those who attended this occasion must have agreed that it marked a small but potentially very significant event in the politics of the left in the Midlands. In our next issue we shall be publishing an interview with the former Secretary of the BCA.



Behind the mask

SAS HAS CLASS

From our State Research correspondent.

"The central questions surrounding the siege and its appalling conclusion are still unanswered," bewailed the magazine "Time Out" recently, with reference to the 8-day siege of the Iranian Embassy. Like many other would-be radical papers, "Time Out", for all its talk of 'class' and so on, does not really understand the nature of the capitalist state and the viciousness of the ruling class. That is where the answer lies to the official lies and prevarications about the siege.

BORN INTO THE TRADE

The SAS officer who led the assault on the Iranian Embassy, Major Jeremy Joseph Julian Phipps, is a member of a clique of ruling class families who are particularly involved in intelligence and related work for the capitalist state. His family is part of the Marquess of Normanby clan, and he is stepson to Sir Fitzroy Maclean and nephew of Lord Lovat. He also has family ties with Baron Ravensworth (family name Liddell), one of whose scions was deputy head of MI5. These names are all well-known to those who follow state research affairs.

Phipps was educated at Ampleforth, the public school where Stirling, founder of the SAS, went and which has produced numerous other SAS officers, including Nairac (killed in Ireland).

In an earlier edition of Burke's Peerage, Phipps was clearly shown as "serving with the SAS". But since the SAS has become the elite unit for internal

security during the 1970s, very tight secrecy has been drawn around those who serve in it, and the 1980 issue of Debretts does not indicate that he is an SAS member.

NOBLE 'NEGOTIATORS'

Home Secretary Whitelaw, ex-Scots Guards and former supervisor of military rule in northern Ireland, was in charge of the Embassy siege. (Perhaps he is a friend of Tory MP Hugh Fraser, ex-SAS and a member of the Lovat clan, or even of the related Hon Fiona Fraser, who is deeply involved in mercenary recruiting.)

The SAS is the elite of the state repressive forces which are controlled by this ruling class. If the SAS want a bit of real-life practice in killing or assassinating people (or 'negotiating' as they call it), they have sufficiently powerful friends to make all the necessary arrangements for them. From the first day of the siege, their friends didn't let them down.

Arise, Sir Phipps!

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Woman tenant fights back

SOLIDARITY WINS

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent, Liverpool.

I am a member of a group of women who have got together in Speke, Liverpool, called the Women's Support Group. We recently took up the case of a woman with 4 youngsters and an ageing mother who were fighting to be rehoused in a house and not a flat.

They have been burnt out of one flat and had now been flooded out of another by an overflowing tank in the empty flat above. The mother was promised when she moved in that she would only be there for three months. That was two years ago. All her possessions had been ruined by the flooding.

Determined to fight, she took her wet blankets and wet baby's mattress and dumped them on the floor at the rent office. They would only offer her another flat, but this time she wasn't having any of it. "It's like moving from one prison into another prison," she said.

She had one of her black babies with her during one interview. An official, seeing the child, told her that they could offer her a house miles away from Speke in the predominantly black area of Liverpool 8. This was immediately picked up by the woman's friends as a racist remark - which it was.

BUREAUCRACY, LAW AND CLERGY GANG UP!

I received a phone call asking the Women's Support Group to give the family support. When we arrived at the rent office we asked people for their support too. One woman told us that she had been nearly suicidal in a similar situation 15 years ago. She was part of some church group and knew an 'Industrial Missionary' who might help.

The mother wanted to try this 'Missionary', so we phoned him up. When he appeared on the scene he went straight into the back room with the Deputy Manager and then came out to persuade the woman to take a flat. She told him where he could go. However, he was relieved to discover that the woman was a catholic, because that meant he could call a Priest who was in-and-out in no time.

Everybody was waiting for the local councillor as though he was bound to be the hero of the

day. But he turned out to be no different to the rest. We phoned the 'Liverpool Echo', but when they arrived, we saw them go straight into the police station next door then drive off. We phoned them again and told them that our story was that women had got together and were no longer prepared to tolerate bad conditions. They wouldn't touch it!

Knowing the importance of the working class learning concrete political lessons, we pointed out the role of the state, law, church and professional bureaucrats all ranged against the mother and her family's just demand. The only people standing with her were the ordinary women who had been with her since the morning.

After the priests, clergymen and local councillors had failed to persuade the woman to take a flat, a police inspector was called in. He made subtle threats of arrest which could mean the woman's kids being put into care. But she wasn't frightened and said that she intended to sit-in over the week-end.

We said OK and turned to go to get some blankets, carelessly forgetting that she was alone. Taking advantage of this situation an official told her, "If you sit in, I'll see to it that you never get a house." At this, she called us back and challenged him to repeat what he had said. He was speechless and cringed back knowing that what he had said was despicable.

WITHDRAWAL AND VICTORY

The police were clearly prepared to make an arrest, which could have led to the woman's children being taken into care, so she agreed to make a tactical withdrawal for the week-end and come back Monday. The official promised a house on Monday, but we knew he was lying.

As we came out of the housing office, there was a group of policemen conspicuously leaving the back of the building. Earlier I had told the inspector that if the kids were taken into care that would be a crime. But all he could reply was that it is the police who decide the criteria for crime not you. I told him it would be a crime against humanity.

By Wednesday of the next week our consistent harassment won the day. They handed over a key to a house - a house that



Liverpool City Council prefers to spend money on vandalising properties and bricking up their windows rather than on repairs.

was boarded up completely, had no sink, the kitchen was half flooded, sanitary conditions were a public health risk, and the mains electricity was shorted to earth. But where there's a will there's a way, and the woman tore the board from the door herself. Even though the previous tenant had clearly been scrupulously clean and had left the house in very good order, the Council had clearly neglected the house. Did they want the woman to reject it for this reason? We strongly suspect that they did.

However, getting the house was our objective and the housing office failed to shove one more desperate mother into another crummy flat. In isolation she might have lost but with solidarity from other women and her own guts she won.

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On Thursday 26 June, another opponent of British imperialist rule in Ireland was brutally murdered. Comrade Miriam Daly, a dedicated republican socialist, was discovered by her ten-year-old daughter. She had been bound hand and foot and shot five times in the head.

Comrade Daly was for a number of years a leading member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP), which was formed by members of the 'Official Sinn Fein' who could not stomach the revisionist and pro-imperialist line of that organisation. Because of its steadfast opposition to British imperialism, the IRSP has been a consistent target of state repression in both parts of Ireland and in Britain. Its members have been framed-up, tortured and murdered. Comrade Daly's murder is but the latest incident in the war against the IRSP.

SMASH H-BLOCK!

Comrade Daly played an active part in the work to support the men in H-Block, Long Kesh and the women in Armagh Prison,

REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST MURDERED

in their struggle for political status. She had recently been elected to the National Smash H-Block Committee.

A lecturer in political studies at Queens University, Belfast, Comrade Daly was also active in the Irish Labour History Society.

FRIEND OF CHINA

Comrade Daly was a friend of China. She was a member of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) for twelve years and during the early 1970's was instrumental in establishing the Society for Understanding China, Belfast, which worked closely with the Chinese Cultural Society of Queens University.



Like many other Irish patriots Comrade Daly was greatly inspired by the Chinese revolution, seeing in it an example of a long enslaved people who by means of a prolonged peoples' war were successful in freeing their country from foreign imperialism and its collaborators.

The respect in which Comrade Daly was held in the revolutionary movement was shown by the number of prominent republicans present at her funeral, including Ruari O'Bradaigh, President of Provisional Sinn Fein.

Orange propaganda MYTH AND REALITY

Contributed by an Irish socialist in Britain

The 12th of July is coming round again. That's the day thousands of Orangemen in Northern Ireland and all over Britain celebrate the victory of Protestant "King Billy" over the Catholic King James at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. It has been used ever since by British colonialism and imperialism to divide the people of Ireland. I wonder how many Protestants or Catholics know the real truth about the events leading up the Battle?

LEAGUE OF AUGSBURG

In 1686 certain continental powers joined together in a league known in history as the League of Augsburg, for the purpose of curbing the growing power of France. These powers were impartially Protestant and Catholic, and included the Emperor of Germany, the King of Spain, William Prince of Orange, and last, but not least, the Pope. The latter had but a small army, but possessed a good Treasury and great influence.

A few years before, a French army had marched upon Rome to avenge a slight insult offered to France, and 'His Holiness' was more than anxious to curb the

Catholic power that had dared to violate the centre of Catholicism. Hence his alliance with William Prince of Orange.

In his "History of Civilisation", Guizot, the French Protestant historian, says of this league "The league was so powerful against Louis XIV that openly or in a hidden but very real manner, sovereigns were seen to enter it who were assuredly very far from being interested in favour of civil or religious liberty. The Emperor of Germany and Pope Innocent XI supported William III against Louis XIV."

TE DEUM FOR 'KING BILLY'

King James II of England, being insecure upon his throne, sought alliance with the French Monarch. When, therefore, the war took place in Ireland, King William fought, aided by the arms, men and treasuries of his allies in the League of Augsburg, and part of his expenses at the Battle of the Boyne was paid for by His Holiness, the Pope. Moreover, when news of King William's victory reached Rome, a Te Deum was sung in celebration of his victory over the Irish adherents of King James and King Louis. Similar celebrations were also held at the other great Catholic capitals of Madrid and Brussels.

NO REAL CHOICE FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

The conflict between King James of England and the claimant for his throne, William Prince of Orange, affects even to this day the attitudes of the Irish people towards politics. Yet never in all the history of Ireland has there been a war in which the people of Ireland had less reason to be interested either on one side or the other.

It is unfortunately beyond all question that the Irish Catholics shed their blood like water and wasted their wealth like dirt in an effort to retain King James upon the throne. But it is equally beyond all question that the whole struggle was no earthly concern of theirs; that King James was one of the most worthless individuals that ever sat upon the throne, that the "Pious, Glorious and Immortal" William was a mere adventurer fighting for his own interests, and his army recruited from the impecunious swordsmen of Europe who cared as little for Protestantism as they did for human life; and that neither army had the slightest claim to be considered as a patriot army fighting for the freedom of the Irish people.

The war between William and James offered a splendid opportunity to the subject People of Ireland to make a bid for freedom while the forces of their oppressors were rent in war.

AZANIA FIGHTS BACK

Contributed by a South African political refugee

Till very recently, South African employers had a very simple solution to the 'trade union problem'. If a worker (Black worker, that is) joined a union, they fired him. More often than not, such a worker would also be 'endorsed out' of the area in which he had been working, and be left with no option but to return to his 'home-land', usually a bleak, over-populated rural slum in which hopes of finding employment were minimal.

However effective this method might have been when dealing with the occasional 'militant', it is quite ineffective when dealing with a mass upsurge of militancy. Try 'endorsing' your entire labour force back to the 'home-land'!



Life in the 'homeland'

Hence the grudging admission on the part of the South African government and employers of the need to scrap some of the more naked forms of exploitation and replace them with something a little more subtle.

PEOPLE NOT FOOLED

But Black workers in South Africa have too high a level of political consciousness to be deceived. An upsurge of working class militancy has occurred. For example, during June, following in the wake of the Black and 'Coloured' childrens' school boycott against inferior educational facilities, 5,000 workers employed in the motor industry in the town of Uitenhage near Port Elizabeth came out on strike in support of pay increases of between 80 and 180%. Multinationals affected by the strikes included Fords, Volkswagen and Goodyear. In an excellent spirit of solidarity, municipal and motor workers in Port Elizabeth staged a sympathy strike.

PANIC MEASURE

The latest panic measure of the South African government is to invoke its 'Fund-raising Act' which prohibits any organisation that the government deems fit to name, from receiving funds. According to Black trade union legal advisors, this could, in effect, prevent a trade union co-ordinating body from receiving funds from its affiliated unions, or in fact, even make it illegal for a trade union member to pay his subscriptions. But the South African minister of Labour and Manpower piously disclaims any responsibility stating that the ministry responsible is that of Social Welfare and Pensions!

The South African regime has not hesitated to act ruthlessly against the Black workers' trade unions. To date, passports have been withheld from two members of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU), including its General Secretary Alec Erwin and six officials of the Western Province General Workers' Union (WPGWU) have been detained without charge.

THAILAND New Vietnamese aggression

The recent Vietnamese aggression against Thailand has shown that Hanoi's aim is not merely to rig up an Indochina Federation but to dominate the whole of South East Asia - an aim complementary to the Soviet Union's own strategy for world domination. This latest act of aggression has not only aroused the fierce resistance of the Thai people but has also landed Hanoi in even more severe international isolation.

Premier Prem Tinsulanonda said that all political and military means will be used to expel the aggressors. He refused to see Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach who was stopping over in Bangkok. Deputy Premier Thanat Khoman said the aggression against Thailand is part of a Moscow-Hanoi joint plan.

Throughout his visit, from arrival to departure, Thach was pursued by worker and student demonstrators who continually forced him to sneak in and out of back doors. 18 student unions jointly took part in the protests. The Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) has repeatedly said that in the event of foreign aggression it will unite with all those prepared to rise in resistance. Meanwhile, Thailand has suspended rice exports and all other trade with Vietnam.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO THAILAND

Vietnamese aggression against Thailand has more firmly united the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries - Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines. Each of them has condemned the aggression and in a joint statement they gave support to the Thai resistance. A number of South East Asian leaders declared that the Vietnamese action had helped them to see Hanoi's true colours.

At a joint meeting with the ASEAN countries, representatives of the 'Pacific Rim' countries of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the United States unanimously declared their support for the struggles of Thailand and other ASEAN countries to defend themselves from outside aggression.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry of socialist China warned the Vietnamese authorities of the grave dangers they faced if they continued their present course.

British Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, declared that the incursion marked "a serious escalation in Vietnamese aggression against neighbouring countries.. The British government deplores this violation of Thailand's territory."

KAMPUCHEAN RESISTANCE ADVANCES

Meanwhile, the resistance to Vietnamese occupation being waged by the armed forces of Democratic Kampuchea, and other patriotic forces, has intensified. One of the most spectacular of recent operations occurred on June 10 when Kampuchean guerillas attacked and destroyed a Vietnamese military train, 69 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh. The railway line was cut, 80 Vietnamese troops were killed and others wounded. The guerillas also captured a quantity of military equipment.

Hundreds of Vietnamese aggressors in Thailand were killed when the Kampuchean armed forces attacked them from behind.

Meanwhile, high-ranking delegations from Vietnam and the 'Kampuchean' puppet regime have gone to Moscow to confer with their boss, Brezhnev.

The more Hanoi engages in aggression the more it will meet opposition at home and abroad; not only are they inflicting misery on other peoples - the Vietnamese leaders are bringing catastrophe to their own people!

POLICE IN RACIST RAID ON LONDON FACTORY

KGB-style swoop in Edmonton

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent, North London

Police and Home Office men made a KGB-secret-police style swoop on Thorns' Main Gas factory in Edmonton, north London. Why? To stop a big robbery? No! To harass and intimidate black workers. This should be stopped!

They raided the factory on Friday afternoon, June 20th, and arrested 28 African and Asian workers. 10 workers are still held under various provisions of the Tory and Labour racist Immigration Acts. The police arrived in vans and virtually surrounded the factory. They even brought dogs with them. All this, they said, was "to prevent a breach of the peace."

The Home Office officials then proceeded to question workers alone, in a separate office inside the Main Gas plant. But only black workers of course. And they took away those who were "suspicious". A clear case of harassment.

This is not the first time such fascist-type raids have been carried out by police and Home Office men. They've done four such swoops in the past 6 months. Some at factories - MK Electric was one - and also at hotels in London. Each time they single out only black workers.

And what "crime" are these workers supposed to have committed? The "crime" of working to help supplement the low grant

they get as students. Or the "crime" of staying "too long" in Britain. This is no crime. It is layabouts like Thatcher and Callaghan who have stayed too long in Britain!

This is racist harassment alright. Trying to scare national minority workers who have every right to come to study and to work in Britain. After all, the same capitalist firms that exploit workers here in Britain also exploit the countries of the third world - and make huge profits from them. So their workers have every right to come here seeking work.

This harassment should stop now. Most of the workers taken into custody by police are not even "illegal" immigrants under the racist laws. This is shown by the very fact that they are later released.



MORE INFORMATION: Workers at Main Gas say that Thorns have plans to shut at least part of the plant down, and that the management will be issuing redundancy notices soon. If this is true, what a despicable way to save Thorns' profits! Get the police to arrest and deport some of the workers first - then there would be fewer to be paid redundancy money. Did Thorns "tip off" the Home Office?

STOP THESE RACIST POLICE RAIDS!



Main Gas in North London, scene of the racist police raid. Our rulers want to pick us off bit by bit. White workers must support their black brothers and sisters so as to counter the bosses' divide and rule by the workers' unite and fight!

Forthcoming events

Monday July 14th.

MASS PICKET AT ADWEST ENGINEERING, READING.
From 6 am onwards. Details from, and donations and messages of support to: Danny Broderick, Flat 4, 46 Berkley Avenue, Reading, Berks.

Saturday July 12th.

DEFEND MUNIR AHMED FROM DEPORTATION
Demonstration called by Munir Ahmed Defence Campaign.
Assemble 12 noon, opposite St. Mark's Church, Waterloo Street, Goldwick, Oldham.

Thursday July 17th.

THE STRUGGLE IN AZANIA
Meeting organised by RCLB London District to discuss the Azanian peoples' struggle and build solidarity.
Speakers invited from various Azanian liberation movements and ZANU. Poetry and drumming from Pula Kommune.
Africa Centre, Kings Street, W.C.2, 7.30 pm. (This meeting has been postponed from July 3rd).

Saturday July 19th.

DEFEND NASIRA BEGUM
Demonstration in support of Nasira Begum and all others threatened with deportation.
Assemble 12.30, Whitworth Park, Manchester.
Coach organised from London. Phone 272 5894 for details.

Saturday July 19th.

1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION
Rally and cultural evening organised by Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. Labour movement and other speakers. Reggae musician and poet Linton Kwesi Johnson. Steel Band and Latin American folk group.
7.30 pm, Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Guildford Street, London, W.C.1.

Tuesday July 22nd.

NASIRA BEGUM VIGIL
All night vigil the night before Nasira's final appeal. Outside Appeals Office, Aldine House, New Bailey Street, Manchester.

Contributed by a reader.

In the first two weeks since moving into a mainly white council estate, an Asian couple and their three children (aged 3 and over) have had 8 windows broken; an attempt was made to set the home on fire, and the mother was physically attacked while taking her kids to school. Almost every night a gang of louts has camped in the front and back gardens, threatening and shouting abuse.

Then a friend got in touch with several anti-racists living nearby and a small group went along to assess the situation and decide what action could be taken.

There followed a completely unprovoked attack on a Pakistani as he left the house. We managed to break up the fight with the help of a number of local white residents. For a change the thugs

ASIAN FAMILY DEFENDED

weren't discriminating and a schoolgirl and several middle-aged women were also hit.

Since that night a number of neighbours have shown support for the Asian family even at the risk of being victimised themselves. The following days have seen a considerable lessening of support for the racists.

The police are at best irrelevant, at worst openly racist. In this case they have done next to nothing. They only started frequent patrols when white people started complaining. What will stop these attacks is working class unity starting to appear between black and white, which we must help to grow.