

CLASS STRUGGLE

Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

Incorporating

NEW AGE

PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

15P

Volume 5

No.10

October 1981

FREE THE BRADFORD 12

A major effort has been launched by the British state to smash the fast growing United Black Youth League in Bradford.

On July 30th and 31st, Bradford police arrested 11 black youths, mainly members and sympathisers of the UBYL. A twelfth youth was picked up later. All have been charged with conspiring to cause fire and explosions on or about July 11th, and intending to "endanger the lives of others". The conviction carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

POLICE CLAIM 'CONFESSIONS'

The prosecution claims that police had found a cache of petrol bombs in some waste ground around Horton Hall, Bradford. They claim that the first 11 youths arrested had given 'voluntary statements' admitting responsibility, while they were held in custody in the Tyrils, the Bradford Police Headquarters.

The arrested youths were held for 2 days without access to solicitors or family during which time they were subject to racist abuse, threats and brutality at the Tyrils. On Saturday August 1st they were brought before magistrates where they saw their solicitors for the first time only briefly before being taken into court.

10 of them have been remanded in custody ever since, with the order being renewed at weekly appearances before magistrates.

On Sept 3rd five of them refused to appear before magistrates to continue the farce.

The same court has given bail to racists involved in the fire bombing of Asian premises.

All the defendants deny making any voluntary confessions and plead NOT GUILTY.

None of the youths have been seen carrying or handling petrol bombs.

No petrol bombs were used during the street resistance in Bradford on July 11th.

But all the youths have been active in campaigning against deportations, and state racism and declare their readiness to defend their communities against racist attacks.



George Lindo, a West Indian worker in Bradford, was convicted of a crime he never committed solely on the basis of a 'voluntary statement' taken from him in the Tyrils. His conviction was later quashed after one of the officers involved was caught red-handed fabricating statements.

BRADFORD 12 ARE ACTIVE DEFENDERS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

They have been among the most vigorous campaigners for Anwar Ditta for Jaswinder Kaur, for Nasira Begum and for Gary Pemberton - a West Indian worker from Bradford who was assaulted and framed by West Yorkshire police. All these campaigns were victorious.

On July 11th a gang of skinheads descended on Bradford determined to carry out further racist attacks. Black youth responded by going on to the streets to defend their community. 68 were arrested.

The people intend to defend their communities and they have the right to do so. A number of arson attacks against black peoples houses and cafes culminated in the recent fire bombing of Textile Hall, a local West Indian centre and the headquarters of the July 11th Action Committee which was set up to defend the Bradford 12. Yet it is black houses that are raided not those of racists.

This is the background to the framing of charges against the Bradford 12. The frame-up on the

conspiracy charges is a political frame-up aimed at breaking the readiness of black people to defend themselves against state racism and fascist attacks - a reminder that the people have clearly shown on the streets over the last few months.

MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY

The response of the black community in Bradford to the arrests has been overwhelming. 700 people turned out to support the militants at a recent meeting. "Have we not got the right to defend ourselves? Have we not got the right to speak about what we would do if we were attacked?" they declared. The British racist state has given its answer in advance - the conspiracy charges. The people will win their rights - through struggle. And that they are doing and will continue to do.

USE OF 'CONSPIRACY'

The use of such conspiracy charges by the state in such political trials is not new. The conspiracy laws are an important weapon in the states armoury against revolutionary and progressive movements because the evidence need only be hearsay and guilt by association. They do not have to prove (in this case) that the militants have actually used petrol bombs.

In particular, such 'conspiracy' trials have been used against Irish people in Britain. This link is deepened by the present aim of criminalising the just struggle of national minorities in Britain, in a similar vein to the criminalisation policy against national liberation fighters in Ireland.

BEAT BACK THE STATE OFFENSIVE

If the racist state succeeds in this repression of the present struggle of national minorities in Britain, if it successfully convicts these political prisoners, it will be delivering a message loud and clear to all those fighting the racist state. It will be a declaration of its intention to break up the growing revolutionary and progressive movements in Britain.

The defence of the Bradford 12 must be an important task for all progressive people. Our demands are clear:

DROP THE CHARGES!

FREE THE BRADFORD 12!

Editorial

In September the government announced cash limits in the public sector to hold wage rises to a limit of 4% (or 4p in every £), and the employers in the engineering industry offered 3%. Contrast these figures with inflation. Prices have risen over the last year by 11%. If you take just the last 6 months the rise has been 7%. Spread over a year that would be 14% - 14p in the £.

So the government and employers are set to cut real wages by at least 10p in every pound. They know this is likely to lead to some sharp struggles and the Tory government is getting ready.

The knives are brought out in the cabinet. Out go the wets. Or in the case of Prior - off to Ireland, where Thatcher hopes he will suffer, at least, a political demise. It is not any basic policy that is being changed. The re-organisation of the cabinet is designed to cut out the growing criticism, arising from the complaints of important sections of industry, who are angry at Thatcher's failure even to achieve the tasks she has set herself, such as bringing down inflation!

The new industry minister, Tebbit, has no difference in long-term objective from Prior. The difference lies in tactics. Prior's bit by bit approach to bringing in laws aimed at attacking hard-won trade union rights is too slow. The government is fully aware of the growing contradictions and is preparing for a big confrontation. The pace of anti-worker legislation is being stepped up and Tebbit has fine credentials, and not only in his extreme-right ideas on economics. In 1972 he signed a letter to Ted Heath, the prime minister of the time, demanding the immediate deportation of Ugandan

Asians in Britain and blaming poor housing, school, social services etc. on immigration. His appointment represents an intention to go even further down the road of direct attacks on the working class coupled with a programme of stirring up racism to even greater heights, to provide a scapegoat and paralyse class resistance. - In a phrase, further down the road towards fascism.

But what of the Trade Union response? What did the TUC decide at its September congress to meet this challenge?

Firstly, it kept its feet firmly on the ground of backing imperialism and firmly opposed any fundamental challenge to the system of exploitation and oppression. It refused to uphold the right to self-determination of Ireland, and even condemned the hunger-strikers, and would not even back the five just demands. Prior can rest easy that he will have TUC friends at his side. However, a resolution was passed supporting the isolation of the South African regime (though it was careful not to condemn British imperialism in the region). Even this however, serves to show the cynicism of TUC leaders, as Duffy and Sirs fly off to South Africa this month.

But at least we could expect some reaction from the TUC on the level of the economic struggle, and indeed there is. Public sector unions have put in claims ranging from 12-25%. At the TUC Congress a resolution was overwhelmingly passed, which called for a united struggle by public sector workers. The declared intention is to coordinate wage struggle, even to the extent of mutual support and joint industrial action. NUPE succeeded with a demand that the TUC should back strike action in a coordinated drive to break

through the pay limit. "It may mean confronting the law on secondary picketing. If that is the case so be it," declared Gerald Gillman of SPCS.

This is very fine. But no worker can sit back and think that now there is going to be a big struggle. We must ensure that words become action, and that action is based on mobilising the initiative and full involvement of the rank and file workers.

But what of the TUC and the Labour Party? Delegates almost fell to their knees (a position in which most of them are very comfortable) to "pray for the return of a Labour government." The TUC is far more interested in this than mobilising mass struggles. And what about when a Labour government is returned?

Well, the TUC is hardly in a position to openly declare its support for another 'social contract'. Memories are not that short. So it voted overwhelmingly for "free collective bargaining". Don't be fooled because all was made clear:

"Everything must be down for discussion if we are to reach a genuine and wide-ranging national understanding between a Labour government and the unions," declared TUC General-Secretary Len Murray, "nobody can claim that what happens to incomes is totally irrelevant to what happens in the rest of the economy". The "left-wing" staunch defender of free collective bargaining, Alan Sapper, who is the newly-elected TUC Chairman summed it up by 'explaining that when the Labour government introduced some reforms, "this would be reflected in unions' bargaining positions".

So the social contract is alive and well and living under another name in the TUC headquarters.

From our postbag

From "Friends of Jaswinder Kaur"

You may already know that the Home Office has given Jaswinder indefinite leave to stay in this country with her son. We are writing to you to thank you for your part in the campaign to prevent Jaswinder's deportation. It is clear to us that without the sustained and widespread support that was given so generously, Jaswinder and Manjit would have been deported.

Jaswinder has given her support to other women facing deportation, in particular the campaigns of Cynthia Gordon, Nasira Begum and Nasreen Akhtar, and Cynthia and Nasira have both been recently granted leave to stay in the U.K. Nasreen is still under threat of deportation and we are writing to ask you to give your support to her campaign, which can be contacted c/o Ashworth Street Rochdale Lancashire.

The four campaigns have set up the 'Stop the Deportations Committee' along with other anti-racist and black groups to coordinate anti-deportation activities and a national demonstration has been planned for November, for which there will be further publicity. Information and details of affiliation can be obtained from 'Stop the Deportations Campaign' c/o Box J.K. 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. As you will understand the costs incurred in such a campaign are large and donations to 'Stop the Deportations Campaign'

would be gratefully received.

Friends of Jaswinder Kaur
P.O. Box J.K.
59 Cookridge Street,
Leeds 2.

From a London Reader

Dear Editor,

I recently had the privilege of being able to put up three of the relatives of prisoners in the H-Blocks when they came to London to lobby in support of their just 5 demands.

To meet and speak to these three people - middle aged, working-class women - was quite unforgettable. I have known of the discrimination in Ireland for many years, but as they told me of their experience living and struggling in Ireland, I felt the brutal reality of a system that I cannot possibly express in words on paper.

They told me of the years they spent bringing up children in one room bed-sitters; the orange state pushed Catholics always to the back of the queue; they told me of the systematic discrimination in jobs, with the consequent life of poverty. I learnt of the open state violence against the protests for democratic rights, and their struggle for independence. I heard how their young sons and daughters were picked up and held for hours and days for no offence, simply to bring pressure on the mothers who supported their older sons and brothers on the blanket protest; on one occasion for daring

to speak to the European Court of Human Rights.

They told me of their children callously shot with plastic bullets when going to the shops or out walking for daring to be in a republican area; and of the house searches which find nothing but which are designed to demoralise and intimidate. I heard how in these searches teenage girls are degraded as soldiers snigger over letters from their boyfriends and make snide comments as they rifle through their underwear. One of the families had been raided over 200 times.

I heard of the son whose eye was damaged in a routine beating in the H-Block, who was then refused permission to see an optician because he was on the blanket, and now wears a pair of his sister's glasses.

I heard them describe "black February" when male warders were brought into Armagh Jail to deliver a beating to the women prisoners in a vain attempt to break their protest, how they were stripped naked in front of male warders; how one had her fingers broken when her hands were pulled away as she tried to cover her breasts; how they were dumped bleeding but uncowed back on the stone floors of their cells and how the prison chaplain was refused permission to see them for two weeks.

I heard the truth spoken in the deepest sorrow, in bitterness and anger and often, incredibly, in an unstoppable humour, that broke through the

Cont-on p. 10

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

★ Although not widely publicised, the cut-price labour scheme, Youth Opportunities Programme, has suffered a recent strike. On the 28th August there was a three hour protest strike by YOP trainees in Eldon Square, Newcastle. The protest was organised by NUPE.

One of the protesters, 17-year-old Elizabeth Glasgow, made it clear why she was protesting: £23.50 for a 40 hour week was not enough to live on. YOP did not provide real employment. She had just done three months typing in Consett, 6 months in a Durham publicity office and was now doing silk-screen printing in Stanley.

★ Gloucestershire's Social Services Director has warned the Tory County Council that its new round of social services cuts will mean that it will no longer be able to keep its legal obligation to provide a service. The Director commented that the position locally was not unusual for local authorities facing further cuts.

Meanwhile in Cambridgeshire a work-in by staff at an old peoples home has forced the social services department to back down from its plans to cut staffing hours there. The employees argued that to cut the hours would cause the old people to suffer so they occupied the home until the bosses gave in.

And in Coventry Union leaders have put a four-point ultimatum to the City Council over planned £2 million spending cuts. They demand:

- (i) no redundancies
- (ii) no cuts in overtime work
- (iii) no increase in school meal prices
- (iv) no change in rent allowances for caretakers.

★ Women who want to keep up with the latest fashions are now being urged by the Daily Mirror to buy a dress that 'says it all about dressing sexy'. The dress is backless, sideless and nearly frontless. The cost? A mere £118 from Selfridges.

★ Unemployment causes depression, insomnia, alcoholism and physical symptoms such as asthma and backache. So concluded a three-year, DHSS-funded, report by Dr. Fagin of Claybury Hospital, Essex.

Dr. Fagin expected the report to be widely available. The DHSS thought otherwise, and only has 200 photocopies available for sale at a mere £6 each.

★ Many sick workers will face the sack under new sick pay rules which are likely to come into force next year. Others will have to take a pay cut, says the Low Pay Unit.

The Government has proposed that employers and not the state should provide sick pay for the first 8 weeks of illness. Bosses will be encouraged to fire workers who are sick or chronically ill.

In another proposal there is a clear incentive for bosses to cut pay rates. Bosses paying more than £45 a week in wages will have to pay sickness pay of £37. But those paying less than £45 need only pay £25.

★ All you unemployed bachelors existing (are you?) on £20.65 a week. don't despair - another bachelor who never worked in his life has just died and left £6 million in estate. All you have to do is be a Mr Whitbread, of the brewing family, who was a shareholder without having anything to do with running the company, and made his money from inheritance, land property, and farming interests in Lincolnshire. Being a generous man he left a whole £2,000 to be distributed amongst his present and former employees sorry, have I made you choke on your pint?

★ Another 3,000 ICI workers are to lose their jobs by Christmas. 6,000 have already gone this year, while 5,000 went in 1980. ICI, Britain's most successful company, also closed two factories this year after making its first ever loss.

★ Birmetals workers - whose struggles against factory closures following strike action we featured last year - have just lost their claim for compensation for unfair dismissal. A three week hearing at a Birmingham industrial tribunal ruled that both those involved in a pay dispute and a remainder who refused to switch to their jobs at that time, were taking industrial action. They are therefore legally banned from an unfair dismissal claim. These workers have received the full brunt of anti-union state power - strike breaking by factory closure, long months with no unemployment benefit, and now no redundancy money or compensation of any sort - and they have united and fought at every step.

★ Police are protecting the scabs going into the Laurence Scotts factory in Manchester. One scab recently attacked a photographer from the "Manchester Evening News" with a 2lb hammer. The police said they saw nothing. Meanwhile, Manchester North District Committee of the AUEW have unanimously agreed to send a resolution to the National Executive demanding they make the dispute official again.

THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

Available from New Era Books. 60' + 15' pap.

CLASS STRUGGLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

	INLAND	ABROAD
6 ISSUES	£1.75	£2.50
12 ISSUES	£3.50	£5.00

From NEW ERA BOOKS, 203, Seven Sisters road, London N.4.

Union leaders back imperialism in Azania

"We have black affiliates who desperately need our assistance. The objective is to pull them out of the dark ages and provide the sort of training shop stewards have here."

These were the words of Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Federation as he prepared for his official trip to South Africa this month.

It may surprise Sirs to know that the black people of Azania are not interested in his patronising contempt. It may also surprise him to discover that what the Azanian people need is not "Shop Stewards courses" but solidarity with their struggle for liberation.

Alongside his position in the Steel Workers Union, Sirs is secretary of the British section of the International Metalworkers Federation. It is in that capacity that he is making his grotesque visit, arm-in-arm of course with the President, Terry Duffy.

"The receipt of high monopoly profits by the capitalists ... makes it economically possible for them to bribe certain sections of the workers, and for a time a fairly considerable minority of them, and win them to the side of the bourgeoisie of a ... given nation against all the others ... And so there is created that bond between imperialism and opportunism, which revealed itself first and most clearly in England."

(Lenin - "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism.")

Duffy and Sirs seem to have forgotten already the resolution passed at the TUC congress in September supporting the "total isolation" of the South African regime. Or maybe it is just that they are aware that resolutions alone are just so many pieces of paper which may provide a screen for the real imperialist essence of the TUC.

Doubtless Sirs and Duffy have not forgotten TUC investments in South Africa and Sirs will be bearing British Steel's interests in mind, while Duffy will be concerned with British Leyland's factory in South Africa. After all, these nationalised industries are the cornerstone of British 'socialism' - or rather what passes for 'socialism' in imperialist minds.

But we shouldn't be surprised at Duffy and Sirs. The International Metalworkers Federation has frequently shown how 'internationalist' it is by vociferously opposing sanctions against South Africa within the Trade Union movement. It is to be noted that the visit takes place during Anti-Apartheid's trade union week of action.

We invite Trade Unionists in Britain, particularly those in the AUEW and ISI, to express their disgust in their branches, condemn their imperialist union leaders, and resolutely support the struggle for complete sanctions against South Africa.

FORD CONVENOR CARVES UP SHOP FLOOR UNITY

On Wednesday 9th September, workers on the 'A' shift in the Paint, Trim and Assembly Plant (PTA) at Fords, Halewood factory met to decide upon a proposal from the Shop Stewards Committee to scrap the shift policy of "One out, all out". With probably the most blatant example of opportunism seen at Halewood for years, the three-years-old policy was overturned.

Around 2,000 workers gathered

BENN MAN SETS IT UP

Both disputes resulted in layoffs in the PTA, and the "One out, All out" came into effect. Significantly, there were no layoffs in the Body plant, despite the fact that no work could be done for those two days. The meeting to throw out the "One out, All out" took place the following morning.

There is now justifiable suspicion around Halewood that Fords waited for Todd to come around to whip the workers into line (they were all given two hours off during work-time, with pay, to hear him.) Disputes in the PTA were then provoked, enabling the sell-out convenor to move in with his proposals to prevent united struggle.

outside the plant for the meeting.

One militant group of workers arrived with a placard displaying the slogan "One out - All out". Two long speeches were given, one by the plant convenor W. Maguire who attacked the policy, at times sounding more like a hysterical Tory or a disgruntled company boss, than a leader of the shop floor workers.

He said that small minorities can walk out, bringing the plant to a halt, to fight for their own selfish

All production workers at Halewood struck for two weeks last May, forcing Fords to withdraw their notorious 'double-dosing' disciplinary code. As part of the settlement of that dispute, the trade unions agreed that Ron Todd, an official of the T&GWU and one of Tony Benn's main backers, would meet all Ford workers in Britain to tell them that they must stick to the company's procedure and not take 'unofficial' strike action. Todd met the 'A' shift of the Body and PTA plants on Tuesday 1st September. The following Monday and Tuesday (7th and 8th) two separate disputes arose in the Paint Shop (in the PTA)

How did the "One out, All out" policy work?

A dispute would arise on one section resulting in those workers walking off the job. The company would then attempt to use the selective lay-off. The on-line workers would be first to go. Others would be kept on. The "One out, All out" policy prevented Fords from doing this. When one group of workers were laid-off, all others in the plant would lay themselves off (or strike) in sympathy. This policy only applied to the one shift in the PTA. The body plant at Halewood retains the policy on both shifts.

ends. He kept repeating that "certain sections are losing you money." Then he called for the vote, with no speeches against.

First the hands went up in favour (of scrapping the policy), then the hands went up against. Spontaneous cheering and applause broke out amongst the massed workers. But it quickly turned to confusion and disbelief when Maguire declared the motion carried.

Workers with a good view of the assembled crowd were convinced the vote had gone the other way. Yet the convenor gave his decision, and

Cont. on P.6.

STANDING UP TO RUSSIA

Solidarity calls for Free Unions in Eastern Bloc



The Polish free trade union, Solidarity, held the first stage of its Congress in Gdansk from September 5 to 10.

It demanded that workers have the right to elect and remove managers, free elections and 'social control' of the mass media. A final declaration described the overriding goal of Solidarity as "decent conditions for economic and political life in a sovereign Poland", and "a democratically organised and self-governed society." It called for public control of food production, freedom for political prisoners and for the right of workers to make the major decisions concerning their workplaces. It described the present industrial management system as "actually meant to preserve the selfish interests of the bureaucratic apparatus of the Party."

GREETINGS TO SOVIET WORKERS

One of the most significant decisions of the Congress was to adopt the "Address to all workers of Eastern Europe":

"The delegates ... send greetings to the workers of Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, and all the nations of the Soviet Union. As the first independent trade union of our post-war history we feel, profoundly, that we hold our aspirations in common.

Despite the fabricated news circulated in your countries, we assure you we are an authentic representative body of workers, with ten million members, born out of workers' strikes. Our aim is the struggle to improve all workers' conditions of life. We support those among you who have chosen the difficult struggle for a free trade union movement. We believe that, in

the not-too-distant future, our representatives will be able to meet and exchange trade union experiences."

A number of foreign trade unions sent delegates to the Congress, including a delegation from Yugoslavia.

SOVIET THREAT

Solidarity's fine example is already inspiring the working people of the Soviet Union and its satellites. So the Kremlin bosses are not merely worried about Poland slipping from their grasp - they are frightened that the Polish disease might become contagious. Stage managed meetings have been held by dragooned Soviet workers to condemn Solidarity - all too reminiscent of Kremlin moves shortly before the invasion of Czechoslovakia (see box on this page).

In an insolent and threatening statement the Soviet leaders say that "anti-Sovietism" in Poland "has reached dangerous limits". It demands to know "why the official Polish authorities have not taken any resolute steps so far to clamp down on the hostile campaign against the USSR." It demanded that the Polish authorities "immediately take determined and radical steps" to bring the country back into line with Soviet dictates. And, in an act of undisguised military intimidation, the Soviets have recently held manoeuvres close to the Polish border involving 100,000 troops and including a landing exercise of marines only a short distance from Gdansk.

The heroic efforts of the Polish workers are an inspiration throughout the Soviet empire. The peoples of the world must be on guard against the threat of Soviet military aggression.

The emergence and growth of Solidarity in Poland is inspiring workers in the Soviet Union and the other revisionist countries in Eastern Europe to step up their struggles. Here are just a few examples:

SOVIET UNION

* At the beginning of April workers staged several strikes in Kiev, capital of Ukraine. Two strikes, lasting a total of a day and a half took place in an agriculture machinery factory in protest against intensified exploitation through production speed up. The workers won their demands and the factory manager was removed. A successful strike was also held in an engineering factory.

* In the Soviet Union's Baltic Republics a copy of Solidarity's weekly newspaper sells for 150 roubles - more than the average monthly wage.

* A group of Russian trade unionists have declared support for solidarity and expressed a wish to build relations with them.

* A 63-year-old Latvian engineer has been sentenced to 15 years hard labour for spreading information on Solidarity

EAST GERMANY

* Seven workers from big factories have been arrested for discussing the formation of a free trade union.

* Leaflets circulating in East Berlin in support of Solidarity list 19 social and political demands.

* An East German worker has been imprisoned for ten months for saying that workers in his country should do as Polish workers have done.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

* Supporters of Charter 77 formed an independent trade union in June.

BENN'S "ARGUMENTS FOR SOCIALISM":

AN ANSWER

The ruling class do not merely tell workers how to conform, or what to do if they agree with the present situation. To a great extent they also tell workers how to rebel, producing through their media a bogey figure, and so convincing many workers that because the top people hate it, it must be genuine. In my lifetime there have been several of these images of the rebel. In the sixties it was flower power. Today it is Tony Benn, and it is the duty of every socialist to decide whether Benn - or more importantly, what Benn represents - is genuine or not. An examination of Benn's book "Arguments for Socialism" casts a lot of light on this question.

The basic criticism of the book is that it is incorrectly titled, for it is not "arguments for socialism". Socialism is conspicuous by its absence. The book is at its feeblest when it is discussing things like open government, freedom of information, the power monopoly of the Prime Minister, and similar 'liberal' concerns. By "socialism" Tony Benn means radical liberalism, a utopian version of bourgeois democracy. On page 17 he talks of his socialism being one that is "open, libertarian, pluralistic, humane and democratic."

Let us be clear precisely what this means:

Libertarian means respecting the liberties of the capitalists. Pluralistic means the preservation of a society that is full of variety, i.e. with millionaires alongside people digging in dustbins. Humane means the human rights of the Duke of Westminster, and democratic means 'by permission of the bourgeoisie', sticking completely to the rules of the political game as defined by them. Marxism to Benn is simply militant liberalism, and he quotes a definition by Laski of Marxism as "the preservation of individuality" - and the meaning of that is the right of the rich to go in for any crazy bloody fad the workers can be made to pay for.

DENIAL OF CLASSES AND CLASS STRUGGLE

On page 43 of the book Benn shows exactly what his socialism adds up to when he actually writes: "Investors there will always be ..." So capital and Labour will still be separate from each other in Benn's wonderful world of libertarian 'socialism' and coffee-cream Marxism.

Benn is a petty-bourgeois, outside the class struggle and regarding it as unreal and wrong-headed, to be avoided by clever handling. The class struggle is conspicuous by its absence from the book, Benn referring constantly to that abstraction "The People", without recognising that this "People" is divided into antagonistic classes.

Benn can only see wrongs in capi-

talism that capitalists themselves recognise: the totally irresponsible and criminal behaviour which even Heath called "the unacceptable face of capitalism". What troubles a socialist is not what capitalists do that is illegal, but what they do that is perfectly legal - exploiting and enslaving the working class. No-one must ever confuse hostility to capitalist misbehaviour with socialism.

LEND THE BOURGEOISIE YOUR RIGHTS

Tony Benn's illusions about bourgeois democracy are legion. On pages 95-97 he gives a laughable picture of our system of government, with the People "by exercising their vote" lending "their sovereign powers to members of parliament to use on their behalf powers that must be returned intact to the electorate to whom they belong, to lend again." This is pathetic, and any black being hit on the head by a copper should remember that he has just porarily lent his sovereign powers, and that he'll be getting them back for the 30 seconds he's inside the polling booth in 2½ years time. The point a socialist makes about bourgeois democracy is precisely that these wonderful principles are simply a mask for the reality in which the working class, which composes most of the electorate, is permanently kept down, with enormous efforts made to keep it deceived and misinformed. Instead of exposing bourgeois democracy, Benn simply repeats these platitudes. In the place of class struggle, Benn sees -- our constitutional rights.

Benn is totally unable to explain why bourgeois democracy doesn't correspond with this picture. He attempts an explanation on page 109, and he puts the defects down to -- technology! In 1920 an aircraft only flew at 100 miles an hour, whereas now a spaceship flies at 25,000 mph! But this is an insult to the reader, for of course from the point of view of Tony Benn's liberalism 1920 was even worse than today. Lloyd George was Prime Minister in 1920, and he sold peerages to finance the Liberal Party. 1920 is the year of the establishment of the Black and Tans, and the war in Ireland then was even more horrible than it is now. 1920 was the year of the Jolly George incident, when a ship of that name was stopped from taking guns to attack socialist Russia, not by parliamentary questions, but by class struggle.

WHOSE STATE

Benn does not begin to expose the real reason why bourgeois democracy doesn't live up to its advertising. In all cases the defects he points to are the product of the class war. The secret service spies mostly on the working class. The details that are actually on computers are details of the personal lives of class-conscious workers and their

allies. The power of the Prime Minister is not accidental, for it is vital to insulate the real state of army, police, prisons, ministries etc. from the parliamentary veil.

Benn is being deliberately stupid when he says that closed government makes more mistakes, for the one mistake they avoid be keeping things secret is spilling the beans on just how oppressive the state is, and on how the state is totally an instrument of class rule. To avoid that mistake they'll tolerate some others.

MODERATING THE CLASS STRUGGLE

The aim of Benn's 'open government' is to moderate the class struggle, to win consent where there is now none, to restore credibility where it's gone, and to give capitalism a new lease of life. Benn hopes that by extending participation in decision making the alienation of the masses from the state will be corrected. The aim of his 'workers' control' is to restore harmony. Give the workers a little power and a lot of responsibility and the workers will police themselves, he thinks. And of course, we mustn't forget that "investors there will always be ..." Nice cosy collaboration, with the unions failing to act as defensive organs of the working class, and becoming even further integrated into the capitalist state apparatus, a part of the imperialist state, incorporated into the managing boards of capitalist enterprises and functioning as the lowest level of management in the workplace. Already the TUC, particularly under Labour governments, is heavily involved in managing capitalism. Already it has its own imperialist economic interests, already it defends the system from which it draws its life blood. Far from breaking with this trend (which saw unemployment treble, wage cuts and cuts in services), Benn would push it to the extreme - a corporate state.

The book is full of chauvinism.

The British are 100 years ahead - so we are told - of the French and German workers in democratic experience (page 169). Let's not tell Tony about the Paris Commune.

Britain is now "a colony" of the EEC/the USA/the IMF or all three, he says. Let's not tell Tony about the £200 billion investments this "colony" holds abroad.

All Benn gives us is the same old stale Labour buns of boring old plans to run capitalism differently and an attempt to revive the credibility of bourgeois democracy and reinvigorate British imperialism.

What we have to do is to develop independent working class politics, and we can start by recognising that whatever Tony Benn is, he is not a socialist. For the essence of socialism is the transfer of state power to the working class, and even the slightest hint of that is absent from Benn's tedious, slovenly and stupid little book.

STOP THE DEPORTATIONS

The attempts to deport Nasira Begum, Jaswinder Kaur and Cynthia Gordon were beaten back; beaten by mass struggle. But deportations continue on a mass scale. Here we print just three of the recent cases, and call on our readers to give support as strongly as before.

MUNTAZ KIANI

Mrs Muntaz Kiani came to Britain in 1975 as a visitor. A year after marrying Mohamed Younis Kiani in April 1977 she was granted indefinite leave to stay in the UK by the Home Office. In 1980 the Home Office alleged that Mr Kiani was a seaman deserter and deported him. Now they claim that Mrs Kiani has been here illegally since 1977!

Muntaz Kiani and her two daughters Attia (18 months old) and Nadia (2 months old) have nowhere to go. Her husband has nowhere to live in Pakistan, and has written saying he does not want her back. Her only relatives live in Britain - and she has already been granted the right to stay.

The Home Office attempt to deport her is racist, inhuman and unjust.

The Bradford Asian Youth Movement has established the Muntaz Kiani Defence Committee. (c/o Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate, Bradford.

(Reprinted from a leaflet by the London Immigration Action Group).

The British state actively promoted immigration from the Black Commonwealth after World War II in order to reconstruct its war-torn economy and settlers came to take up the worst paid, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs unfilled by white British workers. But 1958 saw the first recession since the war and the Notting Hill and Nottingham 'riots' in response. All immigration legislation from 1962 to 1971, and more recently the Nationality Bill, has been designed not to cut down numbers but to reduce the rights of settlement, citizenship and permanency.

Cont. from P. 4.

arrogantly ignoring the protests of the workers, turned away, packed up the public-address equipment and walked back into the plant. Hundreds of angry workers stood around, refusing to return to work in the face of such blatant dishonesty and opportunism. But they received only abuse from the convenor and his supporting stewards.

Afterwards, angry trim-line workers gave their reaction: "I'm disgusted! There's no way that vote was carried" was most typical. "I just couldn't believe what was happening. I could clearly see that the vote was against, by around 60-40 I'd say." The general opinion was that the vote had been 3-2 against, though some said it was nearer 3-1. "The lads on the line are angry. They're saying we're fighting two bosses: Fords and the Unions! Even some fellers who voted for it are beginning to have second thoughts after the way it was done. They're wondering what lies behind it," I was told.

For a full half-hour after the

PHILIPPOS AND KATERINA ISAIAS

Dr. Nicos Isaias is fighting the attempt to deport his parents, Philippos and Katerina. They came to live in Britain quite legally as refugees when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974.

The Home Office has now decided that the situation in Cyprus has "become stable" and has a long list of Cypriots it intends to deport.

The Cyprus Embassy has another view. It points out that, while the Turkish government has made proposals for negotiations, nothing has yet been settled.

For Dr. Isaias' parents "stability" in Cyprus will mean living in a refugee camp. His grandparents, who are 75 and 80 years old, live in a wooden shack in a refugee camp and it took them two years to get that instead of a tent.

Nicos is a British citizen. His sister, with whom the parents are staying in London, is a permanent resident and a civil servant. All this makes not a whit of difference to the racist state. The state is set on a programme of racist deportations.

UNITE AGAINST STATE RACISM

The 1971 Act finally brought an end to any settlement at all and put all Commonwealth Citizens on a par with aliens. However, the economy still needed a labour force whose cost and mobility it could control - without the right to change jobs, to move at will, to bring families - a labour force kept under constant threat of immediate removal. In 1980 the government further tightened the immigration rules, severely restricting the categories under which people were allowed to enter Britain to work.

meeting broke up, workers in the Paint Shop and on the trim-lines stood around in their work areas, too angry to begin work again. It was only after assurances from sympathetic stewards that production was able to get underway. A few stewards demanded of the convenor that a stewards committee meeting be called for the afternoon. Eventually, one was held at 2 p.m. A proposal was put that a secret ballot be held (the stewards proposing this did not generally prefer ballots to a show of hands at a mass meeting. But they felt the convenor couldn't be trusted at another shift meeting, that the same thing was likely to happen again. This proposal was defeated 13-8. It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed in three months time. Here the convenor is banking on workers forgetting the whole affair. The workers in the PTA must ensure it's not forgotten. This issue must be kept alive and maximum pressure brought to restore the only policy that can ensure maximum unity - "One out, All out."

ANGELITA LANDAYAN

Angelita Landayan, a Filipino migrant worker, has just won her case. She has lived and worked in Britain for nine years, and is a single parent, supporting two children. When Angelita applied for her visa to work in Britain, she was not told that, as she was separated from her husband, but not divorced, she could not be classified as single. She was not asked if she had any children, nor told that her application would be disqualified if she did have any.

Suddenly, she was informed that having children made her an "illegal immigrant". She was not the only one. Her case was just part of a vicious clampdown on Filipino migrant workers.

What then made the Home Office grant her appeal at the beginning of September? A spokesperson for the London Immigration Action Group explained to "Class Struggle":

"Angelita was one of the Filipino workers who agreed to a mass campaign to fight the case. All three cases were won hardly before a real campaign got going, just the intention had its effect. But the Home Office has avoided setting up precedents in these test cases by granting appeals solely on "humanitarian" grounds. So most of the Filipinos as still being quietly deported."

RACIST OPPRESSION OF BLACK COMMUNITIES

The racist British state is ever increasingly trying to shift the burden of its crisis onto the backs of working people, black and white. Black people are fighting back - WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH! We have suffered Immigration raids on our homes and places of work. Families are split with mothers, fathers and children waiting many years for entry clearance, too often unsuccessfully. Nasreen Akhtar, Tajinder Jit Singh and 2 children, Mala and Sanjay Sing Darbar all face unjustifiable deportation. Our communities have suffered policing operations like 'Swamp 81' in Brixton, fascist mob violence in Southall and Brick Lane, fire-bombings in New

fire-bombings in New Cross and Walthamstow, murders, shootings, beatings, unemployment and urban decay. We are threatened with the Nationality Bill and repatriation. We are harassed and arrested in Lewisham, Bristol, Toxteth, Coventry and Bradford when we resist and fight back against the provocations of the racist state, its thugs, the police and the open fascist organisations. Recently 40 youths, mainly black, were arrested in Finsbury Park and 72 in Wood Green. Raids on homes followed. The police said "We're getting you back for Brixton".

The media tries to tell us that immigration and racist attacks are problems for Asians; that unemployment, poor schooling and confrontation with the police is a West Indian problem. But this is just another attempt to keep our communities divided and weaken our fight. The struggle is the same - AGAINST RACISM IN THIS SOCIETY.

The London Immigration Action Group can be contacted at: LIAG, c/o 146, Kentish Town Road, London NW1.

REMEMBER MANJIT KAUR

A tribute by Shirley Joshi

Manjit Kaur was born in Barapind in 1938 in a village in the Jullundur district of Punjab. She attended primary school for a few years and later married Avtar Jouhl before coming to England in 1960. On a visit to India in 1981 she tragically died of a heart attack at the age of 43 in the same village in which she was born.

Manjit Kaur was a remarkable woman. As well as being a wife and mother she was an active worker in the Indian Workers Association, an industrial worker and a trade unionist.

In the early 1960's, after coming to Britain, she immediately recognised the importance of the work being done by the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain) and supported that work not only by encouraging and assisting in the work done in the organisation by her husband Avtar Jouhl but also by direct participation in meetings and demonstrations and above all by familiarising Indian women with the work of the Indian Workers Association and winning their support for it. That work was of crucial importance for not only did it mean that there was a growing number of Indian women who felt they had an ally in their fight against racial discrimination and in turn were prepared to support the IWA in their work but it also meant that the second generation of the Indians in this country were being brought up to recognise the importance of the fight against racial oppression and in particular the role that the Indian Workers Association was playing in this struggle.

Manjit Kaur was present on many of the early demonstrations against immigration controls in the 1960's together with the many women that she had mobilised. She played a vital role in encouraging women to use their vote in the 1964 general election in Smethwick when Peter Griffiths campaigned on an overtly racist platform. The victory of Peter Griffiths in Smethwick and the growing strength of overtly racist organisations meant that Smethwick became a symbol of the fight against racism throughout the world. Manjit Kaur never allowed herself to be intimidated by threats of racialists against her husband and family and always insisted that no matter what the personal costs and strains that the work should continue.

Right through the late 1960's and the emergence of the Black Peoples Alliance and into the 1970's, Manjit continued to play a role in the mobilisation of women in the campaigns, demonstrations and meetings against the growth of institutionalised racism and the growing racial violence which the black people in Britain were experiencing. The last two demonstrations which Manjit Kaur participated in were in April of this year to protest against the Nationality Bill and the demonstration in Coventry in June to protest at the killing of an Indian student. Before the April demonstration Manjit Kaur not only canvassed support for the demonstration but took the initiative to collect money in her

factory in order to prepare food for people travelling to London on what was to be the biggest contingent of the largest black peoples demonstration ever held in this country.

Manjit Kaur never forgot her roots in India and played a full part in the fight to support the struggle of the workers and peasants in India for their rights. She was on the 1965 demonstrations to protest at violation of civil rights in India and later supported the Alliance Against Fascist Dictatorship in India in the mid 1970's when the Indian ruling class led by Indira Gandhi made a massive attack on the workers and peasants there.

Manjit Kaur respected and kept alive in her own family the customs and progressive aspects of her culture. Recognising the very important role of language in keeping an oppressed peoples culture alive she insisted that Punjabi was spoken in the home and that her children learnt their own language. But Manjit Kaur who was a worker and trade unionist also recognised the importance of playing a part in the wider working class movement. She therefore ensured that the children not only respected and valued their Indian cultural heritage but were fully prepared for playing their role in the struggle of the wider working class movement in Britain.

Avtar Jouhl and his children have lost a beloved wife and mother. The Indian Workers Association have lost a valued and hard working member. We have all lost a greatly respected comrade and friend. Her life and work were an inspiration and example to us all. Therefore the tribute we in the Indian Workers Association pay to Manjit Kaur is to continue the struggle in which she played such a valued part.



MEMORIAL MEETING

Over 150 people attended a meeting organised by the Birmingham branch of the Indian Workers' Association GB (IWA) in memory of Manjit Kaur, wife of Avtar Jouhl - General Secretary of the IWA.

Speakers included Teja Sahota, President IWA, representatives of the various branches, Shirley Joshi, Joshi memorial committee and a representative of the Revolutionary Communist League.

Teja spoke first and expressed his sorrow at the loss, and extended his condolences to the family. He quoted Mao - 'women hold up half the heaven', and pointed out that the IWA's record on mobilising women is weak. Manjit was one of the few people who did work amongst Indian women, thus her loss is doubly felt.

Avtar spoke at the end:

"Death causes pain and suffering. In the last two or three years we have lost comrades like: Meher Singh Rai, Jagmohan Joshi, Dev Sahota, A.D. Kataria, Maurice Ludmer and now Manjit Kaur. Whilst the death of comrades causes setbacks, if it is a genuine people's movement these setbacks can be overcome. We can make up for the loss with more determination and work."

He went on to add one or two things about Manjit. He described how bold and steadfast she was and that this came from an understanding of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. She understood the wider commitment which even extended beyond her own family. When her son was injured in an anti-racist demonstration in 1976, she remained in the demonstration saying that other comrades had gone with him. Other women were urging her to go to the hospital. She was not unconcerned, but felt it more correct to stay. She always maintained that it was correct to take the children to demonstrations, saying that we should give an example to others. She felt that the children should know where they came from and not forget their cultural roots, and ensured that they had the opportunity to visit India. When relations commented that the Indian authorities and police sometimes harassed people from England, saying they are Naxalites, she said that there are hundreds of thousands of people already in prison so why should I be concerned about myself.

Avtar concluded by saying that the best way to follow her example is to give more time to the struggle.

NEW ERA BOOKS

Literature on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, British working-class movement, Ireland and other national liberation struggles.

* The Creation of World Poverty - An Alternative View to the Brandt Report - Teresa Hayter £2.50 + 19p for postage.

* Namibia - SWAPO Fights for Freedom - Liberation Support Movement. £1.70 + 24p postage

* Namibia - The Facts - International Defence and Aid Fund. £1.50 + 24p postage

* We Live in Our Areas, Our People Know Us. Interviews with Provisional Sinn Fein. 95p + 15p postage.

* REVOLUTION Theoretical Journal of the RCLB Vol. 4 No 3 - "The New Technology" 60p + 15p

203 Seven Sisters Road
London N4 Tel: 01-272 5894

Open Mon-Sat 10 to 6. (7.30 Thursday). Nearest tube - Finsbury Park.

HANDS OFF ANGOLA

Solidarity with SWAPO!

The South African Army is continuing to occupy large areas in southern Angola, which it occupied after its all-out invasion of August 15. This invasion was itself preceded by two and a half months of steadily escalating aggression and provocation.

Penetrating 250 miles into the territory of the People's Republic of Angola, the racist troops killed, burnt and destroyed everything in their way.

With air cover they destroyed whole villages, attacked hospitals, schools and homes and left hundreds dead and injured. The full extent of the damage is not yet known but already the Angolan government has declared its four southern provinces to be a disaster area.

The attack on Angola is not just an act of aggression against that country and its people. It is also directed at the people of Namibia - illegally occupied by South Africa - and in particular at the bases of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), Namibia's liberation movement.

PLUNDER OF NAMIBIA

Using the illegal South African occupation of Namibia, the imperialist countries, in particular British imperialism, carry out the plunder of its diamonds, uranium, copper, iron, lead, lithium, manganese, sulphur, tin, vanadium, tungsten, silver, zinc, cadmium and many semi-precious stones.

It has the greatest diamond reserves in the world and holds second and third place respectively for lead and uranium. Yet despite this immense wealth, the people of Namibia exist in conditions of the most grinding poverty.

A few statistics tell the story:

- * only 1% of black Namibian children ever reach secondary school;

- * amongst the Ovambos, one of the main nationalities, average life expectancy is 33 years for women and 31 for men;

- * In Windhoek - the capital city - 163 out of every 1000 children die in their infancy.

This huge gap between the wealth of the country and the poverty of the people exists for one reason alone. That is, that the South African occupation is simply the cover for the real slave owners - the western imperialists, chiefly Britain.

LABOUR, TORY BOTH THE SAME

British imperialism has plundered Namibia under both the Labour and Tory governments. Rio Tinto Zinc has the biggest share (46%) in the Rossing mine, the largest Uranium mine in the world. Until he became Foreign Secretary two years ago, Lord Carrington was a Director of Rio Tinto Zinc. This company made £453 million in profits in 1979 and £507 million in 1980.

When he was Minister for Energy, it was none other than Tony Benn, the pink charlatan, who signed the agreement authorising the UK Atomic Energy Authority to buy Uranium from the Rossing mine.

So it is not surprising that South Africa fights SWAPO and invades Angola

with:

- British Centurion Tanks and saracens;
- British Buccaneer bombers;
- British powered impala jets;
- British supplied oil (via BP and Shell);

British finance (Barclays and Standard Chartered Banks and revenues from Rio Tinto Zinc).

So, whilst British imperialism condemns South African aggression in words it refuses to vote for any meaningful resolution in the United Nations Security Council.

RECKONING WITH SWAPO

South Africa is so discredited in the world that the western imperialists would like to replace South African occupation with a neo-colonial settlement that would grant flag 'independence' to its stooges. But to do this they must first of all deal with SWAPO, the increasingly effective leadership of the Namibian revolution.

SWAPO's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, now has 15,000 operational troops in Namibia and semi-liberated zones in the north of the country. Since April this year they have killed 180 occupation troops, knocked out 15 troop carriers and trucks, shot down 2 helicopters and destroyed military complexes. Even the South Africans have to admit:



Namibian women guerrilla fighters sharpen shooting skills

KAMPUCHEA - united front

From the 2nd to the 4th of September, in Singapore, the leaders of the three resistance movements in Kampuchea met together to discuss forming a united front. This meeting between Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan was the fruit of two years patient work by the main resistance movement, the Democratic Kampuchea Government. The three parties signed an agreement to work towards forming, "a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea with a view to continuing the struggle in all forms for the liberation of Cambodia from the Vietnamese aggressors."

"The enemy (SWAPO) moves in civilian clothes and operates at night quite effectively. The fact is they are getting to the people who feed and protect them."

SWAPO is committed to a national democratic programme that would eventually take Namibia onto the socialist road. Not only would Namibia no longer be an imperialist paradise, but South Africa itself would stand completely alone as the last bastion of colonialism in Africa. That is why, despite a few hypocritical words of 'criticism' British imperialism is one of the real arch criminals that aims not only to destroy SWAPO, but also to destabilise the Angolan government that has generously supported SWAPO, in spite of its own immense problems that are a result of its own long colonial history.

SOLIDARITY

While the petit bourgeois socialists of the British left are busy campaigning for Namibian uranium thief Benn to be Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, Communists in Britain will be looking to the most oppressed sections of the working class, those who this summer in Brixton, Toxteth, Moss Side and elsewhere showed themselves receptive to revolutionary forms of struggle, to form the solid foundation for a movement of genuine and resolute solidarity with the liberation movements in southern Africa. A movement built on this foundation will be solid because it will be based on those who have absolutely no interest in keeping the imperialist system alive, those for whom the liberation of southern Africa is in their own direct and immediate class interests.

In a statement on arrival in Singapore, Comrade Khieu Samphan said that Democratic Kampuchea stood for a "union of all Kampuchean national forces without any exclusion and discrimination." This union should be based on a minimum political programme with each party maintaining its independence.

At the United Nations General Assembly, Democratic Kampuchea again retained its seat, despite an expulsion move by the Soviets and Vietnamese. Three more countries voted for Democratic Kampuchea this year as compared to last.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

More greetings to RCL second congress

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has received some more messages of greetings on the occasion of its Second Congress held in July. (See articles in August issue of 'Class Struggle'.)

The letter from the Communist League of Iceland says, "We can see that you are determined to continue your party-building process in accordance with Marxism-Leninism. We wish you success in your work."

The letter from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru states, "We are very happy for the successful holding of the Second Congress of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain. On this occasion, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru express to you and the entire membership of the League their warmest greetings."

"Our two organisations struggle in countries on separate continents in the world. The basic conditions are very different for revolutionary work. But we have a revolutionary theory in common: Marxism-Leninism... Now, when the communist movement in the advanced capitalist countries are facing great difficulties and a liquidationist trend, the firm decision of the League to continue integrating the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought to the British revolution and their reaffirmation to rebuild the revolutionary working class party in Britain are of tremendous importance and will give stimulus to the Marxist-Leninists of other countries."

"Your Second Congress has occurred at a time when there is a growing danger of a new world war and the growing menace of aggression of Soviet social-imperialism, the most dangerous enemy of the peoples of the world. Our two organisations have great tasks against the two superpowers and for unyielding defence of national independence, democracy and working class and popular interests in our two countries."

"Recent struggles in Britain, mainly of the oppressed national minorities, attract attention of all... peoples. We express full support to the Irish peoples struggle against British imperialism and the struggle of East Indian, Black peoples and other national minorities against the policy

of ... repression of the British ruling class and State.

"We wish to the League and their new Central Committee successes in their work and struggle."

"At the same time, we wish our two organisations will strengthen further collaboration in our common struggles against common enemies."

The International Liaison Committee of the Workers Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) in Canada sent a letter of warm congratulations.

"We firmly support your struggle to rebuild the revolutionary party of the working class in Britain by integrating the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought with the concrete practice of the British revolution."

"We hold in high esteem the work you are doing to support the struggle of the Irish people for its liberation from British imperialism. You are taking up the important task of doing education on this issue among the British working class and people."

"In the present international situation, marked by the acceleration of war preparations by the two superpowers, and as well by a strong offensive of revisionism worldwide, your firm stand in defending Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought plays a valuable role for the future of revolution both in Britain and throughout the world."

GREETINGS TO KOREA

September 9 was the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a genuine socialist country. The RCLB sent a message of congratulations to the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) highly appraising the Korean peoples efforts to build socialism, achieve national reunification, oppose imperialism and strengthen the non-aligned movement. It expressed the wish that the friendship between the RCLB and the WPK would be strengthened in the years to come.

MEXICO SUMMIT

Third World Demands Economic Justice

15 million children die of malnutrition each year. And that is only those children under 5.

That is the sort of mind-numbing fact that charities like Oxfam hold in front of us at Christmas to get donations. It seems too horrific to understand.

Yet this truth is not just a bit of propaganda by the charities. It is a hard fact of political economy. For the 15 million children who die before they reach their fifth birthday are third world children; the political economy that does this to them is the political economy of the imperialist economic system.

How can it be otherwise when over 1 billion people, 1,000 million, each live on the equivalent of £45 a year? Inevitably a proportion of their children will die with swollen bellies of chronic starvation, or with tongues parched dry from diarrhoea because simple remedies are too expensive. How can it be otherwise when 75% of the worlds people get only 17% of the worlds income?

For capitalism was not only launched on the riches plundered

from the colonies. It created a tendency towards uneven development, and that tendency has been intensified under imperialism.

So the people of Jamaica, for example, are faced with hard facts like these. In 1960 if they sweated to produce 20 tons of sugar they could exchange it on the world market for 1 tractor. But now they have to hack down 40 tons of sugar cane to buy the same tractor. What chance do they have of developing their economy when the dice are loaded against them like this?

These are the sort of facts that are leading the people of the third world to demand a "New International Economic Order". They want to be free of the money lenders of the rich countries to whom they have to give £20 billion a year. They want freer opportunities to use the labour-saving technology that should be the property of the human race but which is monopolised by the imperialist countries.

The third world wants international bodies re-organised on a fair and democratic basis. For instance many of these bodies were

set up during the colonial era - and they show it. On the powerful International Monetary Fund Britain still has the power to outvote China, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan all put together - nearly half of the world's peoples!

For the first time in Mexico in October there is to be an international summit of heads of state of rich and poor countries. At this conference the US and Britain will be foremost in trying to sidetrack and block the demands of the Third World. The Soviet Union will play a more deceptive and disruptive role.

Frankly big changes cannot be expected in Mexico, partly because the Third World still has to develop its political unity and strength. But whether its peoples raise their demands in a reformist way or in a revolutionary way, these demands for a New International Economic Order are entirely just. They are a fundamental part of the struggle against imperialism and for the victory of socialism throughout the world. Workers and all revolutionary people in Britain must support the campaign as fully as we are able.

IRELAND_

ARMED STRUGGLE

In the June issue of "Class Struggle", after the murder of the first four hunger strikers - Bobby Sands MP, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara - we wrote:

"The revolutionary armed struggle against British imperialism in Ireland is vigorously developing... The armed actions so far are just a small taste of the price British imperialism will surely be made to pay for its cruel and cynical murder of Irish patriots. Blood debts shall be paid in blood!"

Now, ten hunger strikers have been murdered and seven of their comrades are continuing the campaign. In response to the barbarism of British imperialism, the IRA have vigorously and successfully stepped up the armed struggle in recent weeks. (In addition, during the first seven months of this year the patriotic forces carried out more than 300 armed actions, killing 26 imperialist troops and police.)

In the last full week of August 8 soldiers, 1 UDR paramilitary and 2 policemen were injured - many seriously - in a variety of IRA operations throughout the six counties.

In a coolly executed and well-planned operation on September 4th, two British soldiers were "chatted up" by two women IRA volunteers in a Lisburn pub. At closing time the Brits drove the volunteers to a flat in Belfast, that had been rented by the IRA some time previously. Shortly after midnight, minutes after their arrival, other IRA volunteers burst in and fired bursts of automatic gunfire killing one soldier and seriously injuring the other.

Cont. from P.2.

oppression, and the suffering. And I know that nothing will stop their struggle. They have been through it all. Yes they are often frightened, and that is what makes their determination to fight on nevertheless all the more heroic.

I know they want peace. I know they want to live in friendship with Protestants in Ireland. But I also know that they will never bow down and accept it as second class citizens downtrodden in a British-backed orange fascist state.

I have had a small taste, a second-hand hint at what the struggle in Ireland is really about. I want to know more. In Britain we have been blindfolded by the most systematic propaganda campaign, by censorship and by deliberate misinformation. I hope this letter will encourage readers of your paper to find out more. To make their own contacts with people in the north of Ireland, to read about the situation, and to take up the struggle here in Britain immediately in support of the 5 demands, but also for the goal of an independent Irish republic. The bulk of the so-called left in Britain is passive. I did not see them on the relatives' protests and vigils in London. I did not see them helping the visit in any way.

I hope that some of their members begin to fight that passivity.



"An Phoblacht/ Republican News" commented, "Now more than ever British soldiers must be aware that the watchful eyes of the IRA are everywhere and that they will not be allowed to relax, anytime, anywhere."

On Sunday, 6th September in Armagh, the IRA shot and critically wounded an RUC detective believed to have been involved in the jailing of murdered hunger striker, Martin Hurson. An IRA spokesman had earlier promised that the IRA would, "pay the British government in kind for the deaths of comrades."



The next day, two fledgling RUC constables were blasted to their deaths by an IRA landmine, less than 2 miles from the home of the late Martin Hurson.

Between the 12th-16th September, one UDR paramilitary was killed and three police were injured and one killed in IRA attacks. On September 22, two British soldiers were seriously injured in a Belfast ambush.

In addition to the attacks on troops and police, the IRA have displayed a great deal of flexibility in a variety of other operations, mostly against economic targets, across the six counties. All these operations have been preceded by proper warnings, in order to ensure the safety of civilians.

The republican movement has also explicitly said that RUC and UDR men are not attacked because of their religion but because they are "part of the British occupation forces, which in turn guarantee with military support the continuation of partition against the wishes of the great majority of the Irish people."

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUNGER STRIKERS

* Leading H-Block campaigner Bernadette McAliskey visited Catalonia recently. (The Catalans are an oppressed minority in Spain.) Having been denied entry into Spain she was undeterred and entered the country secretly, appearing to speak at a major rally for Catalan national day and meeting the President of the Regional Parliament.

* Sean Sands, Bobby's brother, visited Euzkadi (the Basque country) where he spoke on the hunger strike at a 50,000-strong anti-nuclear rally in Bilbao. He also spoke at a conference on the oppressed nations of Europe.

* In Brittany, the town of Lorient has decided to name a street after Bobby Sands.

* A week-long international meeting attended by 12,000 anti-imperialists from around the world in Larzac, France observed a one-minute silence for Volunteer Micky Devine. A token fast was held.

* A leading newspaper in Nigeria, the "Sunday Standard" wrote, "These brave young men have sacrificed life itself to smash a tyranny that others might be free and in doing so have won the respect of the whole world."

"The Herald", Zimbabwe's leading newspaper carried a strong editorial entitled "The Iron Lady" in which it condemned Thatcher. Earlier the paper had carried an article analysing the road to a united Ireland.

The IRA have now explicitly stated that the imperialists will be made to "pay in kind" for the murder of hunger-strikers. Reports indicate a steady stream of new recruits of high calibre into the IRA. By all accounts, support for the revolutionary republican movement is higher now than at any time since the 1920's. Far from being defeated by Thatcher's brutality, the struggle is bound to intensify. As Comrade Mao Zedong once said, "'Lifting a rock to drop it on one's own feet' is a Chinese saying to describe the behaviour of certain fools. The reactionaries of all countries are fools of this kind. In the final analysis their persecution of the revolutionary people only serves to accelerate the people's revolution on a broader and more intense scale."

Cont. from back page.

They said he wasn't ill. He was OK. When he died, there wasn't even a doctor there. Two hours we had to wait. That's how much they think of our men. So, I'm asking everyone to get up.... Don't take a poster or a badge and hoard it. Get up and do something. If you're Irish, be proud of it and be counted."

EITHER WITH THE PRISONERS OR WITH THATCHER.

In his speech, Owen Carron MP described the hunger strike as an event that has changed the course of Irish history.

"For us there is no going back. Whatever right or whatever claim Britain may claim to have had over Ireland, that right has now diminished because she (Thatcher) let die Bobby Sands and nine of his comrades. Our message to Thatcher is that although she styles herself the Iron Lady of British politics, and though she portrays herself as a hard woman, that no matter how hard she is and no matter how hard iron can be, it can be bent or broken."

"For 12 years, the British government said to us Republicans - you have no elected representatives and we cannot speak to you. Yet when the people of Fermanagh South Tyrone elected Bobby Sands... they allowed the elected MP for that area to die of hunger."

"The situation is very clear. You either stand with the prisoners or you stand with Thatcher.. When the political cost to Thatcher is high enough she will grant the five demands."

"It is no shame to fight for your rights as an Irishman. Whether that be on the streets of Belfast or the H-Blocks of Long Kesh... Those men would not be in prison today were it not for the 12 years of troubles... The reason why those troubles came upon us in 1969, is because in 1921 the British government forced a settlement upon Ireland which was unacceptable to the mass of the majority of the Irish people. And so Britain has no right in our country; never had and never will have... And so as long as Britain brutalises our people... there will always be Irishmen who are willing and ready to take up arms to defend the rights of the Irish people."

MASS MOVEMENT NEEDED

Both Owen and Maura McCrory who spoke for the H-Block/Armagh Committee in Ireland, stressed the need to build a broad mass movement both to save the lives of the hunger strikers and to force British withdrawal. This movement must be based amongst the ordinary people - workers, women, youth and students.

A speaker from the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa) gave his greetings to the delegation, in particular to relatives of the hunger strikers, on behalf of, "all the Oppressed people of Azania". He noted that the struggles in Azania and Ireland were both against British imperialism.

"The aims that we have and the way that we fight are the same. You are fighting a national democratic struggle for independence and self determination. We are also..."

The speaker was himself seven years a prisoner on Robben Island. Also sending greetings to the meeting were Bishop Colin Winter of Namibia and Basque prisoners, held in Spain.

Church figures, Lord Brockway and Lord Longford. They explained the prisoners 5 demands, that the relatives supported the prisoners and called for pressure to be placed on Thatcher.

Relatives also visited foreign Embassies and High Commissions to deliver letters and make sure that the international community knew the true situation. Those of Sweden, Iraq, Iran, Algeria and Cuba held meetings with the delegation. Some offered their help and hoped to meet prisoners relatives again in the future. The Political Consul of the Tanzanian High Commission met a group of the relatives. He expressed his sympathy and support and promised to forward their letter to President Nyerere who would probably raise it at the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference. He said he would welcome any future delegation.

Relatives also held a meeting with representatives of the Pan Africanist Congress, the Indian Workers' Association, Iranian and Malaysian and Singaporean students, a Basque journalist and Mary Tyler, a former political prisoner in India. Expressing sympathy and support over the weekend were the Namibian liberation movement SWAPO, the Nicaraguan Embassy and the High Commission of Grenada.

On the Sunday, before leaving for home, the relatives mounted a vigil outside Westminster Cathedral.

Kay Walsh, mother of a protesting prisoner, summed up the feeling of the relatives: "We are pleased by the many warm receptions we had. We feel we got through to a lot of people. It helps to know we have friends in Britain, and we are returning heartened."



VIGIL OUTSIDE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

INTENSIVE LOBBYING

On Friday and Saturday, the relatives attended vigils outside Downing street, street meetings in Kilburn and Camden Town and socials. They lobbied organisations such as Amnesty International, National Council for Civil Liberties, Trade Unions and political parties. They met a large number of Labour Councilors, including Greater London Council leader Ken Livingstone,

Members of the Revolutionary Communist League, who had the honour and privilege of providing hospitality to the relatives, learned much from them about the struggle in Ireland and from their indomitable revolutionary spirit in the face of all difficulties and hardship. British imperialism can never defeat a nation that can produce such courageous fighters as both the prisoners and their relatives.

VICTORY TO THE HUNGER STRIKERS DEATH TO BRITISH IMPERIALISM!



● PAT SHEEHAN ● JACKIE McMULLAN ● GERRY CARVILLE ● JOHN PICKERING

ON HUNGER STRIKE.

PAT SHEEHAN.
JACKIE McMULLAN.
GERRY CARVILLE.
JOHN PICKERING.
GERARD HODGINS.
JIM DEVINE.



GERARD HODGINS

THE PRISONERS' DEMANDS: THE RIGHT NOT TO WEAR PRISON UNIFORM • THE RIGHT NOT TO DO PRISON WORK • THE RIGHT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER PRISONERS • THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE THEIR OWN EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND TO RECEIVE ONE VISIT, ONE LETTER AND ONE PARCEL PER WEEK • FULL REMISSION OF SENTENCE.

'WE SUPPORT OUR PRISONERS'

On Thursday 17 September, 92 relatives of Irish patriotic political prisoners arrived in London, together with Owen Carron MP, for four days of intensive lobbying and public activities. They came to London to put their case directly to the British people and to the international community. In particular, they came to show in a dignified way that the relatives of hunger strikers and protesting prisoners were united in support of the prison struggle, contrary to the lies and deceit put out by the British government.

Among those visiting Britain were Francis Hurson the brother of murdered hunger striker Martin Hurson, Goretti McDonnell, widow of Joe McDonnell and Raymond McCreesh's sister Teresa.



Bobby Sands



Francis Hughes



Raymond McCreesh



Patsy O'Hara



Joe McDonnell



Martin Hurson



Kevin Lynch



Kieran Doherty



Thomas McElwee



Micky Devine

Harassment at Heathrow

On arrival at Heathrow, three of the relatives, including two brothers of hunger strikers, were detained. They were released after protests by other relatives and sympathetic lawyers.

That evening 700 people packed the Irish Centre in Camden for a public meeting. Labour Member of the European Parliament, Richard Balfe, said that Ireland was Britain's Vietnam. Partition

the Irish are of no importance... How come she builds special interrogation centres, special Diplock courts, special sentences, but yet she says our men and our women are not special? They're very, very special. My husband got 14 years, along with five of his comrades, one of whom was Bobby Sands MP... He would have been out in 2 years if he had worn a criminal uniform. Why should he wear a criminal uniform? He's never been a criminal. I never

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

IRELAND SOLIDARITY

The courageous struggle of the Irish people continues. To be informed of events around the country, phone the Troops Out Movement on 01-267 2004.

In the event of any more hunger strikers being murdered by the British state, there will be a vigil in Kilburn

from 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. on three consecutive nights.

Thursday October 15

VICTORY TO THE HUNGER STRIKERS! POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

Meeting organised by South London Hunger Strike Action Committee
7.30 p.m. Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Road

Saturday October 17

TRADE UNIONS, SELF-MANAGEMENT AND SOCIALISM - THE POLISH EXPERIENCE

Conference organised by Eastern European Solidarity Campaign and Socialist Environment and Resources Association.

Working groups include:- Workers' Self-Management - Mike Cooley, Lucas Aerospace Combine; Economic Planning - W. Brus, Polish economist; Environment, Health and Safety - British Society for Social Responsibility in Science.

Ruskin College, Oxford
Fee - £3.50 (unwaged £1.50)

Details from: Mike Johnson, SERA, 9 Poland Street London W1V 3DG Tel. 01-439 3749

Saturday October 17

SAOIRSE - IRISH FREEDOM FESTIVAL

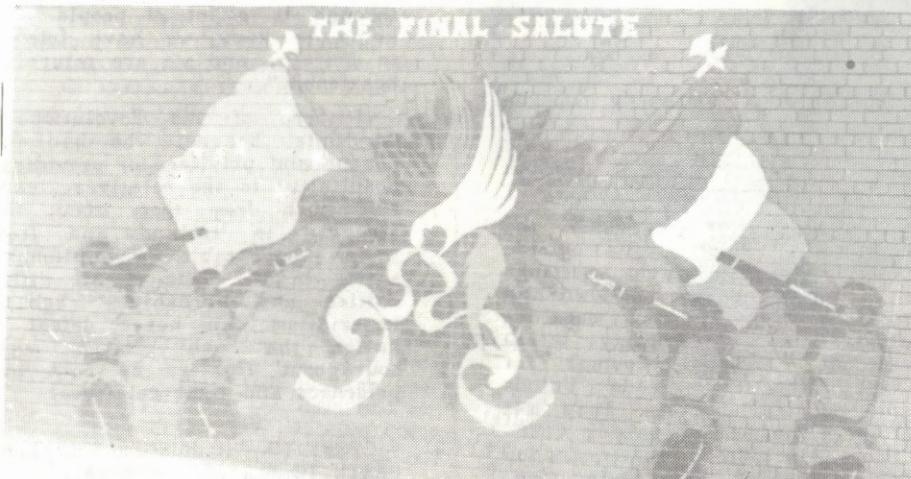
All-day event of cultural resistance to Britain's war in Ireland. Exhibitions, films, videos, slides, theatre, music, poetry, etc.
Caxton House, Archway, London

Organised by Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland (CWI), 1, North End Road, London W14 8ST

Saturday, October 17

VICTORY TO THE HUNGER STRIKERS - POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

Demonstration organised by South London Hunger Strike Action Committee
Details from them at BM Box 4853, WC1N 3XX.



had never been accepted and never will be. Englishmen could not solve Ireland's problems; he said.

"HE'S NEVER BEEN A CRIMINAL. I NEVER MARRIED ONE."

In a most moving speech, Goretti "the very, very proud widow" of murdered hunger-striker Joe McDonnell, told the audience;

"We are the outcome of the situation forced upon us by the British. I would never be here today, only the British Army moved in and harassed us... I'm married 12 years and out of those 12 years, I've had about 6 years with my husband. The rest has been spent in gaol. Four years on the dirty protest. It makes me very, very angry when I hear people like Mrs Thatcher saying

married one and my kid's father was never one... Someone said tonight that there was a split in the relatives. But when 92 people can leave behind their children, their families, I can see no split at all."

"My husband went 63 days without food. He was 15 stone. He deteriorated down to 7 stone... Martin Hurson died five days after Joe. But it wasn't because of any rapid deterioration. Martin Hurson got such a bad kicking... The screws pulled every hair in his head out. That's why Martin Hurson died so quick... A week before Joe died, I pleaded with them to let me stay in, because I knew he needed water and they would not give it to him. In fact, the prison authorities make everything as hard as they can for us.

Cont. on P.11.