

CLASS STRUGGLE

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

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20p

END BRITISH COLONIALISM

As "Class Struggle" goes to press it is still very possible that there will be a military conflict between Britain and Argentina. Since Argentina reclaimed its sovereign territory, the Malvinas (Falklands) from British colonialism a few weeks ago a most revolting chauvinist and jingoist campaign has been unleashed by the press and all the major bourgeois parties - Labour, Conservative, Liberal, SDP etc. Where do genuine communists stand on this issue?

AGAINST COLONIALISM

Firstly, we are opposed to British colonialism. Britain simply has no business occupying any other country, or any part of any other country. The Malvinas (Falklands) were stolen from the Argentinian people at a time when rising British colonialism wanted to seize strategic points all around the world.

The Malvinas belong to Argentina, not Britain. When Argentina won its independence - by means of revolutionary warfare - from Spain in 1816, the Malvinas became a part of the new country. They were occupied by British colonialism in 1833. Since then, it has been a great national aspiration of the Argentinian people to reunify their country by reclaiming the islands.

That is why the question of the Malvinas transcends all political boundaries in Argentina. Leaders of political parties and trade unions, who have been waging a militant struggle against the military junta, all support the retaking of the Malvinas. Leaders of political parties and trade unions have gone abroad to explain Argentina's case, and many travelled to the Malvinas for the swearing in of the new governor.

In a recent statement Mario Firmenich, leader of the Montoneros, the most powerful left-wing guerilla organisation fighting against the Argentinian junta, called on his supporters to demonstrate in Buenos Aires "to defend the Malvinas Islands against English aggression." "All exiled Argentinians," he continued, have "the right and duty to defend national sovereignty and exercise popular sovereignty."

The Non-aligned movement, (which has grown up in opposition to imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism) has repeatedly backed Argentina's claim to the islands. The United Nations has passed a number of resolutions (in its decolonisation committee) for the ending of colonial rule over the islands. Socialist China has commented: "Since the end of the Second World

Malvinas Belong to Argentina not Britain

War, the Asian, African and Latin American people have waged a persistent struggle against imperialism and colonialism, for national independence.... It is China's persistent stand to oppose hegemonism and colonialism, support the third world nations in their struggle ... The national feelings of the Argentinian people to safeguard their national sovereignty are understandable. Argentina's demand for its sovereign right over the Malvinas Islands is entitled to win ... support and respect."

We take our stand with the people of Argentina, the third world, and the socialist countries. British communists must oppose the jingoism and war hysteria against Argentinian.

**VOLUNTEER BOBBY SANDS MP
MURDERED BY BRITISH
IMPERIALISM, MAY 5th 1981
LIVES FOREVER IN THE HEARTS
OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE**



THE BALLAD OF BOBBY SANDS.
Come gather round me one and all my song to you I'll sing
In memory of a brave young Irishman
Who would not concede defeat from his stand
Would not retreat
I sing of the gallant Bobby Sands Bobby Sands
Yes I sing of the late great Bobby Sands
He organised the hunger strike to win and
change reform
To stop the evil tyrants in their craze
To regain the five demands took his young
life in his hands
For the betterment of comrades in Armagh and
in the Maze
Armagh and the H Blocks in the Maze
They tried to break your spirit but no way
could they succeed
The Phoenix in your heart they tried to quell
With their beatings degradation all in vain
to their frustration
For the more they tried the more you would
rebel you'd rebel
With dignity your principle did swell
But freedom was to come to you on a rain
soaked Tuesday morn'
From the heavens tears of patriots were shed
With the joy that you are free to walk with
Tone and Connolly
Forever live the name of Bobby Sands we shall
endear
Your name to foe shall always threaten fear
So to all you people my song to you I've sung
In memory of a brave young Belfast man
Who would not concede defeat from his stand
would not retreat
I sing of the gallant Bobby Sands Bobby Sands
Yes I sing of the late great Bobby Sands.

for the purposes of exploitation; with the development of refrigeration in the 1880s Britain dominated the meat market. The roast beef of old England was actually bought dirt cheap, through unequal exchange, at the expense of the enslaved Argentinian masses. Britain further came to control the wheat and linseed markets, particularly in the decade of intensification of imperialism leading up to World War I.

That war marked the beginnings of serious United States penetration of what had been in essence a British colonial monopoly. Even so, in the world capitalist crisis in 1933 Britain was able to impose an amazing neocolonial agreement on Argentina whereby the latter had to promise to spend all its income from meat exports on buying British industrial goods. As late as 1942, 60% of the total \$2,500 million foreign investment in Argentina was British (as against 20% American); in 1944 3/4 of the railways were foreign owned, mainly by Britain; in 1945 37% of Argentinian exports went to Britain. The historical responsibility for the neo-colonial situation is Britain's, even though today the USA, and increasingly the USSR, have muscled in to enjoy the profits.

BRITISH FIASCO

Argentina's swift and decisive operation to reclaim its territory was a fiasco for British imperialism, and a number of ministers including Carrington and Atkins (the butcher of the ten Irish hunger strikers), had to resign. In this period of crisis for British imperialism it has found its most rabid backer (again) in the Labour Party. Michael Foot (who likes to call himself a man of peace) tried to outdo Thatcher in warmongering, and was congratulated by Tory MPs for his "patriotism". Healey bayed for the blood of the "Argentinian dictators", forgetting that when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, Britain was the main arms supplier to these selfsame dictators. Tony Benn (the pink charlatan) has said that the fleet should be withdrawn - but only out of fear that defeat and humiliation lie in store for it, and like a good Brit that is the last thing he wants to see! Reg Race, a well-known 'left' Labour MP, who claims to oppose the sending of the British fleet, has said of Argentina's action, "It is a straightforward case of military aggression by a fascist state."

"Militant", which claims to support neither Britain nor Argentina in the dispute, has called for sanctions against Argentina, "in support

Police Against Democracy

The last few weeks have seen a barrage of Police and press propaganda laying the basis for yet further developments in the direction of a police state in Britain.

On March 23 William Whitelaw the Home Secretary unveiled his views to Tory backbenchers. Whilst avoiding making too many specific proposals, he launched his campaign to give new powers to the Police. To set the scene he drew clear parallels between Britain and Ireland. Amongst other points he made particular references to how the anniversaries of major struggles are remembered annually throughout Ireland through meetings and demonstrations. Reminding his enthusiastic audience of the wave of uprisings which swept Britain last year, he warned darkly of the likelihood of anniversary struggles this year. The police attack on Notting Hill and the Mangrove this Easter, the anniversary of the Brixton revolt, is a clear indication of what was in the forefront of his mind.



photo: John Sturrock.

PROMOTING STATE RACISM

Whitelaw made no bones about his support for the Police in their publication of the distorted 'crime statistics'

last month. "Class Struggle" showed last month how the 'racial breakdown' of the

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Still, the enslavement of Argentina to British capital intensified. The rail transport and urban transport systems were constructed and controlled by Britain purely

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MAY DAY, INTERNATIONALISM AND PARTY BUILDING

May 1st (May Day) is the international day of the working class. It is a day when working people throughout the world celebrate their victories, sum up their struggles and rededicate themselves to the fight. It is a day when the working class proclaims that its struggle is international, its goal the destruction of imperialism and the construction of socialism throughout the world.

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain is an organisation based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, and its goal is to build a revolutionary party of the working-class in Britain. For many years the working class has been denied its own party and the working class movement has been tied to British imperialism. Rather than seeing its interests in lying in uniting with those who are in the frontline of the struggle to defeat and destroy British imperialism, the working class movement has accommodated itself to British imperialism and opposed the anti-imperialist fighters.

The social base of this opportunism is the labour aristocracy, a corrupted top stratum of the working class, and their representatives, the labour lieutenants of capital, whose support for British imperialism is richly rewarded with high salaries, luxurious life styles, social status, company directorships, and often ending up with a seat in the House of Lords!

This phenomenon was exposed by Lenin in a 1916 article entitled, "Imperialism and the split in socialism". He wrote:

"The opportunists (social-chauvinists) are working hand in glove with the imperialist bourgeoisie precisely towards creating an imperialist Europe on the backs of Asia and Africa. and objectively the opportunists are a section of the petty bourgeoisie and of certain strata of the working class who have been bribed out of imperialist super-profits and converted into watchdogs of capitalism and corrupters of the labour movement".

The main political expression of this stratum is the Labour Party. The Labour Party has been a consistent defender of imperialism:

* In 1924 a Labour government carried out the air bombing of Iraq;

* In 1929 a Labour government suppressed a national rising in Burma and arrested 60,000 people demanding independence in India.

* The Labour Government of 1945 organised the suppression of uprisings in Ghana and Uganda killing hundreds of people. It waged a most barbaric and savage war against the Malayan people, committing every conceivable atrocity. It staged a number of aggressive provocations against the Chinese and Korean revolutions;

* The 1966 Labour Government waged a savage war against the people of Yemen, in which British soldiers derived racist and sadistic pleasure from killing Arab civilians in order to "earn" "Golliwog labels";

* The Labour Party has been a consistent enemy of the Irish people. A Labour minister was in the cabinet that signed the death warrant on the great Irish leader James Connolly. It was a Labour Government that sent the troops to Ireland, withdrew Special Category Status and built the H-Blocks, thus precipitating the struggle in which ten Irish patriots heroically gave their lives on hunger strike last year;

* Today the Labour Party is vociferous in its support for the aggressive provocations and threats against Argentina.

The Labour Party summed up its attitude to the oppressed in 1917: "No body contends that the black races can govern themselves."

Yet all the main organisations of the British left - the Communist Party of Great Britain, Socialist Workers Party, International Marxist Group, Workers Revolutionary Party, etc. - defend the Labour Party, and particularly what they call its "socialist working class origins". At a time when more and more workers are seeing through the farce and fraud of the parliamentary system, these petit-bourgeois socialists claim that the Labour Party is being "moved to the left" and that it can serve the working class.

Whilst they support the Labour Party (the most wretched lackey of British imperialism), all these organisations refuse to give genuine

and consistent support to those fighting in the front line against imperialism, namely the national liberation movements of the oppressed nations and peoples. In particular, they all attack and slander the Provisional IRA, which is waging a heroic fight against British imperialism, both on its doorstep, and in the imperialist heartland itself. Such pro-imperialist organisations are of no use to the working class.

The working class movement has been ham-strung by its identification with imperialism. Today imperialism is in a period of recession. It is mounting an economic and political attack on the working class. Hardwon democratic rights are eroded, unemployment soars and the standard of living of the mass of working class people is constantly forced down. In this situation the most oppressed are fighting back. The uprisings of the youth, led by black youth, last summer showed that the working class is once again being prompted towards its revolutionary mission. Genuine communists must prepare for the coming revolutionary storms.

In this situation it is more important than ever to build the revolutionary communist party. This party cannot be built in isolation from the class struggle. It will be built by the most oppressed themselves.

A number of attempts have been made to build a communist party in Britain. The Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) was founded in the aftermath of the Russian October Revolution, and was one of the earliest parties in the Communist International. A fundamental reason why it was deemed necessary to build communist parties was that the socialist parties supported imperialist oppression of nations. As a Soviet communist expressed it in 1920:

"What they had in mind was support for the capitalists in their robber colonial policy, in the policy which conferred upon the colonies syphilis, opium and a debauched caste of officers, the policy which turned these countries into the bourgeoisie's rubbish dump, and which plundered them relentlessly, right and left."

In sharp demarcation to this, the Communist International declared at its Second Congress in 1920:

"for example, the British Socialist who fails to support by all possible

means the uprisings in Ireland, Egypt and India against the London plutocracy - such a "socialist" deserves, if not to be shot, then to be branded with infamy, but in no case merits either a mandate or the confidence of the proletariat."

Unfortunately, Lenin's revolutionary line on the colonial question was never fully grasped by British communists. The 7th Congress of the CPGB, held in 1925, said that imperialism was being undermined by an industrialisation of the colonies. In swallowing imperialist propaganda on this question the CPGB "forgot" that the imperialists develop industry in the colonies only to the extent that it is necessary to extract the wealth and raw materials of the colony for the enrichment of the metropolitan country. The CPGB line failed to educate the working class on the rapacious nature of imperialist rule.

At the Sixth Congress of the Communist International, in 1928, one member of the Secretariat said:

"Yes comrades, industrial development is taking place in the colonies but very slowly, comrades, very slowly. In fact, just as slowly as the Bolshevisation of the British Party Politburo."

In fact the CPGB developed in the opposite direction, so that by the time of the 15th Congress, held in the 1930's, it called for, "Full democratic rights for the colonial people including trade unions ..."

Support for the struggle for national liberation was thus thrown out of the window. Replacing it was pious but utterly useless criticism of the form of colonial rule. This failure to support the struggle of the oppressed nations and peoples is probably the fundamental reason why the CPGB degenerated into a thoroughly revisionist, anti-working class party, blind to the essence of both British imperialism and Soviet social imperialism.

We must not repeat the mistakes of the past! The revolutionary communist party that we are working to build must be thoroughly internationalist in its words and in its deeds. To lead the class struggle in Britain it must stand with those who fight imperialism and it must be the expression of a revolutionary anti-imperialist current within the working class movement.

'Thank you'

Dear Friends,

I heard from the Home Office this week that they have decided to give Chun Hee indefinite leave to enter and to settle here. Last December I was granted my application for a judicial review. The Home Office have now decided not to contest this. They have agreed to accept the earlier decision by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal which gave Chun Hee leave to stay.

I am writing to thank you for your support in my struggle to keep Chun Hee here. Last October, Chun Hee was given one week to stay in this country. Without the support that many people have given, I'm sure he would not have won his right to stay.

I am happy to be united with Chun Hee after 5 years of trying to bring him here. But I know there are many other people struggling against the immigration laws. I hope you will continue to support these people as you have Chun Hee. Sultan Mahmood, of Oldham, has been trying to bring his children here for 11 years. Mumtaz Kiani,



The Editor, CS, c/o 203, Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4.

of Bradford, and her two small children are fighting deportation. The Khan family of Manchester, are still under threat of deportation. The Bradford 12, who themselves defended others fighting the immigration laws, stand trial in Leeds in April.

Thank you for your support and I hope you will continue to support these other campaigns.

Yours sincerely,

Pow Shien Leong
& Friends of Chun Hee Leong

Sultan Mahmood Support Committee, 27 Gower St., Oldham.
Mumtaz Kiani Defence Cttee., c/o 4th Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate, Bradford 1.
Khan Family, c/o 593 Stockport Rd., Manchester 13.
Bradford 12 Support Cttee., LAP Box JK, 59 Cookridge St., Leeds 2.

'Reds'

From a London reader.

Many critical reviews have been written about the film "Reds", especially in some radical and progressive papers. These may have stopped some "Class Struggle" readers from going to see it. But do go and don't be put off by these one-sided critics, who seemed so keen to show off their superior knowledge of the period that they couldn't see the wood for the trees.

Of course, I'm sure there are inaccuracies in the story line taken, broadly speaking, from John Reed's book "Ten Days That Shook The World". And of course, as it is a Hollywood production, the personal love story between Reed and Louise Bryant is

overemphasised. But brush aside these negative aspects and go and sit back and see this story of a young American communist. Watch him getting involved in union battles, the struggles of the IWW, the fight for the founding of the CPUSA, his involvement in the deliberations of the Communist International and, most of all, his and Louise Bryant's actual presence in Russia at the time of the great victory of the 1917 Revolution.

I defy anyone to remain unmoved, and not gain

inspiration from the scenes of the victorious workers marching accompanied by the stirring strains of the Internationale. Great stuff in these difficult days for the communist movement: although I was saddened and angered to think what has happened in the Soviet Union since then. And, when you have seen the film, go back home and read the book.

NOTE: "Ten Days That Shook The World" is available from New Era Books at £1.95, plus 30p postage.

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PUSHED TOO FAR - Health workers fight back

by a Class Struggle Correspondent

The coming health service unions battle for a wage increase which will keep up with inflation is basically about the low paid. Catering assistants, porters, cleaners and gardeners are all taking home about £60 a week after deductions for a 40-hour week and the increase at present offered them would be in the region of 80p a week.

For the first time nurses are fighting a co-ordinated action with other workers. The early seventies saw this militancy born. Now it is beginning to come to fruition. An example of their oppression is a nursing sister of 8 years experience who for a 38-hour week is only grossing £490 a month.

As usual low pay is linked to other forms of oppression. Amongst health workers, whether nurses, assistants, porters or canteen staff, are many, many national minority workers and a considerable number of women. These are the forces that will be at the forefront of the struggle.

Police Against Democracy

Cont. from front page

'crime' figures was applied to only 18,763 cases out of a total of 631,328 and that 'muggings' account for only 9 out of every 1000 crimes. Yet Whitelaw had no hesitation in continuing the racist propaganda claim that 'mugging' is the "main issue" to arise from the 'crime statistics'. The state is united in its attack on the national minority communities.

A WORTHY SPOKESMAN

Whitelaw has an image of 'liberalism' carefully cultivated by the press. It should not be necessary to point out that the Home Office he heads is responsible for the deportations, and the racist attacks of the Police. We should add that Whitelaw has served his time in northern Ireland. His background too makes him a fine spokesman for the ruling class: he is a member of the landed gentry with his family seat at Enniskillen, Penrith, Cumberland. His other residences include Kirkintilloch near Glasgow and two in central London. His training includes Winchester public school, Cambridge and the Scots Guards. This "man of the people" is now preparing a further assault on democratic rights, and particularly the rights of national minorities, in Britain.

STEPPING UP POLICE POWERS

Tory MP Eldon Griffiths has boasted of the "clear hints" he has been given on Whitelaw's plans. The police are to be given new stop-and-search powers; and they will no longer need warrants to go into people's homes or arrest people. They will also be given greater powers to launch mass operations such as the Swamp 81 operation through which they invaded Brixton last year. Alongside this, Scarman added his voice last year to the repressive chorus demanding the transformation of the police to give them an even greater para-military capability. They are carrying guns more often (one third of the London police are trained in arms use), and are being equipped with more and better shields,

The DHSS, of course, has plans drawn up to fight the Health Service workers' just demands.

There already exists a document which advises hospital administrators (the local bosses) on how to deal with industrial action. This includes, where appropriate, provoking strike action in order to push workers out on a limb, the use of volunteers to act as strike breakers and if necessary the use of the armed forces.

Now there is talk, if they are faced with extensive industrial action, that they will gather up what employees they can from different hospitals and take them to a few selected hospitals which they will try and keep going.

This would only amount to a propaganda exercise as it's impractical for people working in different hospitals to just fit into an effective team to run a different hospital. Rather then concede a moderate pay claim to some of the lowest paid workers in this country they are prepared to use patients as pawns in an industrial dispute with a view

to winning at all costs.

CALLOUS PROPAGANDA

Whilst the state and health service bureaucracy use sick people in such a callous way, a growing chorus of press insults turn the issue on its head and accuse health workers of having total disregard for their patients. It is precisely because health workers are placed in such a difficult position and have long had a deep concern for serving the people, that their pay and conditions are so poor; successive governments have used their situation to keep their pay depressed. This cynical oppression by the bureaucracy has extended to the closure of hospitals, the cutting of services and even to cynically condemning people to death - as for example their refusal to place enough kidney machines at the disposal of doctors, without which many patients die. Let us not forget that it is the hospital staff who have fought against the cuts and who fight for a better service. Now they need and deserve support from the rest of the working class.

water cannon, CS gas and rubber bullets.

THE ANDERTON PLAN

The building of such a force has been a particular dream of Anderton, the Manchester Police Chief. Over 4 years ago he called for the ending of remission and parole for prisoners. At that time, speaking on a 'Tonight' programme, he looked forward to a system of compulsory identity cards and fingerprinting for all. Recently he has called for a scrapping of Police Committees which are controlled by local authorities. Despite the fact that these bodies have no control over police operations whatsoever, and that most would never criticise the police, this is not enough for Anderton. He wants to abolish even the minimum supervision that they potentially represent.

Added to all this should be his prediction of the merger of police forces into 8 to 10 large forces - one major object of which, although he is curiously quiet on this point, would be to establish a police structure identical and parallel to the army command. The police commands would co-ordinate their operations through weekly meetings and be supervised by a non-elected state body. Anderton, like fascists before him, claims this to be a 'non-political' structure. What he means is that it will be a structure entirely built into a racist imperialist state serving the vested interests of British capital.

Speaking in 1978 he explained his thinking like this: "I was crystal gazing on the supposition that sometime in the future our whole social order might be challenged by subversives." Anderton, who controls the largest police force outside London, and is supported by other Police Chiefs, obviously believes that the time to act is approaching.

THE MAN TO DO THE JOB

That Anderton is by no means speaking as just one individual has been confirmed

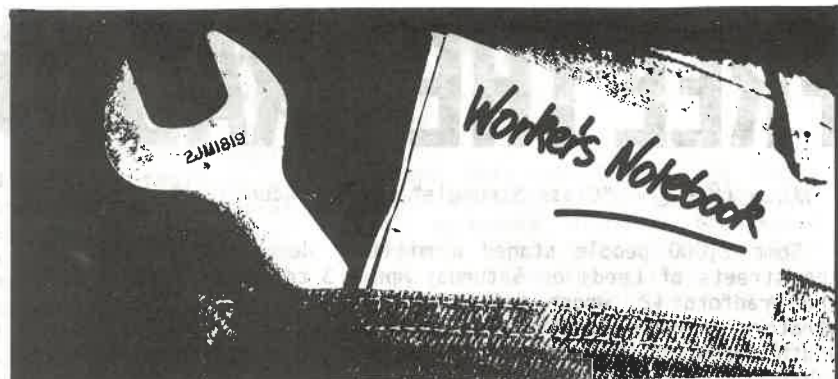
by the appointment of Sir Kenneth Newman as head of the Metropolitan Police in London. Newman too has served his time



in Ireland. In 1973 he left the Metropolitan Police to take up his post as Senior Deputy Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. In 1976 he was appointed Chief Constable. Between 1975 and 1978 12,605 nationalists were tortured. 'Confessions' were beaten out of many of them; hundreds put away in the H-blocks and Armagh. International condemnation of torture and maltreatment he ignored and shrugged aside. Newman knows his job and who he serves. His training was well laid when he worked in the Colonial Police in Palestine between 1946 and 1948. Newman supervised the training and transformation of the whole band of RUC paramilitary thugs into a far better equipped and co-ordinated force to operate alongside the army against the struggle of the masses. He is the man to do the job that is being prepared in London. As new forms of struggle are developing in Britain he is the man to put into practice the lessons the state is learning in the struggle in Ireland. The British working class can only respond by learning lessons from the Irish struggle themselves.

BUILDING THE IMAGE

When such plans are being laid it needs a massive propaganda exercise to gain acceptance. It is in this light that we should see the Police Federation's massive advertising campaign to bring back hanging. Doubtless they would like such powers brought back,



While health service workers are being offered a miserable 4%, huge pay rises have been recommended for many of Britain's 'top people' - senior judges, civil service chiefs and leaders of the armed forces. The increases range from about 15% to nearly 30%. The average is around 20%.

Another person not suffering from the present recession is Lord Forte, boss of Trust House Forte. Recently he said: "I've so many shares that whatever I sell I'd still be a very rich man. To me, something like £1½ million is spare change".

At a time when increasing numbers of families are existing on meagre state benefits people might expect some subsidies on such necessities as food, warmth and housing. Far from it! Electricity boards are increasing prices by an average of 10% this month despite having made a profit of £320 million in the last year. The previous year the profit was £190 million and the target they have been set is £500 million a year. The state actually sets out to make money from children's misery, parents' despair and old people's deaths.

Widow Dorothy Prosser will have to pay for the experience of seeing the killers of her husband Barry walk free from a court of law. She and her family are now broke, and faced with a £9,000 legal bill which includes the cost of top barristers for the eight day inquest. Mrs Prosser said: "I don't know how my legal expenses are going to be paid. I have nobody helping out financially and I shall probably have to take the government to court to get compensation." She will be meeting her solicitor to discuss suing the Home Office for negligence in allowing her husband to be 'unlawfully killed' while in custody (the verdict of the inquest). Meanwhile her husband's three killers make pitiful complaints about the hardships they will have to endure when they are transferred to another prison outside the Birmingham area.

A campaign which took place recently in Birmingham to encourage people to claim social security benefits resulted in an extra £1 million being paid out by the DHSS. This goes to show how many people were previously unaware of their rights, and how much money may be going unclaimed in other parts of the country.

Four companies: Imperial Group, B.A.T. Industries, Rothmans International and Gallaher; dominate the U.K. tobacco market. Recently available figures showed that between them they made £737 million pre-tax profits on total sales of £10,046 million. The range of top directors' pay was £1,195 - £3,056 per week.

Faced with declining tobacco sales they have become heavily involved in a wide range of other products including: food (Ross, Buxted Poultry, Golden Wonder), alcohol (Courage), cosmetics (Yardley, Mornay, Lenthalic), men's wear, optics, plastics and engineering. They have also entered the retail trade (International Stores, Argos).

They have expanded their overseas operations. The selling of high tar cigarettes (banned elsewhere on health grounds!) to Third World nations.

The vast majority of the 162,700 U.K. employees earn between £91 - £101 per week. The introduction of new technology has meant the loss of 7,400 manual workers' jobs since 1975. Planned reductions in white-collar jobs are threatening a further 3,000 jobs.

BL is to axe another 1,000 jobs at Longbridge in an attempt to 'improve efficiency'. This comes on top of 2,000 jobs lost at Longbridge during the last 12 months.

The Air Force recruitment office in Leeds was daubed with paint at the end of March by a group called the Committee of 12th December. The group is named after the date of the NATO decision to deploy Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe. A spokeswoman for the group was quoted in "Leeds Other Paper" as saying: "The committee recognises that this act was illegal, but we stress it was designed to cause minimal destruction - unlike the organisations against which we act. We must initiate a counter thrust against global superpower confrontation..."

but, as they themselves know, the number of murders in Britain is actually declining; and whilst they trumpet the slogan that the number of police killed has doubled, they cannot be unaware that it only means an increase of 4 or 5 people killed. Even if this were not the case, the fascist development of state power should be opposed. But the facts show that that is not the real reason for such a massive campaign.

What then is the real reason? Firstly the police know well that a growing number of oppressed people know the police for what they are and are resisting police oppression. More people are taking a neutral view of the police. The campaign aims at resurrecting an image of the poor British Bobby caught in the mid-

dle of a situation not of his making, 'unfairly' criticised and suffering continuous assault and the likelihood of being murdered. Building on this image the police will push forward the strengthening of their own powers supposedly to protect themselves and 'the public'.

The reality of the militarisation of the police in a racist imperialist state is somewhat different!

RESIST THE REAL THREAT

The tendency to fascism is clear and growing. The national minorities - youth in particular - have begun the fightback, and others have begun to join them. The working class as a whole must take up the struggle. The warning signs are there. We ignore them at our peril.

FREE THE BRADFORD 12!

May 1982 "Class Struggle" Correspondent

Some 2,000 people staged a militant demonstration through the streets of Leeds on Saturday April 3 to demand freedom for the Bradford 12, whose trial began on April 26. The demonstrators represented Support Groups for the Bradford 12, Asian youth groups, organisations of the Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Afro-Caribbean, Iranian and Irish communities, anti-deportation campaigns, students, trade unionists, the womens' movement, anti-imperialists and a number of left wing groups including Red Action and the Revolutionary Communist League.

The march went ahead despite threats of a police ban, attempts to prevent it from marching through the city centre and other harassment. It attracted a great deal of interest and support from local people.

A number of speakers addressed a rally after the march. The United Black Youth League and Anwar Ditta both drew attention to the link between the fight against racism in Britain and the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland. The Indian Workers' Association speaker told how the British state had used conspiracy charges against

the leaders of the Indian independence movement in 1924. Anwar Ditta said that the members of the Bradford 12 were so close to her that they were members of her own family. Without their support her family would not have been reunited. The Bangladeshi Welfare Association spoke of the importance of the different national communities uniting in support of the Bradford 12. Other speakers included Pow Shien Leong who told the crowd that her son, Chun Hee, had just won his appeal against deportation and a representative in exile of the Worker-Peasant Party of Pakistan. Messages received included one from the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

TRIAL TO START

Support for the Bradford 12 is now pouring in from organisations around the country. A mass picket will

be held when the trial opens at Leeds Crown Court at 10 am on April 26. The picket aims to "shake the foundations of Leeds Crown Court"! Pickets of the court will be held every day of the trial, with mass pickets every Wednesday, beginning Wednesday May 5. All our readers should make efforts to be there. As the National Mobilising Committee point out:

"This trial has serious and far-reaching implications for all black people - and in fact for all working people in this country. If the twelve are convicted, another nail will be driven in the coffin of black people's rights."

More information from: Box JK, LAP, 59 Cookridge St., Leeds, 2.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The case of the Bradford 12 is starting to draw international attention. "Concret" the newspaper of the Party of Labour of Belgium recently carried a major article entitled, "The British state wants to imprison 12 young anti-racists for life".

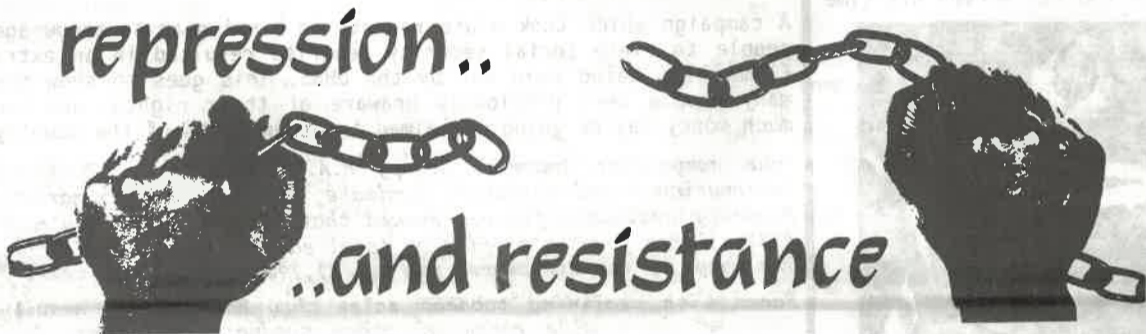


BLACK BOOKFAIR

The First International Bookfair of Black and Radical Third World Books took place in Islington, London on April 1-3. It was a big success. Exhibitors came from Africa, the Caribbean, France and USA as well as Britain. Over 3,000 people, mostly Afro-Caribbean people came to the Fair, and a sizeable proportion of them were local working class people, who showed a keen interest in books on their history and culture.

Events were organised around the fair on black film-making, writing, and other subjects, including an evening meeting on racist and fascist attacks on black, left and community bookshops.

The Fair organisers, Bogle-L'Ouverture, New Beacon Books and the "Race Today" Collective, were very pleased with the success of the event and intend to organise an even bigger and better bookfair next year.



Hostility towards the police is on the increase in Brixton. PCs on the beat are having bottles thrown at them, are being threatened and spat at. The police cannot rely on any help from the public. This frank view of what the poor and oppressed people of Brixton think of the police has been given by none other than Divisional Commander Brian Fairbairn. The people of Brixton are saying loud and clear: racist police-off our backs.

To mark the first anniversary of the Brixton uprising, the Brixton Defence Campaign organised a day long programme of international, cultural and political events around the slogan, "Remember Brixton Uprisings, 10th April 1981, The Struggle Continues". Revolutionary culture from Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Azania, Namibia, Chile, Portugal and Ireland was presented and solidarity messages came from amongst others, the Campaign to Free the Bradford 12, Troops Out Movement, and Working People's Alliance of Guyana.

The Brixton uprising heralded the wave of uprisings that shook the British ruling class in Summer 1981.

Despite an energetic campaign in Birmingham Mohinder Singh has been deported. There was not enough time to prevent this. The campaign however does intend to carry on the struggle. Mohinder's wife and children are here and they have no intention of leaving or living without him.

Najat Chafee came to Britain in 1979 after marrying a Moroccan settled here. The following year she had a son, Mohssin. However, following family conflict she left her husband, taking Mohssin with her. Now she has been refused permission to stay in Britain. Her son has the right to live here. A support campaign has been launched and can be contacted at: Friends of Najat Chafee, 138 Minet Avenue, London NW10.



The Darr family have had some success in their campaign to stop the Home Office splitting them up. The Home Office had intended to deport them to different countries according to their nationality. Mr. Darr and their daughter were to be sent to Kenya, Mrs Darr to Pakistan, and their son was to be put into care in Britain. So much anger was generated by this intolerably callous plan that the Home Office has backed off. They have decided to let the family stay together in Britain unless the Home Office can pressurise Kenya into accepting the whole family. Once again Britain is throwing its weight around. Let's hope the Kenyan government resists.

The Cypriot Community Workers Action Group says that 250 Cypriots have been deported or harassed into leaving Britain. Two or three thousand more are threatened. They are all refugees who lost their houses when Turkey invaded Cyprus. But when they came to Britain they were not given formal refugee status. They were admitted under a 'special' arrangement. Now the British Government claims the situation has 'returned to normal'. In fact, many refugees still live in camps in Cyprus.

The Bengali International held an open-air New Year Festival in Trafalgar Square on April 18th. Singers and dancers from the Bangladeshi, Indian, West Indian and Irish communities contributed to a lively multi-national event which was watched by hundreds of enthusiastic people. The Bengali International magazine stated: "This year the fourth Bengali New Year Festival at Trafalgar Square has further strengthened our hope and belief that it would develop in due course into a significant annual event of friendly festivity and good will, not only for the Bengalis, but for the whole community of multi-racial and multi-cultural Britain today."

Notting Hill Fights Back

The police came under attack during the Easter weekend in Notting Hill, West London. About 12 policemen began to search a flat and some 100 black people gathered and bombarded police vehicles, breaking a number of windows. The incident was disclosed by the Manager of the Mangrove Restaurant - it had gone unreported by Scotland Yard's press bureau. Faced with over-whelming opposition the police retreated from the area. Covering up for the police defeat, Chief Supt., Tony Moore of Notting Hill Police Station said, "It came nowhere near being a riot because of the commendable restraint of the officers, who withdrew when the missiles began to be thrown."

Trouble flared again in the Notting Hill area on the night of Tuesday April 20. More than 30 people were arrested and about 60 were injured in clashes with the police. They began when a youth came to the aid of his girlfriend who was being searched by the police. They chased him into the Mangrove restaurant and then sealed off the area with police vans. Police in riot gear and with shields then began searching premises and harassing the local people, many of whom then took refuge in the Mangrove. The police burst in and then running battles took place between the police and the local people who came out to demonstrate their opposition to the police by stoning them and their vehicles - and who attacked other symbols of rule by the rich. Local people also built barricades and made petrol bombs to defend their area from the police. Fighting lasted for some 3 hours. Chief Superintendent Tony Moore was attacked in his car, and the couple who the police were questioning were freed by local people.

Local people have complained bitterly about the police - their racism, their vandalism, their brutality. Philson Bogle who runs the Tuck Inn takeaway said,

"Two boys ran in off the street, and the police came charging in. The door was open but they smashed the glass in with their truncheons. They said nothing to anyone, they asked no questions, they just began hitting people ... I tell you, after last night if I saw a policeman dying in the road I would not lift a finger to help him."

Frank Crichlow who runs the Mangrove said, "They just attacked everybody in here. What stuck in my mind was two girls, on the floor, screaming with police continuing to beat them with truncheons ... My clear experience from last night is that the police have declared war on black people. If anything else happens, I for one am going to defend myself."

The area has been tense since the police provocation at Easter, and local people had complained of being continually stopped and searched by bullying and insulting police.

The fightback was initiated by black youth, but white youth soon joined in as well. The revolutionary forces who announced their existence last summer are here to stay.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSPIRACY LAW PART IV

Acceptable Unionism and Open Repression 1910-65

The pattern of the use and development of conspiracy laws was considerably changed as the twentieth century unfolded. It was in the nineteenth century that the common law (law made by judges) basis of conspiracy was laid, and at the same time the statutory laws (made by parliament) were created. A simple example is that the Bradford 12, currently on trial for 'conspiracy', are charged under the 1883 Explosive Substance Act. The rules of evidence - special to 'conspiracy' trials (see last issue) - were almost entirely developed between 1800 and 1890.

As has been seen, changes in the law culminating in the Trades Dispute Act of 1906 had largely removed industrial disputes from the court room, at least until the 1970s. It is also apparent that directly political 'conspiracy' trials diminished considerably in number throughout this period. Essentially the reasons for this arise from two factors. Firstly, the two world wars and the struggle for independence in Ireland, led to a series of laws of such a direct repressive nature that the legal 'niceties' involved in a conspiracy trial were far less necessary as a means of sustaining the ruling class in Britain. Secondly a growing section of the imperialist bourgeoisie abandoned their previous opposition to trade unionism. Instead they used the most privileged strata of the 'Labour Movement', built on the weaknesses already apparent in the unions, and set out to use the leadership against their own members.

'CONSPIRACY' CHARGES UNNECESSARY

In 1914 war broke out in Europe as the imperialist powers strove to redivide the world amongst themselves. In both 1914 and 1915 "Defence of the Realm" Acts were passed which established considerable state control over industry and agriculture and extended the use of court martials in Britain and Ireland.

1916 saw Dublin the scene of the heroic Easter Uprising. James Connolly and Peadar Kirby, two of the foremost leaders were among the 14 summarily tried and executed. What need have the imperialists for refined methods in such a revolutionary situation? Far from suppressing the Irish people, the brutality of the imperialist state added fuel to the struggle for independence. 1918, the year of the end of the first world war, saw a massive electoral victory for the Irish Republicans, with Sinn Fein winning the vast majority of seats. The Republican victors refused to attend the Westminster Parliament. Of the 73 Republicans elected 36 were in prison and a score 'on the run'; the rest, with their support, met in Dublin on January 21, 1919, and established the Dail - the Governing Body of "the Republic established in Easter Week". The British response utilised the 'law' to some extent. The Dail and its subsidiaries were

declared 'illegal assemblies'. Charges of seditious conspiracy were made. But this paled into insignificance as the British state sent in the 'Black-and-Tans' and the 'Auxiliaries'. The Irish Liberation War was pursued on the British side with murder, arson, torture, rape and looting of whole areas. In 1921 the British state sponsored 'Loyalist' pogroms in the north of Ireland, driving Catholics out of their homes and jobs in a campaign of murder and violence that left 500 Catholics dead. Finally a treaty was signed in December 1921 which gave some measure of independence to the south but left Ireland partitioned between two artificial 'states' - one colonial, one neo-colonial.

The north of Ireland was established as a sectarian Orange state still under colonial domination. In 1922 the Civil Authorities Special Powers Act (Northern Ireland) was passed which established indefinite internment without trial, amongst many other repressive measures. The reason why few 'conspiracy' trials were held in the north of Ireland up till the last decade, is explained then, not as a result of little struggle - there have been many uprisings, notably in 1935, 1939, and 1956 - but because the existence of an oppressive legal machine of a different type. 'Conspiracy trials' were just not needed.

LABOUR'S COLONIAL CONSPIRACY

Britain's colonial rule still however continued to use the 'conspiracy' laws as one of its weapons. Notably in India in 1924 leaders of the independence movement were charged and convicted of 'seditious conspiracy'. It is worth noting that just as a Labour minister was in the cabinet that signed the death warrants of James Connolly and his comrades, so it was a Labour Cabinet that sat in London in 1924. These are just two of the many, many examples of Labour's support for imperialism from its earliest days, and reflect its basis in the support for imperialism that exists in the most privileged sections of the working people. That connection has also resulted in the continuous betrayal of the working class in Britain by the Labour Party, whatever the apparent colour at any particular time of its internal 'debates'.

THE STRUGGLE IN BRITAIN

In 1924 the same Labour Cabinet sent in troops to do the work of striking dockers. In the same year a judgement in a civil conspiracy trial over an industrial dispute reflected the developing accommodation between a section of the bourgeoisie and 'acceptable' trade unionism (though not of course with militant workers' struggle!). The Shipping Federation had agreed with the sea-

men's union that they would employ only their members on their ships. A member of another union, Reynolds, sued the Federation for conspiracy. Unlike similar cases in the 1890s (see last issue) the action was dismissed. The Judges comment summed it up:

"The employers...have recognised that advantages may arise from adopting such a course (establishing a closed shop) voluntarily, and have accordingly made an agreement with the trade union to that effect."

COMMUNISTS UNDER ATTACK

The Communist Party of Great Britain had been founded in 1920 and had grown fairly rapidly. By the mid-20s economic struggles were developing rapidly as a result of the crisis. In 1925 the new Tory Government decided to move against the Party. Ten leading members of the party including Wal Hannington and Harry Pollitt, were arrested and charged with seditious conspiracy and with conspiracy to incite breaches of the 'Incitement to Mutiny Act' of 1797. The prosecution's evidence was based on the content of books and pamphlets seized in raids. Particular reference was made to articles in the Party's paper, Workers' Weekly, which urged soldiers not to help the Government if a general strike took place.

The Judge ruled that as a matter of law the Communist Party was an illegal organisation! All were convicted after the Jury had retired for only 20 minutes. To emphasise the political nature of the court the Judge, Swift, said that if the accused would undertake to leave the Communist Party and not to engage in any similar political activities, he would not imprison them. They refused and were sent down for 1 year. It was hardly an accident that the Party leadership was removed in the year of growing struggle which in fact climaxed with the general strike in 1926.

GENERAL STRIKE

The General Strike demonstrated the allegiance of the courts to the ruling class, but also the extent to which the ruling class had modified its strategy with regard to the Unions. At the beginning of the strike an injunction was issued to prevent the Firemen's Union joining the strike; and in another case the Judge, convicting the defendants, stated:

"The so-called General Strike called by the TUC council is illegal, and persons inciting or taking part in it are not protected by the Trades Dispute Act, 1906. No trade dispute has been alleged or shown to exist in any of the Unions affected except in the miners case".

This statement would mean the

union's were again open to conspiracy charges.

There were splits in the bourgeoisie over this, and a number of legal spokesmen disputed the above statement. This view must have been widely held as the strike was not followed after its failure by a mass of conspiracy trials. However a law was pushed through Parliament in 1927 outlawing sympathetic and political strikes.

WAR LAWS

During the second world war further developments in the law similarly made 'conspiracy' trials 'unnecessary'. Draconian legislation was passed giving the Minister of Labour - Labour 'left winger' Ernest Bevin - far reaching powers. Defence Regulation 58 A allowed him to establish arbitration courts which made binding decisions in industrial disputes. Order 1305 prohibited strikes and lockouts. Skilled workers could be ordered to change jobs. This suppression went hand-in-hand with co-operation with union leaders who were brought into numerous government bodies. In 1942 a civil conspiracy case against dockers, who blacked imported cotton yarn was won by the Unions - a further contrast with the 1890s.

Many of these government powers continued after the war. A new Labour Government was elected in 1945. 3 years later troops were used to break the Bristol dockstrike. But in 1950 the attempt by the Labour Government to break the gas workers strike by using Defence Regulation 1AA (which made it an offence to incite a stoppage of essential work) was defeated. The workers' victory led to the repeal of the legislation.

The strategy of incorporating the unions into the state was given added impetus when in 1949 the TGWU banned communists from holding office. 12 years later the Communist Party was to help the process itself. The CPGB had finally degenerated and attempted to maintain its control of the Electricians Union through ballot rigging. The open right in the union sued the Communist General Secretary for civil conspiracy in fixing the election for that post. Byrne's victory in the courts for the right shortly led to the banning of Communists from holding office in that union; a ban that lasts till today.

'CONSPIRACY' COMES BACK

There is apparent then a change in strategy towards the unions, which together with a number of other factors, saw a marked decrease in Conspiracy trials of all types up to the late 1960s. But since then a marked change has taken place. Next month's article will deal with this latest period.

MALVINAS cont. from front page

of the Argentinian working class." In the present context that is support for British imperialism, pure and simple. The phoney 'Communist' Party (CP) has sent a whining letter to Thatcher saying that they "condemn" the "Argentinian occupation". In a Glasgow shipyard, CP members supported the lifting of an overtime ban (imposed in furtherance of an industrial dispute), in order to speed the fleet on its way.

Not one Labour MP or trade union leader can be found who will state the basic issue - that Britain simply has no right to rule over any other part of the world. This is hardly surprising when it is remembered that these labour aristocrats derive their high living standards and social status precisely by sharing in the feast resulting from the devouring of the oppressed nations and peoples.

Britain claims to be motivated by concern for the islanders, for their democratic rights, (even for their right to "self-determination"). And Britain appears to have discovered that Argentina is ruled by fascists. They did not notice that Argentina was ruled by fascists when they were arming the junta, training its military personnel and turning away Argentinian political refugees. They aim to enlist the support of Chile and South Africa. They haven't "noticed" that these countries are ruled by fascists! As for the islanders "being British", many of them are forbidden to live here by the racist Nationality Act. As for democratic rights, the islanders have never known them. Most of the land on the islands has been owned by the British Falkland Islands Company, a subsidiary of the British Colonial monopoly. They are the major employer. Most of the islanders live in tied cot-

tages and most have to leave the islands when their useful working life is over. The islanders did not have the right to elect the legislative council which ran their affairs. 40% of its members (and the governor) were appointed from London - until recently a majority were.

To plant settlers in a country and then grant them 'self determination' is an old imperialist trick - witness the loyalists in northern Ireland, the Zionists in Palestine and the bantustans in South Africa.

Furthermore, how dare British imperialism which has looted and pillaged its way around the world at a cost of millions of lives over centuries, and which still wages a most savage colonial war to deny the right of self-determination to the Irish people, talk of defending the right of self-determination!

No, Britain is not attempting to support democracy in

the South Atlantic, it is attempting to prop up the remnants of old line colonialism. If Argentina can successfully defy the British imperialists, who will be next? That is why imperialist spokesmen, such as Conservative MP Neville Trotter, have linked the Malvinas to Hongkong, Gibraltar and, not least, northern Ireland.

If Britain manages to inflict a defeat on Argentina it will not only encourage it to continue propping up the remnants of its colonial empire, it will (using the tide of chauvinism and racism it is building around the issue) allow it to step up its economic and political offensive against the working and oppressed people of Britain. On the other hand, if British imperialism is defeated in the South Atlantic it will undoubtedly inspire those peoples around the world, and the most oppressed in Britain itself, who are fighting against British imperialism.

The longer that any conflict continues the more the two superpowers (who both have extensive interests in the region) will intervene, and the threat to world peace will grow. At stake is political influence, strategic location, reported oil deposits and potential access to the Antarctic with its huge mineral wealth and abundance of the highly nutritious food known as krill. The attempt to prolong the life of British colonialism, also helps give a foothold to superpower hegemonism.

Communists in Britain put forward a clear stand:

The Malvinas belong to Argentina, not Britain!

No to British imperialist warmongering!

Withdraw the fleet!

Oppose the war hysteria of the social-imperialist Labour Party!

END BRITISH COLONIALISM!

World in Struggle

Palestine

"Israel" depends for its existence on repression of the Palestinians, aggression against its neighbours, and continual injections of military and economic aid from the West. Its withdrawal from Egypt's Sinai doesn't change that; it wants peace with Egypt in order to split its Arab opponents and make it easier to hold on to the rest of the land it occupies. This was underlined by the fact that on the very day when Israeli troops moved to evict a gang of fascists who'd holed themselves up in a bunker in Yamit (Sinai) before the hand-over, Zionist forces struck across the border into Lebanon to hit at the Palestinians and their Lebanese supporters after a long period of relative calm on that front.

Meanwhile, within the occupied lands, the most fascist elements are given a free rein by the Zionist state. It is these people who run the colonies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; they are heavily armed and quite prepared to kill resisting Palestinians, as happened during the recent West Bank uprisings when one of them killed a protestor. One of the leading fascist groups is led by Meir Kahane, an "Israeli" from the US, and part of its programme in the last election was a call for mixed Jewish-Gentile sexual relations to be made illegal. This bears more than a passing resemblance to the Nazi anti-semitic Nuremberg Laws.

It was also a fascist from the US who machine-gunned Palestinians at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, as a gesture of support for the Palestinians and condemnation of "Israel", millions of workers in the Middle East struck last month for one day. The armed struggle of the Palestinian fedayeen continues. Recently guerillas of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine staged a daring raid onto the West Bank from bases in Jordan.

Iran

Supporters in Britain of the Organisation of Iranian People's Fedaii Guerillas (OIPFG) have circulated a copy of a letter from the Iranian Chief Prosecutor to local Prosecutors. It illustrates the literally blood-thirsty nature of the Khomeini regime. We reproduce the main part of the text below:

"According to the office of the Revolutionary Guards, in instances when our brother guards are taken to hospitals subsequent to their being injured in street battles or in the war front, blood shortage has often resulted in their deaths. In order to overcome this problem, you are, hereby, instructed to issue orders for the secret procurement of blood, by the trustworthy medical officers, from those convicts who face immediate charges of death penalty. The blood extracted by a syringe prior to their execution must be preserved in the appropriate containers and then transferred to the nearest health department or

blood banks so that, with utmost speed, it may be of avail to our brother guards who are wounded.

"Should there exist any misgivings about the conformity of this practice to Islamic Law of Shariat, we remind that the matter has been cleared with His Gracious Leader and Founder of the Islamic Republic, Imman Khomeini. Imman ruled that this is in accord with Islamic law."

The OIPFG comrades comment that the text reminds one of, "the horrors and atrocities committed in Nazi concentration camps (gold tooth extraction, medical experimentation ... etc)."



Kampuchea

Recent reports state that the four north-eastern provinces of Kampuchea have been annexed by Vietnam and are being populated by Vietnamese settlers. Pen Sovan, former head of the puppet 'popular revolutionary party of Kampuchea' is thought to have protested about this, and was promptly dismissed on Vietnamese orders. An authoritative article in the French paper, Le Monde says that this 'party' - which is supposed to be leading the country - contains only between 600 and 1000 'members'; in the largest province of Kompong Cham (1,000,000 inhabitants) only thirty people have been found to join the 'party'.

Poland

It is estimated that about 1,700 underground newsheets are regularly circulating in Poland. In one of these Zbigniew Bujak, Solidarity President of the Warsaw region who has gone underground, calls on trade unionists to show "our presence, our force and our unity". The militia commandant of Gdansk admits that five secret printing presses have been discovered, that Solidarity members are waging a campaign through handouts, posters and wall-slogans against martial law and that youth and factory workers are exhibiting "fanaticism and determination" in the struggle. Resistance takes many forms. Recently, a clandestine, "Radio Solidarity" has taken to the air, beaming hope to the oppressed Polish people. Meanwhile a high official of the regime has openly admitted in an article in the paper Polityka, that the 'plan' for the current year can only be realised on the assumption of borrowing 2 billion rubles from the Soviet bloc and 2 billion dollars from the West.

Euzkadi

Basque patriots are stepping up their struggle for the national rights of Euzkadi (the Basque country). On April 18, a major bomb blast blew up the biggest telephone exchange in Madrid, cutting up to 700,000 national and international lines. Guerillas of ETA were responsible. A couple of days previous, ETA staged three anti tank grenade attacks on police in the Basque country and warned in a statement that they would step up the armed struggle. The Spanish army has been sent into the Basque country to guard key installations and step up patrols along the French border.

Several left wing parties have joined forces to form a new party, Euskadiko Ezkerra, which will demand independence from Spain. More than 1,300 delegates attended the founding congress in late March. A number of parties dissolved to form the new party, including a major section of the Basque region of the "Communist" Party. The new party already has many MPs and councillors, and after the next elections, it is expected to become the major force in Basque politics. A large number of foreign delegations attended the congress, including one from Sinn Fein.

Afghanistan

According to recent reports from Pakistan, Afghan freedom fighters have undertaken a new offensive against the Soviet occupation forces. They have retaken Kandahar the second largest city and in a successful operation recently killed the puppet secret police chief there. Herat, near the Iranian border, and other cities are the scene of violent conflicts. On the road leading to Jalalabad, not far from Kabul, two Soviet-puppet tanks were blown up. In Kabul itself, Soviet 'advisers' have been obliged to vacate their offices which were the object of frequent rocket attacks. In country areas which they have no hope of controlling, Soviet aircraft have been carrying out a vicious bombardment.

Since late last year the 'defence minister' of the puppet Afghan regime has been living in Moscow on a so-called study trip. Returning briefly to Afghanistan to participate in the 'congress' of the revisionist-puppet party (which broke up in disarray ahead of time), he has now gone back to Moscow to continue his 'studies'.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe celebrated two years of independence on April 17. To mark the occasion, Zimbabwe has renamed its capital Salisbury as Harare. Salisbury was named after Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister when the British colonialists occupied Zimbabwe in 1890. Harare was an African leader who fought against the colonialists. The renaming is part of a campaign to uproot imperialist influence in the country.

US Imperialism on Trial

The African People's Socialist Party (APSP), a revolutionary black nationalist organisation in the United States is organising a, "world tribunal to try imperialism for crimes committed against African people in the United States". In a statement the APSP explain that, "One of the major difficulties faced historically by black people in the U.S. has been the ability of the U.S. ruling class to isolate our struggle from the rest of the world." They go on to say,

"It is critical that the world community understand the history and nature of black people's oppression and liberation struggle inside the U.S. To understand the 500 years of exploitation and oppression of black people, oppression that is integral to the very foundation and existence of U.S. imperialism, gives clarity to U.S. policies around the world today, in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, etc. The peace and progress of the world demands that the aggressive and bellicose offensive by U.S. imperialism against the world's peoples be crushed. The Black Liberation Movement in the U.S. is the key to the destruction of U.S. imperialism.

"The suffering and just cause of black people in the U.S. demands the solidarity and support of the rest of the world. To this end, the African People's Socialist Party (APSP) is initiating

El Salvador Solidarity

As the fraudulent "elections" were taking place in El Salvador on March 28, the revolutionary forces stepped up their armed struggle, disrupting the "election" in many places, and people throughout the world took to the streets to demonstrate their support for the peoples' struggle. 20,000 marched in London. They were joined by 3,000 others in Trafalgar Square. They included organisations working in solidarity with El Salvador, other Latin American countries, Poland and Ireland, political parties and organisations, trade and student unions, peace organisations and organisations of many communities including Chileans, Uruguayans, Guyanans, Irish, Greeks, Sri Lankans, Namibians, Armenians and Turks. Members of the Revolutionary Communist League participated and distributed

MALAYA: Stop the Hangings

FUEMSSO (the Federation of UK and Eire Malaysian and Singaporean Student Organisations), is waging a campaign against the recent spate of hangings carried out by the Malaysian government for so-called "security offences". The cases are tried by a Special Procedure under the Essential (Security Cases Amendment) Regulations of 1975. These regulations make hearsay evidence admissible, allow prosecution witnesses to appear in camera, and restrict the right to cross examine prosecution witnesses. A judge (chosen by the Public Prosecutor) sits alone without a jury. By this procedure (so similar to the Diplock Courts that try political prisoners in the north of Ireland), at least 64 people have been sentenced to death, including

the World Tribunal where representatives of the democratic and revolutionary forces of the world will be asked to sit in judgment of the crimes committed against black people by U.S. and European imperialism. This international court will hear evidence from African people from local and national levels in the U.S. Economic documentation will also be represented concerning the amount of money owed due to the kidnapping of African people from Africa, the forced slave labor, the resources stolen from Africa for the benefit of imperialism, as well as the tremendous loss of life by African people due to the conditions of colonisation. Once this amount is determined, and a judgment made by the Tribunal as to the validity of the claim, the APSP will launch a campaign to demand reparations from the U.S. government for its crimes.

"This event will be of great significance in the face of the reactionary propaganda offensive by U.S. imperialism, and it will have positive effects on black people in the U.S. and all peoples struggling for justice and freedom in the world."

The tribunal is to be held in November of this year. Already, a number of black political activists in Britain have expressed an interest in attending. "Class Struggle" hopes to carry further news of the tribunal.

a leaflet.

In an interview with the Chinese news agency, Xinhua, shortly before the elections, Guillermo Ungo, President of the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador said the elections were a fraud because, "only the extreme rightist parties representing the oligarchy and big capital can remain active and state their views, while the great majority of the people are being subjected to oppression, persecution and control, and prevented from having access to the means of political participation". Ungo pointed out that the struggle of the Salvadorean people has been going on for several decades. It has an internal cause, "the oppression and exploitation of the majority by a minority". The armed struggle continues, and the guerillas have called for a workers' insurrection on May Day.

a 14 year old schoolboy, and 31 of them have been hanged since March 1980, when executions were resumed after an eleven year lapse. Under the Internal Security Act of 1960, a "security offence" is any offence so certified by the Attorney General. The Act allows for indefinite internment without trial. Currently over 1,000 people are so detained. The democratic right to protest is severely curtailed in Malaysia, so relatives of the prisoners have appealed to FUEMSSO, "please save our loved ones". FUEMSSO is demanding 'Stop the hangings', Repeal of the 1960 Act and of the 1975 Regulations. Petitions and more information can be obtained from: FUEMSSO, c/o NUS (International Section), 3 Endsleigh St., London, WC1H 0DU.

EASTER: Martyrs Remembered



IRA Salute to martyred dead. Milltown Cemetery, Belfast, Easter 1982.

Over the Easter weekend commemorations took place throughout Ireland, in innumerable cities, towns and villages, (and in many places overseas where there are communities of Irish people), of all the martyrs who have given their lives for Irish freedom, not just in the Easter Rising of 1916, but throughout the unbroken tradition of Irish revolutionary resistance to hated British rule.

The majority of commemorations featured IRA colour parties, and in at least three places in the occupied north IRA volunteers openly displayed arms to an enthusiastic response from the people.

Taking part in the Belfast parade were many contingents from abroad, including Britain. Republican flute bands from Scotland attended parades in Belfast and a number of other areas.

In Donegal, Belfast republican Seamus Twomey gave the oration, and pointed out,

"In spite of everything, the people of the North stand firm as a rock with the Republican Movement. For it is the sons and daughters of these people who are the Republican Movement. It is these sons and daughters who are languishing in the jails. It is these sons and daughters who are fighting and dying in cities, towns, and villages in the North.

"It is these people who feed and billet our men on the run; who provide us with hiding places to secrete our arms; who provide us with intelligence against our invader."

In Castlewellan, County Down Richard Behal, Sinn Fein director of foreign affairs, stressed that Ireland was not alone in the struggle for freedom, and that oppressed nations across the world were allies.

An important statement from the leadership of the IRA was read out at the commemorations. We reprint extracts below:

"On this, the sixty-sixth anniversary of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the leadership of the Republican Movement extends greetings to friends and supporters at home and abroad, to struggling peoples throughout the world, to the Irish people, to IRA Volunteers and political activists.

"We pay a special tribute to the political prisoners and their families, especially

to the families of all those who have died since Easter 1981.

"While attention since last year has, through necessity, focussed on the H-Blocks and Armagh prisoners, our comrades imprisoned in Britain itself are never far from our minds and we draw your attention, at this time, to the plight of men and women incarcerated there. In British prisons, in a totally alien environment, they maintain their republicanism and while the public focus has not been upon the Irish political prisoners in Britain, we do not forget them or their families.

"The recent change of masters in the twenty-six counties makes little difference in political, national, cultural, social or economic terms for the Irish people. If the survival of the Irish people in terms of spiritual integrity, economic well-being and continued plight of the working people and small farmers were not at stake the situation would indeed be laughable.

"As it is, both major conservative groupings in the twenty-six counties govern their part of Ireland in the interests of the 5% who control 71% of Irish wealth. The Irish ruling class has more in common with the British ruling class than with its own working class. Their common interests are manifest not only in the living conditions of our people but, of course, in the continued existence of partition and in support for the Western alliance. Charles Haughey asserts, as an attempted diversion in his own particular form of verbalised nationalism, that the North is his government's 'first priority' while at the same time Irishmen are imprisoned in Portlaoise prison and, more recently, actually tried in Dublin for escaping from Belfast prison.

"That the Dublin government is able to get away with all this is due to apathy in the twenty-six counties and can be directly attributed to a failure by republicans in that part of Ireland to build sufficiently upon the contradictions inherent in the Dublin government's stance on national, social, economic or cultural issues or to consolidate the gains secured by the sacrifices of the risen nationalist people in the six counties. The Sinn Fein results in the recent twenty-

six county election are a direct result of this failure and a clear indication of the work which has to be undertaken if we are really serious about securing the political leadership of the Irish people.

"Republican resistance must be waged on all fronts, and while the struggle is much more difficult in twenty-six county terms, nonetheless it must be pursued intelligently and with all the vigour at our disposal. We must, as a movement, become involved in people's struggles. We must be active republicans in our own locality fusing together local campaigns with the unresolved national question. To concentrate on one aspect of British imperialism - the military occupation of the six counties - is insufficient if in doing so we ignore other issues more directly affecting our people. That those grievances are caused by the lack of national sovereignty and the lack of real control by ordinary people over their own lives is irrelevant to most people and will remain so unless republicans strive to correct and educate in their own areas, and in their workplaces and among their neighbours. This can only be accomplished by a real involvement in people's affairs.

"In the six counties, as well, there is a belated need for a conscious republican involvement in issues which directly affect ordinary people. The republican base in the six counties must be widened to take in more than military resistance to British troops and the loyalist RUC and UDR. Republicans must be involved with the people we profess to lead in their everyday struggles for better housing and against poverty and unemployment.

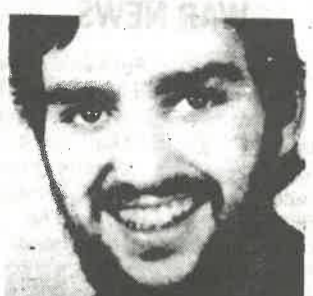
"The Republican Movement is committed to wrecking any arrangement or conspiracy hatched in Westminster or Stormont and we take this opportunity to re-emphasise, once again, our commitment to the complete destruction of British rule in Ireland and to the re-conquest of Ireland by the Irish people. We demand the immediate and complete withdrawal of British troops as a first step in this process.

"Only through armed struggle will we be listened to, only through the struggle waged by the men and women of the IRA can we win national freedom and end division and sectarianism in Ireland. Before and since 1916 armed struggle remains the only option and the only means by which the demand for a British withdrawal can be pressed upon the British government.

"We are confident that the IRA stands ready and able, as the IRA did in 1916, to press throughout the countryside and the city streets the political war against the British occupation forces and the RUC and UDR.

"Republicans remain determined, as always, to secure conditions in which all the people of this country will unite in a thirty-two county democratic, socialist republic. Nothing else will suffice. Nothing else will be accepted."

In London, commemorations were organised by both Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist Party.



"I'll wear no convicts uniform, Nor meekly serve my time, That Britain might brand Ireland's fight, 800 years of crime."

May of this year marks the first anniversaries of the death on hunger strike of four revolutionary Irish martyrs. They died on hunger strike to win political status, as expressed in five concrete demands.

IRA volunteer Bobby Sands died on May 5, IRA volunteer Francis Hughes, once described by the RUC as their, "most wanted man" on May 12, IRA volunteer Raymond McCreech and INLA volunteer Patsy O'Hara both died on May 21.

The prisoners struggle was to undermine the British imperialist strategy of criminalisation, and it asserted to the whole world that Irish patriots are not criminals. As Patsy O'Hara once described it:

"We stand for the freedom of the Irish nation so that future generations will enjoy the prosperity they rightly deserve, free from foreign interference, oppression and exploitation. The real criminals are the British imperialists who have thrived on the blood and sweat of generations of Irishmen."

Irish prisoners are a product of the repression and barbarism of British imperialism. As Bobby Sands said:

"I was only a working class boy from a nationalist ghetto, but it is repression that creates the revolutionary spirit of freedom. I shall not settle until I achieve liberation of my country, until Ireland becomes a sovereign, independent, socialist republic."

The mass support for the hunger strikers (not least the election of Bobby Sands to parliament) destroyed the British lie that the IRA are not supported by the people. Bobby Sands once described his life on active service,

"My life now centred around sleepless nights and stand-bys dodging the Brits and calming nerves to go out on operations. But the people stood by us. The people not only opened the doors of their homes to lend us a hand but they opened their hearts to us. I learned that without the people we could not survive and I knew that I owed them everything."

The Revolutionary Communist League salutes the memory of Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara. The best tribute we can pay them is to intensify our work in solidarity with the struggle of the Irish people, to demand that British troops leave Ireland and that the Irish people are left free to determine their own future.

TOM Conference

The Troops Out Movement (TOM) held its six-monthly conference in London on April 3-4. The conference sent its greetings to the Bradford 12 demonstration that was held in Leeds on the Saturday and passed a resolution condemning the arrests and forthcoming trial of the Bradford 12 as an attempt to intimidate and criminalise the black community. The resolution on the Bradford 12 said "They are suffering the same tactic of criminalisation that has been used by the British state against Irish people fighting for self-determination." A speaker said that this was part of a growing wave of state repression which was typified by the issue of plastic bullets to the police and the appointment of Kenneth Newman (a former chief of the Royal Ulster Constabulary) as the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Speaking to a motion on the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) a delegate said that it vividly demonstrated the injustice of the British state's policies in Ireland and pointed to the powerful impact it had had, particularly in intimidating the Irish community. After deciding to make the campaign against the PTA a major plank of its work in the next year, the conference was told that a TOM pamphlet on the PTA would soon be available.

The Troops Out Movement also decided that it would organise another mass delegation to Ireland in August which will support the anti-internment march on August 8. Apart from visiting Belfast and Derry it is hoped that the delegation will be able to visit Crossmaglen and picket the British Army fort there.

Ireland in Brief

WAR NEWS

Spokesmen for British imperialism have had to swallow their words about the IRA "reeling" from the work of informers after a significant upturn in the armed struggle over recent weeks. The IRA has struck with success at British soldiers (uniformed and undercover), the RUC and at commercial targets. In a recent interview in "An Phoblacht/Republican News", an IRA spokesperson, authorised to speak on behalf of the leadership, said, "Our volunteers operating in nationalist areas are like fish in friendly waters and it is this close relationship between the IRA and the people which dogs all counter-insurgency attempts at defeating us."

PLASTIC DEATH

Eleven year old Steven McConomy died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast on April 19, three days after a British Army plastic bullet literally pulped his brain. Steven is the sixth youngster between the ages of 10 and 15 who has been murdered by this lethal British Army weapon.

Steven came from Derry. After his death women held a black banner march in the Bogside and the youth later attacked the British Army with petrol bombs. Repression breeds fiercer resistance from the Irish people. And that is precisely what appears to worry the "Morning Star", paper of the revisionist 'Communist' Party. Criticising the use of plastic bullets they write (April 19), "Rather than quell terrorism, their use has made recruiting for the terrorists easier."

These phoney 'communists' have set themselves up in business to advise imperialism on how to suppress the people. Their utter treachery is beneath contempt.

WAGES

In the March issue of "Class Struggle" we wrote that, "no bourgeois election will solve the crisis of imperialism in Ireland." Since then a new (Fianna Fail) government has been elected which has proceeded to introduce anti-working class measures almost exactly along the same lines as those proposed by the last (Fine Gael-Labour) government. With the introduction of a new pay-related social insurance rate, an average pay packet in the Irish Free State has been cut by 10%. The working class standard of living is being driven down. Workers need a 25% pay increase if their standard of living is not to fall. Maximum wage increases have been in the region of 15%. In some areas, including Aer Lingus workers at Dublin Airport, workers walked out on strike when they received their new "lighter" pay packets, and major demonstrations are planned for May Day. Banks have announced a virtual freeze on private loans. In the background stands the huge national debt. In the first quarter of this year alone £429 million was spent paying interest on the national debt.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND

H-BLOCK - THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES



On Sunday 14 March, hundreds of H-Block-Armagh activists from committees all over Ireland gathered in Dublin for a recall conference of the National H-Block-Armagh Committee. The fine attendance at the meeting showed that the campaigning work of the prisoners would not be allowed just to disappear after the hunger strikes but would continue and develop until all the demands put forward by the prisoners had been met.

A motion moved by the National Committee was overwhelmingly passed. It called, amongst other things, for continuing work for the remainder of the prisoners' five demands, for a vigorous programme of commemorations for the martyred hunger strikers and for the defence of the political activists facing the courts as a result of H-Block protests in both parts of Ireland.

A couple of days after the conference, "Class Struggle" correspondents who were visiting Belfast interviewed Fra McCann, a former blanketman, who had been elected to the National Committee at the conference.

Fra told us of the concessions the men in the H-Blocks had won. For example, the men are allowed to wear their own clothes and they get out every other day for free association. But Fra made it clear to us that there was no room for complacency.

PAROLE

"There are many cases of harassment and intimidation."



Particularly sensitive is the question of parole: "The Northern Ireland Office had announced that there was a change in the parole system and that parole would be freely given to anyone where a member of the family was either seriously ill or about to die. Well, just this week there was a young lad ... who has been in jail nine years and he's in the Blocks. His father had a terminal illness and he was notified and the prison authorities refused to allow him to go to the hospital to see his father and his father died on Saturday."

Fra was referring to Brendan Mailey. Shortly after the interview, in another spiteful act, Brendan was refused permission to attend his father's funeral. This is just one of the innumerable instances of harassment occurring in

H-Block and Armagh.

Fra warned that: "The prisoners say that if nothing's done ... it's very possible that another situation could develop like 1976." Fra is referring here to when Kieran Nugent refused to wear prison clothing and initiated the blanket protest.

Fra explained that there had inevitably been a certain falling away in H-Block activity at the end of the hunger strike. He explained that people were under the impression that, because the men now had their own clothing, "the protest had finished."

However, the committees were now being reactivated, and, whilst it is good to involve as many sections of society as possible, Fra left us in no doubt as to where he thought the stress had to be put.

"I think the only way you can ever achieve anything is directed from your own people, that is the working class people of Ireland. It's OK, you have a lot of groups and individuals who came into it for a short period of time and left it. But it's always the working class people who helped during the campaign from the start and it was always them who said you'll have to come back to it if the situation develops again."

Like former Armagh prisoner Sile Darragh (see article in our last issue), Fra attached great importance to international solidarity work.

"As a prisoner, I know myself that it was always hear-

tening to hear of protests: in England, Europe, America, all over the world, and it did a hell of a lot to raise morale within the camp."

"Sinn Fein always kept the prisoners informed of anything that went on. News went in every day on visits of different protests around the world ... The prisoners were always kept informed, and they still are."

Giving his views on the main tasks for solidarity movements abroad in the coming period, Fra told us that they should: "Get themselves into a campaign where they can highlight not just the prisoners, but the occupation of Ireland...and the need for British withdrawal. I think that everything should be geared towards that end."

Forthcoming events

MAY DAY

Saturday May 1st: Anti imperialist rally to celebrate May Day. Speakers from Moslem Students Society (Iran), Democratic Revolutionary Front (El Salvador), Bangladesh Workers' Association, Eritrean Workers' Assoc., Pan Africanist Congress (Azania), People's Liberation Organisation (Afghanistan), RCLB. Others invited include: Sinn Fein, IRSP, People's Redemption Party (Nigeria).
2.30 pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, LONDON, WC 1. Followed by evening social: 8.30 pm 'till late at Hargraves Hall, Hargraves Rd., off Junction Rd., LONDON, N 19. Admission to social: £2. Unwaged: 50p. Includes food.
Organised by Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

May Day Demonstration. Assembles Tower Hill, London. Contingent calling for, "Victory to the Irish people! Troops Out Now!", assembles 12.45 pm.

IRELAND SOLIDARITY

Wednesday May 5th: Remember Bobby Sands! - Black flag protest outside Islington Town Hall, Upper St., London, N 1. 4-6 pm.
- Vigil in Kilburn Sq., London. Called by Sinn Fein. 8-9 pm.
- Demonstration called by Leeds TOM. 6.30 pm. Potternewton Park, Leeds 7. Followed by rally. 7.45 pm Trades Club, Concert Hall, Saville Mount, Leeds 7.

Thursday May 6th: Bobby Sands Commemoration. McNamara Hall, Irish Centre, Murray St., London, NW 1. Guest of honour: Owen Carron MP. Music, Food, Poetry, Tributes. 7.30pm Admission £1. Called by Sinn Fein.

Saturday May 8th: Demonstration - Britain Out of Ireland! Self Determination for the Irish People! Assemble 1 pm. Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, London, for march to rally at County Hall. Speakers include Owen Carron MP. Followed by evening social: Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Rd. Christy Moore and other Irish, African, Iranian, Latin American musicians. 7.30 pm to 11 pm.

FREE THE BRADFORD 12!

Pickets every day. Mass pickets every Wednesday. Leeds Crown Court.



Demonstrate May 8th

The May 8 Demonstration Organising Committee is working hard to build the biggest and broadest possible demonstration to mark the first anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands; the 27 year old MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone died after 66 days on hunger strike, on May 5 last year. Nine of his comrades (volunteers of the IRA and INLA) were to die on hunger strike over the next six months, in the struggle to gain political status as expressed in five concrete demands.

The May 8 Demonstration Organising Committee is organising around the slogans, "Britain out of Ireland! Self determination for the Irish people". It aims to honour the memory and struggle of Bobby Sands and his comrades by getting maximum numbers of people onto the streets of London to declare that Britain has no right to be in Ireland.

Speaking in support of the March, GLC leader Ken Livingstone said,

"Those who argue that British troops are keeping the peace in northern Ireland could not be more wrong. Britain is the problem and the only way peace can come is when Britain withdraws and allows a united Ireland to determine its own future. Those who wish to end the killing must first understand that this is the final stage of a long colonial war."

Speakers at the rally after

the march will include Owen Carron, MP, and Plaid Cymru MP Dafydd Ellis Thomas. It is also hoped that a relative of a hunger striker will speak.

The march assembles at Hyde Park at 1 pm and will march to a rally at County Hall. From 7.30 to 11 pm, there will be a cultural evening in Brixton Town Hall where Irish, African, Iranian and Latin American musicians will perform in a demonstration of anti imperialist unity.

"Class Struggle" calls on its readers to join the May 8 demonstration to pay tribute to Bobby Sands and his comrades, and to show the British government that they can kill the revolutionary, but never the revolution.