

CLASS STRUGGLE

Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

Incorporating

NEW AGE

PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

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OPPRESSED RISE UP

In the last two to three months the cities of Britain have been rocked by a wave of street fighting. Many urban areas are boarded up; police are seen everywhere; and still the movement continues. The question being asked is "why?" It is not a difficult question to answer. The people involved answer it in their different ways, but always it boils down to oppression frustration, anger, bitterness and a resolve not to sit back and take it - a preparedness to fight back, and to fight back outside of the well-tryed, tested and exposed channels of Parliament and the legal system.

The immediate causes vary. In Brixton the provocative 'Operation Swamp', where police stopped and questioned hundreds of local people, and particularly national minority people on the streets, in a supposed crack-down on "general crime", built up the people's anger against the insulting behaviour and arrogant bullying of the 'forces of law and order'. The racism of the state forces has been clear. Many black people have reported seeing police wearing National Front stickers. The week of 'Operation Swamp' ended with an incident on the Friday night when a black youth who had been stabbed was put in a police car and kept there and questioned. He was only taken to hospital after other black youths attacked the car, got him out and took him to hospital in a taxi.

SOUTHALL

In Southall, hundreds of skinheads who went into the area supposedly to attend a concert, attacked local Asians in the street. They were driven out of Southall by the mass resistance of Asians who took to the streets and showed them that they would fight back collectively and militantly to defend themselves.

The events of Brixton and Southall following those of St. Paul's in Bristol last year, have had a profound effect throughout Britain.

The national minority people have shown that they will hit back at their oppression, at state racism, and at fascist hooligans; and their resistance has struck a chord with

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FIGHTING ON THE STREETS OF BRIXTON.



BRITISH YOUTH LEARNS THE LESSONS OF BELFAST.

STEPPING UP STATE OPPRESSION

The response of the state in Britain to the wave of violent protest has been to step up their own legal violence. Many papers have described recent events as "more reminiscent of Belfast than Britain". They are right. The just struggle against British imperialism and the partition of Ireland is having its impact on the oppressed and deprived people in Britain, and particularly the national minority people. It is also true that the British state has long seen Ireland as a testing ground to prepare against street protests and revolutionary struggles in Britain.

There is not a revolutionary situation here, but there is indeed a spontaneous movement that breaks with 'normal political channels'. It is hardly surprising then to see a wave of Chief Constables trotting off to visit the semi-fascist RUC chiefs in northern Ireland and the brutal colonialist Hong Kong riot police. The police are getting armoured cars (painted blue, of course - after all, we don't want to change the nice, if somewhat tarnished, image of the British Bobby), water cannon, special helmets and other "riot gear". The use of plastic bullets, as in Ireland, is being discussed. Liverpool, just over the water from Ireland, was used to test 'public opinion' to the use of CS gas. The "ferret" guns used are special shot guns which fire gas cylinders at the same speed as a normal bullet, and are designed to penetrate barricades and walls.

One family, including a 3 year old girl, were driving out of the area and had a shot fired straight through the windscreen. Phil Robins a football player with Southport FC who lived in the street, was trying to clear the crowds when he was shot in the chest, and again in the back as he spun round. At the time of going to press, newspaper reports and eye-witness accounts from Liverpool hospitals, indicate that many people have been treated for injuries similar to bullet wounds. Naturally there is going to be a very 'independent' inquiry. It will be headed by Mr Kenneth Oxford - Chief Constable of Merseyside!

In Brixton, while the Scarman inquiry (trying to work out a report which will sound liberal and concessionary on social conditions, but support new equipment and condemn people's resistance) is sitting, police carried out a revenge raid on the local community. Using the excuse of 'information received about petrol bomb factories', police raided black houses and shops at 3 o'clock in the morning. The 'raids' were similar to those against nationalist communities in northern Ireland. Partition walls were broken down, doors kicked in, bannister rails torn out, TVs, stereo equipment and musical instruments smashed. Who can consider that a search? It was sheer intimidation. None of the conveniently-invented 'bomb factories' were found, of course.

For a couple of years past, the struggles of the working class in Britain against the imperialist ruling class were at a low ebb. The possibilities of wringing concessions from British imperialism by means of the forms of struggle mainly used during the 30 years of relative stability in the capitalist system had been almost exhausted; in conditions of mass unemployment, after all, the effectiveness of strike action is very much reduced. The biggest obstacle to an effective fightback has been the deep influence of opportunism, particularly in the form of social democracy, which has served to stifle and divert working class struggles.

Historically, when the working class has been unable to fight successful economic struggles, it has turned to political action, and the belief in the necessity of the proletariat taking power has spread out from the few who had kept the ideas of socialism alive to much larger sections of the working people.

YOUTH HIT BACK

The turn to political action is under way. Working class youth, with black youth to the fore, have taken to the streets and hit back against years of police harassment. In one city after another, respect for the 'law and order' of the ruling class has been battered by the militant youth. Despite the abuse of the press, wider and wider sections of the working class will draw lessons from them, fight harder against the capitalist offensive and refuse to be dragooned into order either by opportunist leaders or the state.

When events such as those which have occurred recently on Britain's streets took place in other countries, it used to be said, "It wouldn't happen here!" It has, and the face of politics in Britain will never be the same again.

It was in circumstances when these momentous events were taking place in Britain and the struggle of the Irish people had seen a massive upsurge that the Second Congress of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) took place. It made a number

of key policy decisions which will have a great bearing on how effectively it can work in the new conditions of the class and national struggles in Britain.

The Congress re-affirmed the strong stance of the League against opportunism. The importance of this has been underlined by the Labour Party's condemnation of the youth who rose up against the police and by its long-standing hostility to the struggle of the Irish people. It is constantly shown by the way revolutionary and progressive people run into the obstacle of opportunism when they seek to win support for the struggles of the national minorities and the Irish people, and when they fight in the unions for them to stand up for their members' basic interests.

THE NATIONAL QUESTION

The Congress recognised that the socialist revolution in Britain could only be carried through by an alliance between the working class and the national minorities. It upheld the orientation of building communist cells in industry as a firm base in the working class for the communist party the League is working to rebuild, and affirmed the vanguard role of the proletariat in the revolution in Britain, while recognising that, at the present time, the national minority people are in the vanguard of the struggle against the British state.

The Congress finally made a complete break with the old, objectively social-chauvinist line of the League on Ireland, and pledged the RCLB's unconditional support to the armed struggle of the Irish people and to their Republican leadership in the fight against British imperialism.

PARTY BUILDING

There are still many problems which the League has to grapple with, but the decisions taken by its Second Congress will help ensure that the work it does in the coming months strengthens its ties with the most advanced elements in the struggle against the imperialist ruling class and its state and enables it to carry its party-building work forward.

From our postbag



The Editor - CS,
New Era Books, 203
Seven Sisters Rd.
London N.4

Why have the major unions not really taken into account the struggle of homeless people? I would say it is because most homeless people have difficulty in getting jobs. They have not got references, and if the employer asks where you are living and you say the Salvation Army Hostel, the Camberwell Resettlement Unit, or in the street, they just don't bother.

I would stress here that one of the difficulties is that when you are homeless you have to sign on at special offices like Marshalsea Road in the Borough and Scarborough Street in the East End. These offices are for homeless men which this government, and governments before it, says it needs - because they can't have this type of people mixing with ordinary working class people who go to other types of Social Security Offices.

I believe that with casual work in the catering trade there is quite a turnover of people and jobs. Because of their life, homeless people

stand there waiting in a queue at Scarborough St from 6 pm of the evening before and wait till 10 am the next morning to be selected, if lucky, for a job with no security - only getting the money for a drink in many cases.

In most jobs in the catering trade you can have the 'pickings' of food. But after you have finished your day's wash-up and go, you go back to the hostel or to sleep on the streets of London again, or anywhere these offices and hostels are.

From a Liverpool worker

From a member of the Hall Family Defence Campaign.

I am writing this letter hot foot from a picket of the Edmonton Police station, protesting against a police attack on a local black family.

As mentioned in your paper two issues ago, the three Hall sons and their mother were viciously beaten in a Brixton style dawn raid last February. Since then the Hall Family Defence Campaign has been organised and a march to the Edmonton Police

Station was planned for today, 18th July. Last week, however, Whitelaw imposed his latest ban on marches in London so we were forced to resort to bussing supporters to the picket.

Over forty people, both black and white, militantly shouted slogans exposing the cover up of police racist violence through the use of trumped up "assault on police" charges. The police rolled out a token black copper who, looking decidedly sheepish, was ostentatiously greeted by all the white police going in and out.

So isolated were the police that they were forced to allow the picket to double in size through passers-by joining in. The picket was very disciplined and a charge sheet was handed in laying at the police's door their crimes against the Hall family and putting these in the context of police racism in general, as shown in the murders of Richard Campbell, forced confessions at the New Cross Fire inquest, protection of fascist thugs etc.

The state may ban our marching but marches are not the only way of fighting back!

Laurence Scott

Class Struggle Correspondent

650 workers at Laurence Scott Electromotors of Manchester have occupied their engineering factory since April when they were told that it would be closed in three months time. They are determined that their factory which has been around for generations will exist for generations to come. The new owners, Mining Supplies, have other ideas of course. They had taken the plant over with the clear intention of closing it down as soon as possible, selling the equipment and transferring the orders to another plant in Norwich.

But the militant action by the workforce stopped them dead. An overwhelming majority voted for occupation, tying up £2½ million in half-finished goods, let alone all the equipment.

Since then the Managing Director has tried all sorts of tactics, from the carrot of offering redundancy pay to the stick of threatening court action against the occupiers.

But they have stood firm, and even laughed at a compromise offer - to keep the plant open - for research only, saving no jobs.

When this ludicrous 'offer' was refused, LSE management were forced to agree to negotiations. And a fat lot of good that did the occupying workers. Management and leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) hammered out a 'peace formula' last week which consisted of the workers returning to work on a two-day week for three months while the company reassessed the situation and produced plans to ensure a "balanced work-force" that would make the firm "viable". At a mass meeting of over 600 workers on Wednesday, all but 21 voted to continue the occupation and reject the 'peace formula'. Alex Ferry, the CSEU General Secretary, was "disappointed" with their decision and insisted "We achieved the basic principles of re-opening and getting people back to work."

As soon as the LSE workers' decision was known, Mineral Supplies of Doncaster - the parent company who bought LSE last October - applied for a court injunction to force the workers out of the factory.

But this will be resisted by the workers, too. As a spokesman for their joint Shop Stewards Committee, Tom McNeill said: "We will resist any attempt to get us out of the factory until we get an assurance there will be no enforced redundancies."

WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

On their own they know they can't win, so they have looked outside for help. The Norwich plant refused to take extra work which would normally go to Manchester, the miners have agreed in principle to black all LSE products (which account for most of Mining Supplies work) and the dockers have agreed not to handle exports. LSE workers are operating a 24 hour picket of the parent company in Doncaster. They have

We will hit back

"Class Struggle" correspondent.

The Indian Workers' Association (GB) was founded by Shaheed Udham Singh, the great Indian hero who shot down the ex-governor of Punjab in London in 1943. This was an act of People's justice against a man who had backed the massacre of hundreds of unarmed Indians at Jallianwallah Bagh in Amritsar in 1919, by the mass murder General Dyer. "Comrade Jagmohan Joshi carried on the tradition of the I.W.A. (GB) and we are carrying the banner of his ideas and his leadership," I.W.A. (GB) Chairman, Teja Singh Sahota, told a packed meeting in Birmingham on 27 June, commemorating the 2nd anniversary of the late General Secretary, Jagmohan Joshi.

"The I.U.C. has failed to take up the struggle against racism," he said. "But we will tell the I.U.C. that we are the most advanced in the fight, and we can unite the workers against racism. We are here to stay and here to fight and we won't turn away from this resolution. We will fight for our dignity and honour."

Comrade Shirley Joshi, widow of the late General Secretary, spoke of his contribution to the fight against racism, in support of national liberation in Ireland, and for the promotion of the cultures and languages of the oppressed peoples in Britain. When "Paki-bashing" started 15 years ago, Joshi had made his historic statement "We won't sit back, we will hit back". The I.W.A. (GB) does not believe that self-defence alone is enough to defeat racism, it needs the

WORKERS FIGHT FOR JOBS



Laurence Scott workers on Cardiff demo

also raised money all over the country which is vital for the resistance to continue.

NO STRIKE PAY

This is particularly true seeing as the workers have as yet received no strike pay from the unions since they occupied in April. It's a relief to know that the unions are "continuing to give full backing to the action", as Douglas Daniels, district secretary of the North Manchester AUEW, claims. Imagine what they might do if they opposed it!

Despite the slowness of the unions to put their money where their mouth is, the occupying workers have refused to accept redundancy payments which were sent to their homes.

It would be a tragedy if this fine struggle failed through lack of money. Arthur Snipe, Mineral Supplies Chairman, tried to exploit this in the letter he sent to each member of the "ex-Manchester workforce" several weeks after the workers occupied. In it he said: "Well! You've got yourself into a right mess, you and your mates are sitting in at the Manchester factory which has put you in a position where you get no pay from anywhere, except handouts which cannot amount to much."

It is the responsibility of us all to make Mr Snipe aware that the LSE workers have many "mates" outside that factory, who will give - not handouts - but support and solidarity to fellow workers.

Please send donations, work-place collections and messages of support to:

George Fryer
20, Roundscroft
Romiley
Cheshire.

organized force of the workers' movement. Now with 3 million people unemployed, every demonstration against racism sees less white supporters. This is the result of more than twenty years of compromise and courting racism, particularly by the official "labour movement".

Other speakers included a leading peasant organizer from India and a representative of the Indian People's Association of North America.

Comrade Mohan Lal, Secretary of the Birmingham branch of the I.W.A. (GB), said that so long as caste oppression continues in India, the Indian workers and peasants will never be able to win their freedom. And as long as Britain oppresses the Irish people and the Black people, the British Workers will never be able to free themselves.

By a "Class Struggle" correspondent.

ONE SUNDAY NIGHT

At about 11 p.m. we arrived at the junction of Lodge Lane - Upper Parliament St. On the Upper Parliament St. side we could see two coaches filled with policemen and about 20 standing beside them. In the middle of the road stood one constable directing traffic. A few yards away white men and a few women were looting Duffy's electrical shop. Opposite the blazing Ashley wallpaper shop where firemen were trying to stop the fire spreading to other buildings.

LOOTING

The majority of the looters seemed to be aged between 20 and 30 and were carrying away colour TVs, fridges, washing machines, etc. One white woman, her arms full of small electrical appliances - toasters, hairdryers etc - ran across the road by the PC directing traffic, laughing and saying "Where can I get a taxi?" Two black men in their 20s then appeared carrying a freezer on their heads. The police, when asked by onlookers to do something to stop it, replied: "There is nothing we can do"

A few moments later the front of the wallpaper shop collapsed in the street, sending a huge cloud of black dust up. The looters scattered, but returned in less than a minute, moving from store to store.

Meanwhile, the police coaches had driven away towards the Windsor St. area, where the battles against the police were still taking place. Soon there were no police left in the area and the looters swept through the rest of Lodge Lane shopping area. I overheard a conversation between two local looters, who said that the people robbing the clothing shop further down had come up from London.

BURNING

We then walked down Upper Parliament St., passing the burning dairy garage. Youths were driving about six milk floats up and down the street. The rest of the fleet were either destroyed or had earlier been removed by the police, until they were attacked with bricks. Four or five buildings were completely ablaze, with flames roaring through the roofs. There were small explosions coming from the building next to the PDSA and the cascade of sparks forced us down to the Falkner Terrace estate which runs alongside Upper Parliament St.

The estate was deserted. We passed by the notorious Red Duster pub which has a permanent carpet of broken glass outside. In this area the police invade nightly. We crossed Grove Street.

We now knew we were getting close to the battleground. We could see the burning buildings of Upper Parliament St. through the side streets and the sparks were flying over the



roofs, showering us. From Bedford Street South we could see the home for invalid women where the patients had been allowed by the youths to be evacuated as the blaze got closer.



Looting...

Inevitably, when protest occurs on the streets, it is often accompanied by looting. In the main, this has been carried out by unemployed and deprived people who every day pass the shops displaying luxury items or even just food, which they cannot afford.

When the oppressed, who are denied work, angrily take what they have no money to buy, we are certainly not going to condemn them. Those who are denied rights will take them themselves. No-one would claim that looting shops represents a strategic way forward for the working class in Britain, but neither should anyone who claims to stand by the oppressed be indignant or arrogantly scornful as Labour leaders are today.

It is true that organised crime has used the recent events for their own profit. It is also a fact that not only monopoly companies have been hit by looting. Although the majority of people who have attacked shops have targeted the big companies, some small shopkeepers, who frequently earn no more and often less than wage earners, have also been hit. In a number of cases the shopkeepers are themselves national minority people. It is regrettable when such people suffer like this, but even these events should not cloud our eyes to the main point at issue.

It is the oppressed people taking what has been denied them. Their anger is justified, and communists should stand by them.

STATISTICS OF REVOLT	
National unemployment:	11%
Liverpool unemployment:	17%
Toxteth unemployment:	37%
Toxteth youth unemployment:	43%
Toxteth black youth unemployment:	47%



HERE TO STAY!

HERE TO FIGHT!



By a "Class Struggle" correspondent.

Following Anwar Ditta's recent victory, in the last few weeks black people have won two more battles in the struggle against racist immigration laws. On 26th June Jaswinder Kaur from Leeds was told that she could stay indefinitely: this was after a campaign lasting six months. Nasira Begum, from Manchester, has been campaigning for nearly two years. She heard on 6th July that the Home Office had lost their appeal against an earlier tribunal decision which granted Nasira the right to stay.

Nasira has been openly fighting deportation for two years but it was two and a half years before

that, that she had applied to stay in this country permanently. The Home Office waited two and a half years to reply and then gave her 14 days to leave the country. Her appeal was finally heard last June and Nasira won. But after one week of thinking she had won her right to stay, she heard that the Home Office was appealing this decision. She has had to wait another year for the Home Office appeal to be heard. In other words, the Home Office have tried twice to deport Nasira and failed. Even now there is a possibility that the Home Office may take the decision to the High Court and challenge Nasira's right to stay again.

Both Jaswinder and Nasira have made their lives here. They have family, friends and jobs in this country. They have both had to deal with the problems of a marriage which has split up. On top of all this, they have had to live under the threat of deportation with the Home Office trying to uproot them from the lives they had made for themselves.

In addition, Jaswinder has had to face a terrible choice for her only child, Manjit. Manjit was born here and is a British citizen. Technically, the Home Office could not deport him. But as Jaswinder

said: "A mother and child should not be separated. He is my life." She had to choose between separation from Manjit and taking him with her back to India to a life of poverty and under threat of violence. Jaswinder is not alone - the immigration laws constantly split black people's families. Anwar was separated from her children for six years. Nasreen Akhtar has been told that she and two of her children must leave. Her third child cannot be deported. Cynthia Gordon's two daughters were born here and have spent most of their lives here. Now the Home Office want to deport their mother.

PART OF THE GENERAL ATTACK

The immigration laws are part of the general attack on black people in this country. They justify the raids on factories that took place in London last year and the constant demand that passports are shown when someone applies for a job or goes for hospital treatment. Nasira had to fight for her right to claim supplementary benefit and Jaswinder was advised not to claim sick pay when she was off work sick. People are held for months in detention centres 'on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant' with their only right of appeal being when they have left the country.

Within this general attack, women are often the worst hit. This is because of their general situation as dependent on men and because the immigration laws deny women independent rights. Jaswinder has lived and worked in Leeds since 1976 but her status in law has been determined by marriage. Because the man she married was 'illegal' she automatically became 'illegal'. The general attitude of the Home Office was well illustrated by the adjudicator at Jaswinder's appeal. He asked her the hypothetical question of whether she would have stayed with her husband if he had been legally settled here. The fact that she said she would have done was

used to show her determination to stay here as though that was a crime. Whereas it in fact shows another dilemma faced by women - if they leave a violent husband they are threatened with deportation.

It was no accident that the adjudicator in Jaswinder's case talked about 'my time in the Punjab': he is an ex-colonial administrator.

BROAD CAMPAIGN

Nasira and Jaswinder would have been quietly deported if there had been no campaigns. The campaigns have been broad based and have included different ways of showing support. From writing letters and passing resolutions to more active support in demonstrations and pickets. The most consistent support has been that from black people themselves, particularly the Asian Youth Movements. In Jaswinder's campaign she also consistently got support from the Sikh Temple in Leeds who spoke at meetings and demonstrations and gave money to the campaign. She was also supported by the Hindu Temple and the Muslim Council. Support also came from women's groups, churches, trade unions, political parties and many progressive individuals. The campaigns have been based in Leeds and Manchester. But they have grown more and more national; support has been won particularly from the Indian, Bangladeshi and Kashmiri workers' Associations, mainly in the Midlands.

However the campaigns would not even have got off the ground if the women themselves had not decided to make a stand and fight. Both Nasira and Jaswinder decided to take on the state, its courts and tribunals etc., with the threat of arrest and deportation over their heads.

Neither of them found it easy to make speeches, appear on television and stand in the glare of publicity. Everyone who has worked on the campaigns has learned from their courage and determination. Anwar has done all she can to help these campaigns, after she won her right for her children to come home. Jaswinder and Nasira have both reacted to their victories by expressing their determination to continue supporting other people threatened with deportation.

CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Most important in the near future are the campaigns to stop the deportation of Nasreen Akhtar and Cynthia Gordon. The four campaigns will continue to work together and are planning a national demonstration in October. Already at the June demonstration in Manchester, the unity of black people from the Asian and Caribbean communities was shown. Jaswinder and Nasira's victories will help to strengthen this unity and to build a wider movement in support of all those threatened by immigration laws.

In the last issue of 'Class Struggle' we published an article demonstrating that the campaign for import controls, far from being organised to save jobs, was a campaign to increase the profits of one section of imperialists. This is opposed by another section of imperialists who gain most from "free trade" due to their extensive overseas market. What is clear in the stand of both imperialist trends is that both seek to exploit the third world and compete with other imperialist nations, and that the working class has nothing to gain from trailing behind either of them.

The only solution to the economic anarchy that characterises the present system is the destruction of

imperialism, and the development of an independent, diverse socialist economy with bilateral trade with other nations based on mutual benefit. Even in the short term the use of import controls - supposedly to 'save jobs' in a particular industry - leads only to the loss of jobs in another, and the interests of the working class can only be served by uniting with the forces who are fighting imperialism now - the oppressed peoples and nations of the third world. On the economic level this struggle is being waged through the campaign for a new international economic order. Although the imperialists are not unified on this question, and divisions have arisen - with some second world countries reluctantly being forced to concede

certain demands - the overall trend is resistance to the just demands of the third world. This opposition is spearheaded by both superpowers in their own ways. The leading western imperialists are meeting in Canada at this time, and one of the main issues is their opposition to the struggle for a new international economic order.

Meanwhile, in Britain, the struggle of the third world is being opposed by the Labour Party, in the form of the alternative economic strategy; and the demand for general import controls which would hit the third world is being put forward vigorously by top Trade Union leaders. In this issue we are reporting on both these questions.

IMPORT CONTROLS AND THE TRADE UNIONS

It has become an accepted 'truth' that the demand for general import controls is a 'left wing' policy.

It is a demand popularised by the Trade Union leadership, who have written many pamphlets and made many speeches to win the support of wide sections of workers. The Technical and Supervisory Staff (TASS) section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) is by no means the only union that has campaigned on this issue, but it is one which is worth particular examination. It is undoubtedly true that TASS is one of the most militant unions. The fact that Ken Gill, a well-known member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB), is TASS's General Secretary can only add to the illusion that TASS is led by 'the left'. The result of this is that the TASS leadership is in the particular position of having to be re-assuring that the demand for import controls is a socialist demand and not an attack on the third world or support for imperialism. So a close look is very valuable.

In 1980 TASS published a pamphlet called "Import Controls Now!" with a forward by Ken Gill. Presumably because of a desire to win over more 'moderate' support the pamphlet opens with a section designed to show how 'reasonable' the demand is. As well as citing other Trade Union leaders and organisations, TASS quotes approvingly from calls for import controls ("protection") by Leslie Tolley, Chairman of the British Institute of Management (and also of Renold, the Manchester engineering firm). They also quote bourgeois economists like Godley and Cripps (members of the Cambridge Economic Policy Group) and Kaldor and Neild. After adding Tory MP Alan Clark to the list of those supporting general

import controls TASS moves on to examine recent statements of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

The TASS pamphlet refers to a CBI discussion paper and states approvingly that although it is "not a statement of CBI policy, it does reflect a growing recognition on the part of industry of the need to resort to import controls on a considerable scale, while rejecting wholesale protectionism." The CBI had listed a number of areas that it particularly opposed - Hong Kong, south Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, India and Brazil. Make no mistake, it was an attack on the third world.

The TASS leadership also supports the TUC demands for import controls on "textiles, footwear, motors, steel, paper and board, electronic components, broadcast receiving and sound producing equipment, domestic electrical appliances and cutlery."

So we know the bedfellows of the TASS leadership and the TUC - and we know the concern of Leslie Tolley and others is for nothing but their profits.

But now Ken Gill and his fellow 'revolutionaries' and 'social reformers' have to put on their socialist masks.

'SAFEGUARDS FOR THE THIRD WORLD'

That is the title of a specific section of the pamphlet designed to show that Ken Gill and his fellow leaders are not lined up with imperialists. Unfortunately for them it shows exactly the opposite!

"The industries which we are proposing for import protection are the high technology industries which are threatened by imports from advanced industrial countries, not form the third world countries.

Thus the programme of import controls suggested here will not seriously harm the interests of the great majority of third world countries." What a contrast between this statement and their earlier approval of CBI and TUC attacks on third world countries listed above! But let's be generous and take them at their word - or rather the second set of words. 'It's OK,' they are saying, 'to support our imperialists against other imperialists. Because we don't attack the third world. It's these French, German Japanese and Italian workers who've taken our jobs!' What internationalism! But Ken and his CPGB and Labour Party friends can rest easy

- because their comrades and fellow 'internationalists' in France, Germany and Italy are saying exactly the same about British workers! They are united! United in blaming each other. Anything but blame imperialism and fight to smash it!

But let's get back to the third world - because here comes the crunch. "In the long run," the TASS pamphlet states, as it struggles so valiantly to safeguard the third world, "Britain and other advanced countries should move towards the production of high technology goods and away from labour intensive goods which the developing countries can produce more cheaply." So now the can of worms comes out into the open. Imperialism has always striven to deny technical development to the third world, and the TASS leadership supports them to the hilt. That must remain the province of the imperialist countries. The third world must remain dependent. And what will they get in exchange? - the marvellous opportunity to work back breaking hours for a pittance

WESTERN IMPERIALISTS DISCUSS CRISIS

The meeting last month in Ottawa Canada, showed Thatcher, Reagan and the other leaders of the 7 biggest Western imperialist countries trying to smile their way through the grim-mest international economic crisis since the war. The smiles were pretty glassy as they tried to outmanoeuvre each other. Why? Because none of them have any economic room left.

The relative economic stability of the Western world of the 1950's and 1960's (largely at the expense of the Third World) has come to an end. World trade this year is expanding only 2% - quite inadequate to satisfy each member of this band of imperialist cut-throats. The production growth rate in the Western nations is rising an average 1%; with countries like Japan doing better than this, others like Britain, and even Germany, suffer from a faster drop in production.

Yet monopoly capitalist, imperialist companies absolutely must accumulate profits to buy more and more advanced means of production in order to survive in the ruthless battle for markets. Imperialist companies that lose don't just get relegated to the next division, they get wiped out.

It is the people who suffer from the crisis. Unemployment has shot up in the developed countries from an average of 5% in 1974-79 to a forecast of 7½% this year. Many capitalist governments have tried to stimulate their way out of stagnation by spending way above their income. The result is an average Western rate of inflation that has soared to 12.6%.

The working people suffer and the working people fight back. In 1979 over 32 million workers went on strike in the Western world. Not surprisingly the imperialists have been looking around for other solutions. As the technically efficient Japanese car producers cut into the U.S. and European car markets, the bourgeois demand for import controls has been rising (And has been enthusiastically echoed by the opportunists in the union movement - see article opposite). Sharp friction behind the glassy smiles ensures that the temporary compromises made at Ottawa is only a pause in the ruthless inter-imperialist rivalry.

But if the imperialist leaders succeeded in resolving their differences at all it was once again at

the expense above all of the billions of people of the third world.

The Ottawa conference was the last Western economic meeting before the important summit in Mexico this October, the "Brandt" Conference, between imperialist and third world countries. Although some leaders like Trudeau of Canada and Mitterand of France wanted the West to cooperate more with the Third World, Britain has initially tried to block the Brandt summit altogether and Reagan high-handedly insisted on postponing it for four months.

The 75% of humanity that lives in the Third World want to get 75% of the world's income and not just the 17% they presently receive. They want to be free of the imperialist economics that kills 15 million of their children under 5 every year.

But behind the clever words and the minor concessions of the Ottawa summit, the leaders of the Western world have decided to sabotage any real progress at the Brandt meeting in Mexico this October. It is the people of the third World, above all, who are supposed to bear the burden of the imperialist economic crisis; they will not accept it.

Cont'd from front Page

the urban poor, and particularly the youth. It is not surprising that the police have been under par-

Cont'd from page 6

and thus produce labour intensive goods more cheaply. When the CPGB finally completely degenerated it came up with the line of building a 'socialist' commonwealth based on the same set of imperialist principles. It does not openly publish that line any more - but, there can be no mistake, it is exactly what they are promoting but less openly in the trade union movement today.

That policy is not confined to the 'Communist' Party of Great Britain - it is the same imperialist line that lies behind the so-called 'International division of labour' which is the basis of the Soviet-headed COMECON agreement in eastern Europe, which allows the Soviet Social Imperialists to profit from the other eastern European countries and keep them dependent on it.

So now we know the 'principles' of our 'left-wing' and 'militant' union leaders, and a rotten bag they are; we can welcome their support to shop floor militancy and struggle, where they give it, but to support their sick imperialist politics will confine us to the sick imperialist system. And it is precisely that system's degeneration that lies at the real heart of the present crisis, of unemployment and of poverty.

ticular attack. What happened in Brixton is common in Britain's cities. The police are the arm of the state. The police harrass the unemployed youth. The police protect the system and those who profit from it.

TOXTETH

In Toxteth, Liverpool, an area where two in every five are unemployed, a Class Struggle Correspondent asked one white youth what had caused the rioting and why he was involved. "To get back at the police", he replied. "For the harrassment we've had off them for years. Everyone's sick of it - No individual started it - it just blew! But they knew which buildings they were going to get - the Raquettes Club, and Swainbanks - Definitely!"

(The Raquettes Club is an exclusive sports and social club for wealthy businessmen, with squash and badminton courts, saunas, and plush bars. Swainbanks is a huge second-hand furniture store which ponces off the people on social security)

Another lad, interviewed on Radio 4, said "It's to get at the police.

It's not just the black lads they harrass, it's the white lads as well". When asked why they were "giving local residents trouble", he replied: "I can't blame them. We're not giving them trouble. We don't bother hitting people ... we won't hit family houses, businesses yeah." When the interviewer replied that people run the businesses, he said: "No, they run them, but who owns them? Who owns shell? Not the

people that run that garage down there."

"It won't stop here," he added, "It's the way the country feels. It's not just us in Liverpool, or Brixton, or Bristol, or what have you."

* William Whitelaw has stated in the House of Commons that over 3000 people have been arrested during the recent uprisings around the country.

* Before the latest upsurge, 350 people had been arrested in the aftermath of the Brixton uprising.

* 33 people were arrested during the June fighting in Peckham.

* 728 arrests occurred in the week of fighting in London - before the revenge raids in Brixton.

* In Dundee, Scotland - the only non-English city affected so far - there have been 20 arrests.

Smarting from the blows of the people, the ruling class wants vengeance. Summary courts are being set up to impose harsh sentences before the youth are sent to Army concentration camps. Just as the state has tried and failed in Ireland, the oppressed who fight back are to be criminalised.

Defence committees are being formed up and down the country. They need support:

Brixton Defence Campaign, 41 Stockwell Green, London SW9. Phone: 01-274-9220.

Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, c/o Charles Wooton Centre, 248 Upper Parliament St., Liverpool 8. Phone: 051-708-9698.

Southwark Defence Committee, 352-354 Camberwell New Rd., London SE5. Phone: 01-274-8793 or 01-732-3298.

BRITAIN RENEGES AGAIN

In the period up to press two more Irish hunger-strikers have died lingering and painful deaths against a background of British government double-dealing in their negotiations. The peace negotiations were set up through the agency of the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace which through long hours of patient talks arrived at a formula which incorporated the prisoners' five demands and which British government officials said they were prepared to accept. The British dragged these negotiations out so that Joe McDonnell died long hours after the promised British statement of terms had failed to materialise. Then, the morning following McDonnell's death they cynically produced a statement that contained no proposals for advance.

The leader of the Irish Commission, Bishop Dermot O'Mahoney, said in a subsequent radio interview: "last week we gave them a great opportunity to find a solution without any loss of principle. They missed a golden opportunity." This is a verdict with which the whole world agrees - the Irish government is now openly blaming Thatcher's government for its failure to settle and has sent two of its ministers to London to say so plainly. In the United States the main groupings in the Irish lobby have joined together to put concerted pressure on the British government to settle. After Patsy O'Hara's death Margaret Thatcher visited Belfast to say that no 'responsible' section of Irish society wanted her to settle with the prisoners. Now thanks to the determination of the hunger strikers and the justice of their cause there is no 'responsible' section of Irish society that is not calling on her to negotiate.

The response of the British government? Michael Allison of the Northern Ireland Office scuttled off to the U.S. to say that they could not time negotiations to take account of the death of particular hunger strikers, and made the vile suggestion that Joe McDonnell had caused a hitch in negotiations by dying. Following that speech a sixth hunger striker, Martin Hurson, died after forty-five days on hunger strike. He died unexpectedly early and the British Northern Ireland Office had the nerve to say they were making an inquiry into what he had died of! On the ground, the British army murdered three people and injured scores of others trying to contain the rise of the Irish people at these deaths.

JOE McDONNELL

Both the men who died were H-Block candidates who polled well in the recent Irish general election. Joe McDonnell's father was a steel erector from West Belfast. In 1970 his family and their inlaws were stoned

out of their houses by a loyalist mob under the direction of the Rev. Bradford, a henchman of Paisley's, in full view of the British army. He was repeatedly interned and imprisoned. He did not volunteer during the first hunger strike, saying, "I have too much to live for". He was so enraged by the British double dealing at the end of the first hunger strike in December that when his comrade-in-arms Bobby Sands died on May 10th this year, he volunteered to take his place. In the Irish general election he fell just short of winning a seat by 315 votes. He died after 61 days on hunger strike.

MARTIN HURSON

At Joe McDonnell's funeral the British army caused mayhem and injury by sending a snatch squad firing live rounds to capture the firing party. They made some arrests and captured some rifles. A week later at Martin Hurson's funeral, a vast and determined crowd protec-



ted the firing party which for the first time was permitted to fire over the grave inside the cemetery. Martin Hurson had returned to Ireland in 1976 after a period working for Macalpines in Britain. He was a patriot who returned home to take up the fight. He died on 13th July after 45 days on hunger strike. Cardinal O Fiach, who has been involved in many negotiations between the prisoners and the British authorities said of both men: "They need not have died."

Both men would have understood very well the rituals which occurred in the week they died. On July 12th the Orange Order and their supporters marched in strength in Belfast and other towns in the six counties. The message of all these marches was the same as it has always been: "Croppie lie down!", emphasising that the nationalist people can never find justice in an artificial statelet dominated by loyalism.

It is two years since the five demands were first formulated. The H-Block Armagh Committee have always made it clear that these demands form the basis of any settlement

and that they are not calling on the British Government to confer political status in name. They are calling on the Government to confer prison conditions which recognise the prisoners not to be criminals and which win for the Republican Movement the best possible circumstances for their prisoners during the war of liberation.

At the beginning of the current round of negotiations the prisoners issued a statement which bent over backwards to lay the basis for a settlement. It read, in part: "It is wrong for the British government to say we are looking for differential treatment from other prisoners. We believe that the granting of the five demands to all prisoners would not be forfeiting control of the prisons, but the prisoners would have their dignity restored and cease to occupy the role of the establishment zombie."

In the coming days more prisoners

face death. Next in line is Irish M.P. Kieran Doherty. More prisoners have stepped into the hunger-strike to replace their fallen comrades.

By the justice of their demands and their determination they have won the great mass of ordinary Irish people to their side, as well as towing the Irish government, the SDLP and other normally pro-imperialist forces into their camp. World opinion supports the prisoners, not the British government.

In Britain, in the heart of the beast, matters stand differently. The Labour Party has been splitting on Ireland, which is a welcome thing. But it turns out that the new proposals for Irish reunification are conditional on a referendum in the six counties - that is, they do not challenge partition, and put the future of Ireland in the hands of the Loyalists. Last weekend there was a march in Mansfield, Don Concannon's constituency, to oppose his hard-line defence of the bipartisan policy. The march was opposed by the National Front who, from behind a police barricade, chanted, "Concannon, Concannon". What could be more eloquent? →

NATIONAL MINORITY YOUTH

SHOW THE WAY



● Victims: Parveen Khan and little Imran, aged two.



● Victim: Daughter Aqsa, aged ten.



● Victim: Son Kamran, aged 11.

On the early morning of July 2nd, petrol was poured through the letter box of the Khan family in Belgrave Rd., Walthamstow, and ignited. In the ensuing inferno four members of the family died. Parveen Khan (31) and her three children Kamran (11), 'Aqsa (10) and Imran (2) were all burned to death. The sole survivor of the family was Muhammed Yunis Khan who was severely burned. This vicious racist attack left him with nothing - at the end of the month he is to be made redundant from the Mains Gas appliance factory in Edmonton.

The reaction of the Asian community hit the headlines last Saturday. But sensational headlines like 'Funeral turns into bloody riot' conceal more than they reveal. What happened in Walthamstow was that the forces of the racist state combined with

the more opportunist of the so-called 'community leaders' to try to prevent any protest from taking place. But the determination of the black and Asian youth of the area defeated them.

THE PEOPLE ORGANISE

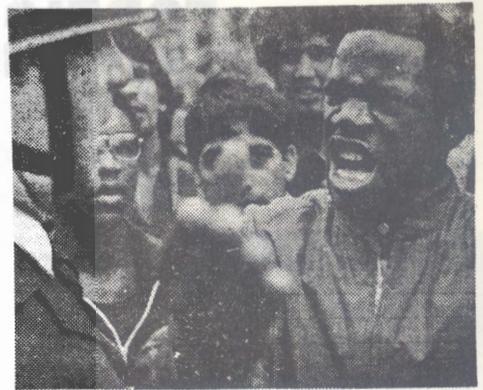
On the Sunday following the fire, members of the Joint Council of Asian Organisations met with anti-racist organisations and individuals in the area, and a decision was made unanimously for a demonstration the following Saturday afternoon. Also out of this meeting the Khan Massacre Action Committee was formed, which includes many members of the



● Home of tragedy. The scene of the fire in Belgrave Road.

Joint Council, Bangladesh Workers Association, Anti-Nazi League, London Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and a number of others. However, leaders of the Community Relations Council like the Rev. Ron Waters, and Dr Abdullah Sheik were more concerned with 'keeping the borough a peaceful one', which is a sick joke considering the amount of recent racist violence. These gentlemen called for a funeral procession to take place at the same time as the proposed march.

The Action Committee was concerned that both a militant protest, and a dignified and respectful funeral should take place, and so moved their march from the afternoon to the morning to avoid a clash. On the pretence of threats of disruption



from the Nazi National Front the CRC leaders then promptly cancelled their funeral procession and asked the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to ban the Action Committee march! Obviously this is exactly what rumours of a Nazi presence had been designed to achieve.

In fact the area had been alive with rumours of a Southall style invasion all week. The response of the youth, both Asian and black, was to go out on the streets. When a coachload of skinheads was dropped off at the bottom of the High St on Tuesday night the police had no choice but to disperse them.

And it was the same on Saturday 11th. Despite the ban on marching, crowds turned up at the rallying point and demanded to march. Although hampered by the fact that the police broke them up into groups of ten or so the youth did march. They chased off any NF scum who showed their faces along the way, and braved constant police harassment. One young Pakistani worker later told a "Class Struggle" correspondent, "The police pushed us around all the time. They tried to stop us attending the funeral. They kept calling us 'Paki bastards'."

Before the funeral there was time for a brief rally, where the chairman, Shabaz Khan, of the Khan Massacre Action Committee, told the crowd:

"We were told there would be a funeral march, then that it would be called off. Then they called for our march to be called off. It is only the Nazis who should get their marches called off. It is very sad that we are not allowed to make our protest known. We could not bury our dead without a protest.

And the protest was indeed made. The Chairman of the CRC, Abdullah Sheik, had to have police protection to escape the anger of the crowd. During the funeral itself a microphone was grabbed by a youth who started the chant, 'We will fight! We will fight!' "Class Struggle" was told later, "Our leaders are traitors. We will elect new ones."

The mood in the area is still defiant. The community is vigilant against further fascist attacks. And further actions are being planned to force the racist state to bring those responsible for the Khan massacre to justice.

The government may be moving at snail's pace towards a settlement. Their latest move has been to call in the Red Cross! That is just a smokescreen. They can settle with the prisoners in their own right at any time they wish. They have no support abroad for their policies and in Ireland they face growing unity and resistance. But they have proved beyond all doubt that they will avoid a settlement if they can and that they don't give a damn about Irish lives. In this country the task remains one of building a reliable solidarity movement firmly rooted amongst the most oppressed, those who in recent weeks are more and more coming out onto the streets themselves to fight the British state.

FOREIGN COMMUNISTS GREET RCLB SECOND CONGRESS

Making revolution in their own country is the primary responsibility of any Marxist-Leninist Party or organisation. But each Marxist-Leninist Party or organisation also forms part of the international communist movement, a movement whose strategic goal is to end exploitation and oppression throughout the world. For this reason, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) has always enjoyed the support of comrades around the world.

The recently held Second Congress of the R.C.L.B. (see article on page 2) was honoured by the presence of fraternal comrades from: the London office of China's Xinhua News Agency, An Spreach (an Irish Marxist-Leninist group), Communist League of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist), Provisional Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), Party of Labour of Belgium and the Marxist-Leninist Party of Italy. A social held on the Saturday night of the Congress was also attended by members of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa).

At the Congress, speeches were made by various representatives of the fraternal delegations. The comrade from An Spreach pointed to the connection between the Irish struggle and the struggle of the national minorities in Britain. She stressed that there were two organizations waging the armed struggle in Ireland and that both should be supported. She stressed the need for communists to involve themselves in the nationalist struggle that had as its strategic goal a united Ireland. She said that any possibility of work amongst the protestant section of the Irish working class was conditional on the defeat of British Imperialism in Ireland. In Ireland, the broad support for the Prisoners' five demands contained the embryo of an anti-imperialist front. British revolutionaries must support the Irish people and not allow Thatcher to get away with murder.

Bringing greetings, the comrade from the Communist League of Bangladesh (ML) expressed his belief that British communists will be in a united party.

The comrade from the Party of Labour of Belgium (PTB) called for defence of the People's Republic and Communist Party of China as well as material support for the Marxist-Leninist parties in the Third World. Marxist-Leninists in Europe had a duty to pressurize their governments to adopt a stand favourable to the peoples of the third world. The PTB stands for a Europe independent of the Soviet Union and the United States. In the event of a Soviet invasion of Poland, the European countries must give concrete support to the Polish resistance.

In the capitalist crisis, the Marxist-Leninist parties of Europe should co-ordinate their efforts. The comrade cited the example of the closure of a British Leyland factory in Belgium. The British trade unions had refused to support the struggle of the Belgian workforce. These are areas in which Marxist-Leninists could co-operate.

Presenting some detailed information about the work of his party, the Belgian comrade pointed out that it was primarily built in heavy industry but that the Party also worked to build a broad front for social progress, democracy and national independence.

Congress received the statements from foreign comrades with warm standing ovations.

A number of letters and telegrams of greetings were also received by the Congress.

The letter from the External Representative of the Communist League of Bangladesh (ML) stated: "You are holding this Congress at a time when in many countries in the west some M-L forces are raising doubts about the basic principles of communism. This Congress of yours is a sure sign of your determination

to overcome any difficulties facing us at home and abroad...I can assure you, comrades, we are together in this fight. We shall carry the struggle through to the end."

The letter from the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist (of France) said that the working class and people of Britain needed a revolutionary party capable of leading their struggle against the capitalist and imperialist bourgeoisie and to raise their vigilance against the danger of a third world war, brought about by the rivalry between the two superpowers for world domination. Wishing the Congress success, the French comrades said that it would no doubt be an important contribution to building an authentic communist Party.

Sending greetings to the Congress, the Central Committee of the Communist Workers' Organization (Marxist-Leninist) of Holland declared that,

"We know by our own experience, that the tasks and problems, facing the communist movement today, are no easy matters to deal with. There is still the lack of unity within the Marxist-Leninist movement, and the tense national and international situation gives rise to many questions with regard to a correct integration of the Marxist-Leninist principles with the concrete conditions in the respective countries.

"We wish you all strength and much success, and hope that your Congress will be a successful one, and will contribute to strengthen the revolutionary forces in Britain."

The letter from Comrade Fernand Lefebvre, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist of Belgium, expressed support for the League's struggle to build the revolutionary party of the working class in Britain, for its loyalty to the scientific principles of Marxism-Leninism and its efforts to apply them to the concrete conditions of Britain today.

"We salute your struggle against imperialism and hegemonism, particularly against Soviet Social Imperialism which constitutes the greatest danger to the peoples of Europe."

The letter from the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Italy (PMLI) expressed strong support for the loyalty of the R.C.L.B. to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and their application to the concrete conditions of imperialist Britain. The Italian comrades stated that despite the claims of modern revisionists, it was the October Revolution that illuminated the road ahead.

The PMLI expressed the view that the R.C.L.B.'s Second Congress would help give the British proletariat the necessary ideology, programme, politics and organization to effectively combat imperialism, social imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid. The letter also expressed the Italian comrades' views concerning recent events in China.

A telegram from the Communist Party of Japan (Left) sent "warmest communist greetings".

The Political Secretary of the Workers' Communist League of New Zealand stated in a telegram that the R.C.L.B. Congress,

"Will mark an important step forward in re-establishing a genuine Marxist-Leninist party in Britain. Experience shows that building a revolutionary party of the working class in an advanced capitalist country is fraught with difficulties and continuous struggle against right and 'left' opportunism."

The telegram expressed the wish to develop closer ties between our two organizations over the coming years.

The R.C.L.B. is sincerely grateful for and humbled by all the messages we have received. We extend our warmest greetings to the communists of every country.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



★ CHINA: On July 1st this year, the Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrated its 60th birthday. When the CPC was founded it had less than 60 members and China was a poverty stricken and backward country, a plaything of the various imperialist countries. After immense sacrifices the CPC under the leadership of comrade Mao Zedong, founded the People's Republic of China in 1949. The Chinese people had stood up. Today, after making a serious attempt to overcome and correct errors, the CPC, now a party of 39 million members is leading China on the road to building a modernized socialist country with a high degree of democracy and civilization. The theoretical contributions of the Chinese communists, summed up in Mao Zedong Thought have immeasurably enriched Marxism-Leninism. China now plays a major role in world politics, in defence of world peace and for the rights of all oppressed nations and peoples. In a congratulatory message the International Committee of the RCLB pointed out "Your victories have decisively changed the balance of forces in the era of imperialism."

The CPC has recently elected a new Chairman to replace Comrade Hua Guofeng who now becomes a party vice-chairman. The new Chairman is Comrade Hu Yaobang. In a message of greetings to Comrade Hu Yaobang, the International Committee of the RCLB stated: "We reaffirm our confidence in the work of the Communist Party of China in restoring the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, reviving democratic centralism, and leading China to become a powerful modern state with a high degree of socialist civilization and socialist democracy."

CHINA INTERVIEW

"Class Struggle" has reluctantly decided to postpone the second instalment of its interview series with the International Editor following his recent visit to the People's Republic of China. It has been necessitated by the shortage of space in this issue owing to coverage of the uprisings throughout England by black and white working class youth and the Second Congress of the RCLB. The series will resume in our September issue and will deal with the question of China's Trade Unions.

★ KAMPUCHEA: In a recent statement in support of the United Nations Conference on Kampuchea being held in New York, Comrade Hoang van Hoan, a veteran leader of the Communist Party of Vietnam, hoped that the Conference will "force Le Duan and company to immediately withdraw all troops from Kampuchea."

He called on "all patriotic forces in Vietnam to rise in action and co-operate with the people of Kampuchea and the other peoples of the world in the struggle." He urged them, "not to give up the struggle before the aim is achieved."

"We Vietnamese who love our motherland, and cherish peace and justice hold that Le Duan and Company's invasion of Kampuchea is not only an unjust action in betraying the Kampuchean people who fought shoulder to shoulder with the Vietnamese people in the struggle against the common enemy. It is also a stupid action that betrays the fundamental interests of the Vietnamese people and seriously endangers peace and tranquility in Southeast Asia and the World as a whole."

★ SOVIET UNION: Soviet aggression around the world meets with fierce resistance from the people. No matter how many sweet words about "internationalism" and "revolution" they utter they cannot cover up their aggressive behaviour. The Soviet Union is hard pressed to explain its rejection of the recent proposals known as the "Carrington Plan for Afganistan". In a commentary released by the official Soviet News Agency, Tass, on July 6, the Kremlin warlords state: "What would London say, for instance, if anyone proposed an 'international' conference on the problems of Northern Ireland without the participation of the parties concerned?"

What a shameless confession by the Kremlin warlords! Nearly the whole world (including, for their own hypo-

The people of Ireland and Afghanistan are waging the same struggle: Against Imperialism, for independence.

In these photos revolutionary youth of Ireland and Afghanistan aim their catapults at imperialism.



critical reasons, the Soviet social imperialists) condemn British imperialism for its brutal colonialist occupation of Northern Ireland against the will of the Irish people, in particular for its barbarous murder of the hunger strikers. Is British Imperialism now the "internationalist model" for the Kremlin? Is Afganistan marked down as the "16th republic" of the Soviet Union? In seeking to deny their aggression the Soviet imperialists are forced to resort more and more to out and out imperialist gangster logic. The Soviet leaders have inadvertently blurted out the truth: that the peoples of Ireland and Afganistan are waging the same struggle, a struggle against foreign imperialist aggression and for national independence!

Last November, Sinn Fein sent a message to a meeting organized by the RCLB in solidarity with the people of Afganistan. They said, "Sinn Fein, the Republican Movement, expresses solidarity with the Afgan people in their heroic struggle against Russian imperialism. As a country fighting imperialism for the last 700 years, a fight which continues today and will continue until victory, we appreciate your struggle and support it. It doesn't matter under what flag imperialism goes, for imperialism under any form cannot be tolerated and must be fought. The Afgan people by their courage and determination, their refusal to bend the knee to the imperialists are a great inspiration to liberation movements everywhere."

★ BRITISH RACISM CONDEMNED

The governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have all expressed their grave concern to the British government about the racist attacks by police or by fascist groups with police complicity on their nationals and other peoples of Asian origin in Britain. In India, there have been large demonstrations outside the British embassy in New Delhi.

A recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Caribbean community has described the British Nationality Bill as an "iniquitous instrument which was clearly designed as a racist measure for controlling immigration." They have called for the issue to be raised at the Commonwealth Summit to be held in Australia this September.

WELSH MARTYRS REMEMBERED

"Class Struggle"
Correspondent

On Saturday July 4, over 300 people marched through the small town of Abergele, north Wales, in memory of two patriotic martyrs, Alwyn Jones and George Taylor who died on June 30 1969, the eve of the investiture of the so-called 'Prince of Wales', when a bomb they were carrying exploded prematurely. The remembrance of these martyrs is an annual event in Welsh political life. The late 1960s were a period of intense nationalist activity in Wales.

The march, organized by Pwyllgor Coffa Merthyron Abergele (Abergele Martyrs Memorial Committee) consisted of largely local working class people. The largest organized contingent was from the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement (WSRM). Other contingents were organized by Cofiw'n (the Welsh Historical Society) and the nationalist organization, Adfer. Nationalists from Scotland, Brittany and Cornwall also attended.

Led by a lone piper and a 12 strong WSRM colour party bearing wreaths and flags, the demonstrators marched in turn to the graves of the two martyrs.

In a speech delivered in Welsh, Robert Griffiths of the WSRM called on people to celebrate the lives and remember the sacrifices of these working class socialists and patriots. He appealed to the crowd not just to be inspired once a year and to fight for the things that they believed in and fought for.

He said that we had also come here to declare that the British state had no monopoly of the means of direct action and violence. As the English ruling class is using their institutionalised and overt violence to destroy the Welsh nation and shatter the Welsh working class, they must expect a response in equal terms.

In conclusion, he called on those present to remember the sacrifices of other peoples, including the Irish hunger strikers, in particular Joe McDonnell who was then approaching the critical stage of his hunger strike. He said that the hunger strikers fought the same enemy as the Welsh people - the British state and the English ruling class.

The rally at Abergele attracted some attention in the bourgeois press. Referring to the colour party both the "Daily Telegraph" and the "Western Mail" shrieked about "IRA-style uniforms". This should be seen as an involuntary confession by the bourgeoisie of their fears of the fact that the Irish people's war of national liberation is greatly inspiring the oppressed people on the

"British Mainland", in particular Welsh working class youth. Similarly, the press refers to the spontaneous uprisings by black youth - supported by some white youth - as being "more like Belfast than Britain" and to youths wearing balaclavas in order to avoid later police persecution as "hooded IRA-style".

As British imperialism intensifies its repressive policies at

home to try and escape from its crisis, the advanced experience of the Irish people and the revolutionary road they point out will more and more inspire the working people of Britain, first and foremost the peoples of Scotland and Wales and the national minorities, in particular the black people. This is something to give the ruling class nightmares.

The following two poems in memory of the murdered revolutionaries, Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes, are reprinted from "An Phoblacht/Republican News". "We will remember Bobby Sands" was written by Reamonn McLaughlin, a revolutionary himself serving 12 years in English prisons, currently in Canterbury.

"Francis Hughes has left us now" was written by a member of the H-block/Armagh Action Committee in Westport, County Mayo.

We will remember Bobby Sands

*When our resolution weakens,
We will remember Bobby Sands.
When the struggle becomes hard and victory seems far away,
We will remember Bobby Sands.
When our resources grow low and Brit imperialism seems indomitable,
We will remember Bobby Sands.
When other comrades fall and the summer sky darkens,
We will remember Bobby Sands.
When imperialist propaganda shouts its foudest,
And the voice of freedom is but a cry in the wilderness,
We will remember Bobby Sands.
When the stinging tears of sorrow and pride
Stop flowing from his mother's eyes,
We will remember Bobby Sands.*

Francis Hughes has left us now

*Francis Hughes has left us now, he's joined that gallant band
Of men who fought for freedom, and died for Ireland;
He's with his comrade Bobby, and now they both can share
The wonders of God's kingdom, for surely they're both there.*

*This man from County Derry, whilst in the prime of life,
Did seek to free his people in battle's weary strife,
But just as through the ages, when men like Francis tried
To rid this land of British scum, men like Francis died.*

*Francis Hughes and Bobby Sands, they did not die in vain,
For it's such heroes that will make our land a nation once again;
Now it's clear to all the world, North, South, East, and West,
When God wants soldiers by His side, He chooses Ireland's best.*



maurice ludmer memorial meeting

300 people attended a meeting in Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham on Saturday, 11th July to remember the life and work of Comrade Maurice Ludmer, the editor of the anti-fascist magazine "Searchlight". The meeting was chaired by Comrade Tony Huq, Chairman of the Campaign against Racism and Fascism (Birmingham) and National President of the Bangladesh Workers' Association; speakers included comrades Shirley Joshi (widow of comrade Jagmohan Joshi), Avtar Juhl, General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association, David Edgar, and the CARF secretary.

Also included in the programme was music from Banner Theatre Company and the Clarion singers. A collection of nearly £200 was made to start a memorial fund. The meeting finished with the singing of the "Internationale".

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12 issues £3.50 £5.00

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday August 8th

March and Rally for Black and White Solidarity and Unity.

Organised by CARF (Birmingham) and Sandwell CARF. Assemble 1.30 p.m., Handsworth Park Birmingham, for march to city centre and rally.

Speakers include Tony Huq (Chairman of CARF Birmingham), Avtar Juhl (General Secretary of IWA), Beni Brown (Afro-Caribbean Self-Help Organisation), Sid Platt (West Midlands Regional Council TUC). Entertainment from Babylon Rebels.

IRELAND SOLIDARITY

The struggle in Ireland is at a high point. To be informed of solidarity events around the country, 'phone the Troops Out Movement on 01-267 2004.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday August 8/9/10

JOIN THE MASS DELEGATION TO BELFAST!
PICKET ARMY FORTS! MARCH WITH THE PEOPLE!
MEET THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT!

Organised by the Troops Out Movement. Details from P.O. Box 353, London NW5 or 'phone 01-267 2004.

Contingents for trade unionists, women, youth, national minorities. Learn about the struggle! Show your solidarity!