

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

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Incorporating

NEW AGE
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STOP DEPORTATION OF ASIAN WOMEN!



Jaswinder Kaur came to Britain from India in 1975. In May 1976 she married Gian Singh, who said he had lived in Britain for eight years. When she applied for permission to stay here permanently, Home Office investigations revealed that her husband was an overstayer under threat of deportation and was, in fact, already married to someone else.

Jaswinder's husband often assaulted and beat her. In October 1979 Jaswinder finally left him because her son, Manjit, had to be hospitalised after a beating from her husband. Jaswinder's husband was arrested for assaulting the one-year-old child and was subsequently convicted and deported.

WHY JASWINDER MUST BE ALLOWED TO STAY

Jaswinder is now a victim of the racist British immigration laws. She suffered at the hands of her husband and is still suffering under the British immigration laws which give her no legal right to stay here.

Jaswinder has been threatened with further violence by her husband if she is forced to go to India. Her son, Manjit, was born here and is a British citizen. He cannot be deported. The Home Office could split the family by deporting Jaswinder.

Jaswinder has lived in England for six years. She has a job here, family here and friends here.

DEPORTATION ORDER

At a recent immigration appeal hearing, the 'adjudicator' ruled that Jaswinder's husband should have access to the child, and that Jaswinder should consequently be deported to India.

Continued overleaf.

BOBBY SANDS MP!

Mass backing for hunger striker

Irish hunger striker Bobby Sands scored a decisive victory in the Fermanagh South Tyrone by-election, giving the lie to all those who like to claim that there is no support for the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland.



MARGARET THATCHER, MP.

Elected by 20,918
voters.

BOBBY SANDS, MP.

Elected by 30,492
voters.

Commenting on the victory, Sinn Fein publicity director Danny Morris said that "the latest British manoeuvres show up their hypocrisy and the contempt they have for the so-called democratic

Continued overleaf.

BRIXTON IN THE FRONT LINE

On the weekend of 10th to 12th April, the sight of a community at war with the British state was brought onto TV screens and newspaper headlines all over the country and all around the world. Try as they might, the British media were unable to construct a case that this fighting in Brixton was directed against whites. It was clear that the fighting was against the police and not against any section of the community, that many white youth were fighting side by side with the black youth, and that the white section of the community were not mobilised against the young people, but were on the contrary vigorously critical of police provocation.

In short, the fighting in Brixton showed once again, if further proof was needed, that the national minority people are in the forefront of the struggle in the current stage of the class struggle in Britain. Their struggles open up the prospect that white British workers too, far from being mobilised against them, may increasingly see in the national minority struggles an alternative to the narrow reformism of 'trade union politics' which dominates the working-class movement -- an alternative that can regenerate the fight-back against the effects of the system of exploitation and oppression, rekindle the fighting traditions of the past, and develop into a struggle against the system itself.

BREAKING WITH BRITISH IMPERIALISM

Though the day-to-day life of a working-class community is a constant story of bitter state oppression and resistance against it, the struggles of the British working class as a class have in recent decades normally been politically restricted in terms of any real challenge to state power -- by comparison with, say, the workers who have risen up against oppression in Ireland and in Azania (South Africa). Why is this?

Leading internationalist revolutionaries have long seen the answer to this question to lie in the fact that the ruling class has constantly been able to buy off the leadership of the labour movement and the better-off strata of the working people, and utilise this force to spread an ideology that acquiesces in the oppression of other peoples and countries deeply within the working class itself.

For example, Karl Marx saw the "key to the political impotence of the British working class" to be the antagonism towards the Irish section of the working class -- an antagonism which disrupted and weakened every working class struggle. Marx pitilessly criticised the petty snobbery among English workers which was used and encouraged by the ruling class to ensure such disunity.

James Connolly showed how a whole section of the Irish people -- the Protestants of Ulster -- had been won over by British imperialism to disdain for the

most oppressed section. In Ulster, he said, "there is none of the enthusiasm of rebellion for a holy cause... Here are only the signs and symbols of a people who ... recite as their Litany and Article of Faith a thanksgiving that they are not as other men."

Lenin never had any doubt at all that the crux of the matter for revolutionary advance in an imperialist country like Britain was for the working class to break with the imperialist politics of 'its' ruling class.

In our day when the lesser Western imperialist powers such as Britain are grouped under the domination of the US superpower, we must add that the working class faces the task of breaking not only with British but also with US imperialism, and of resisting the attempts of the Soviet imperialist superpower to infiltrate the revolutionary movement in Britain to use it to further its own ambitions. The revolutionary movement must be independent of all imperialism (whether British, US or Soviet) or it will never accomplish anything.

This is why our newspaper, "Class Struggle", does not mince words when repudiating the effectively pro-imperialist stand that has been such a characteristic of the British opportunist 'left' in recent decades -- the standpoint of servile submission to, collusion with, or silence about British and other imperialist oppression. Our standpoint and loyalty lie with the working and oppressed people of the whole world.

The recent fighting in Brixton will have been tremendously heartening for all those most bitterly oppressed by the British imperialist state -- for the people of Ireland, for the people of Azania (South Africa) and all other countries facing British or British-backed oppression. In Ireland British imperialism has seen its propaganda about the 'non-political, criminal' nature of the struggle smashed by the election of an IRA officer as a Westminster MP. Now also in Britain's cities it is being seen that the myth of 'British democracy' is easily seen through by those who suffer most the reality behind the facade.

The national minority struggles, then, break with British imperialism and expose the sham of British 'democracy'. The fullest solidarity with this rising tide is fundamental to the development of an internationalist revolutionary movement that can provide the true and ultimate antidote to the racism and snobbery with which the ruling class constantly tries to divide and rule the working class. We welcome the unfolding of these revolutionary contradictions in our society -- contradictions which will clearly become as far beyond the control of the British ruling class as the contradictions in Ireland are, and which hasten the approach of the final showdown between the multi-national working class and the capitalist class in Britain.

Jaswinder

Continued from front page.

A continuing campaign to prevent this deportation is being led by 'Friends of Jaswinder Kaur' and is widely supported by community, political and religious groups in her home area of Bradford and Leeds.

Such cowardly, racist attacks by the British state on the most defenceless sections of the people can only be viewed with disgust. The fighting campaigns waged by Anwar Ditta, Jaswinder Kaur and other Asian women against attempts to deport them provide a shining example to all working and oppressed people in Britain of how to fight back against state oppression.

Sands

Continued from front page.

process in Ireland when it goes against them.

"On Thursday the people of Fermanagh and South Tyrone used the ballot box and by a democratic majority elected Bobby Sands as their MP. This sticks in the throat of the British government and, in particular, rattles Margaret Thatcher, who only polled 20,918 personal votes in her constituency, because the election of Bobby Sands by 30,492 voters shows that the Irish people reject Britain's criminalisation policy and have not been deceived by it."

At the time of going to press,

Bobby Sands is on the brink of death. Despite last-minute attempts to save his life by his supporters all around the world, the British government appear adamant in their reactionary refusal to concede to the prisoners' just demands.

Encouraged by the great mass movement in Ireland, we must redouble our efforts in this country. Even if the British Government manage to kill Bobby Sands, let them remember the prophetic words of the great Irish patriot, Padraig Pearse:

"... the fools! the fools! the fools! They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland, unfree, shall never be at peace!"

Scottish women fight for jobs



"We will not give in." So declared one of the women workers at the American-owned Vanity Fair factory in Greenock, Scotland. The workers, who make "Lee Jeans", have no intention of accepting unemployment as a way of life.

On February 5th they started a sit-in in the factory, after the owners announced plans to close it down. The occupation is being carried out by 230 women and 10 men. At the end of March they held a ballot on whether to continue their occupation. Only 4 voted against.

The management are trying to force the workers to give in by holding out their severance pay. As part of their campaign the workers are demanding access to the books to check on how the work is costed. The owners of course refused.

The company can hardly complain about productivity. The output from the sewing machines, for example, was up by 50%, and often above that, over the targets set by the management. That increase in production raised workers' pay, as agreed, by £20 a week -- a figure set by management which shows how much extra profit must have been generated. Vanity Fair have three other factories in northern Ireland, where exploitation is greater, and where they are paying lower rates. The firm is not concerned about whether the Greenock factory is profitable, they can increase their profits by concentrating production in other areas. This drive to get maximum profit is the basis of this, and many other, closures.

A few days after the ballot, Ellen Monaghan, the works convenor, and official of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers travelled to London to see Vanity Fair's European Vice-President. He told them he saw British newspapers every day and knew how many people were losing their jobs. "So why are you bothering?" "You've answered your own question," Ellen replied.

The average age of the women is only 20. They are sacrificing their severance pay, and going through hardship, to carry on this struggle. Their courageous stand in an area of high unemployment, where often demoralisation holds back the struggle, gives the lie to the male chauvinist claim that is often made that "women hold back the workers' struggle".

The extent to which the living standards have been attacked already in this Scottish town is shown by the fact that three quarters of the Vanity Fair workers are the sole breadwinners in their families, with young girls often having to support parents who have been thrown on the dole. One 23-year-old woman there has already been made redundant five times previously.

In May the hardship in the area will greatly increase when Talbots' nearby Linwood plant faces closure, putting another 5000 out of work.

The workers of Vanity Fair are determined to fight for their jobs. With unemployment continuing to rise, their magnificent stand is an inspiration to all workers. You can support their struggle by donations, workplace collections and messages of support, which can be sent to: Ellen Monaghan, 55 Cambridge Rd., Greenock, Scotland. (Cheques payable to Vanity Fair Strike Fund.)

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

ONE WONDERS how many tourist brochures and family photo albums all around the world contain the picture of the friendly British bobby standing on guard outside No 10 Downing St., the very symbol of benign authority, respectability and British democracy. One wonders what proportion of the photos of this familiar pose depict one particular bobby who was for many years regularly the one on duty there - PC Peter Swindell. This was the policeman who was recently found guilty of killing a prostitute, Patsy Malone, during 'bondage sex'.

EVERYBODY KNOWS the police killed Gail Kinchin. Yet her boyfriend gets jailed for 12 years for manslaughter, and the police who shot her get recommended for bravery awards. If the police can get away with murder so blatantly, what chance does any individual have in cases where the facts are not so clear? If it's a question of your word against a policeman's, the police will win every time. The working class cannot rely on bourgeois democracy to give them justice.

FOR REASONS WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN EXPLAINED, Archway School in North London was suddenly raided some weeks ago by a police helicopter and eight vehicles. Police proceeded to beat up a black youth, a second black youth was also beaten up and arrested, while a white girl who tried to intervene was told by a policeman, "Listen, you fucking nigger-lover, I'll have you."

"THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME is an unremitting one," said Home Secretary Whitelaw recently, when announcing the fact that there are almost 6000 more police officers in England and Wales than at the General Election in May 1979.

A NEW RACE-HATE COMIC entitled "The Stormer" is being launched by Robert Edwards, of Barnes, London. Edwards is very clear about the aims of "The Stormer": "In a slump it will appeal to simple-minded people seeking something or someone to blame," he said.

FILIPINO hospital and domestic workers who have been settled in Britain for years are being interrogated by officials visiting their workplace and told they must be deported because of allegedly false work references presented before they entered the country. The racist measures used to exact confessions from Filipino workers are documented in a recent report by the Migrants Action Group entitled "On the road to repatriation". The Action Group says that the crackdown on Filipino workers could be a preparation for more general repatriation.

SOME PEOPLE are more equal than others when it comes to getting their views heard. Between them, ten companies dominate the mass media in Britain. These ten companies control all the national newspapers, almost two thirds of local daily papers, over a third of the independent TV stations, and half the commercial radio stations.

AT GRANADA TV'S LONDON OFFICES fifty staff held a one-day strike on 16th February. The strikers, members of ACTT, were protesting at the company's decision to stop sponsoring places for employees' children in the Kingsway Nursery, Holborn. The strike is believed to be the first official industrial action to demand that childcare facilities be maintained.

THE MOTHER of missing Brian Brown, 14, of Sheffield, said on 8th April that he had become a total slave to "Space Invader" machines, spending all his cash on them. Is this the best the capitalist system can do for young people? When Brian leaves school in two years time, what skills will he have to help him find a job and live an independent life? Capitalism will have taught him two things: how to waste his time and how to waste his money.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

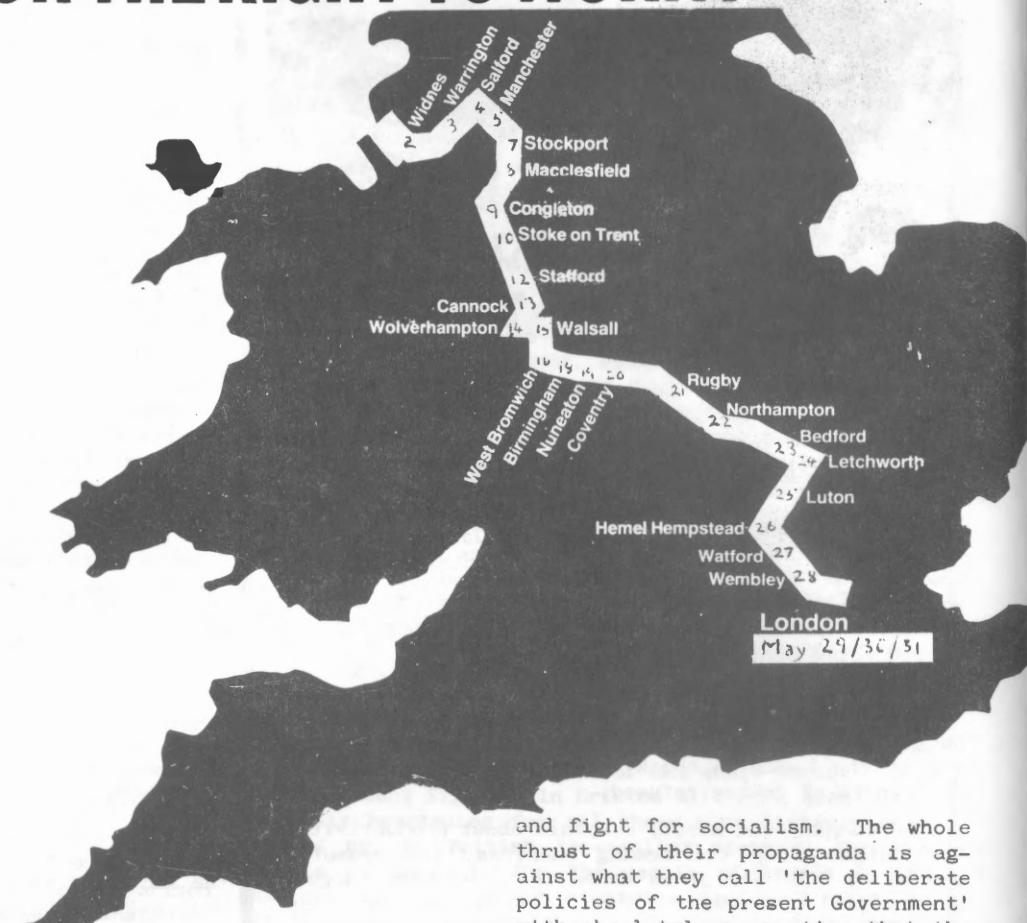
With more massive job losses in the steel industry this week - 1000 at BSC and 1900 at the privately-owned Hadfields - the government's assurances that things are starting to improve ring very hollow indeed. Oh, yes, they admit that unemployment is still rising, but the 'good news' is... it's rising slower than it was a few months ago. Big deal!

It is absolutely clear that we can in no way rely on the state to protect our jobs. What do they care about our jobs, about the misery and suicides that lie behind the statistics, about the young people - especially the black youth - who are being told they are useless at 16 years of age. By January this year, over 100,000 young people had been jobless for more than 6 months, and that's not including all those on temporary schemes.

If we want jobs, we must fight for them. Struggles like those at Gardners and in Greenock will have to be repeated time and time again. We know it won't be easy - getting anything for the working class never is. It is a struggle that demands the unity and mutual support of our class. It is the policy of "Class Struggle" to support all struggles against the attacks of the state, whether they be attacks against the working class and people in this country or against the people of the third world.

This is why we support the unemployed taking part in the 'People's March for Jobs' organised by the North-West TUC, which will leave Liverpool on May 1st and march to London where it will arrive on May 29th. We should take every opportunity to build the fighting strength of the working class and to make our anger clear.

During the Depression of the 1930s, many hunger marches were organised by the National Unemployed Workers Movement which involved hundreds of thousands of people, leading them and educating them on the causes of unemployment and pov-



erty, and on the need for socialism as the only possible solution for the working class. This was all done in the face of opposition from the TUC at the time, whose only concern was that the unemployed workers should come under the TUC.

The 'People's March for Jobs' is not a modern-day equivalent of those Hunger Marches. This march has not developed out of good educational work to organise the unemployed to fight on their own behalf. It is rather a call from 'on high'. The TUC's actions are more concerned with getting people to vote for Labour at the next election and putting forward its own 'Alternative Economic Strategy' than with teaching the people to rely on their own strength

and fight for socialism. The whole thrust of their propaganda is against what they call 'the deliberate policies of the present Government' with absolutely no mention that the first million jobs were lost during the last Labour Government.

There is not even an inkling in their propaganda that unemployment is inevitable under capitalism, especially when imperialism is in crisis due to inevitable periodic slumps, the fight-back of the third world, and the squeeze from competing imperialisms. The 'Alternative Economic Strategy' they are pushing so hard amounts to nothing more than an alternative way of running this lousy imperialist system.

And anyway, what kind of 'People's March' is it that insists that all banners, etc., should be in green, not red, so as not to upset anybody!

The following extracts are taken from works by two writers, both of whom were leading figures in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement. They show some of the mass work done in preparation for the marches.

"On the morning of Wednesday, 23rd January, 1929, tens of thousands of Glasgow workers mobilised on Blytheswood Square, Glasgow, to give a rousing send-off to 200 men, representing the Scottish coalfields, shipyards, textile towns, fishing industries and others affected by the blight of unemployment in Scotland. The marchers were something more than individual volunteers; they were representatives, because they had all been endorsed at great mass meetings held in their respective towns throughout Scotland. Led by a pipers' band, we set out to blaze the trail for over five hundred miles on the roads of Britain, calling upon the workers of the land to stir their slumbering souls and to rise against the callous governing class responsible for the terrible plight of the unemployed."

from "Unemployed Struggles" by Wal Hannington

"We recruited men from May 1932, when the decision was taken, right up to the start of the march in September. At all our meetings at labour exchanges and street corners we explained the aims of the Hunger March. From all the recruits, we had to select the marchers and get them properly kitted-out. Every man who came on the march had a kitbag with his own plate, cup, knife and fork, and proper boots and a cape.

We raised the money for kit from collections at labour exchange and street meetings, from indoor meetings, and from people who weren't in the National Unemployed Workers' Movement but were sympathetic to its aims. We raised enough to get us on the road, including money for our food, and we collected money all the way on the march: in every town we went through we held at least one meeting and took a collection."

from "No Mean Fighter" by Harry MacShane

HOSPITALS FOR SALE

Signs like this will be going up outside NHS hospitals soon. Industry Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph and Social Services Secretary Patrick Jenkins have given the go-ahead for the National Enterprise Board to sell its 70% holding in United Medical Enterprises (UME), a company which specialises in medical equipment and services abroad. UME has until now been prevented from getting into the NHS, but with the National Enterprise Board selling its controlling interest in the company, this clears the way for UME to buy up NHS hospitals and turn them into private medical centres.

UME is said to have a dozen hospitals on its shopping list, some of them already shut down by the NHS. The chairman of UME is former athlete and Tory Minister Christopher Chattaway. Patrick Jenkins is already very well-known for his concern about the health of the people. In 1968, he was legal advisor and company secretary to Distillers, the company who marketed the drug Thalidomide which deformed thousands of unborn babies. Health Minister, Dr Gerald Vaughan, has predicted that in the future 25% of health care in this country will be private medicine (i.e. for profit). His department is busy drafting a document which will outline an insurance based health system.

It is clear that in the future there will be two health services in Britain: a private system for the few that can afford it; the rest of us, the working people, will have to make do with the under-funded, clapped-out remains of the NHS.

HEALTH CUTS ARE NOT NEW

From the early 1970s, the NHS has been under attack from both Labour and Tory governments. Between 1973 and 1977, 33 new private hospitals were built. The Callaghan government closed 280 NHS hospitals and all new health centre building was stopped. From 1973 onwards capital spending (money to build and extend hospitals) was first cut and later stopped altogether. "Cash limits" is the term used to cover up the fact that money to run the NHS has been steadily cut. The idea has obviously been to run down the NHS so that a market (people needing treatment) is created for the private companies to move into to make money out of other people's illness.

By 1976 the NHS was slipping down the international league for health care. Compared with Holland, USA, France or Sweden Britain spent less per person on health and had fewer doctors per 10,000 population.

A recent report by 18 Community Health Councils summed up the present state of the NHS by saying that the government is "paring the NHS to a skeleton." Few people realise how advanced the government's plans are for a two-tier health service."

In September 1980, 641,000 people were waiting to go into hospital.

IS PRIVATE MEDICINE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE N.H.S.?

Medical insurance companies (BUPA and Private Patients Plan account for 95% of total business) are very fussy. They are out to make money - and they succeed. For example, the Wellington Hospital in London which is a private hospital owned by a U.S. based company, made a profit of £1½ million in 1978. If you are over 65 years, a long-stay geriatric, mentally or physically handicapped or even just pregnant, don't bother to apply.

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COMPARATIVE HEALTH SERVICES (1976)

Spending per person on health care:

Britain	£111 per year
France	£250 "
Holland	£295 "
USA	£367 "
Sweden	£437 "

Number of active doctors:

Britain	140 for every 10000 people
France	153 "
W.Germany	199 "
Sweden	178 "
USA	172 "

You aren't suitable (i.e. not profitable). It is these categories of patients who together with the poor account for 60% of NHS spending. You also have to be well-off to afford the policies. BUPA have said that they would not expect semi-skilled and unskilled to apply. It goes without saying that the 3 million unemployed needn't give these schemes a second thought.

The NHS Consultants' Association has warned that private health insurance "cannot improve the chronically ill, which will include most of us eventually. The service ... will only worsen if money and staff are siphoned off in a two-tier insurance-based system."

One American senator has estimated that half of all personal bankruptcies in the USA are caused by hospital bills. Many private American hospitals will not admit even emergency cases until their insurance 'credit' is verified. Dr. Vaughan's department is studying the American system as a possible alternative to the NHS!

Class inequalities in health care have not been removed by 30 years of the NHS. This was the clear conclusion of a report for the Department of Health by Sir Douglas Black in 1980.

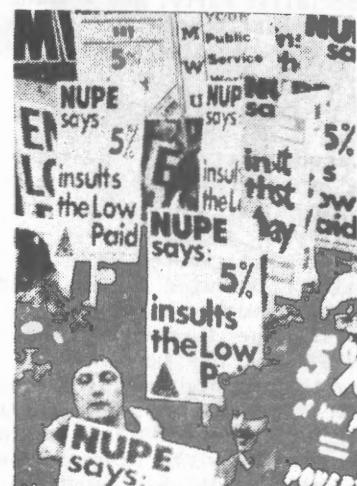
Figures for the differences in infant mortality between the working class and the middle class are staggering:

* Twice as many babies of working class parents die at birth and in the first couple of months.

* In the next 11 months four times as many working-class girls, and five times as many working-class boys die.

* 74,000 lives would have been saved if mortality rates were equal between the classes.

The Black Report made 37 urgent recommendations which it urged the government to act on immediately. And the response? Just what you'd expect. Patrick Jenkins said: "It was quite unrealisitic in present or any foreseeable economic circumstances.



WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Obviously private medicine, whether in or outside the NHS, is no answer for the working class. Those hit hardest by NHS cuts are those that can least look after themselves - the sick and old. NHS workers are in a weak position. They have no economic muscle. Despite all the attacks made on them in the bosses' mass media when they do take industrial actions, militancy and Trade Union membership in the NHS has grown significantly over the last few years. There have been cases of occupations to prevent hospital closures.

The NHS is not a charity, it is a system of health care paid for by the working people in this country. It is the responsibility of all of us to fight to defend the NHS from the death sentence that is being passed on it, and to demand an extension of its facilities. The health service workers are already fighting for their jobs and for decent health care for their fellow-workers. It is the duty of their brothers and sisters in industry and in local communities to take up this fight with them. Only in this way of a united struggle can we ensure our right to decent medical care.*

FIGHTING THE RACIST BILL

CARL Demo Shows Broad Opposition

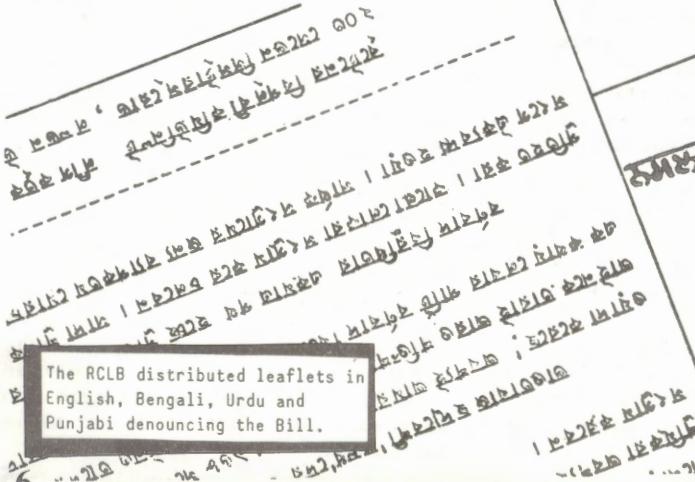
On Sunday, April 5th, a demonstration tens of thousands strong marched through London to declare opposition to the racist Nationality Bill. People from all walks of life most of them from national minorities, carried banners representing political, community and religious organisations from all over the country.

There were banners of the Indian Workers' Association (GB) from many areas, a contingent from the Chinese Action Group, the banners of three cumann (branches) of Provisional Sinn Fein, and of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, and contingents from the East London Troops Out Movement and the Armagh Women's Committee.

OPPORTUNISM EXPOSED

Labour Party and 'Communist' Party speakers attempted to provide cover for the actions of previous labour governments. A leaflet distributed by the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) warned about such opportunists: "The Labour Party," said the leaflet, "has been forced, yet again, to make proclamations against racist laws. But don't forget that their past promises never had anything to do with their actions. They passed the 1968 Immigration Act. They strengthened all the Tory laws. They wrote the original Green Paper on which the Nationality Bill is based. The Labour Party is not anti-racist and has never opposed British imperialism."

Such exposure of the 'false friends' in the Labour Party finds an increasingly welcome reception among national minority peoples, who have suffered so much at the hands of Labour governments. The RCLB leaflet was well-received. It was particularly appreciated that, unlike the racist state which is insisting on a language qualification, the RCLB took the trouble to arrange for its leaflet to be available in English, Bengali, Urdu and Punjabi versions.



BONDS OF UNITY

Irish marchers and their supporters distributed a statement from the H-Blocks to the demonstration, which said that "Second class citizenship is crude oppression and must be confronted and removed. We, who suffer from this disease must of necessity have to major assets: first, resolve, and second, unity.

We must break down the barriers created by those who oppress us and recognise that we share a common role in society and therefore present a united front against our common enemy, otherwise we prejudice our chances of success.

"Sisters and Brothers, it is totally unacceptable to us, political prisoners in H-Blocks, that more racist laws should be brought into existence. It is not only unacceptable, it is downright nauseating. We, as socialists, recognise that such a sickening situation exists because the overall capitalist system is founded on division, and thence fosters racism.

"We ourselves in the H-Blocks are a product of carefully fostered divisions - class and religion - and we are in prison solely because we openly defy the perpetrators of this division. We see the establishment of an Irish socialist republic as the only guarantee of equality and justice. Obviously, our politics do not suit the capitalist regime, so we are subjected to a wide variety of imperialist excesses aimed at defeating our liberation struggle, and thus at stabilising the present divisive establishment."

The leaflet went on to explain the hunger-strike struggle, and concluded "Fellow second-class citizens, now is the time to cement the bonds of unity. Four comrades are resolved to die for the truth. Please help save lives in H-Blocks."

"IN THE FRONT LINE"

A leaflet distributed by the London Campaign Against Racism and

Another racist law

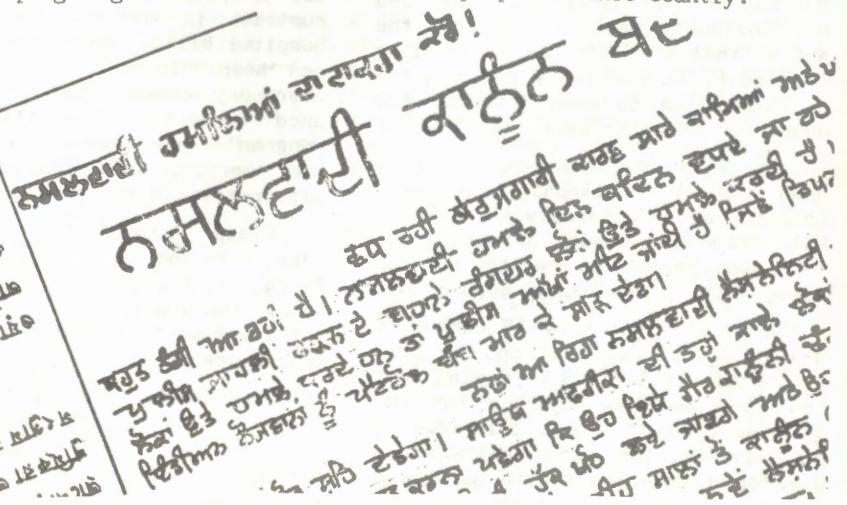
When the British Empire enslaved large parts of the globe, it was a convenient way of ruling to grant the right to be a 'British subject' to hundreds of millions of colonial slaves. Now times are changed, and it has become convenient for British imperialism to create a fortress state, consisting overwhelmingly of white Anglo-Saxons. How does the British state intend to bring about this change-over?

The Nationality Bill increases the power of the state to harass and control the black community, and creates different classes of citizenship, based on race and country of origin. It forces black people resident here to take British citizenship, and at the same time makes it more difficult to do so. A number of qualifications will now be required even of Commonwealth citizens, including a 'good character' requirement particularly likely to be used against political activists, a language qualification, etc.

Such legislation will create legal categories or second-class citizenship and cast doubt on the status of every black and national minority person here, and will give the green light to police, immigration authorities, government departments like the DHSS and Inland Revenue to harass, threaten and victimise black people even more blatantly than they do now.

Fascism (LCARF) drew the link between the fightback of the national minorities and the struggle against the threat of a fascist dictatorship. "National minorities in Britain are in the front line against racism and fascism," the leaflet stated

The size, scope and militancy of the April 5th Demonstration shows that this struggle against racism and fascism is a struggle with plenty of life and vigour in it, and that internationalist unity and solidarity is becoming an actual force in the struggles of increasing numbers of people in this country.



From time to time, individual members of the major parties of the capitalist class leave them, make a bit of a splash in the press, and then sink out of sight (or join another party). The Labour Party has been particularly prone to this sort of thing: Desmond Donnelly, Dick Taverne and Reg Prentice were all Labour Party MPs who defected from it in the past 15 years.

However, now something different has taken place; 14 MPs (13 Labour and a Tory who sounds like he staggered out of a P.G.Wodehouse novel) have left their parties and formed a new one; the Social-Democratic Party.

The last time something like this happened was fifty years ago - Labour formed a minority government in 1929. The onset of the Depression in that year imposed great strains on it, as it tried to administer the capitalist system in ever-worsening conditions. In 1931, in order to obtain credits from New York and to avoid a predicted budgetary deficit, Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald proposed, among other measures, a ten per cent cut in unemployment benefit. Many Labour MPs could not accept this - it would have aroused the hatred of the working class and the trade union leaders would have been unable to justify supporting them; more workers would have turned to the Communist Party. They therefore opposed the PM and his small group of supporters; the party split and suffered a massive defeat in the general election which followed.

MacDonald's group (National Labour Party) held on to a few seats, then soon disappeared, but Labour, blamed in part for the poor economic situation, only got into office again when the second World War coalition government was formed.

The main thing which the present Labour split has in common with that one in 1931 is that it is occurring under the impact of a general imperialist crisis, when there is little room for manoeuvre for reformism, and it is subjected to extraordinary stresses and strains.

But while this central feature is the same, many other factors are different, and it is by examining these that it will be possible to come to some conclusions about the prospects lying before the Social Democrats.

BREAKDOWN OF "CONSENSUS"

From the 1950s onwards, there was a time of relative stability in the international imperialist system. The policy difference between the Labour and Conservative Parties became blurred; they still had their own specific functions in the capitalist system, but the distinctions were less clear cut. Both supported, to a greater or lesser extent, a "welfare state", "mixed economy", immigration controls, EEC entry, membership of NATO and a close relationship with the USA.

But the growing economic crisis in the late '70s, coupled with intensified struggles between the two

super-powers, has led to a major (though by no means complete) breakdown in the consensus politics of the past 20 years or so. These factors led to the ascendancy of the Thatcherites in the Conservative Party on the one hand, and the growth of the power of the Labour 'left' on the other.

The Thatcherites have embraced monetarism and state repression as the answer to the crisis of British imperialism, and are aligning Britain more closely with the interests of the US; the Labour 'left' seek the salvation of British imperialism through Keynesian economic policies, corporatism and alignment with (or at least abject appeasement of) Soviet social-imperialism. A gap has opened up between the major bourgeois parties as their strongest factions have made headway, and it is into that gap that the Social-Democrats have stepped.



They have a few things going for them. Many people are fed up with the major bourgeois parties, and want an alternative; despite the old faces in it, some hope the SDP will provide this. They not only see the present Labour and Conservative parties as advocating 'extreme' policies, but also policies which have been discredited. The SDP has a particular appeal to liberal reformist intellectuals (and some of the better-off white-collar workers) and these elements have expertise and influence which can boost the SDP's electoral appeal.

Yet the SDP also has major handicaps; like the Liberals, it doesn't have either large scale big business or trade union leadership backing. More important in the long run may be its Catch-22 situation. If there had not been an imperialist crisis, the old consensus would have gone on, and there would have been no basis for the emergence of the SDP. With the crisis came a break-up of the old consensus, and a gap in which the SDP could be formed, yet that very crisis is also serving to polarise public opinion, undercutting the basis for any strong and lasting SDP. Crisis or no crisis, though the SDP may have a short-term impact, its long-term position seems very uncertain.

The SDP's relatively independent stand towards the superpowers is a positive factor in the present situation that has to be recognised. More important may be the evidence which the current groundswell of support for the SDP provides of a continuing decline in confidence in the major bourgeois parties. and a desire for an alternative. Communists and progressive people should build on feelings of discontent with the major parties, and show the need not only to discard them, but to turn to Communism as the real alternative for working people, and overthrow the whole imperialist system.

The League is working to build the party which will lead the struggle for an independent socialist Britain to success, and it therefore urges all who want to get rid of the imperialist system to join in this process of party building.

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IMPERIALISM:A CASE STUDY

A REVIEW OF "IMPERIALISM AND REVOLUTION IN UGANDA" BY DAN W. NABUDERE
(contributed)

The paramount task of anti-imperialists is to know the enemy. Dan Nabudere's study of imperialism's grip on his country, Uganda, is a model of anti-imperialist analysis which helps us to do just that.

The author begins by refuting the myth that pre-colonial societies in Africa were classless. When British imperialism took over Uganda in the 1890s it established its rule over the people in alliance with sections of the existing elite. The initial resistance, though heroic was backward-looking and therefore doomed. By 1900 it was crushed.

The particular strength of this book lies in its economic and political analysis (of both the colonial and neo-colonial eras). It enables us to understand the material basis of the different classes in Uganda as well as the strategy of imperialism during the various phases since its first penetration of the country.

The constant aim of imperialism (monopolistic finance capital) has been to obtain cheap raw materials - in Uganda's case mainly cotton and coffee - in an 'enclave' economy controlled by foreign banks and monopolies in such a way that no independent Ugandan capitalist class could arise, but only a weak comprador class - a class totally dependent on foreign capital.

THE USE OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT

Imperialism also intensified the uneven development of the country. Certain regions were deliberately neglected in order to provide migrant labour for commercial agriculture and processing industries in other regions. Under the colonial regime the economic surplus was siphoned off by 'marketing boards' into so-called 'price stabilisation funds' and then either transferred to London or used for loans to rich farmers, civil servants and entrepreneurs in Uganda. In the post war period the British Labour government used colonial exports to overcome Britain's acute dollar shortage. Everything possible was done to bring the peasantry into the capitalist economy but at the same time the resilience of the subsistence agricultural economy was deliberately used to keep down labour costs. The migrant workers still depend for their survival on the links with their home villages.

SUPPRESSION OF ANTI-COLONIAL MOVEMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEO-COLONIALISM

The anti-colonial movement in Uganda began among the peasantry and the incipient working class (specifically the transport work-

ers). It reached a peak in the years 1945-49 but was suppressed by the post war Labour government in Britain. During the following decade, however, the general crisis of imperialism forced Britain to adopt a new technique of domination (neo-colonialism) under which formal power was transferred to indigenous petty-bourgeois governments willing to collaborate with imperialism. Thus Uganda became 'independent' in 1962.

The background to this was that US imperialism had exerted its new power since 1945 to force its wartime allies to dismantle their colonial empires and replace them with a neo-colonial 'open-door' arrangement dominated by the US monopolies. This era of 'multi-lateral imperialism' was presented as the ending of imperialism! In reality it introduced a more sophisticated system of imperialism with its overall strategy co-ordinated by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund all under the domination of the United States. The economic 'development' plans foisted on the neo-colonial countries kept them firmly under imperialist control.

In this neo-colonial era Uganda was opened up to competitive exploitation by US, West German, French, Japanese and other finance capital in addition to the existing stake of British imperialism. This intensified the rivalry among sections of the local petty-bourgeoisie, each aiming to act as agents for different imperialist states. The ruling faction led by Obote leaned towards European social-democracy and produced what Nabudere calls "populist clap-trap about 'socialism'".

US, BRITAIN AND ISRAEL ORGANISE AMIN'S COUP

As the world crisis of capitalism deepened the neo-colonial arrangement of 1962 broke down and Uganda was placed under a military dictatorship in 1971. The Amin dictatorship was clearly inspired by Anglo-American finance capital with Israel, as an agent of US imperialism, playing a crucial role in pushing Amin into the coup.

With the civilian politicians ousted the contradictions among the petty-bourgeoisie were focussed within the army. Factions there were supported by different imperialist interests, including that of the Soviet Union (and its Libyan agents) after Amin's 'break' with his original backers in a search for more generous external sponsors.

The expulsion of the Asian petty-bourgeoisie was a sop to a section of the aspiring African petty-bourgeoisie which in no way dealt with the principal contradiction between the Ugandan people and imperialism. Nabudere quotes a revealing account of that period: "In October 1972 when Asian businesses

"Imperialism and Revolution in Uganda" (Onyx Press, London and Tanzania Publishing House, Dar es Salaam, 1980. 376 pp) costs £5.50

Other works by this author are "The Political Economy of Imperialism" (1977) and "Essays on the Theory and Practice of Imperialism" (1979)

Available from New Era Books.

started closing down en masse, the main streets of Kampala were lined with signs saying 'Property of Barclay's Bank D.C.O.' or 'Property of Standard Bank'." That showed clearly who the real controllers of Ugandan capital were!

In 1979 the Tanzanian army overthrew the Amin regime and a year later, with Tanzanian support, the former president Obote was restored to power. Dan Nabudere, who was himself a member of the transitional Uganda National Liberation Front government that was removed by a coup in May 1980, shows that this merely reintroduced the factional rule that preceded Amin. Now Uganda seems again to be heading for the petty-bourgeois dictatorship that suits imperialism best.

The weak and disunited petty-bourgeoisie, an 'intermediary class' of small traders, professionals, etc., cannot create the broad revolutionary united front that is required for a successful struggle against imperialism. Yet, as Nabudere concludes, such a front - led by the Ugandan working class and rural proletariat in alliance with the poor and middle peasantry who form the bulk of the population - remains the only possible basis for the new democratic revolution which alone can break the stranglehold of imperialism on Uganda.

SOME LESSONS FOR OUR STRUGGLE

After praising Amin to the skies in 1971, the British press turned into denouncing him with the most vicious caricatures in order to cover up the fact that Britain was his principal backer and had organised the coup. At the same time the plight of the Asian refugees arriving here, as British citizens, was used to stir up racism and to draw attention away from the growing capitalist crisis in this country.

The imperialists use such methods to foster opportunism and social-chauvinism within the working class in Britain. The Labour Party, which has played a direct role in administering the imperialist exploitation of Uganda, is one of the main vehicles used to turn workers against their real allies. This in turn helps to perpetuate imperialist rule in the Third World - and in Britain.

As was pointed out long ago by communists like Lenin and Stalin, the national and colonial struggles are inseparable from the workers' struggles within the imperialist

ZIMBABWE MAKES PROGRESS

ONE YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

One year ago, after a protracted guerilla war backed by the Organisation of African Unity, had convinced British and American imperialists that they could no longer hold Zimbabwe in collaboration with the colonial Smith regime, Zimbabwe won its independence. ZANU proved through years of peoples' struggles and finally through the elections that they had the support of the masses as the leading force in the liberation of Zimbabwe.

ZANU has shown itself before and after liberation to be willing to adopt united front activities with organisations like ZAPU in order to overcome the main enemy and to take the struggle forward step by step.

At the time of liberation there were three armies in Zimbabwe, those led by ZANU and ZAPU and the remains of Smith's colonial forces. The ZANU leadership, aware of the necessity of maintaining stability while consolidating military, political and economic power, have paid close attention not only to maintaining a united front government, but to integrating and gradually transforming the armed forces. By the end of March, 21 battalions had been integrated. Of course there are still some conflicts, and there has been fighting in three battalions, but overwhelmingly the integration has been successful and the army is loyal to the government and people of Zimbabwe, and a force that can defend independence. The integration process is aimed to be finished by the end of August. Rex Nhongo and Lookout Masuku were appointed Lieutenant Generals, the highest rank in the Zimbabwean Army, in April. In a speech in February Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, stressed that "the new revolutionary army will engage in productive work within the spirit of self-reliance and will work with the people."

At the time of liberation one sixth of the country's population, 1,200,000 people, were refugees. A massive repatriation programme has taken place. Alongside those that have returned to their villages and towns, over 200,000 have been resettled on 330,000 hectares of farmland which has been redistributed by the government.

.....

countries. This book demonstrates to us that the interests of the working class in Britain, and the interests of the exploited peoples of the Third World, are bound together in a common struggle against a common enemy - the destructive and oppressive rule of imperialist finance capitalism. ★



ROBERT MUGABE

In the first Budget, education expenditure was increased by more than half, and was topped up again with further spending of \$30 million Zimbabwe. In order massively to expand education facilities previously denied to the black population a number of schools have temporarily changed to a two-shift system, while new schools are rapidly being built and old ones expanded. The number of children in primary schools has increased from 900,000 to 1,500,000 and in secondary schools from 17,000 to 90,000. There is also a massive adult literacy campaign and spare-time education for workers is being developed.

Over the last year Zimbabwe's gross national product increased by 7%, and manufacturing output by 23%. There has been a bumper harvest of maize. Domestic turnover in 1980 increased by 30% mainly due to the improved conditions of the majority black population.

Out of the 18 town and city council elections held recently, ZANU has won comfortable majorities in 17 including the capital, Salisbury, with ZAPU winning a majority in the other, Victoria.

In a first anniversary speech Robert Mugabe outlined again: "We will continue to be governed by the principle of positive non-alignment" he said; "Zimbabwe shall continue to join hands with all its friendly neighbours, the front-line states, in furthering unity and development of the African regions." He condemned South Africa and reiterated Zimbabwe's support for the liberation struggle of the Namibian people and the struggles for freedom in Azania by all liberation movements.

Under the leadership of ZANU, Zimbabwe has made great progress in just one year, and laid an important basis for further progress in the transformation of Zimbabwean

society. There is still much to be done both internally and externally. For example, after many years of economic boycott the Zimbabwean economy was closely entwined with that of South Africa. Zimbabwe is playing a major role in working to build economic co-operation and development with the other front-line states in particular, and in Africa as a whole, as well as transforming the economy of Zimbabwe itself. But whilst progress is being made, such changes do not take place overnight. So due to the legacy of colonial rule Zimbabwe is forced to continue trade with South Africa for the present. Zimbabwe fully supports, in all respects the liberation movements, and the demand at the UN by the non-aligned nations for a world economic boycott of South Africa; however if Zimbabwe immediately imposed a boycott it would not harm South Africa but would be economic suicide for Zimbabwe and would seriously undermine the revolutionary process.

Yet we have the sight in Britain of opportunist newspapers like Socialist Worker, and most of the other Trotskyites, carrying articles condemning Zimbabwe for not transforming everything immediately. It is hardly surprising that the opportunist organisations, who always condemn or ignore the revolutionary impact of the national anti-imperialist struggles of the third world - and who did little or nothing in active solidarity before independence - should continue to attack the revolutionary process after the winning of state power. While sitting in comfort in the imperialist countries, they condemn or ignore the very forces that are fighting imperialism on a massive scale. Despite the 'super-revolutionary' rhetoric, the objective fact is that they side with imperialism against what they choose to call 'reactionary nationalism'. In fact the black liberation fighters have a better stand, understand more about imperialism, and are more mature about strategy and tactics, and what is possible and necessary today, and what must be done to advance further tomorrow.

For the working class in Britain, Zimbabwe should be nothing less than a deep example of how the oppressed masses can advance in the struggle for freedom, through unity of purpose against the power of imperialism. It is a long road down which the people of Zimbabwe have embarked. Mao pointed out after the victory of the Chinese revolution in 1949 that this was just the first step. But down it they are going. They have struck a real blow at imperialism, at our own ruling class, and in solidarity with them we too can march forward. ★

SOVIET IMPERIALISM'S SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION

"I don't know anything about it."
"I can say for sure that there were no negotiations with him."

"In Moscow Waddel represented British and American capital."

"Perhaps he was there as a tourist."

That is how Vladimir Bykov, deputy Ambassador of the Soviet Union in London, floundered about as he was confronted with evidence of Gordon Waddel's visit to Moscow in a Panorama programme on April 7th. Gordon Waddel is the son-in-law of Harry Oppenheimer, who is the boss of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa, a company worth £6,000 million. Waddel is the second most important man in the company and after Oppenheimer goes will become Chairman of this the world's biggest gold and diamond company. Waddel has a South African passport and as the USSR does not officially recognise South Africa he could not officially be there.

But there he was! "He was clearly here on business," said John Osman, BBC's Moscow correspondent, who saw him.

"No comment," said Waddel.

"Oppenheimer is an international businessman. The USSR talked to him as a British or US businessman, not as a South African businessman", Bykov finally claimed, with perfect doublethink, after giving up pretending that he knew nothing about it, that Waddel never went, and that he just went as a tourist. But pointed out the BBC commentator, Oppenheimer was bought up and lives in South Africa, and, we might add, the discussions were on gold and diamond deals and about production in South Africa and the Soviet Union - the top two producing countries in the world.

Why the contact?

Why the secrecy and lies?

De Beer's, another South African Oppenheimer company, dominates the international diamond market, as AAC and others dominate South African production. De Beers runs the Central Selling Organisation which has a monopoly on the rough diamond trade. By stockpiling and releasing diamonds in line with demand it maintains a maximum price. Every 5 weeks the top diamond buyers are invited to view. Prices are set in advance. There are no negotiations. If the buyer refuses the price, they are not invited back. That is the level of De Beers control.

The USSR now produces one third of the world's diamonds. It could break the South African colonial monopoly. But "the Russians are very difficult to deal with....they are after the biggest profit", said the President of Antwerp diamond dealers with admiration. By selling directly the USSR could still make massive profits. By backing De Beers mono-



poly they can maximise their profit, as all imperialists aim to do.

The close relationship between Soviet and South African merchanting started in 1957 after a visit by Oppenheimer's cousin Phillip to Moscow. All Soviet exports then went through De Beers. After the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, the USSR made a big show of publicly repudiating the contract; but secretly the deal has continued. A Soviet delegation has recently been to Kimberley in South Africa, and Soviet officials have been seen at De Beers' London offices, and at dinner parties at the Connaught hotel with Oppenheimer. Phillip Oppenheimer recently revisited Moscow to renegotiate the deal as the USSR is demanding a bigger slice of De Beers profits.

Similar contracts and deals exist over the platinum and gold trades. Last year, Sergeyev, a Soviet Trade official sat alongside Harry Oppenheimer at the top table at the annual "platinum dinner". Waddel had talks there with Osipov, the Soviet platinum marketing organiser. Meetings have also been observed at the Soviet Embassy in Oslo.

Last September 3 officials of Consolidated Goldfields, in which Oppenheimer has a major stake, were invited to Moscow. "We talked to some of their technical people...We have talked to them on a regular basis for a number of years", a spokesman said.

Namibia's Uranium

The USSR's secret and hypocritical dealings with South Africa were also exposed a few months ago in another case. While the USSR and pro-Soviet parties have joined with progressive forces to denounce west-

ern Imperialist exploitation of Namibian Uranium, a country illegally occupied by South Africa, it turns out that the Soviet Imperialists have also been in on the act. A fact that was brought to light at the United Nations.

Soviet political intrigues

The Soviet Union claims to support the liberation struggle in Southern Africa, and often denounces its secret business partners. In practice the USSR has attempted to bring one liberation movement under its wing. It refuses to support all the liberation movements or to channel its aid through the Organisation of African Unity Liberation Committee, which would make it impossible to put strings on its "aid". Pro-Soviet groups in organisations like Anti-Apartheid have tied them to support for only one movement. Thus Anti-Apartheid refuses to give support to, amongst others, active liberation fighters like the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the Black Consciousness Movement. The Soviet Imperialists have no real interest in the true liberation of Azania, though doubtless they would be happy to see Oppenheimer and his like fall - if the USSR can take his place.

Slanders against China

Seeing the truth break out into the open the USSR has tried to divert attention by claiming that China is about to recognise the racist colonial regime. China has said quite categorically that it does not and will not recognise the regime, neither does it have dealings with it. The USSR has not of course given any concrete evidence of its slanders. In fact, unlike the USSR,

★ NIGERIA: During his recent state visit to Britain President Shagari of Nigeria asked "the British establishment" to help to overthrow the apartheid regime which imprisons 23 million black people in South Africa and Namibia. "Nigeria," he said, "will give all aid to the freedom fighters of those two countries. We shall use every means at our disposal to fight apartheid and to defeat it." City and Queen listened quietly, because Nigeria is one of British imperialism's richest markets. But British workers must actively align themselves with the peoples of the third world to force our monopoly capitalists out of Namibia and Azania (South Africa).

★ AZANIA: "1981 is a year of unity. The unity of all members of the Congress, the unity of all liberation organisations of Azania, and the unity of the Congress with all progressive forces of the world and with the Black Consciousness Movement are inevitable." This statement of John Nyati Pokela, Chairman of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, was made at a press conference in Dar Es Salaam on the 19th of March. He announced that 72 members of the Congress who were expelled in 1978 have had their memberships unconditionally reinstated. Comrade Pokela, who was elected by the Central Committee in February, has spent the 13 previous years imprisoned on Robben Island.

★ AZANIA: The British Department of Trade this year refused to name individual companies in the annual report it issues on wages of British companies in South Africa. However names are available from the companies own reports to the department. Companies paying starvation wages (i.e. below an EEC named figure called the Supplemented Living Level) include Burmah Oil, one of whose directors is Denis Thatcher, Lonrho, GKN, Trusthouse Forte, AB Foods, Dunlop, McAlpine, Turner and Newall, Wimpey and Plessey.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



★ WEST GERMANY: Prisoners at Diez (Limburg) have taken action in support of the H-Blocks, and women in Armagh. They have produced a bulletin recording information about the hunger strike and facts of the liberation struggle in Ireland, and circulated it to gain signatures in support.



Eritrean liberation fighters with captured Soviet tank.

★ ERITREA: On the initiative of the Arab League 4 Eritrean organisations: the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, the Eritrean Liberation Front - Revolutionary Council, the Eritrean Liberation Front - Peoples Liberation Front and the Peoples Liberation Front - Revolutionary Committee met in Tunis and formed an umbrella organisation. Each retains full freedom of movement in Eritrea and "all weapons are to be directed against the enemy".

The ELF was absent from the meeting and has declared its intention to seek an understanding with the Ethiopian regime.

The Soviet Union, which supported Eritrea's demands for independence from Ethiopia when there was a pro-US regime in Ethiopia, is flying weapons directly into Eritrea to support a new Ethiopian military push. The Soviet imperialists aim to control the Eritrean port of Massawa, which would give them a base on the Red Sea.

★ AFGHANISTAN: About 30,000 extra Soviet troops were draughted into Afghanistan during April, where they still have failed to subdue the resistance despite widespread use of chemical and biological weapons, and techniques reminiscent of Nazi atrocities such as the total destruction of villages and the massacre of their populations. What sort of mentality can call this "socialist aid" when it is the masses who are suffering under the dictatorship? Latest reports are that the town of Kandahar as well as most rural areas are liberated.

★ USSR: Estonian scientist Juri Kukk has died in prison after a 4 month hunger strike. Dr Kukk was sentenced to 2 years forced labour in January for his prominent role in the movement for civil and national rights. Mart Niklus, an Estonian teacher, who was sentenced to 15 years at the same trial is also on hunger strike. There has been no news from him since Feb 12th

★ AZANIA: 600 black miners at the Penge Asbestos Mine near Lydenburg went on strike on April 14th. The dispute started after a white man refused to allow some of the miners into a cage lift. Later protestors went to the managers office and also demanded higher wages and shorter hours. They marched into the white residential area of the town where white residents opened fire on them and they replied with bricks. Two miners died and seven more were injured.

This issue of Class Struggle has paid particular attention to coverage of Africa. May 25th is the 18th anniversary of the founding of the OAU liberation committee - Africa Liberation day.

New struggles in Iran

"Raiding houses by SAVAK methods, unlawful arrests, torture, burning bookshops, attacking meetings, schools, political organisations' headquarters ... even open plots against the President and his aides are the usual practice in Iran.

"These attacks are carried out by armed terrorist gangs such as the 'Revolutionary Guards', 'Committees', etc., or by club-wielding thugs who are under the protection of Mr. Rajai's government. ...

"As at the time of the Shah, families of those arrested have to wander from one prison to another to find out what has been the fate of their sons and daughters.

"In fact the total infringement of constitutional laws, negation of the most basic rights of the people, and inhuman treatments are not only carried out against political activists and opponents of the government, but the entire Iranian people now suffer the domination of the autocratic rule of a small minority....

"Iran has today become the prison of its people."

This extract from a recent statement by the Party of the Proletariat of Iran speaks for itself. The statement records how new "dictators, most of whom were concerned about

China supports the liberation movements through the OAU liberation committee and does not attempt to sow discord between them. By falsely attacking China, the USSR is merely uncovering more of its own nature.

their own peaceful lives or gave into the pressures of SAVAK and capitulated at the time of the Shah's rule" now attack the veteran anti-imperialist fighters who struggled for the liberation of Iran.

It records, also, how Party members have been arrested, held in secret houses and tortured. It details the ransacking of the house of Majid Zarbakhsh, a member of the Central Committee. It describes the new realities of the "despotic and repressive rule of those who climbed the seats of power at the expense of the zeal and heroism of the people" who fought for liberation.

The people of Iran had many friends who supported the liberation struggle. Today they are calling for "support with all possible means" for "Iran's freedom fighters against the new dictators."

POLITICAL STATUS NOW!

The past weeks have seen attempts in Britain to rally the solidarity movement in support of the demand of the prisoners in the H-Blocks for political status, as embodied in their five demands. All over the country activists have organised pickets, rallies, petitions, meetings, leaflettings and street collections. Some new ground has been broken. Particularly significant has been the growing link between the Irish struggle and that of oppressed national minorities in this country. The organisers of the demonstration against the Nationality Bill invited an H-Block speaker onto their platform in Trafalgar Square, and provided the occasion for Sinn Fein to march into Trafalgar Square despite the ban on Irish activity there. Speakers from the New Cross Action Committee and the Race Today Collective have spoken on H-Block/Armagh platforms, and the Indian Workers' Association (GB) has pledged itself to support republican activities. In return, the Republican movement give their unstinting support to the struggles of oppressed peoples in this country.

All this shows that the Irish people and the oppressed national minorities in Britain are natural allies and are at the forefront of revolutionary activity opposing British imperialism. News of the fighting in Brixton and all over London was greeted with great enthusiasm in Ireland, showing as it does the arrival of new revolutionary forces on the scene in Britain.

BRITISH LEFT

All this stands in contrast to the activity of the organised British left. In the main the demonstrations and events organised by the H-Block/Armagh Committee, the Troops Out Movement and the Republican Movement have been pitifully attended. One can blame a certain amount of this on the press blackout, on the struggles going on in other areas, such as employment, etc. But in the final analysis these are only excuses. Here we have a major turning-point in a mass struggle waged against British imperialism on the very doorstep of the metropolitan country. Four Irish hunger strikers are given mass support, win a resounding election victory, and have support all over the world. So successfully have they exposed the unjust stand of



• Industrial Day of Action, Derry



• H-Block march, Cork



• Lurgan rally,



• Industrial Day of Action, Belfast

These photographs (reprinted from An Phoblacht/Republican news) are testimony to the mass support in Ireland for the struggle of the prisoners of the H-Blocks and Armagh Jail.

the British government that even the most pro-imperialist politicians in the nationalist camp in Ireland are forced to support their demands.

In this situation the British left and all progressive people should put the prison struggle at the centre of their work, mobilising all their forces. If this were done it would make a real impact on the struggle. Not only would it start to build the vital alliance with national minorities in Britain, but it would open the door to winning over and giving direction to that great mass of people who the opinion polls reveal as wanting the troops out of Ireland.

In the event this work is not taken up. The reason for this is straightforward chauvinism. The leadership of the 'left' organisations does not want to understand that the Irish are in the vanguard of the anti-imperialist struggle. Rather than brave the storms of resolute solidarity work in opposition to British imperialism they carry on with the comfortable and futile project of infiltrating the Labour Party, and so on. There is a deep lesson to learn here. These chauvinists and the ideas they spread

stand in the road of the revolution. Only when they and their ideas are defeated will the British 'left' make any contribution to the anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement. ★

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Events in Ireland are moving very quickly and so will solidarity actions in Britain. Keep in touch and get details from 01-272-5894 or 01-267-2004.

Throughout May the 'Peoples March For Jobs' will be on its way to London. For details see page 4.

Friday May 1st.

Mayday Social.

Organised by the RCLB. Music. International guests. Tickets £1.50 including food and drink. Available from New Era Books, 01-272-5894.

Saturday May 16th.

Stop Jaswinder's deportation.

National demonstration starts from Banstead Terrace, Roundhay road, Leeds 8. For background article see front page.