

CLASS STRUGGLE

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NEW AGE
PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

BRITAIN'S FIFTH COLUMN

The events of the last week show that the Soviet Union, that most aggressive imperialist enemy of the world's peoples, not only has its own army, navy and airforce with which to exert direct terror and coercion over the countries and peoples it dominates. It also has its Fifth Column among the ruling class in many of the countries it does not yet dominate - including, now quite openly, among the British ruling class.

RULING CLASS CREEPS

The three Labour MPs who recently accepted the invitation from the Soviet puppet junta in Afghanistan are ruling class creeps. They are members of the party which has played its part in undermining or suppressing every militant struggle waged by the working class in Britain in this century. It is the party that sent troops to Ireland to suppress the national movement there. It is a very sinister development in British politics that sections of this viciously imperialist, anti-working class party now feel free openly to praise the invasion by the Soviet Union of Afghanistan and the fascist suppression of its people by the Soviet-backed puppet regime.

Labour MP Ron Brown showed his true colours as a pro-imperialist creep even before he left for his visit. In a TV interview he slandered the Iranian government as "fanatics", ridiculing the heroic efforts of the revolutionary government and people in Iran to maintain their independence from both the US and Soviet superpowers. His remarks since his return are riddled with such racist attitudes, for instance when he said, "I don't know if there are 1,500,000 refugees in Afghanistan as has been reported. I know there are a lot of nomads."

"I don't know" is an expression that evidently comes in handy for this Goebbels-like mouthpiece of the Soviet aggressors. "I don't know if the government has been put there by a foreign power," said Brown. Presumably if, after a few more visits there, he realises that it has been, he still wouldn't be able to guess what 'foreign power' it was!

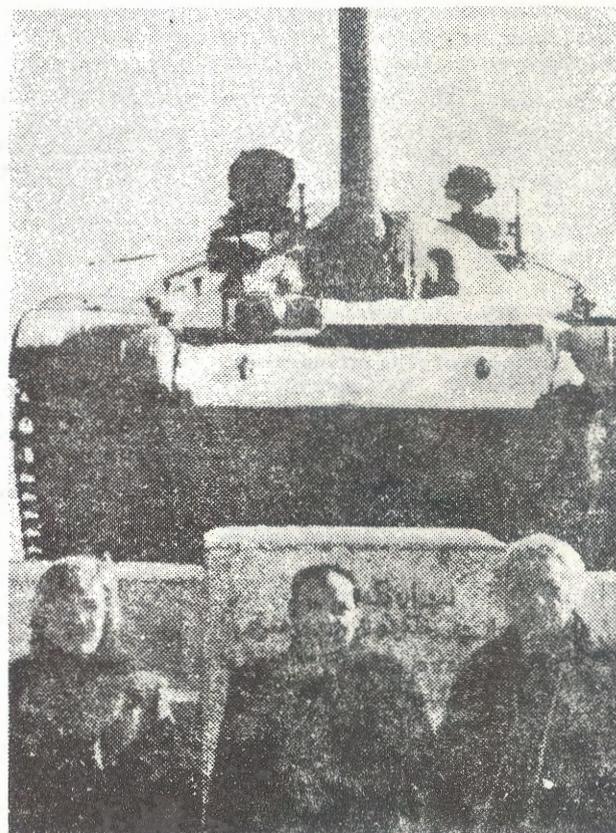
IT COULD HAPPEN HERE

Throughout the world, where the Soviet Union has managed to impose its domination, it has received the willing cooperation of sections of the ruling class of the countries involved - in Czechoslovakia, in Afghanistan, in Poland, and many other countries. A ruling class is prepared to sacrifice the independence of its country if that is the only way to protect its class rule against the classes it exploits.

Brown and his fellow Labour MPs of the fake 'left' represent those sections of the British ruling class who are prepared to play the Soviet card against the working and oppressed people in Britain and throughout the world. The lessons of events in the world today show that Soviet-backed

Forty-four years ago, during the Spanish Civil War, the people of Madrid were put under siege by the reactionary generals who were struggling to impose Franco's military rule on the country. The commander of the fascist forces converging on Madrid, General Mola, boasted that he had four columns under his direct command, and "a fifth column in Madrid itself" - meaning those traitors inside the city who were prepared to collaborate in its capture.

Since then, the expression "Fifth Column" has been used for those, particularly those of the ruling class, who are prepared to betray their own people to an outside enemy.



regimes in the countries of Western Europe are by no means a impossibility in the decades to come, and would mean catastrophic setbacks for the working class. It is going to be people like Brown who head such regimes.

People like Brown should be ruthlessly exposed by all progressive and internationalist people as vicious and racist enemies of the oppressed nations and countries of the third world. By working to stop the Soviet Union from building up its Fifth Column within Britain, we are at the same time playing our part in assisting the struggles of the third world countries, and hastening the day when the two imperialist superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, will no longer be able to terrorise and threaten the world's people with domination, exploitation and war.

LESSONS OF AFGHANISTAN

There are many people in left-wing circles who express support for the liberation struggles of countries and nations oppressed by British imperialism and its agents - the struggles of the people in Ireland, in Oman, in Azania (South Africa), etc. - and yet nevertheless fail to denounce such Soviet aggression as that in Afghanistan.

For example, when Thatcher was campaigning against the Moscow Olympics in protest at the Soviet invasion, one Ireland solidarity newspaper in Britain merely made the feeble comment that Thatcher was supervising the armed occupation of Ireland and that "people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". Another left paper, while expressing support for the Irish people's struggle, and in particular raising a tremendous hullabaloo about the Labour Party's imperialist record with regard to Ireland, at the same time expressed support for the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan!

ALL IMPERIALISM IS WRONG!

The military occupation of a weak and oppressed country is wrong, no matter what motives of benevolence or even 'socialism' are claimed by the occupying power. If Thatcher expresses opposition to the Soviet invasion, and even 'throws a few stones', then that is fine and we only wish she'd throw a few more. The people of the world need all the help they can get, from any source, in 'throwing stones' at the two imperialist superpowers. Meanwhile, we as communists will also of course be throwing stones at Thatcher herself over the issues of Ireland, etc.

Our movement, the revolutionary communist movement of Marxist-Leninists, is the only force on the left in Britain that opposes all imperialism, both of the British imperialist ruling class, and of the Soviet Union. Is it possible to be a genuine anti-imperialist while at the same time equivocating in our opposition to one or the other of these two enemies? We think not.

That is why our movement, tiny though it be at present, has such a crucial role to play in the coming period as the only existing political force that grasps this truth. We urgently call upon all genuine anti-imperialists, those who oppose all imperialism, to help us to build up our organisation's ability to put these points across on a wider scale.

Class Struggle to become monthly

As of this issue "Class Struggle" will change to a monthly paper. Many of our readers will be aware that our organisation, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) has had great difficulty in producing a theoretical journal, and pamphlets and that the production of a fortnightly paper has always required an immense effort. It has therefore been necessary to take a hard look at our resources and commitments in order to establish a better range of publications overall. This is in fact long overdue.

Although this is a step back, as far as the frequency, topicality and some other aspects of newspaper work are concerned, not only will our range of publications improve, but "Class Struggle" too will benefit in some important respects. We will use the time saved through a less frequent newspaper to establish good links between our publications staff and the various bodies of the RCLB working in a number of fields of struggle, and on this basis deepen our analytical work. We aim to produce more articles in "Class Struggle" which go deeper into the main questions of the class struggle in Britain and the world. We will also have a wider range of articles in each issue as we intend to expand the paper to 12 pages.

Although the reestablishment of the theoretical journal on a regular basis, and the production of a range of pamphlets cannot happen immediately, it is necessary to establish the basis for it now to allow preparatory work, and a more all round summary of the lessons of the past period to take place. For these reasons a recent meeting of the Central Committee of the RCLB decided to change the frequency of "Class Struggle" immediately.

This issue of "Class Struggle" (Vol 5, No 2) will be treated as the February issue. The March issue will be on sale at the beginning of that month. Subscribers will still receive the number of copies for which they have paid.

We thank our readers for the active support they have given in writing, financing, and using "Class Struggle", and confident that we will work together stronger than ever in the struggle for socialism in the coming period.

Letters

Pictures of grinning police who've received congratulations from superiors; in depth articles about a man's home, wife, job, attempts to adopt previous interviews by the police; a dangerous criminal has been caught, tried and convicted maybe? No! A man is a 'suspect' for one of the 'Yorkshire Ripper' murders.

Thatcher's government came to power on a "law and order" ticket. The failure to solve the "Yorkshire Ripper" case has been a constant embarrassment to the police force, Home Secretary, and the whole Government. Pressure will undoubtedly have been applied to remove the embarrassment to make an arrest.

Even if Sutcliffe is the "Ripper" and has been arrested and cleared from the streets, does that mean that women can walk in Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and other cities in safety now? No way! These very papers that are out for blood - even if the victim

is innocent - are full of tits and bums designed to encourage men to see women only in terms of sex. They say that men fantasize about women like this, that it doesn't really affect how they see women in real life. What rubbish! Captions like 'Sally has a degree in French and we'll take French lessons from her any time' next to a sizeable picture of a woman with little clothing on put across a clear view of women.

Most cinemas in most cities any time except the school holidays are showing films, mainly for the gratification of a few men that exploit women in terms of showing them as only for sex, degrading them or committing violence, including sexual violence, against them.

It is so common place to exploit these distorted views of women and behaviour to women for "entertainment" and profits that it is hardly surprising that violence to women and rape increases all the time.

FASCISM AND THE STATE from a London reader

In your last issue you printed a letter from a Merseyside reader on fascism and the state. I hope that the absence of any editorial comment does not mean that you entirely agree with it.

The central thesis of the letter is that "the state machine is the origin of racism and fascism in our society", both providing the "social basis" for fascism and generating its ideology. The "actual personnel running the state machine" constitute a separate "class" (though most of them are also said to be "middle class"), which is peculiarly attracted to fascism. Lumped together with these "members" of the state machine as "most susceptible to fascist ideas" are people who have had "extensive contact" with it, for instance in the army or prison. In short, "Fascism is the political system of the bourgeois state machine", whether concealed or open.

The sweeping statement that

Seamen on Strike

On January 11th British seamen began a 24-hour strike after pay negotiations broke down. The seamen are now planning other actions, and have received support from dockers in a number of European countries. This is the most widespread action the seamen have taken since the 1966 national strike, when Prime Minister Harold Wilson launched a big red scare campaign against the National Union of Seamen.

26,000 NUS members are involved in the present dispute. They are demanding a 19.5 per cent pay increase to counter the erosion of their wages by inflation. The bosses first offered a 10.5 per cent pay increase at the beginning of January then raised it to 12 per cent only a few hours before the seaman's walkout.

The strike is intended to prevent all British deep-sea vessels from leaving home ports for an indefinite period. The union has also selected 14 key firms which take a hard-line attitude to the seamen's wage demands as the main targets of the attack by calling on the seamen to stop their ships from leaving any port around the world.

About 95 per cent of U.K. trade is carried by sea. Its own ships carry a third of all exports and 27 per cent of imports.

The Confederation of British Industry has hit out at the seamen and complained about the effect the dispute will have on exports. If they are so concerned maybe they should think a bit more about giving in to the seamen's justified demands. The CBI show no concern at all about the fact that seamen have to live without a real social life for long periods of time, go through periods of no income and get paid only £112 a week, before tax, for working 66 hours. Their basic pay of £66 a week is a joke, and their struggle to stop a cut in real wages is the same fight that millions of workers throughout Britain face now.

This year the wages struggle is inevitably beginning to heat up again. Cash limits set by the government on local authorities have increased still further to attack public workers wages in particular. Already 33,000 water supply and sewage workers are threatening strike action in pursuit of a 15% claim which will maintain the value of their wages.

New Era Books

HURRY ! January 31st deadline for receiving your subscriptions (new or renewal) - at 20% discount of normal rates - for all periodicals from China. For instance, one year subscription for:-

Beijing Review £6.80 reduced to £5.44.
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Send for brochure giving full details of all periodicals and reduced rates for 2 and 3 years.

MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE. First published in March 1980 this catalogue is now being updated with a supplement which will be sent to all who have received the original. New Era searches far and wide for the best in Marxist-Leninist, anti-imperialist and progressive books and periodicals. Besides books in the catalogue we also handle special orders. So, new customers send 35p now and keep up to date with old and new publications.

New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4. Phone 01-272-5894.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

1500 PEOPLE held a militant rally and march through the streets of Wolverhampton on Sunday January 11th. If you read the national dailies, you would have got a front page photo of policewomen with helmets, with a causal reference to an NF march. After many years of totally ignoring the black people, who work in the factories and shops locally, and their democratic right to practice their religion and develop their culture, the Wolverhampton Council has greed to spend £84,000 on an Afro-Caribbean Centre and £9,000 on a Hindu Temple. The National Front used this as an excuse in the days of public spending cuts to ferment racial hatred and get some publicity and support. According to an NCCL official observer, only 35 NF marchers came but for their protection 800 police were on duty. The police insisted on the anti-NF march being started two hours later than that of the NF, thus preventing it from being a real counter-demonstration. At the rally, Nuneaton Labour MP Les Huckfield spoke, trying to put the blame totally on the Tories and the police, with the aim of mustering support for Labour. But Teju Sahota, President of the Indian Workers Association (GB) commented that Labour and Tory parties are just the same - for instance in the recent case of the NF march in Nuneaton, which the local Labour council allowed to go ahead.

50,000 BABIES A YEAR are born handicapped. 20,000 of these could live without handicap if medical staff were better trained and had better facilities. In addition 4,000 of the 9,100 babies born dead every year could be saved. At present there are only 176 intensive care places in England and Wales for newborn babies. Dozens of critically ill babies are being turned away from hospitals every week. They need highly skilled care which is available only at hospitals with intensive care facilities. What is capitalism's answer to this problem? It is to make even further cuts in the Health Service and Social Services. There can be no future for such a social system.

TRUSTEES of University College Hospital are offering to lease land for a peppercorn rent to developers to build a private hospital. The NHS owned land which adjoins UCH in central London will provide a site for a 112 bed hospital costing £12,600,000 and estimated to make an annual profit of £1,850,000. The excuse made is that NHS patients will have the use of the new operating theatres in the hospital. Big deal! - we get chopped up in the basement and the rich get lavish accommodation from ground floor to penthouse. Just whose land is it?

SOCIAL WORKERS IN BIRMINGHAM have been instructed by management to cut their car mileage by 50% for the next three months, in order to save the local authority money. Routine journeys must be made by bus. Petrol for unauthorised journeys will not be paid by the local authority. There is no way cuts can be made in Social Services without putting clients at risk. Journeys by bus take much longer than journeys by car, which means that social workers will have less time and services will inevitably be cut. Withdrawal of preventive social work support to clients will eventually result in a child being battered or an old person being admitted to hospital. Residence in local authority care or hospital treatment is in the long run far more expensive than paying social workers the rate for the job.

CONTRARY TO WHAT THE MEDIA would have us believe, strikes in Britain reached a record low last Autumn. The number of new stoppages reported was lower than for any similar period since the second world war. The number of working days lost was the lowest since 1966.

SOCIALIS

World attention has recently been focussed on socialist China with the proceedings of, and revelations at, the trial in Beijing of the ten principle surviving members of the counter revolutionary cliques of Lin Biao and Jiang Qing. As "Class Struggle" goes to press, the verdicts and sentences have yet to be delivered by the court. A future issue of "Class Struggle" will carry an article summing up the trial.

Despite the attention paid to the trial, the Western press has paid very little serious attention to the present political situation in China and the orientation of its Communist Party. Broadly speaking that orientation is - to be frank about the present situation and to sum up the lessons both positive and negative, from the past and to chart a course forward, to develop and perfect the political system of socialist democracy and revive and carry forward the former fine traditions and workstyle of the Communist Party that have been undermined by the mistakes of the Party and compounded and viciously carried to excess by the counter revolutionary cliques of Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four'.

Build Socialist democracy

China's "People's Daily" published an article, "On Socialist Democracy" by Comrade Feng Wenbin in two instalments on 24th and 25th November of last year. The article stressed the need to "improve and perfect" China's socialist political system.

The article stresses that, "socialist democracy is the state system of socialism. It allows the proletariat and the working people to be the masters of the state. In, 'The Communist Manifesto', Marx and Engels said: 'The first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class and to win the battle of democracy'. In the 'Principles of Communism', Engels said: 'The proletarian revolution will establish a democratic system so as to establish directly or indirectly the political rule of the proletariat.'"

Explaining the distinction between bourgeois democracy and socialist democracy the article states,

"First of all, socialist democracy, which means rule by the vast majority, was unprecedented in history - it was the first time that the proletariat and the working people had seized state political power and become masters of their own country. Bourgeois democracy is actually enjoyed by only a few exploiters.

"Secondly, socialist democracy is built upon the foundations of public ownership of the means of production. A public economy can gradually create material safeguards for the people's rights to exercise democracy. In capitalist countries, most of the material means and methods of exercising democracy are in the hands of the bourgeoisie. The working class lacks such means and methods. In bourgeois countries, candidates in election campaigns have to spend a great deal of money and materials on bribery in order to draw more votes. The working people simply cannot take part in elections.

"Democracy and socialism have a very close relationship. Without democracy there will be no socialism. In our country, socialist democracy has been built and developed on the foundation of the success of new democratic revolution. The more thorough the democratic revolution is, the smoother the progress of building socialism will be. Whether or not there is full democracy has a great bearing on building socialism. It is particularly necessary to practice democracy after the establishment of a socialist system. Otherwise, there will be no genuine socialism."

LACK OF FAITH IN COMMUNISM

A recent article in the 'People's Daily' frankly admitted that many Communist Party members had strayed from communist ideals and did not really deserve the title of Communist Party Members.

"Some comrades really do not know how to be a Communist Party member. They do not understand or do not fully understand the kind of political consciousness and moral qualities that are required of Communist Party members...They have forgotten about the Party's objective in struggle, its fundamental tasks and its fine traditions and workstyle..."

The article stresses that, "The Party's ultimate goal is the realisation of Communism. This is mankind's highest and most beautiful ideal. We communists are conscientious fighters who make the realisation of this great ideal their life's mission. Over 40 years ago, in an article entitled, 'Requirements for Communist Party members', Comrade Chen Yun (currently a vice-chairman of the Party Central Committee - Ed) called for 'lifetime struggle for communism' as the first requirement for Communist Party members. Under no circumstances, should a qualified Communist Party member lose faith in the Party, in the Party's cause and in communism. Instead, he should be tempered and be able to withstand all the tests, especially the test of suffering and setbacks. In half a century or more, our Party

went through storms or crises, one after another, the masses of Party members have proved themselves worthy heroes in contending with various difficulties. Whether at the most crucial moment after the failure of the great revolution in 1927 or in the 10 catastrophic years when Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four' were running wild, proletarian revolutionaries of the older generation and the masses of Party members showed no pessimism or doubt. Instead, they kept fighting; their determination to fight for communism was firm and unwavering. Anyone who has joined the Party organisationally but lost his faith in communism cannot be considered a Communist Party member. A person who believes in communism when things go well with it but doubts it when the revolution runs into difficulties cannot be regarded as a Communist Party member either or at least cannot be treated as a qualified one."

Restore Party workstyle



Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China. The style of work is a "life and death" matter for a Communist Party.

The question of improving Party workstyle so as to fully win back the peoples' confidence and carry forward the cause of socialism in China was taken up by the Party General Secretary, Comrade Hu Yaobang at a symposium on Party workstyle organised in December by the Discipline Inspection Commission of the Party Central Committee. Comrade Hu said,

"The issue of the ruling Party's workstyle pointed out by Comrade Chen Yun is a fundamental question of principle to which the whole Party must pay attention. It is a fundamental change for a Marxist Party to become the ruling Party of the whole country from the position of being

ST CHINA

oppressed, slaughtered, encircled and suppressed. But will it change in quality once it takes the helm of state? Historical developments have raised this question for communists throughout the world and the international Communist movement. The history of the Communist movement over a century indicates that this is a real question and not a hypothetical one. Before we were in power, circumstances forced our Party to have a good workstyle. Had we practised subjectivism, bureaucracy, been divorced from the masses and pursued special privileges, we would have been defeated and annihilated by our enemy. After we assumed power, some comrades who had weak revolutionary will became easy targets for sugar-coated bullets and continued to degenerate. More often than not they mistakenly regarded our Party's leading role as that of a ruler...Therefore, fellow comrades must never overlook our Party's fundamental change from the position of being oppressed to the state of being a ruling Party. If we blunder, there is a possibility that our Party will degenerate and its quality change."

Comrade Hu said that many comrades did not understand the importance of improving Party workstyle.

"For example, some comrades have said: We do not even have enough time for economic work, how can we possibly pay attention to the Party's workstyle?... This is entirely wrong."

Comrade Hu said that the Party's workstyle had considerably improved over the past year or so.

"But compared with the preliminary post-liberation period, the improvement is not fundamental. In some localities the unhealthy workstyle among Party members is quite serious. For example, some have refused to implement the party's line, principles and policies, or feigned compliance with the Party's principles and policies in public but opposed them in private; some have used the authority the people have given them for private interests, formed their own factions and assigned their own people to various posts; some have paid no attention to the Party's principles and established illicit relations by giving banquets and gifts, practising favouritism and accepting bribes, thus impairing the prestige of the Party and the state and squandering the property of the state and the collectives; a small number of people have used their powers to frame and persecute good people; some have practised

fraud, deceived their superiors and deluded their subordinates, resorting to boasting and flattery and acted in an opportunist way; some have been extremely irresponsible in work, thus causing great losses to the state and the people, and so on and so forth. These unhealthy tendencies have impaired the Party's prestige, undermined the relationship between the Party and the people, weakened the Party's fighting ability and abetted unhealthy practices in society."

Hu Yaobang said, "These unhealthy tendencies within the

Party are inroads of the ideology of the exploiting class into our Party and are the results of the ravaging of the Party's normal democratic life by Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four'."

He pointed out that it was necessary resolutely to improve the Party's workstyle and to regard this as a continuation of the process of thoroughly eradicating the pernicious influence of Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four', and said that it is necessary to be daring, not be afraid of offending people and that comrades must dare to uphold justice.



Chairman Mao in Yanan in 1939. Today China calls for a revival of the revolutionary spirit of Yanan.

On December 26, Comrade Mao Zedong's birthday, China's newspapers frontpaged a hitherto unpublished letter that Comrade Mao Zedong wrote to his cousin Wen Yunchang in 1937. The letter is short but it is imbued with the spirit of subordinating personal interests and those of family members and people from one's home district to the cause of the Party and the revolutionary struggle.

Commenting on the letter, the 'Liberation Army Daily' called for a return to the spirit of those times - known as the Yanan period, after the then Communist revolutionary base area.

"When we read this letter today, it still fills us with warm revolutionary sentiment, cordial encouragement, a soaring spirit of uprightness and an inspiring strength...In short, it brims with the revolutionary Yanan spirit. The Yanan spirit involves always keeping in mind the motherland and the general situation in the revolution and wholeheartedly serving the people.

"We must cherish, carry on, display and enrich the Yanan spirit; and we must boldly and straightforwardly disseminate it. We must let the Yanan spirit beam with new radiance in the new historical period."

DOWN WITH RACIST NATIONALITY LAW!

CARL Conference Organises Broad Opposition

250 delegates from various political, religious and social groups attended a successful conference called by the Campaign Against Racist Laws in Birmingham on 10th January. CARL is a broad-based organisation which organised the mass demonstration against racist Immigration Laws on November 25th 1979. The conference attracted so many people because of the Government's planned Nationality Law, due to be discussed by Parliament this session and intended to become law at the end of the year.

Ann Dummett, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, explained what the Bill is actually planning. There will be three categories of British citizenship to replace the present single category of "British subject", which includes Commonwealth citizens.

1. British citizens. These will be people born, registered, naturalised or adopted as British and 'patrials' (with a parent born in Britain).

2. Citizens of British Dependent Territories. These will be mainly people from Hong Kong and Gibraltar.

3. British Overseas Citizens. These will be mainly East Africans with British passports.

People in the last two categories will have no effective rights of citizenship at all, just as they have no rights of entry now. Even if they are already settled here, and have been here less than 5 years, they must apply to become British all over again by registration.

Two other smaller categories, British Protected Persons and British Subjects Without Citizenship, will remain as they are. →

Police attack black fund-raising party

There was a calculated police attack on a fund-raising party of Afro-Caribbean youths in Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham on January 2nd. Television news and national newspapers immediately blasted out that this was an incident of violence by black people!

The party was organised by a group of black youths to raise money for recreational facilities for which the Birmingham City Council had continually refused financial help. Vincent Clarke, speaking for the group told the paper West Indian World, "It was no secret and we had nothing to hide. It was a perfectly legitimate fundraising effort to help unemployed black youths. It started on Christmas Eve and was supposed to go on until January 5th, 1981."

From the morning of New Year's Day police started to stop people coming to the party, and police patrols were passing the house in a threatening manner. Mr Clarke told West Indian World: "In the early hours of Friday morning I opened the door and saw a number of police rushing towards the house. I closed the door and they banged on it and insisted that I opened it. I refused but I promised to get the landlord, Mr Mark Jolly, to come and speak to them.

"Mark went to speak to them and the next thing I saw was the policemen battering him to

the ground and then they started dragging him towards a police car. That was when the others inside the house came out to enquire what was going on. They threatened to arrest us if we did not disperse and stop the music. At this stage I think all the pent-up feelings of anger, frustration and general humiliation came out."

A Birmingham community worker complained that the police broke off "the special relationship with local community workers which had existed... In the past, before this sort of heavy-handed tactic was carried out, we were consulted and asked to sort matters out."

This proves that the police deliberately prepared their attack. But it also shows the futility and danger of trying to draw black people into cosy collaboration with the police. Part of the role of the police is to conduct racist attacks on black people. This incident is already being used by racist councillors and others in Birmingham to justify greater repression of black people, even in their own homes. (The National Front is even planning to demonstrate on this issue on 17th or 18th January.)

What the black youths realised is that they can only achieve equal treatment and community facilities through their own efforts. And that the only response to police attacks is self-defence.

Con't from Page 2.

skinheads "have almost invariably spent years in...Borstals and prisons" raises doubts about the author's grasp of social reality. The most serious distortion, however, lies in the view of the state machine as an autonomous class force generating fascism without so much as a by-your-leave to the bourgeoisie, whose ideological hegemony it usurps. This is really confusing the organ grinder with his monkey!

It is also dangerously misleading to describe the state apparatus - from top officials to lowest-paid workers - as a class in itself rather than as an organisation recruited from different classes. The image of state employees in general as pathologically authoritarian is both unreal and divisive. To identify the personnel of the state apparatus as the main opponent is to distract

attention from the real enemy - "the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital". Finally to suggest that every form of bourgeois state is fascist can only blunt our senses to the emergence of actual fascism and undermine the struggle to preserve bourgeois-democratic freedoms from being dismantled by the imperialist bourgeoisie.

When the ruling class gets desperate enough to need a fascist regime here it will, of course, make use of the state machine that it controls and seek support among non class-conscious sections of the people. The state is already portrayed in bourgeois propaganda as neutral in the class struggle; fascism, too, will be presented as a 'national' ideology, above particular class interests. In the face of such propaganda the outlook of your Merseyside correspondent would dis-

arm us ideologically by disguising the real source of fascist ideas and inciting the masses against state employees instead of against their real class enemy.

In his report on fascism to the Comintern congress of 1935 Dimitrov said that it adopts "different forms in different countries" but when in power it is always essentially a "terrorist dictatorship" against the working class: "Fascism is not a form of state power 'standing above both classes - the proletariat and the bourgeoisie', as Otto Bauer, for instance, has asserted. It is not 'the revolt of the petty bourgeoisie which has captured the machinery of state', as the British Socialist Brailsford declares. No, fascism is not a power standing above class, nor a power of the petty bourgeoisie or the lumpen-proletariat over finance capital. Fascism is the power of finance capital itself.

At present children born in the UK are British by birth, but under the new law they will only be so if one parent is free from immigration controls. Since what is a legitimate immigrant and one who is illegal is defined retrospectively by the British Government, children of black people will live in even more insecurity and be even more racially discriminated against in relation to citizenship.

CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT

This will be available only to British citizens born in the UK. Children of British nationals in places like Hong Kong or Malaysia will be stateless.

Commonwealth citizens were entitled to become UK citizens by registration as of right, if settled here before 1973. Under the new law they will have to apply for naturalisation, which is expensive and very difficult. (At the discretion of the Home Secretary, without right of appeal.) The law will also lay the basis for depriving them of civic rights, the right to vote, sit on a jury, work in public employment, etc.

Alien wives of British citizens will also have to naturalise, which is an attack aimed specifically at the Asian community.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ?

"We must oppose the scheme as a whole", said Ann Dummett. It bases nationality law on the 1971 Immigration Act which is racially discriminatory.

We must make use of MPs. There are splits in the Labour and Tory parties. The likes of Hattersley and James Tilley say they oppose the whole bill, whereas Merlyn Rees and Alex Lyon will support at least parts of the law. It is also important to work on Conservative MPs who are wavering, because only if they abstain in large numbers can the bill be defeated.

On behalf of the CARL mobilising committee, Mike Rodney stated that this is a political fight against the state whether the Government were Labour or Tory. An attack on black people is an attack on the whole labour movement. The Labour Party is racist (they produced the original Green Paper on which the Nationality law is based), and we cannot rely on their MPs. But it is important to get a commitment from the next Labour Government to repeal the Act.

Representatives of Bristol, Birmingham and South London CARL spoke. Bristol CARL is a recently-formed branch with predominantly national minority composition (7 Asians, 7 West Indians). They are planning to invite local MPs to a public meeting to find out their views and force them to vote against the Nationality Bill.

South London CARL thought the key was to be active in local trade union Labour Party branches and are planning a co-ordinating committee for continuing work.

In the discussion of the report and amendments there was a struggle about the extent to which the Labour Party should be criticised for its racist ideology and practice, as seen in its introduction and implementation of Immigration Laws.

The Conference passed an Emergency motion condemning the deportation of a Filipino migrant worker, Evangelina King. Her passport was confiscated on 9th January, and she is to be deported on the 29th. All appeals have been turned down.

The Conference adopted the following decisions:

1. Local MPs to be contacted by CARL local groups and active individuals.
2. Lobby of Parliament in two weeks time by national CARL.
3. CARL national demonstration on 29th March, prior to third reading of the bill.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



EL SALVADOR. The revolutionary struggle in this Central American country has escalated to dramatic proportions as the revolutionary armed forces, now united in the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and under the leadership of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, seek to place themselves in the best possible position before the inauguration of new United States president Reagan. Reagan is expected to discard even Carter's preface of concern for 'human rights' and resort to more blatantly interventionist policies. (Carter himself has now resumed military aid to the fascist regime as the struggle develops.) Many areas in the north of the country have now been liberated, including the second largest city, Santa Ana, and four other cities. Sections of the national army have gone over to the liberation fighters. Major roads leading to the capital of San Salvador have been cut and its military airport seized. Radio Liberacion reports that guerillas used artillery to bring down an army helicopter and on 8th January guerilla forces held the city of Delgado, a few miles from San Salvador, for twelve hours. The country is also gripped by a general strike involving workers and the middle classes. FMNLF sources reveal that they have killed seven US military advisors and it is also reported that the army of neighbouring Honduras, stiffened with American advisors, is preparing an offensive against freedom fighters on the Salvador-Honduras border. At a press conference in London on January 15th, Luis De Sebastian, European representative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, estimated that without strong US backing the junta would only survive for two weeks.

VIETNAM. According to the BBC's 'Summary of World Broadcasts', Hanoi Radio recently broadcast an authorised denial of a western report that it was assisting the revolutionary forces in El Salvador. Vietnam describes attacks on Thailand and socialist China, occupation of Laos and genocide in Kampuchea as 'proletarian internationalism' but rushes to deny a report that it is helping a genuine national liberation movement!

SOVIET UNION. Opposition to the imperialist rulers in the Soviet Union is increasingly coming from the oppressed nations held within its borders. Recently two Estonian nationalists were tried. (Estonia is situated on the Baltic Coast.) Mart Niklus was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for 'anti-socialist propaganda' and Dr Jiri Kukk, a member of the phoney 'Communist' Party until 1978, was sentenced to two years forced labour. Both men pleaded not guilty and were in a weak condition owing to repeated hunger strikes. Nationalist sentiment has been on the rise for the last two years in Estonia and since 1972 in neighbouring Lithuania. Most worrying for the Kremlin are the growing signs of co-operation. On 23rd August 1979, 45 Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians issued the 'Baltic Declaration' calling for independence for their homelands. This was followed by denunciations of the invasion of Afghanistan and support for the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. On 22nd September last year the protests spread to young people after a performance by a rock group was banned because their lyrics allegedly contained 'nationalistic themes'. 1000 youths demonstrated and fought with the police. On 1st and 3rd October demonstrations of over 5000 took place carrying the banned Estonian national flag and shouting, "Russians out of Estonia" and "More meat, less Russians!" Police broke up the demonstrations brutally and arrested about 150 people some of whom are due to go on trial soon. On 10th October the demonstrations spread to other cities and on 1st and 2nd October workers at a farm machinery plant went on strike.

AFTER THE HUNGER STRIKE

The following are extracts from an interview given by Provisional Sinn Fein spokesman Joe Austin to a "Class Struggle" correspondent in Belfast on January 2nd.

Question: What is the present health and condition of the hunger strikers?

Answer: With the exception of Sean McKenna the condition of the original 7 hunger strikers is probably fairly stable in that they did not suffer any long term permanent injury because of the hunger strike. Sean McKenna's condition while giving cause for concern, is not serious or critical. Though having said that, the results of sustained hunger strikes tend to be a re-occurring thing. That is injury which is caused by the hunger strike doesn't necessarily show itself right away but can appear some years later..

Q: On the present situation...

A: The background to the ending of the hunger strike was that on December 18th, the British government supplied the prisoners on hunger strike and the leadership in the prison with a document, of 31 pages which contained the five demands albeit dressed up in different words... The British government also supplied the prisoners with a two page speech Atkins was to give the following day. On the basis of this speech and the document, and on the basis of assurances given to the men, the hunger strike ended.

"There was a degree of flexibility exercised by the government

the prison authorities, and by the prisoners and this lasted for three days...

"It is fair to say that there is a strong possibility that the British government is going back to a position where it is more concerned to try to break the prisoners, physically and mentally, to try to break the prisoners will to resist than with trying to solve the actual problem..."

In response to a question as to why diversity of support was of key importance, Joe Austin said in part,

"That diversity of support gives the British government very little way out. They cannot plausibly argue that the strike or the public protests are orchestrated by the IRA or the Republican Movement, when we can point out this diversity of support..."

"We did tend, especially in the early 70s to struggle in almost total isolation from other revolutionary groups and forces, and there was a degree or course of learning that was closed to us, perhaps closed by ourselves. Having to take the prisoners issue out meant that we had to form a relation with all the radical forces throughout Europe.

"Our priority in those days was to get ourselves organised and do all the things that we were able to do. Now we are in a position in which we can stand back, and look and learn and move on, and that's a very confident position to be in."

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

As this issue of "Class Struggle" is produced our thoughts go out to Bernadette Devlin McAliskey and her husband, both seriously ill as a result of a murder attempt by Orange fascists, to their families, comrades and friends. Bernadette and her husband were shot several times early in the morning of January 16th and on the 17th she was described as being very seriously ill.

Bernadette has a fine record in the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland and from 1969 to 1974 championed the Irish cause in the British House of Commons. During the recent hunger strike of Irish patriots she worked flat out as the spokeswoman of National H-Block/Armagh committee. Her attempted murder is almost certainly because of her selfless work on behalf of the prisoners. Orange fascists have declared H-Block campaigners to be targets for assassination and in 1980 murdered four prominent campaigners: John Turnly, a protestant from the Irish Independence Party,



Bernadette Devlin on her first day as an MP.

Miriam Daly, who was long a member of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP), scholar and friend of China, and Ronnie Bunting (another protestant republican) and Noel Lyttle, both members of the IRSP.

We hope that Bernadette makes a full recovery so as she can once again play a full part in the anti-imperialist struggle.



Shortly before Christmas, patriot and freedom fighter Gerard Tuite upheld the fine Irish Republican tradition of escaping from British incarceration by moving residence out of Brixton Prison. His evasion of high walls, barbed wire, Alsatian dogs, spotlights and closed-circuit TV is no small embarrassment to the British state and its prison officers. They have countered with a hysterical campaign describing Gerard as 'public enemy No.1' and a 'dangerous terrorist', explaining in great detail what actions he is 'guilty' of committing. But Gerard was only in prison awaiting trial so even in terms of phoney bourgeois 'justice' the press and police are guilty of contempt of court! The photo above shows a recent copy of "An Phoblacht/Republican News" posted to Gerard in Brixton which was returned via the postal system suitably marked, "Ret(urn) to sender. No longer here. Add(ress) unknown."

Forthcoming Events

Friday January 23

El Salvador will win

Rally organised by El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and Revolutionary Democratic Front representative in Britain. Speakers from RDF, Nicaraguan Embassy etc. Film premiere. Protest songs from Jose Armijo. Admission £1. All proceeds to RDF. 6.30pm, Collegiate Theatre, Gordon st., London W.C.1.

Saturday January 24

ONE BIG BLOW

Musical comedy from the 7:84 Theatre Company (England). Final London performance after successful national tour. 8 pm, Old Half Moon Theatre, Alie st., London E.1. Tickets may be booked by phoning 01-253-4049, 10 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

Sunday January 25

Remember Bloody Sunday

March and rally organised by Provisionsl Sinn Fein (Britain). - Assemble 1:30 pm, Splott Park South, Cardiff, Wales.

For details of transport from London and elsewhere, phone the Troops Out Movement on 01-267-2004.

Sunday January 25

Free Namibia, Britain's Nuclear Colony

Campaign against Namibian Uranium Contracts planning conference. Films and speakers from the Labour and anti-nuclear movements. 11:30 a.m. Africa Centre, 38 King st., London

Saturday February 7

Troops Out social

At Hackney Trades and Labour Hall, East London, with New Era and the sisterhood of spit. Details from 01-267-2004.

Saturday February 21

National march against unemployment

In Glasgow. Assemble 11 am. Blythwood Square for march to Queens Park.