

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol.4, No.9 May 1st to May 14th

fortnightly 8p

MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THEIR CRISIS FIGHT THE CUTS!

Larger classes for our children at school, out-of-date textbooks, less choice of exam subjects, plus fewer practical lessons, fewer swimming lessons... These are just a few of the results of the government's cuts in education. Warwickshire, for example, is chopping 295 teaching posts with the result that primary schools will have classes of 35 children combining 2 or 3 of these age-groups. The already serious lack of books will be worse, though already there are cases of ten children sharing a science text book, and set text books for exam courses not bought at all. The cost of school meals will rise to 60p a day from September - a rise of 100% in seven months!

Such is the picture faced by more and more parents as the government's educational cutbacks bite deeper and are enforced by local councils up and down the country - Tory and Labour alike.

HEALTH UNDER THREAT

"An eight-year-old boy was brought to my surgery. He was just home after having his tonsils out. His mother told me he had been waiting three years for the operation - a third of his life suffering from tonsillitis! The next little boy was luckier: he had had the same condition but had been seen by the specialist privately. He had had the opera-

tion one week later in a private nursing home.

"The next patient was diagnosed to have possible cancer of the bowel and a special X-ray was booked at the local hospital. The appointment was for three months' time - plenty of time for an early easily treatable cancer to develop into a wide-spread terminal one".

That's how a doctor in Birmingham described to us some cases from a single morning's surgery, which show how even very basic investigations and treatment are becoming difficult to obtain under the NHS.

UNEMPLOYMENT SOARS, HOUSEBUILDING SLASHED

1,522,900 were out of work on April 10, a post-war record. Such is the result of the capitalist crisis which the government is determined shall be paid for by the working class, not by the class which profits from it.

Only about 60,000 council houses are expected to be under construction by the end of the year - a quarter down on last year. Taken together with the figures



for housing in the private sector, this means that fewer homes are likely to be built in Britain this year than in any year since the 1920s.

DON'T PUT UP WITH IT

There is no reason why working people should put up with such attacks by the hated Tory government upon their employment and standard of living. So it is quite right that the steel workers and others have been fighting back hard this year. The steel strike saw, in towns like Shotton, Corby and Consett, whole communities in struggle to maintain their existence against

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IMPERIALISTS, HANDS OFF IRAN!

On the evening of April 22, the Foreign Ministers of the nine European Common Market countries concluded more than ten hours of talks in Luxembourg with agreement on a series of aggressive measures against Iran.

An arms and defence equipment embargo is to be enforced, new commercial contracts are to be prohibited and servicing contracts suspended (which may mean Iran Air being denied airport facilities). A decision was also taken to immediately reduce the staff of embassies in Teheran, cut the number of Iranian diplomats in Europe and bring in

visas for Iranians wishing to visit Europe, (the latter measure can particularly be used against Iranian students). The Foreign Ministers also decided that if "decisive progress" is not made towards the release of the U.S. embassy hostages by May 17, full economic sanctions will be implemented.

Part of the reason for the delay in implementing full sanctions is that a number of countries - including Britain - need to pass laws in parliament to implement sanctions. The Labour Party has once again shown its treacherous nature by indicating that it would be 'helpful' in this matter.

Many countries of the second world, such as France, were reluctant to get involved in an

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EDITORIAL

"The Party of the Proletariat of Iran strongly condemns the new sanctions taken by treacherous U.S. Imperialism designed to exert pressure on, stir up trouble for, created difficulties for and threaten the Iranian Nation and Government. These steps taken by US Imperialism clearly verify the truth that imperialism, by nature, seeks to dominate, and knows no other logic than the logic of force!"

This statement from a press release issued by the Proletarian(Workers')Party of Iran (Iran's genuine Communist Party) was made on April 10th. Imperialism's "logic of force" was proved again just over 2 weeks later as the special US task force landed in Iran. At least 90 men using several helicopters and transport aircraft tried to establish, in a remote region of Iran, a base to launch an attack on its capital city. The fact that the assault was a cock-up can in no way obscure the basic issue. The US has oppressed Iran in the past and is committing aggression today.

The US was behind the fascist Shah. The CIA trained his torturers. After his overthrow he was given refuge in America. The millions he stole are in imperialist banks - mainly American ones. Hundreds of his accomplices, with "their" millions, are installed in the millionaires paradise of Bel Air, Los Angeles. Even after the revolution, the US embassy in Teheran was used as a centre of subversion against the people of Iran.

The solution to the "hostage problem" is simple. US imperialism must return the Shah to stand trial in Iran. It cannot hide behind the Shah's move from America. They arranged his place of asylum. The wealth must be returned to the Iranian people; it belongs to them. The USA must stop its aggression. Whatever different views people have of the tactics of occupying the US embassy, it cannot hide these main questions. The tactics are a matter for the Iranian people, and they are quite capable of summing up their own experience.

The main issue we have to take up is :
IMPERIALISTS, HANDS OFF IRAN!

From our postbag

Write to the Editor-CS, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

CONSETT CLOSURE

Dear comrades,

Recently, I attended a march to "Save Consett". This slogan is not an exaggeration - 70% of those working in this Durham town are employed either in the threatened steel works or related industry. BSC is known as "the Company". This is not simply a trade union fight against a works closure, but a community battle for survival.

That is why, in spite of the drizzle, more than 3000 people marched through the streets of Consett, closing the town to traffic for 45 minutes. Workers marched with pensioners and school children, and those not in the march lined the streets cheering and contributing to the hardship fund.

In an earlier visit to the town we had been told by a picket of his experience at Birmingham. When he was arrested he had to spend the night in the cells and his shoe laces, tie and belt were removed as procedure lays down. "Why was I treated like a criminal when all I wanted was my job?"

We saw that guy again. He was a steward for the march - he was still determined to carry on the fight.

Bill Sirs made a speech in which he hypocritically promised "big trouble" if the closures went ahead. He labelled the Tories "heartless". This is not a bad judgement, but what he called for was an inquiry into the management of BSC - a call made in such a way as to suggest that nationalisation under Labour was the answer.

One of Sir's fellow opportunists on the platform called in so many words for exactly that. "Run it with Labour people," he said. "People with compassion. We've got faith in these people".

While the Labour Party and its supporters make promises and address demos, the unemployment threat in Consett (2500 jobs 'stream-lined' out of existence under the last Labour government) remains.

But Consett is a town where there is a groundswell of anger. It is fighting back - it does not want to become the Jarrow of the 1980s.

From,
A Tyneside reader.

LABOUR MPS GET A POUNDING

Dear comrades,

About two hundred people from tenants' associations and trade unions attended a meeting in Camden on April 14 to hear Camden's Labour MPs Mr Jock Stallard and Mr Frank Dobson call for a campaign to fight the Tory cuts.

But the tenants at the meeting attacked the MPs themselves on the grounds of "no confidence". They pointed out that the Labour Council in Camden have imposed continuing rent and rate rises, and huge heating charges, along with lack of service from the council on serious repairs.

One tenant asked the MPs point-blank why they had called this meeting to fight the cuts when the Labour Party are carrying out Tory policies in the council. The MPs had no answer to

this kind of thing, and after one hour and a half they both left the meeting.

Derek Godfrey, Labour councillor for Holborn area, was left to face the tenants, who had a lot more questions for him as well, and couldn't accept his answers, either.

This meeting showed once again that the Labour Party in Camden is losing the support of the working class. These two MPs had got a nerve calling a meeting to fight the Tory government's cuts when they supported Callaghan's government before, and are now putting up rent, rates and heating charges, which amount to 30% more a week out of tenants' pockets.

Mr. Stallard and Mr. Dobson are not serving the working class in Camden. It's always the same with these Labour Party people - when the heat gets too hot in the kitchen, they run out.

From,
The Secretary,
United Tenants' Association
(Camden)

AN EYE ON BRISTOL POLICE

Dear Comrades,

As a result of recent events in Bristol, the Avon and Somerset police have now put into special standby six Landrovers which have had strong steel-mesh frames fitted round all the windows. I saw one of these when I was in the area recently. The police now patrol in twos, and this Landrover was going round dropping the new patrolmen and picking up those coming off duty.

I have been to Belfast a few
Cont'd opposite

KELLY CASE..

Police whitewashed

The inquest into the death of Jimmy Kelly, the Kirkby man who died in police custody, ended after 16 days with the 11-man jury returning a verdict of death by mis-adventure. The police were cock-a-hoop and lost no time before condemning the Jimmy Kelly Action Committee and the publicity given to Jimmy Kelly's death whilst in police custody. The facts were clear before the inquest:

* Jimmy Kelly's body bruised in 31 places.

* The jaw fractured in two places.

* Jimmy Kelly's tobacco tin dented and bent almost double.

* Testicles badly bruised.

* Two witnesses saw police beating and punching Jimmy Kelly at the time of his arrest.

And these are only some of the main facts. Jimmy Kelly was said by the police to have died of a heart attack when his death was reported to the family. Yet the first pathologist removed the heart and prevented the Kelly

family pathologist from examining it. Jimmy Kelly was said in the beginning to have been found lying on wasteground, thus making the suggestion that Jimmy Kelly had sustained his injuries before the police found him.

But this ludicrous story was dropped when it became clear to the police that they could not explain why they did not take him to hospital and why they put him in handcuffs. All these facts, and more, which are the bedrock of the truth regarding Jimmy Kelly's death, were made to look unimportant at the inquest. Black was made white and white black in the circular arguments of bourgeois law.

STRONG-ARM METHODS 'ACCEPTABLE'

The inquest showed how far strong-arm methods and violence have become 'acceptable' when used by police. For example, the counsel for the police took no trouble to deny that violence had been used in arresting Jimmy Kelly. All that was attempted was to shed doubt on the fact that he had died from a severe beating.

SCROUNGERS

Dear Editor,

I thought your readers might like to know about the experiences of a friend of mine who has worked at a local 'un'-employment office for many years. The other day the Manager told the staff to be on the lookout for scroungers. People who came in either earlier or later than the exact time were to be recorded. Counter staff also had to record whether their hands were dirty and if not, whether their nails were clean!

UNEXPLAINED 'EVIDENCE'

Three boys gave 'evidence' which dismissed the charges that Jimmy Kelly was kicked and beaten. According to these boys, this was all "lies".

There were, however, some questions surrounding this evidence which have not been satisfactorily answered. The counsel for Jimmy Kelly pointed out that the family from which the boys came had been facing a charge of fraudulent extraction of electricity to the value of £1200. Miraculously, however, this charge has now been dropped.

ACTION COMMITTEE FIGHTS ON

From the beginning, the Jimmy Kelly Action Committee said that they had little faith in the inquest arriving at a just verdict. The Kelly family are still demanding a full public inquiry. The facts of the case must be made well known, especially now that the inquest has done so much to obscure and confuse the issues in order to whitewash the police.

Class Struggle Correspondent
Liverpool.

times, and these Landrovers remind me a bit of the scene there.

Also, one of the police stations from which the Wednesday raids operated was the local station at Trinity Road. This is a brand new complex, opened only last year. They had an 'open day', and I went round.

The place is built on the latest counter-insurgency lines - solid brick walls with no windows. There is a gun-range in the basement, and a kind of 'firing platform' along one of the inner courtyard walls - a bit like that what you see on the old cowboy films of the palisaded 'outposts'.

A Bristol reader.

BRITISH KAMPUCHEA SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

Public Meeting and Discussion:

KAMPUCHEA - VIETNAM'S VIETNAM

Speakers: Richard Gott, Features Editor, Guardian.

Author of Rural Guerrillas in Latin America

Laura J Summer, Department of Politics,

South East Asia specialist

Lancaster University,

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Unemployment in Leeds

C.S. INTERVIEW WITH SCHOOL-LEAVER

In March when this interview was conducted, there were 1,208 unemployed people under the age of 19 in Leeds, plus a further 360 on the "Youth Employment Scheme", making a total of 1,568. Leeds Career Office had 124 registered vacancies. Since then, there have been the Easter school-leavers...

"There's no choice of jobs. There's only tailoring and that's getting more difficult." That was how Sandra summed up the job situation at the moment in Leeds. Sandra is nearly 17 and left school last year. Since then she's had four jobs and been "on social" for some time too.

TAILORING

"I worked at two tailoring places. One was Max Super Slacks. I worked on machines - not sewing machines but hook and bar. I was a trainee so I wasn't on piece. I used to come out with about £19. The other was Ogden and Co. They made trousers. I was on piece there, but the trouble was that only the older women got on the machines with good rates. Us young ones, got all bad rates. I worked on hook and bar and on belt loop. I took home between £27 and £32. When I look back on it, that's the best job I've had so far. But I didn't realise it then and it was right boring. It didn't seem right that the other lasses got the good jobs and were coming out with £10 or £20 more than me."

That's what working in tailoring means for a school-leaver in Leeds. Both shops are small employing about 50 workers and both non-union. (Or else the union is invisible!) But the next jobs were worse...

IN A CAFE, THEN BACK TO TAILORING

"I got a job in a cafe. The owner had two - the Monte Carlo and the Olympic. I had to do cooking serving, cleaning, wiping down and having my bum pinched. Everything. There were two of us lasses and sometimes the owner was there too. Sometimes a lad from the other cafe would come over to help out. It was a six day week and on Saturdays we worked from 8 to 7 at night. He paid about £5-6 a day but there was no wage slip or anything. He just handed over cash. I didn't work there long because I had a day off sick and when I went back the next day the boss sacked me. I

didn't mind too much because it was right embarrassing working there - all the propositions he used to make." So back to tailoring...

"Then I went to Cinderellas of Leeds. They used to be Cinderella Fashions and a mate of mine used to work there and they owed her two weeks wages. Every time she rings up or goes there, they tell her that Cinderella Fashions went bust and can't pay her. The boss is the same now it's Cinderella of Leeds but partners have changed or something. At any rate they still owe my mate her money from four months back."

"They make women's clothes - skirts, blouses, etc. When I went for a job, the boss told me that I'd have to sign on for a bit. He used to let us off work to sign on. He said I wouldn't get the job unless I signed on. There were about 10 of us, 5 English and 5 Indian lasses, and the boss and his daughter. The building was a wreck, it was falling down. First he had me cleaning - there was this big table covered with material that had all gone rotten with the damp. Then I was stacking skirts, sewing buttons, pressing and running to the shops. Sometimes I had to go to Bradford market and stand out in the cold all day and run back to the van to get the right sizes. The toilets were terrible in his workshop, I didn't dare use them. And it was cold. He had three heaters in his office and one that was broken in the workshop for the lasses."

"We worked a week in hand. At the end of second week I asked for my wage and he gave me £13.20 for four days. When I protested, he said I'd got my dole money on top. I went back with my mate the next week and tried to get some more money but he refused. In the end, after going to C.A.B., I got another £28 off him. But that was only £41 for two weeks work."

"I'm looking for another job now but I don't think there's much. Now there's all the Easter leavers as well so it's going to be even more difficult."

Bristol - young people getting together

Since the Easter revolt of young black people in St Paul's Bristol the police have been smarting over their humiliating defeat.

* They have 'interviewed' up to 1500 people.

* They have been picking up youths who assume that they are being arrested.

* They have been demanding that people make identifications from blown-up newspaper photos; those who refuse are threatened with a charge.

* At least 130 people have been detained and 42 charged so far.

* Arrests are carried out in dawn raids; police have been bursting down doors and going in without search warrants.

Such police repression is leading

young people, even those who have previously been in many ways divided, to pull together. For instance, punks, dreads and skins have been laying aside differences to fight back.

A Defence Committee has been formed to help those arrested in St. Paul's and other areas of Bristol. Cash and messages of support to:

Defence Committee,
c/o 146 Grosvenor Rd. Bristol BS6

WE WANT JUSTICE

Around ten in the morning on Monday 31st March, Mrs Jean Campbell had a phone call from her son's probation officer. He told her that 19 year old Richard had been, "found dead in his cell in Ashford Remand Centre". This was the first time she even knew her son was in police custody!

Having been convicted of attempted burglary he was sent around courts, police stations and prison, before ending up in Ashford. Here he allegedly became seriously mentally and physically ill, went on hunger strike, tried to escape and assaulted a warden. At no time was any attempt made to contact his family.

Richard's family and friends want to know what happened when he was detained. The stories do not ring true.

His probation officer said, "He did have the symptoms of having been injected with Largactil."

The Friends of Richard Campbell Committee demands a public inquiry. 200 people from the black community in Tooting South London attended its public meeting on April 24th. Richard's father says, "I am not going to stop fighting till I get justice".

Class Struggle correspondent

Family resists police racism

The Earlington family - a black family living in Holloway, North London - had their home invaded by 20 police from Hornsey Road Police Station in April 1979. The reason police gave was that members of the family were involved in an argument with neighbours on the balcony! Several members of the family were brutally beaten up and five of them were arrested and later sent for trial to the notoriously racist, Highbury Magistrates Court.

The Earlington family were just one of many cases of the police-uniformed thugs of the racist British state - launching a sustained and unprovoked attack on a Black family. What was slightly unusual was that a vigorous and militant defence campaign organised to take up the cudgels with the police and court.

THE TRIAL

The Earlington family stood trial on April 21st and 22nd. Four members of the family were found guilty of assault, obstruction and criminal damage against the police who had invaded their home and assaulted them. However, police evidence was so flimsy that a charge of obstruction against Mr. Earlington and assault charges against two other family members were dropped.

BIASED MAGISTRATE

The racist bias of the courts was clearly shown in the behaviour of the magistrate MacLean, who paid little attention to the defence and seemed to find nothing unusual in a charge of assault against two policemen and obstructing another being laid against a 14 year old girl and that five foot tall Audrey Earlington should be accused of assaulting three policemen - including one weighing 17½ stone!

Members of the family were fined and ordered to pay costs which stand at £350 - with Audrey's sentence still to come.

The Earlington family have been convicted for fighting back against injustice. Their conviction is an attack on all national minority people in Britain.

The Earlington Family Defence Committee is appealing for donations to pay the fines and costs. Please rush them to:

EARLINGTON FAMILY DEFENCE FUND
c/o 49, Railton Rd, London SE 24 OLN
London, Class Struggle correspondent

BLACK FREEDOM MARCH



In our last issue we published the Statement of the Asian Youth Movement, Bradford, concerning the reasons for the March and the standpoint of its organisers towards racism. We shall publish full details of the routes, dates and organisation of the March, which is planned for late June and early July, as soon as these are confirmed. If you can help and wish to participate or want further information, contact: Asian Youth Movement, Bradford, 266 Lumb Lane, Bradford B
TELEPHONE: Bradford 499310

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

BLACK FRAME-UP VICTIM GEORGE LINDO HAS BEEN RE-leased from prison after serving 12 months of a two year sentence for a crime he did not commit. For many months George Lindo was incarcerated in prison while police and Bradford court officials withheld information which could have freed him. Following an investigation by a body of radical lawyers, Legal Action Group, it is now known that prior to the "fixing" of evidence against George Lindo the police officer involved, PC David Brierley, had admitted "inventing" evidence in two earlier cases, one involving the enquiry into the Yorkshire Ripper murders. George Lindo, the father of two small children, whose wife suffered a nervous breakdown while he was in prison, is now free-but as the lawyers of Legal Action Group say, "The fear is there could be many more George Lindo's, more appellants being denied information vital in proving their innocence".

25 SCHOOL STUDENTS OCCUPIED A LOCAL ARMY RECRUIT-ment office during a recent week of action organised by Sheffield Troops Out Movement (TOM) and the National Union of School Students (NUSS) to protest at the "heavy sale" they give school-leavers who frequently face the prospect of "signing up" or "signing on" the dole. Steve Marsh, NUSS National Committee Member said, "school students are not going to be a breeding ground for an army that defends the interests of the ruling class and ships kids out to northern Ireland to fight a war that has nothing to do with them".

"MEN ARE GREGARIOUS". THEY INSTINCTIVELY JOIN organisations and rally to the support of a particular football club, come to the bar and sing hearty songs. They "have the herd" instinct... They support each other even from a great distance. Women, however, are different; women don't have an instinct for going together in a mob. They go home and look after their children". The answer to Britain's industrial unrest is thus clearly to employ more women. Such are the results of "researches" carried out from his retirement home in Guernsey by the reactionary and chauvinist C. Northcote Parkinson, recently published in the business magazine *The Director*. Though he admits that there are "exceptions" to such feminine docility, he is apparently ready to write them off as insignificant. Recent scenes, however, of mass demonstrations against cuts in education, the NHS and childcare, and more recently against the Corrie Bill, would seem to be hard to ignore even by this so-called "professor's" astonishing standards of ignorance and prejudice.

THE VAST COST OF REDUNDANCY PAYMENTS RESULTING from the British Steel Corporation's decision to axe 52,000 jobs will not be met by the BSC itself. It will be paid by tax-payers under the "Iron and Steel Employee's Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme." In this manner, the burden of capitalism's crisis is once again shifted onto the backs of working people. The only people to gain from the cutbacks will be the BSC themselves, whose aim is to create a shortage of steel on the market and thus put up falling prices.

THE ASIAN WOMEN ON STRIKE FOR UNION RECOGNITION at the Chix bubblegum factory in Slough, Berkshire, continue to fight on. A solidarity mass picket has been called for 7 am on Wednesday, 30th April. Strike leader Mrs. Brar says, "we're not only fighting for ourselves but for the whole Asian community. Not only them. We hope a victory will have a major impact on the struggles of all low paid workers."

'We have achieved freedom

Class Struggle interviews ZANU representative

The following article is based on a recent interview by a Class Struggle correspondent with Comrade Fred Shava, ZANU representative in London and now a member of the Zimbabwean parliament.

Comrade Shava here explains the present situation in Zimbabwe and the tasks and perspectives of ZANU.

FOUR KEY TASKS

In the present period we have four tasks. We have achieved freedom from political oppression. We still have to achieve military domination. We have to attain economic independence. We have to embark on a cultural revolution. And we still have a war in South Africa.

Most immediately we must achieve and consolidate our military domination. Now, due to imperialism's own contradictions, we have been able to use General Walls to disarm forces that would not lay down their arms simply because we told them to do so. Quite soon Walls should be reporting back to us that he has disarmed the Selous scouts and the auxiliaries, and gotten rid of the mercenaries - that is part of his job, and you may be sure that we will ensure that he does his job.

Lord Soames always claimed that the auxiliaries were doing work like building bridges - well, that's what they should be doing, that will be useful. We have no use for the Selous scouts, and the mercenaries must all go.

After that we can consolidate our military force, our command structures. We can retrain the acceptable elements in the army - we can show them that the changes that we are making in Zimbabwe offer them freedom.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Only when we've dealt with these questions thoroughly, can we begin to deal with the matter of our economic independence. We will look at our main natural resources - the mines, water, agriculture - and decide how best to develop them. And we can look at the multi-nationals.

But that's not something to rush into. Before we de-stabilise the situation we want to consolidate the structure: we must achieve better working conditions, higher wages and so on, and place our own personnel in key positions first.

It's true for the present that imperialism doesn't yet know us. We know them. We know that imperialism doesn't change, and it doesn't like getting things wrong. But they don't yet know us, and we must take full advantage of that.

In some other liberation struggles, when the imperialists left, they took with them all the files from the State ministries and from the large enterprises. We are taking care that that does not happen and that's part of the reason for having whites in the government.

As we move forward, the leadership must provide the best example to the people. The MP's of our party will not draw their salaries - it would be wrong for them to derive privileges simply because they happen to be serving the Party and the people in that particular way. Their example will be taken up by other party members in other positions. The Party will look after their expenses, but the basis will be a State that takes care of everyone - their health and education, their social facilities.

We will generally emphasise co-operative work and living. In that respect our people who were refugees in Mozambique will provide a good example, because there they have been living in co-operatives. They will go back to their own districts, but as co-operatives and show the other people in the district what can be achieved by a combination of co-operative work and living, together with private plots.

There are some smaller and quicker changes that can be implemented. We will integrate the 3 present education systems into one. Anyone who can't take complete integration in the schools will have to pack up and leave. Similarly in health facilities, there can be no divisions.

We are looking at wage levels, taking proper considerations into account, and we will soon declare a level of minimum wages.

THE RECENT STRIKES

While we're talking about that, I can say something about some strikes that occurred recently. I talked to the workers involved in 3 factories in the Midlands. One was Paramount Garment, a second makes radio equipment and there was another. The workers told me that they've bottled up the pressure on them for 11 years - had they gone on strike during that period, the police would have set dogs on them. And they said that although ZANU hadn't yet taken over the government, they felt that we could get some things done.

First they wanted a change in attitudes. They said, "We want

GREAT VICTORY

The independence proclamation of the Republic of Zimbabwe was a joyous occasion, a great historic victory for the peoples of Zimbabwe and the world. Eighty-five years of British imperialist and White racist domination ended at midnight on April 17 as the Union Jack was lowered and a fighter of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army raised the new national flag amidst a 21 gun salute.

In his independence message, Comrade Mugabe said, "Our new nation requires everyone of us to be a new man, with a new mind, new heart and a new spirit...If ever we look to the past, let us do so for the lesson the past has taught us, namely that oppression and racism are iniquities that must never again find scope in our political and social system".

Representatives of around 100 foreign countries were present.

This included representatives from many national liberation movements and revolutionary organisations elated by the Zimbabwean peoples' great victory. In particular, the peoples still under white racist rule regard the Zimbabwean peoples' victory as their own. Amongst those present were Sam Nujoma, President of the South West Africa Peoples' Organisation of Namibia and Comrade Make, President of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa) and a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The Chinese delegation was led by the Foreign Minister, Comrade Huang Hua. Adding an internationalist flavour to the all-night celebrations were Bob Marley and the Wailers, the famed reggae group from Jamaica.

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain sent a telegram of greetings to the independence celebrations.

from political oppression ... '

x,y,z sacked: they are unnecessarily aggressive, they are racist, they don't treat us as equals." We agreed that had to change and we ensured that management suspended those people while they investigated the matter.

Second, there is much dissatisfaction with conditions: the terms of leave; the way loan facilities for house purchase are only available for higher management; that there is no rest period during the whole morning and only 20 minutes for lunch. The pension scheme requires large contributions from the workers, and a small contribution from the employer.

And third, the workers said the wages are slave wages: they cover transport, but are not enough to live on in any way. At the same time the workers know that profits are being exported, and they gave us a lot of useful information in that regard.

On all these matters we explained what we are doing, and how we are doing it. All the strikes were solved politically, not financially. They were solved by argument. The workers understood that we are fully committed to changing all of these things. They support us. During the election campaign we had tremendous support from urban workers.

ZAPU AND THE SOVIET UNION

During the election, our area of weakness was in Matebeleland. ZANU hadn't established itself there firmly, the people didn't understand our policies. Our drive is now to get organised there in cells, branches and districts. The election results do suggest that ZAPU campaigned there on tribal grounds. Certain-



ly, throughout the campaign Joshua Nkomo never made a gesture towards ZANU, and he is very fed up with the results and his present position. ZAPU are our partners in government. They are friends with the Soviet Union and relied very heavily on them. In fact the section of ZAPU most involved with the Soviet Union is the least loyal.

So far as our own relations with the Soviet Union is concerned, Comrade Mugabe has said that we will not deny them the opportunity to improve their relations with us. Relations have been below cordial. They gave us no military assistance (although we got some from friends of friends of the Soviet Union). They always said that they would give us help if we accepted their leadership. They approached us through the GDR (East Germany) and said the same. The GDR even came to a meeting with a statement condemning China that they wanted us to sign.

We doubt if the relationship will

soon develop. We don't want them to have a mission in Salisbury; if they are present they are likely to destabilise the situation.

The USA is equally unacceptable. The USA is abhorred in Zimbabwe. It is trying to get in.

PARTY BUILDING

ZANU started as a militant nationalist party. Soon we will be at the stage of a party of limited membership. We will need a college through which all members must go if they are to be given high office. It is a problem. The party must screen people thoroughly. There are some people new to ZANU who tend to speak the loudest. But we have many old members, who have been members since 1963. And the people are a very seasoned people.

We have a lot of work to do in the party. One thing in which you can help is that there is much socialist writing that must be made available, and also translated.

Ireland

Wanted for murder

On Sunday April 13, fifty-three year old Mary Doherty was shot dead while riding home with her husband from a celebration of their wedding anniversary. The couple were approaching a road block just outside Strabane, Northern Ireland, when a soldier of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders fired the fatal shot.

The car had not even got to the checkpoint. In fact, the official instructions issued to the army in Northern Ireland lay down that soldiers must not open fire on a car even if it runs through

a road block. This is regularly ignored. In recent weeks soldiers have shot dead one teenager and wounded several others who went through roadblocks while joyriding stolen cars in Belfast.

The army act as judge, jury and executioner. They are rarely brought to trial and when they are they are never sent to prison. Such murders are therefore sanctioned by the whole judicial process and generally covered up by the bosses' press. Uniformed murderers go free and innocent men and women rot in the revolting

H-block or Armagh prison.

The intention of British imperialism is to crush and cow the Irish people. This situation cannot be answered by the reforms and "Bill of Rights" peddled by the 'Communist' Party of Great Britain or the Labour Left. It is being answered by the people's struggle to drive imperialism out of Ireland and to leave the Irish people free to decide their own future.

Contributed

Imperialists Hands off Iran

From p1

American quarrel (not least because of their extensive economic interests). However, the West German and British imperialists acted as the advance guard for the US superpower, retailing its veiled threats and statements that the Western Alliance would be in danger. Britain once again exposed itself as one of the most servile junior partners of U.S. imperialism. However, the other countries did not capitulate completely. For instance, the first draft of the Carrington plan had called for an immediate oil embargo, which was not agreed upon.

BRITAIN PRE-EMPTS DECISION

Britain pre-empted the decision of the Common Market by unilaterally calling back its Teheran ambassador, Sir John Graham. In so doing, the British government confirmed to the Iranian people what the 'Guardian' described as "the impression that Britain was so eager to back President Carter that she tried to force her EEC partners into taking action".

One Iranian diplomat in London commented, "Carter decided for his allies without consulting them and Britain is deciding for the other European Countries in the same way. They decide for each other and call it democracy".

The Iranian people remember the British imperialists for the way they supported the Shah up to the last moment and the massive arms deals they signed.

(Incidentally, the drastic cutbacks at the British Embassy mean that the British Government is refusing to represent over 300 Britons who are still in Iran. They have been told they cannot be offered consular protection.)

SUPPORT THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

The struggle of the Iranian people for full national independence is just and should be supported by all British workers and progressive people. For many years the American interfered in Iran's affairs:

* They organised a coup to depose the nationalist leader Dr. Mossadegh and to install the Shah.

* They propped him up throughout his bloodthirsty rule.

* They gave asylum to this criminal and the millions he stole from Iran.

* The U.S. embassy was a nest of spies.

IRANIAN DEMANDS ARE JUST

The Iranian people have every right to demand the Shah's return and an apology from the U.S. government.

It is not just for these reasons that the imperialists moves against Iran should be opposed:

* They will act to intensify, not defuse, the crisis. The danger to the hostages will only increase.

* They are a blow to the efforts of President Banisadr to resolve the crisis and to his foreign policy of strengthening friendship with all forces in the world, other than the two superpowers.

* The only people it can assist are the Russian imperialists, the most dangerous enemy of world peace. The Soviet Union covets Iran and is in a position to threaten her both on her northern frontier and from Afghanistan. They have already used the present crisis to beef up their forces poised against Iran.

An Iranian diplomat in London summed things up well recently. He said,

"We were born under a dictatorship. Our people lived under dictatorship for 2,000 years, especially for the last 50 years. Now Carter has decided for the West and Europe is supposed to follow him, otherwise the Alliance is on trial. Mrs Thatcher is not an American puppet in the same way as the Shah. But she is under the influence of American imperialism - not in the same way and not as badly as Russian imperialism has shown itself in Afghanistan.

Iranians in London condemn the two superpowers and support the national independence of Iran and Afghanistan.



"Sanctions are not good for the West. They are not going to work and they just play into the hands of the Russians really.

"Does the British people really think it is advisable to declare war against 35 million people for the sake of 50 hostages? Is it right to deprive 35 million people of medical supplies for this?"

Despite being a part of the NATO Alliance, Turkey is determined to preserve good neighbourly relations with Iran. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has said, "We will not join in the embargo on Iran."

Under a new economic package deal, Turkey will buy more Iranian oil and Iran will import agricultural and industrial goods from Turkey in view of American economic sanctions.

FIGHT THE CUTS Cont'd from p1

the cutbacks the capitalist class is trying to make. These examples show that the coming months are likely to see a groundswell of working class anger more formidable than any government has had to face since the last days of the Heath government.

The TUC's call for a Day of Action on May 14th has received a lot of response from union branches and indeed whole unions. With transport likely to be at a standstill, and half-a-million civil servants out, schools closed, and many other actions planned, it looks as though May 14th will see more widespread direct action than the TUC would have liked.

A good response to the actions called for May 14th would be a good step towards reviving the fighting traditions of May Day. The Labour government tried to take the heat out of this traditional day of working class defiance by declaring a genteel 'May Day Bank Holiday'. The TUC's May 14th Day of Action was planned with the same end in view.

Widespread action by union members on May 14th can show that the working class is becoming prepared to act under its own banner, and by-pass and abandon the Labour Party and TUC opportunists who are the very people who prepared the way for this government's attacks.

Fight the cuts!

**Make the bosses pay!
Dump the Labour Party!**

Make the unions fight for the working class!