

# CLASS STRUGGLE

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

Vol 7 No. 5 MAY 1983 MONTHLY

20p

## Colin Roach: STRUGGLE CONTINUES

'Class Struggle' correspondent.  
At the time of going to press, the inquest into the death of Colin Roach, who died in the entrance to Stoke Newington police station on January 12th, had not yet begun. Postponed from 18th April, the inquest was again postponed on 25th April because of legal arguments about where the inquest is to be held. The Roach Family Support Committee, and indeed the community as a whole, want the inquest held in Hackney Town Hall where there is plenty of room for members of the family, the campaign and the public. The coroner has insisted on St Pancras corners' court which has room for only thirty people. On April 29th, the judge ruled that it should be held in Clerkenwell Court. This is a partial victory for the campaign as Clerkenwell has space for more people than St Pancras although it is not in Hackney itself.

Meanwhile, on the streets, the police are still trying to destroy the campaign. This has included:

\* On March 26th, a picket of a court hearing of people arrested in earlier activities, was smashed up. Picketers were assaulted and arrested and then seven were charged by police.

\* The police have persistently harassed and arrested black youth active on demonstrations and pickets. One example is Cirus Noor, spokesman for Revolutionary Black Activists. According to the bulletin of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign: (the police) "Arrested Cirus Noor no less than four times. Twice whilst on demonstrations about Colin Roach's death, once while leaving an Anti-Apartheid Movement picket of South Africa House (three other supporters were also arrested with him whilst leaving the AAM picket) and once whilst on a bus!"

\* On April 18th when the inquest should have opened, the police were out in force: they deployed five coach-loads of police and various control vans in and around the coroner's court.

The number of arrests is now 98 and rising. Court cases are being fought and only one of those charged so far has pleaded guilty. To date (27th April) 34 charges against 23 people have been heard. Half of those have been thrown out (14), or dropped (3). The 14 charges 'proved' have resulted in fines totalling £400, conditional discharges and possible prison sentences for 3 people (awaiting reports).

The Roach Family Support Committee and many other local black people are determined to continue the fight to find out the truth by pressing for a public inquiry. At the same time they are demanding that all charges are dropped against those arrested. The Roach Family Support Committee has called a demonstration on 14th May and a mass turnout is essential in support of their demands.

FOR AN INDEPENDENT  
PUBLIC INQUIRY!

END POLICE HARASSMENT  
AND MASS ARRESTS!

DROP THE CHARGES  
AGAINST THE 98!

MARCH AND RALLY

Saturday May 14th  
Assemble 12.30 pm

Bethnal Green Gardens  
Near Bethnal Green Tube  
LONDON E2

## Bobby Sands Remembered

On Sunday May 1, May Day, some 800 people marched in Birmingham in honour of Bobby Sands and his comrades, on the occasion of the second anniversary of their murder on hunger strike by British imperialism. The march was organised by Sinn Fein (Britain) and there were contingents from five Sinn Fein Cumainn, as well as two Republican bands from Scotland. Other contingents included the Indian Workers' Association (Birmingham), Pakistani Workers' Association, the RCLB and other left groups. The noisiest and most militant was the 200-strong Building an Irish Solidarity Movement contingent which, in addition to numerous Irish Solidarity Committees, drew support from Iranian comrades, and black youth from the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign.

At a Rally held at the end of the march, the main speaker was a leading member from Sinn Fein in Ireland who said that Bobby Sands inspired all those fighting imperialism, whether of Britain, America or the Eastern Bloc.



In a forceful speech, Tariq Mehmood of the Pakistani Workers' Association said, "The British Labour Movement has sold out the Irish. The British people must now choose: Either you stand with the revolutionary forces of the future or you stand with reaction. We give our wholehearted support to the Republican Movement." Avtar Joughl of the Indian Workers'

Association took up the same theme, and gave the IWA's "unreserved, unqualified" support to the Republican Movement. Amongst messages read out at the rally were ones from the Revolutionary Communist League and Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

cont. p4, col. 5 - 'Bobby Sands'

# Belfast - Brixton



## FIGHTING THE BRITISH STATE

by Brendan Hill.

Just one week after a delegation of Asian national minority political activists visited Belfast as the guests of Sinn Fein, (see article by Tariq Mehmood in this issue), the presence of a Sinn Fein (Britain) speaker on the platform of the Brixton Defence Campaign's conference on the second anniversary of the Brixton uprising threw the 'Standard' and 'Sun' newspapers into a frenzy of anti-Irish and anti-black racism as they crowed for the banning of this celebration of Black/Irish unity in action.

The conference was due to be held at the Abeng Community Centre and last throughout the day and evening of Saturday 9th April. However, leaping at the opportunity presented by the press campaign, the Department of the Environment ordered the cancellation of the hall booking. The Lambeth Council for Community Relations snapped to attention and the job was done. It takes more than the interference of a few bureaucrats and uncle Toms, however, to stop the oppressed from organising against their repression. Brixton's Ritzy cinema immediately threw its doors open to the conference and so it went ahead, Sinn Fein (Britain) speaker and all.

Speaking on behalf of Sinn Fein (Britain), Lyndall Stein gave a graphic picture of the repression and resistance to be found every day on the streets and in the homes of northern Ireland. She related how the measures developed in Ireland soon found their way onto the streets of Britain, not just those of the oppressors but also those of the oppressed, as seen in the uprisings since 1980 in Britain. This speech drew a tremendous response from the other participants.

POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE  
BILL

Speakers from the Brixton Defence Campaign, Black Unity and Freedom Party, Black Liberation Front and Afro-Caribbean Self Help Organisation Birmingham, detailed the developments in state repression and the resistance to it since the uprisings, concentrating their fire on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (Police Bill for short), a measure which itself represents a devel-

opment and extension of the powers provided under the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act, founded on the terrorising of the Irish national minority community in Britain. For instance, under the PTA "suspects" can be held without charge for an initial period of 48 hours, after which referral to the Home Secretary is required for an extension. Under the Police Bill proposals, the initial 48 hours is incorporated direct, but an extension to 96 hours requires only the nod of a local magistrate! Further 96 hour extensions would be available through the use of "holding charges" while further investigations are carried out into further charges. And so ad infinitum.

Speaking for the Brixton Defence Campaign, Cecil Gutzmore gave a thorough exposition of the impact of the act and the necessity of building a massive campaign to oppose and defeat it. He pointed to the way that the main, if not only, reason that many church and professional people are opposed to the act in its then formulation is that of the provisions of clause 10 relating to the seizing of confidential medical etc. files. The role of the Bill in increasing the restriction of democratic rights of the oppressed is largely ignored by these gentry, as it is by the Labour Party.

CAMPAIGN TO CURB POLICE POWERS

Since the conference the Brixton Defence Campaign has been instrumental in the formation of the Campaign to Curb Police Powers which is playing a leading role in organising a mass demonstration against the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill on Sunday May 22nd. The demonstration will assemble at 11 a.m. at Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, London and set off at 1 p.m. to march to a rally in Hyde Park. Leading up to this crucial demonstration there is a day conference against the Bill to be held at Hackney Town Hall on Sunday May 15th starting at 10.30 am - credential forms from room 116, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, LONDON E9, from which address leaflets and posters for use in building for the march can also be obtained. The conference follows the day of the important Colin Roach demonstration on the 14th, which all readers should do their very best to attend.

Mural by Belfast youth.

# Irish National Liberation Through the Eyes of the Oppressed

Britain's oldest colonial outpost, after centuries of bloody struggles is still at war, a war which the British media are always trying to mystify. We are told of this amazing phenomenon called the "Irish Problem". Time and time again the Brits tell us that the forces of Republicanism have no support among the nationalist people. Even as yet another British soldier is sent home in the coffin of imperialism - we are told of the "Irish Problem".

## BELFAST DELEGATION

On our recent visit to Ireland, we were moved beyond description at the way the nationalist people reacted to us. Before leaving England we thought of Ireland as a country at war. On arrival we saw a country at war. However we were duped, by the British media, into thinking that the war was simply fought by the IRA, INLA and the British army. This much is obvious to an idiot - although successive British governments have denied it.

Northern Ireland in her pride wears all the ravages of war: the terrorism of the occupying army; the thousands of prisoners rotting in jail; the hatred of the occupiers of Ireland; the poverty of the oppressed. Fear stalks the streets in the form of sly, crawling RUC murder wagons. Shining through all this is the resilience of the Irish people, to stand up against the might of the British army.

The war in Ireland is being fought by the IRA, by the INLA, by the POW's. It is being fought by the nationalist youth, by the unemployed, in fact the war is being fought by the whole of the nationalist people. The armed forces of Republicanism are one outstanding component of this.

## HUNGER STRIKE

The gallant Irish hunger strikers, through their courageous stance, won the hearts, souls and admiration of millions of struggling people across the world. But we were told they were misguided extremists who had no support among the nationalist people. One wonders how Bobby Sands was elected as an MP.

"A freak" cried out the British Government. "Emotional blackmail." The impartial British media put forward its own version: "A freak. Emotional blackmail." Owen Carron is elected as the representative of the nationalist people. They can no longer talk in terms of emotional blackmail - lost for words the Brits cry out in horror. They concede they have a problem. They project Ireland as a mish-mash of confusion which only the Brits can solve; a solution however, which is the non-solution of increasing repression and ignoring the advancing forces of Irish freedom.

For those of us whose countries have been ravaged by British colonisation, for those of us whose countries are being ravaged by imperialism, for those of us who live in Britain under the repressive machinery of racism - we know there is no complication. Ireland is at war. A war of national liberation. The whole world can see this, but the Brits attempt to deny it. Then hypocrisy is a very old British trade mark.

## BRIT REPRESSION - IRISH REBELLION

Whilst walking down New Lodge Road, we were heartened to see the Mighty British army and the Sectarian RUC being chased by a group of nine year olds! We were stopped by the Army - armoured cars screeched to a halt - soldiers armed to the teeth came running towards us. We were frightened to say the least, but then we noticed the soldier was shaking with fear.

His fear is simple to understand. He is in enemy territory. He is not only scared of the IRA, but of the people around him, for every one is anti-Brit. The Irish cannot be terrorised into submission. It is written on the walls, it is written in Irish history, above all it is written on the faces of the British soldiers.

## THE BRIT 'LEFT'

In Britain there are these strange creatures who call them-

banner, on the question of Ireland turns its back even quicker than the rest. From top to bottom it has sold out the Irish. At a recent Labour Party Young Socialists' conference, a reporter from the gutter press was ejected on the grounds that he may report their "debate" on Ireland incorrectly, i.e. he may somehow convey that the LPYS supports the IRA or the Republican people. How he is supposed to do this when their "line" is: "Condemn IRA terror - Condemn terrorism on all sides", is a mystery. On Ireland the British state, like the Pied Piper, plays its flute, all the rats come out of their gutters and gaily follow. They dance to the tune of imperialism whilst holding the flag of socialism. Their job is to confuse the people, a task they carry out with masterly perfection.

## LABOUR BARONS

The British Lords of Labour, the Barons of the trade union movement, and all the labour aristocracy, are more "advanced" than their pay-masters. The trade union vote always goes

broken by the internal contradictions of Portugal, but by the armed resistance of FRELIMO in Mozambique and the MPLA in Angola. Their struggles weakened Portugal to such an extent that one blow by the workers and peasants of Portugal sent Caetano running for his life and sent tidal waves of apprehension through the imperialist powers. So is it true of Ireland. A united, free, socia-

their colonial outpost. Wherever the British went they let loose rivers of blood.

## IMPERIAL ARROGANCE

The history of black people is covered in blood. The enslavement of the peoples of Africa. The colonisation of the peoples of India. The extermination of the native Americans, so-called "Red Indians", are but



Javid Ahmed Qureshi of the Manchester Asian Youth Movement with Bobby Lavery of New Lodge Sinn Fein during the delegation's recent visit.

list republic of Ireland, on the doorstep of the mother of modern-day slavery, would unleash forces imperialism could

some of the glories of Imperial Britain.

## REVOLUTIONARY UNITY

Over Easter, a delegation of Asian national minority activists visited Belfast at the invitation of North Belfast Sinn Fein. They were Tariq Mehmood of the Pakistani Workers' Association, Mohammed Asghar of Southall Rights, Sabir Singh Johal of the Birmingham Youth Movement and Javid Ahmed Qureshi of the Manchester Asian Youth Movement. "An Phoblacht/Republican News" reported on their visit as follows:

"Their crammed schedule began with a guided tour of the New Lodge area in North Belfast, where Sinn Fein cumann members outlined the high level of unemployment affecting the area coupled with bad housing conditions and the added feature of harassment and imprisonment which this small area has suffered over the last 13 years, aspects of life in the six counties which generally affect

the overwhelming majority of nationalist areas throughout the North.

"That evening the delegation were entertained to a cultural display of song and historical recitals at the Felons Club on the Falls Road.

"The following day they visited, on foot, the different small pockets of nationalist areas in North Belfast including Newington, Glandore, the Bone and Ardoyne, knocking randomly on people's doors, asking them how they cope from day to day and what affect British occupation has had on their lives.

"The visitors were given a warm reception by the nationalist people who were just as interested in them and their special problems as they undoubtedly were in theirs.

"Saturday was monopolised by several lengthy meetings with West Belfast elected represent-

ative Gerry Adams and other meetings with members of Sinn Fein's Women's Affairs Department and Sinn Fein youth. The next stop for the delegation was the Short Strand and Markets areas where again they were introduced to local people by the Sinn Fein Cumainn based there.

"On Sunday the delegation attended the main republican Belfast Easter commemoration parade at which they were impressed by the vast turn-out and open display of public support for the armed struggle and on Monday they attended the annual New Lodge Road commemoration."

'Class Struggle' warmly greets this internationally significant meeting of revolutionary forces, and is very pleased to be able to publish an article by Tariq Mehmood, National Convenor of the Pakistani Workers' Association (Britain) arising from the visit.

selves anti-imperialist. They shout "No Cruise. No this. No that." In fact they shout almost in unison about everything and anything so long as it is a few thousand miles away or so long as they can satisfy their liberal consciences that they are doing something "useful". But Ireland - "Oh No." They'll scream: "The Irish Problem." The "Irish Problem" is a litmus test for Britain, for the British politician, for the British Left, for the British working class and in fact for the British people. When we apply the litmus test they all turn a true imperialist blue! Labour, Tory, Liberal and the new comedians of the SDP, have all sold out the Irish. In fact their political survival depends upon maintaining and supporting colonial domination over Ireland.

Sadly, in Britain, the genuine anti-imperialist forces are few. The British Left, Liberals etc. came together in the 60's to demonstrate against the US actions in Vietnam. But over Ireland, they turn their backs. That massive bastion of imperialism, the British Labour Party, the shackle of the working class, who at times parade under a progressive

against the cause of the Irish. Until the British working class can shed the shameful history of the British state on Ireland, it can never itself be free, nor can it join the forces of the future, the advance of the peoples of the world towards a just society - towards socialism. "A nation that oppresses another can never itself be free." Marx. It was true then and it is true today. It is a truth the British working class must grasp, but their history shows that they will not. However they must change.

Contrary to the colonial attitudes of the British 'Left', in particular the Labour party 'Left', Ireland will not gain its freedom because the British workers suddenly arise but the exact opposite. The Irish through their armed struggle will break the back of British imperialism.

## NO BRIT SOLUTION

No country has ever gained independence because of the benevolence of the imperialist power, or the people of the imperialist country. The backbone of the fascist dictatorship of the Salazar/Caetano regime in colonial Portugal was not

control. Whilst the British celebrate their barbaric conquest of the Malvinas Islands, one cannot help but feel the existence of this animal called the "Falklands Factor", in a word - reaction. The British are still glorifying in their victory over Argentina. We see pictures of the Mighty British Armada and the British Army, sweeping in in defence of half a million sheep. But ask them to look a little closer to their own borders and they don't want to know. The death of a British soldier only just makes the news nowadays, whereas Prince Charles falling off a horse is given indepth analysis.

Britain is a decadent parasitic society. Whilst its followers sing and sing again over the "Falklands Factor" and "Rule Britannia", the relic of bygone days passes the time by entertaining strange men in her bedroom and her parasitic offspring shake hands with kangaroos and fall off horses. They tell us about the Royal visit to Australia, but not that they annihilated the Australian people. That it is on the bones of the original Australian people that the British built

"You tell all white men, 'America First'. We are the only ones, truly, that are 100 per cent. We therefore ask you while you are teaching school children about America first, teach them the truth about the first Americans.

We do not know if school histories are pro-British, but we do know that they are unjust to the life of our people - the American Indian. They call all white victories, battles, and all Indian victories, massacres.

History books teach that Indians were murderers - is it murder to fight in self-defence? Indians killed white men because white men took their lands, ruined their hunting grounds, burned their forests, destroyed their buffalo. White men penned our people in reservations, then took away the reservations. White men who rise to protect their property are called patriots - Indians who do the same are called murderers.

White men call Indians treacherous - but no mention is made of broken treaties on the part of the white man ...

White men call Indians thieves - and yet we lived in frail skin lodges and needed no locks or iron bars. White men call Indians savages. What is civilisation? Its marks are a noble religion and philosophy, original arts, stirring music, rich story and legend. We had these .....

Grand Council Fire of American Indians, 1927.

Northern Ireland has been made into an "Orange" state or "Ulster", that is the only bit of Ireland that the Brits are ostensibly interested in, in that which is "theirs". They would have all believe that the only Irish history worth knowing is that of Ian Paisley, of Carson. But for the courageous stance of the nationalist people, they would have the whole world deceived. It is a tactic they have used everywhere. They tell us that Arabia's struggle for freedom would not have gotten anywhere, had it not been for "Lawrence

# "We Will Win!" Asian workers fight back

Strikers and their families have been receiving threatening phone calls.

## SUPPORT

21 Asian workers at Aire Valley Yarns, Farsley near Bradford, have been on strike since March 14th when first their shop steward, Liaquat Ali, then all the other workers, were told that they were sacked. Management is refusing to negotiate.

### SUPER-EXPLOITATION

Aire Valley Yarns, an old-fashioned mill which produces carpet yarn, is run by co-directors Malcolm Rawson and Derek Bedford. Conditions and wages are appalling. The basic wage is £1.02 an hour for a standard 60-hour week and weekend work is more or less compulsory. Conditions are dirty and dangerous. For example, brakes on spinning spindles do not work and the air is filled with dirty fibres, which make the eyes sore and can cause blindness.

### UNION ORGANISED

Trouble started two months ago when the Asian workers began to organise a branch of the

Transport and General Workers' Union. All the Asian workers, but one joined the union. The 8 white workers, including some staff, refused to join. Liaquat Ali, the men's shop steward, was warned by the shop floor manager that 'it had been tried before, and those who tried it had got the sack'. Later, he was called in by Bedford who offered him a tenner to forget the union. Ali replied that all the workers could do with a pay rise and refused the money. After more discussions, getting more threatening now, Liaquat Ali was told he was sacked. The directors say he was made redundant.

### SACKED

Liaquat Ali was sacked on March 14th with one week's notice. Later that day he was offered first £50, and later £200, to leave straight away. When the other workers realised what was happening, they stopped their machines and refused to work. Bedford threatened to call the police. When they came to work next day they were all given their notice 'in view of your

failing to do your duties in respect of your contract of employment.'

### PICKET

Since then, the workers have kept up a 24-hour picket outside the mill. Management has

no dogs allowed, Mr Ali." Rawson has claimed that it is the "illiteracy" of the Asian workers that stops them understanding their wage slips.

Management have told the police that the sacked men were intimidating Asians now working at the mill. The police have pick-



come out with open racism and using every means they know to break the workers' solidarity. Bedford said to Liaquat Ali when he came to the mill: "Sorry,

ed up Liaquat Ali and his brother and held them for hours. They are also constantly present on the picket line to protect those going in to work.

The strikers and their supporters see the key to success is building support in the Asian community, particularly in Bradford. As their cause becomes known, more men are unwilling to work at the mill. Bedford and Rawson have even resorted to smuggling in men inside carpet rolls.

The Asian Youth Movement, Bradford, have been supporting the workers, particularly on the picket line. Over 100 people attended a public meeting held in Bradford on April 10th and heard Darcus Howe, from 'Race Today' and other speakers. The strike has now been made official and has the support of the local Trades Council.

Liaquat Ali summed up: "They've got the money and the power and they're treating us like dogs. But we will win it and I don't care how long it takes."

Messages of support and donations can be sent to: Liaquat Ali, 34 Dirkhill Street, Bradford 7.

of Arabia" - a white man, a Brit. The only man capable of talking to the animals in Africa had to be a white man - Tarzan, although still in his nappies he soon learnt that the animals talked English. Of course India could not be India, without "Clive of India", the hundreds of millions of Indians are merely incidental to Clive. Of course, America did not exist before Columbus "discovered" it!

### THE GOMBEEN MEN

The Irish people's struggle for national liberation is being fought in an international arena. It is a struggle always gaining strength. Just as the Irish have traitors in their ranks, so too have we in the countries of our origin and in our midst in England.

For its survival, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, fights to maintain the occupation of Northern Ireland. The Free State governments who imprison Irish freedom fighters for their actions either in Britain, or in British-occupied Ireland, openly declare their allegiance to their masters - the Brits. Throughout the British Raj in India, reactionary Indian rulers and ruling classes, openly sided with the British for their own self interests - and India was raped whilst the Indian people were massacred.

Wherever the European imperialist powers went, they abused the hospitality of native peoples of various lands. They used it to transform themselves into monstrous overlords. Such is the history of Africa. Such is the history of India. Such is the history of Ireland. An African saying: "Before the white man came, we had the land and they had the bible. Now we've got the bible and they've got the land."

### BLACKS IN BRITAIN

Britain doesn't like it, but she has a massive black presence in her midst. The British state has made life a living hell for our people. The "champions" of the working class, the British Labour Party, have a history of broken promises as far as black people are concerned. They have initiated, supported and maintained the barbaric racist immigration laws. It is they who took away the POW status from the Irish freedom fighters and introduced internment.

Unlike the British Labour Lords, the politicians, the so-called Left and other agents of

Britain, we do not cry when the Irish execute their oppressors. Particularly among our youth, not only is no sorrow shown at the death of a British soldier, but a unity is born. We have absolutely nothing to lose in Irish freedom. In fact the exact opposite - it brings the day of our freedom closer, and the freedom of our countries from the parasitic control of imperialism. This is a unity only the oppressed can understand, appreciate and enhance.

The historic declaration by Connolly of 1916 was not an isolated act of resistance by the Irish people. It was part and parcel of the great tidal wave of resistance by the people of the world, and the historic Russian Revolution of 1917.

### EASTER AND AMRITSAR

Connolly was murdered in 1916, massive executions of Republicans followed and the Civil War took place. Whilst in Amritsar in India, in 1919 one of the many slayings of unarmed civilians was taking place.

# 'we were moved beyond description'

Whilst the various vested interests in Ireland were begging in the late 1800's and early 1900's for a "Dominion Status within the Empire", in India after 1885, the Indian National Congress, joined later by the All India Muslim League, were out with their begging bowls for a "Dominion Status within the Empire". But these were the limitations of the time for the genuine forces of liberation were still developing.

### DIVIDE AND RULE

"Divide and Rule" was the Motto of Imperial Britain. So it is today. They lasted in India by getting one state to fight another, by giving privileges to the few and robbing the many, by creating groups with vested interests in the British so that their survival would depend upon the British presence. In India they created the Zamindar class (landlords), they created private and land property, which did not exist before. By securing the support of the Zamindars and other vested interests, they exploited existing contradictions. They consciously put Hindu landlords

over Muslim peasants and vice versa. Whenever the oppressed peasants rose up, they let loose their army and justified it by saying they were stopping a "religious war", the very situation they had created.

They duped and forced Asians to go to Africa. They created a buffer zone between themselves and the African peoples. The Asians became the comprador class, whose survival depended on British colonisation. In some areas they created landlords among the African peoples, whose survival would similarly depend on British presence.

In India they transformed the just struggles of the peasants into a "religious war". But religion does not fight, it is those that use religion for the furtherance of their own aims that fight. In Ireland they say that Catholics and Protestants are at war. But there is no war between Catholicism and Protestantism, as in India there neither was nor is, a war between Hinduism and Islam. It is a war between the rising

forces of freedom and imperialism, which imperialism projects as a "religious war".

In Ireland they created a privileged stratum among the Protestant people. They are not dissimilar to the agents of British colonial rule that existed in India, nor the comprador class of Asians in Africa. The division of Ireland is in line with the conscious policies of various British governments down the ages. It is a division they cannot extend much further.

### THE LANGUAGE OF IMPERIALISM

Whenever a country has fought for independence, its freedom fighters have always been labelled as "terrorists" and its traitors as heroes. The gallant freedom fighters of the Mau Mau sent shivers down the spines of Britain. In Britain the only reaction was one of horror at the Mau Mau, but never at the horrors of British colonisation of Kenya. The Zimbabwean liberation struggle was no different. One day Mugabe was a "terrorist", the next they were all calling him

Prime Minister Mr Mugabe. Whilst the Israeli Army butchered the Palestinians and the Lebanese people in Beirut, it was the victims of Israeli terror that were called the terrorists. The British state carries a massive burden of shame, but shamefulness has never deterred the Brits - only armed resistance.

The labelling of freedom fighters as "terrorists" is not confined to the Brits. It is used by all imperialist powers. The French used it in Algeria. The Yanks are using it with the Palestinians and in the Latin American countries.

When the British have finally been forced to leave, they have invariably left with the best terms for themselves. When they left Kenya, they installed Kenyatta, who dutifully imprisoned the Mau Mau leadership and massacred anyone who associated with them. Right up to his death, he imprisoned anyone who spoke against imperialist plunder of Kenya.

In 1885 the British organised the Indian National Congress. In 1906 they organised the All India Muslim League. Both in due course had to fight for some form of independence. The British objective was to create docile, pro-Brit organisations in the face of rising revolutionary nationalism. In Ireland the SDLP plays a similar role.

### GANDHI - "TRAITOR EXTRAORDINAIRE"

Recently the British have started to put yet more blinkers on the history of the Indian peoples. Anyone who has seen the much publicised film "Gandhi" cannot help feeling that Gandhi was a good guy, unless they were familiar with Indian history. In the first historical Indian Hartal (General Strike) over 300 million people rose up and stood like a mountain against the British Raj. They demanded freedom and the death of the British Empire. Gandhi did not represent the interests of the Indian people. He represented the interests of the Indian ruling classes. Gandhi was

terrified at the prospect of an Indian revolution. He, along with his class, called off the Hartal, with the full blessing of the British. An Indian writer commented: "Indeed the mountain was lifted, and it showed a fully grown mouse underneath." Lest some are duped into thinking that Gandhi was against violence or the violence of the British, he refused to support Indian troops of the British Raj who refused to fire on unarmed Indian people. He let them be court-martialled and sentenced to decades in prison. Gandhi was a traitor extraordinaire.

### SPECTRE OF '81

The summer of 1981 shook the very foundations of England. Over 20 cities rebelled against racism and the oppression of black people. We learnt the lesson of what the British have been learning in Ireland. As the Irish were overjoyed with the developments in Britain, so too are we at your march for freedom.

Whilst the British state, the labour and trade union movement, the British Labour Party and its hangers-on, the 'Left', play cat and mouse with each other, basically saying the same thing, we openly state our unconditional support at your march for freedom. Having suffered at the hands of the patronising, opportunist 'Left Wing' grouplets in Britain, we have learnt to develop our own methods of struggle, and our own unity first. We will support the Irish people in whatever way they choose to fight. You have chosen. The Brits took and kept Ireland through armed force. Only through the barrel of the gun will Ireland be free.

British history has been one where she has been at war with the people of the world since time immemorial. From Ireland, to Africa, to Asia, to the Americas, back to Ireland. It is a war she has been losing and Ireland will be no exception.

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE OPPRESSED!

VICTORY TO THE IRA!  
VICTORY TO THE NATIONALIST PEOPLE!

DEATH TO BRITISH IMPERIALISM!  
DOWN WITH THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF IRELAND!  
IRELAND UNFREE WILL NEVER BE AT PEACE!

Tariq Mehmood, National Convener, Pakistani Workers Association (Britain).

# national freedom

If members of a conquering nation call upon the nation they had conquered and continued to hold down to forget their specific nationality and position, to "sink national differences" and so forth, that was not Internationalism, it was nothing but preaching to them submission to the yoke, and attempting to justify and to perpetuate the dominion of the conqueror under the cloak of Internationalism. It was sanctioning the belief, all too common among the English working men, that they were superior beings .....

Engels, May 1872.

On 25 March of this year, Gurinder Singh Mandla and his father, Sewa Singh Mandla, won their case that the headmaster of a Birmingham school, Park Grove Private School, had discriminated against Gurinder Singh Mandla by refusing to allow him to wear a turban to school. Their case had originally been brought against the headmaster, Mr Dowell Lee, in Birmingham in December 1980. They lost this, and the appeal that was heard by three judges including Lord Denning, in July 1982. At the time Lord Denning suggested that the Race Relations Act, under which the case was brought, was being used as "an engine of oppression." However the three judges who heard the case this March ruled that the Sikh community is "a racial group" and that "the turban is a sign of communal identity" and on this basis ruled that Gurinder Singh had been a "victim of discrimination."

to justify theories of white superiority and black inferiority, and we have to understand the real basis of 'racism' which lies in imperialism's oppression and exploitation of the peoples and nations of the Third World. Black people in this country have their origins in the oppressed nations and their oppression and resistance is linked to this. Black people make up national minorities in this country and we support a whole range of national demands ranging from opposition to immigration laws, the right to self defence from racist attacks and including cultural and religious demands such as the right to wear turbans. It is for Sikh people themselves to decide if they want to cut their hair or wear turbans but it is our responsibility to oppose the state or whichever forces deny them this right.

have often been raised around the question of education. In the struggle to keep open the Nechells School in Birmingham (see April 'Class Struggle'), one important aspect is the right of national minority parents to send their children to a secular school rather than a Christian school. In Bradford there are 10,000 to 15,000 children of Muslim background at school and a strong movement has built up in reaction to the racist education system which has not catered for the demands of these children. The Muslim Parents' Association there has demanded the right to set up five separate schools for 2,400 children. A spokesman said: "The impact of a majority culture always falls on the minority. If our children lose their religious and cultural heritage, they lose everything." The Asian Youth Movement in Bradford wants a different solution to the problem in the setting up of more single-sex schools with religious and language teaching for Muslim children.

reforms in the existing schools. The deep racism in the education system was shown by the fact that it was only this January that the state schools introduced measures such as canteen menus acceptable to Muslims, prayer facilities and the right for girls to wear tracksuits instead of shorts in gym lessons, in a city which has the second largest Asian community in the country. However these concessions have not satisfied the national minority people and the struggle is continuing. The solution to the question has to be decided within the community itself, and cannot be imposed from outside.

## LABOUR RACISM

Labour councillors in Bradford have declared on television that they are opposed to separate schools because of the need for Muslim children to integrate with white children. They have spoken in the well-known Labour tradition of opposing Tory immigration control but upholding immigration control in general, implying that black people are the problem. It is this line which says that black people must assimilate and refuses to recognise that racism is not black people's problem but is the problem of the majority community in this country. Black children must accept a racist education system in order to integrate better with white people.



This struggle has already forced the Bradford Council to make

Another example of this 'left' racism came up when in 1981 the Sikh community in Southall wanted to set up their own school; the Socialist Educational Association actively opposed it on the grounds that such a school would be "elitist" and because "socialists do not support private education." Taken to its logical conclusion this line is openly racist, as expressed by the Birmingham headmaster, Mr Lee, who commented on the Law Lords' decision on turbans: "Their lordships have succeeded in creating a group who enjoy privileges that others do not, on racial grounds."

The crude 'line' of 'black

people must assimilate' should be well known by now. However there is a more subtle 'left' form which concentrates on working class unity and sees struggles over questions like language, dress, food etc as divisive or marginal. It is summed up in the way some people use the slogan 'Unite and Fight' rather than putting forward the position that white people must support the specific national demands of national minority people and only thus can a firm unity be built. This line ignores imperialism and sees capitalism's ability to bring different forces together as progressive in the name of working class unity.

It denies the justice of the struggle for national demands because it stands in the way of "equality of black and white workers". As communists, we must oppose this chauvinism. As Stalin said: "Of course, the policy of assimilation is absolutely excluded from the arsenal of Marxism-Leninism."

Within an imperialist society, some reforms can be won through struggle. The Law Lords decision on the right to wear turbans is a victory. So is every successful campaign to fight a deportation. The verdict of "not-guilty" in the Bradford 12 trial was a political victory for all black people. But the imperialist state can never give full national freedom to the national minority people here and the resistance of these people is a powerful force in the struggle for socialism which alone can create the conditions for free national development.

exploit workers and repress national minorities and the working class. The NHS is part of that state, it is not an island of socialism in a capitalist system. The creation of the welfare state was paid for by the exploitation of the peoples of the Third World. The development of a welfare state suited the needs of the imperialist system in Britain at the time. Imperialist needs now dictate that it should be reduced to help solve the crisis of imperialism at the expense of working people. Even so it is important that we fight to defend the welfare state. Workers will suffer most if it disappears. We must fight the state and force it to provide the services just as we fight for increased wages in a system of exploitation.

*Bobby Sands - from front page.*

May Day is the day of international working class solidarity. It is fitting that such a day be chosen for an Irish solidarity march in England. As Karl Marx explained over a century ago, "Quite apart from all phrases about 'international' and 'humane' justice for Ireland - which are taken for granted in the International Council - it is in the direct and absolute interest of the English working class to get rid of their present connection with Ireland... The English working class will never accomplish anything until it has got rid of Ireland. The lever must be applied in Ireland."

## RIGHT TO WEAR TURBANS

The Sikh community in this country have carried out many struggles for their right to wear turbans. Not cutting one's hair and wearing a turban is one of the five rules that an orthodox Sikh must obey. The wearing of the turban has become a symbol of Sikh identity, whether the individual concerned is strictly religious or not. In the Midlands mass turban-wearing motor-bike demonstrations were organised to protest against the ruling that Sikhs must wear helmets. Sikh bus drivers and conductors have had to fight, often against their own union, to wear turbans instead of the uniform hat.

The struggle over the turban is just one particular example in a whole range of religious and cultural demands raised by the Sikh community and other people from the national minority communities. These demands cannot be understood in isolation from a general analysis of 'racism' and the oppression of black people. The concept of 'race' and 'racial groups' as a scientific analysis, is a fiction invented

Another similar demand has been raised by the Rastafarians in this country. Headmasters have denied black youth with dreadlocks the right to enter schools and ordered them to get their hair cut. In this case, Rastafarianism represents a new religion and culture that has developed out of the resistance of Afro-Caribbean people in Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean, and in this country. In this case too, a successful struggle was carried out in Leeds when a Rastafarian youth was denied entry to school. This is not just a struggle for religious rights but part of a struggle for national freedom as can be seen from the Rastafarians' identity with their homeland, Africa, and with Haile Selassie as a symbol of Africa unconquered by imperialism.

## EDUCATION

Black people in this country share many common features in the oppression they face and have developed black unity in their fight. But within this unity there are also distinct national groups who raise different demands depending on their background. National demands

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

## THE ATTACK

Fresh from its victory over Health workers in last year's pay battle, the state is on the offensive again.

This time under the slogan of privatisation, the DHSS has issued a draft instruction to hospital administrators (local bosses) to consider comparing costs of running hospital departments with putting the work out to private contractors.

Hospital workers should not be fooled by this being described as a draft for discussion. Privatisation is a strategy being used in other parts of the welfare state to cut services and jobs. It is obvious from the draft that it is going to be compulsory. Although it targets cleaners, laundry workers and catering staff, it is clear that a whole range of hospital back-up services are at risk. Large numbers of health workers are at risk.

What the bosses are trying to do is play off one group of workers against another, get hospital workers to compete with workers in private companies and force hospital workers to reduce their own working conditions.

Mass unemployment has forced down wages in the private sector and undermined trade union militancy. This means

private tenders will undercut health workers. Tenders will go in which will reduce the hospital service.

## THE LESSONS FROM OTHER SERVICES

When Wirral council tendered for refuse collection the council dustmen put in a tender that meant each dustman had to walk 14 miles a day at 2.72 mph and shift 2.3 tons of rubbish per day. "Waste Management", a private company, won with a tender which meant their workers walked 17 miles a day at 3.67 mph and shifted 3 tons of rubbish.

Wirral council subsequently found that Waste Management had difficulty maintaining the service. The experience of Southend, Wandsworth and Eastbourne councils was the same - private companies could not exploit their workforce enough to maintain the service.

Health workers must not fall into the trap of taking on the bosses on the bosses' terms. To compete in tendering can only result in voluntary speed-ups and redundancy. For example, the only way some Birmingham dustmen kept their jobs was to agree to a cut in

the workforce and a speed-up in work schemes. Refuse collection in Birmingham has suffered as a result.

## PATIENTS AND TAXPAYERS LOSE OUT

The service to patients (mainly workers) will get worse. Speed-ups reduce the quality of the work done. Morale amongst the workforce will get even lower. Private companies' involvement in hospitals will break up the hospitals which rely on team work amongst the workforce.

Part of the proposed 1983 Finance Bill allows for the re-funding of VAT payments to hospitals using private contractors. A bribe at the taxpayers' expense.

## HOW TO FIGHT BACK

If Health workers are to resist this attack, they will have to rely on the joint union organisations built at local level during last year's dispute. Only very militant joint industrial action can stave off this latest attack. Last year's experience showed very clearly that we cannot rely on the TUC and national union leadership.

Nor should we rely on the Labour Party. It has a long record

# HEALTH WORKERS: STATE ATTACKS GO ON

repression..



..and resistance

With or without the new powers given them by the new Police Bill, the police are continuing their attacks on black people. On Thursday 3rd March, they invaded the home of Dorothy Gbebikan, beat up the family and have now charged them with assault of the police, criminal damage and threatening words. The police had originally been called to the house because of a family dispute. When they arrived, they were told all was calm and their presence was not needed. Five policemen charged into the house, beat up and arrested Dorothy and her daughter Mol. When Stephen, Dorothy's son, protested, he was also assaulted and arrested.

Dorothy and Mol were seriously injured and Mol spent two days in hospital. All three are due to appear in court on 27th and 28th April.

At the first hearing of their case, 25 supporters attended the court. They stayed on to support the next case which concerned an FRFI seller who had been picked up by police because he was selling a "pro-IRA"

paper, and charged with obstruction.

On 14th April a meeting was held to plan a campaign to defend the family at Camden Council for Community Relations where Dorothy works.

For more details of the defence campaign, contact Bunmi, Judi or Sameen at 01-387-1125. (Thanks to 'Outwrite')

The family of 13-year old black youth, Leonard Lancicott, have publicly accused a police constable of stabbing the boy in the chest in All Saints Road, Notting Hill, on March 10th. An official complaint has been made and charges of attempted murder are being considered by lawyers against the policeman.

There is no dispute about the fact that Leonard was stabbed - he still has the scar. He spent 8 days in hospital, 24 hours on the critical list and with a life support machine. Leonard says he was talking to friends at the top of the stairs of a basement club when a policeman jumped on him. The two of them fell down the

stairs. People from the club who came to help Leonard, pulled the policeman off him and found Leonard was bleeding profusely. Scotland Yard have, of course, denied this and say someone in the club was responsible. But they are not considering bringing any charges.

The Lancicott family have also accused the police of constantly harassing Leonard who is under a "care order". The family have also said the police delayed calling an ambulance.

DEFEND THE BROADWATER 4!

WHAT HAPPENED DOWN ON THE FARM

Late on 1st November 1982, Tottenham Police arrested an innocent youth Roger on Broadwater Farm and accused him of breaking into the Tenants' Social Club earlier that evening. His friends knew that this was untrue as they had been with Roger all evening watching movies. They protested his innocence, but were ignored by the police who carted Roger off to Tottenham Police Station. So Tenants' and Youth Association members went to the

station to demand his release.

IGNORED YET AGAIN

At the station their demands to provide a concrete alibi for Roger were ignored for over two hours. The delegation waited patiently for Roger's release outside the station.

VICIOUS AND UNWARRANTED ATTACK

At about 2 a.m., vanloads of Instant Response Units pulled up and immediately went into action, beating and arresting youths. This vicious and unwarranted attack resulted in the President of Tenants' Association having his nose broken and suffering severe bruising; and three others were shaken and bruised.

BEATEN UP AND CHARGED

To justify their actions the police arrested the four injured people. They charged three with obstruction and one with criminal damage to the station door. ROGER WAS RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE.

WHO ATTACKED WHOM?

For the following two days the police, with vanloads of IRU, occupied Broadwater Farm estate in number claiming that their officers had been attacked. Although they goaded and provoked people, there were no major incidents - mainly because of the discipline of the youths.

HISTORY OF BAD POLICING

All these incidents are merely

part of the continuing story of police harassment, use of stop and search, 'targetting', and unjustifiable arrest suffered by the youth of the Farm.

These are particularly blatant examples of the misuse of police power, and of heavy-handed policing, showing total disregard for the feelings of the community.

THE BROADWATER FOUR

The four appeared at Tottenham Magistrates' Court on 21st November and were remanded to 3rd May. This charge has been hanging over their heads for six months. Is it a crime to demand the release of an innocent youth? Two of them have been refused legal aid.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- \* Give money to the defence fund.
\* Pass a resolution in your union branch, local organisation or tenants' association.
\* Demand an inquiry into the policing of Broadwater Farm.
\* Picket Tottenham Magistrates' Court on Tuesday May 3rd.
\* Ask for speakers to your meetings.
\* Oppose the Police Bill that is going through Parliament at the moment.

Contact: BFDC, Unit 1, Tangmere, Willan Road, Tottenham N17, Telephone 808 1667.

DEPORTATION NOTEBOOK

In March, Anthony Brown from Manchester heard that he had won the right to stay. A campaign based in the black community had been fought to stop his deportation to Jamaica. (For details see February 'Class Struggle'.)

Another victory has been won by the McArthur family of Hackney, who have been fighting for two and a half years to stop the family being divided. Eria McArthur originally came here from Guyana and her three daughters, Simone 12, Gwendoline 18 and Andrea 16, were all born here. Eria McArthur returned to Guyana to look after her sick mother and her son Eon 6, was born there. When they returned in 1980 she was told she had lost her right to stay and she and Eon faced deportation to Guyana.

Mrs McArthur is happy that the family will now stay together. But she added: "I don't think that we should have to go through this kind of campaign to get a right to stay. The tension and the indecision meant you couldn't make any decisions....."

She also said: "It makes you feel that you would like to be involved with any fight to help our people to obtain their rights." She was one of the speakers at the demonstration held on March 12th to demand an independent inquiry into Colin Roach's death.

It was announced in the House of Commons on April 19th that Selim Duzgun had been granted the right to stay in this country. Selim Duzgun, who is Turkish and a member of the banned revolutionary organisation Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Path) has been particularly active in the fight for the rights of Kurdish people in Turkey. He was imprisoned for one month after the 1980 coup and fled the country in 1981. He had applied for political asylum here on the grounds that he faces imprisonment and possibly death, if he is forced to go back to Turkey. The junta there is at present conducting a mass trial of 759 people

accused of belonging to Dev-Yol and the prosecution has demanded the death penalty for 264 of them. Hundreds of members of the Kurdish Workers' Party and other revolutionary organisations also face the death penalty.



Nesat Tolunay

It is hoped that this decision will also cover Nesat Tolunay, also from Turkey, and a member of Dev-Yol. Nesat Tolunay has also been campaigning for political asylum. He worked as a clothing worker in Hackney since he came here in 1979 but was picked up by police in May 1982 and spent 11 weeks in Ashford Remand Centre.

On April 14th, the Vinod Chauhan Defence Campaign held a picket at Aldine House in Manchester where Vinod Chauhan's appeal against deportation was being heard. The Home Office want to deport Mr Chauhan, from Ashton-under-Lyme, because his marriage has broken down. The campaign has already collected 2,000 signatures on petitions and will continue to build local support for his right to stay.

In the case of Mahmud Khan of Bradford, David Waddington, new Minister of State at the Home Office, has written, in a letter to an MP, that: "I am, for my part, quite satisfied .... that the decision taken to deport him was fully justified."

An appeal court in January has already reversed an earlier decision to deport Mr Khan, who is now waiting for a new tribunal. As he pointed out: "The Home Office are prejudging the case. It clearly shows that by hook or by crook they will deport me."

The campaign to stop the deportation of Halimat Babamba and her two young children, Hakeem and Mustapha, is planning a demonstration on Saturday 18th June in Leeds. 'The Friends of Halimat Babamba' are hoping that the demonstration will be supported by as many as possible of the other campaigns fighting deportations. See June 'Class Struggle' for more details.

About 30 members of the Baba Baktaura Defence Committee

Afia Begum and her one-year old daughter Asma, have now gone into hiding as her appeal to stay has been lost in legal channels. Afia got an entry certificate to come and join her husband here but he was killed in a tenement fire in the East End of London. The Home Office have used this to deny her the right to live here. At present they have "frozen" the case and promised a review.



Picture: Humphrey Neman

RIGHT TO STAY

From 'Class Struggle' correspondent in South Wales.

Yet another black family has forced the Home Office to back down on their intention to deport by mobilising huge public support.

Sarah Jabaar and her family had no legal right to stay. They didn't even have outstanding compassionate reasons, compared to many others who are deported every day.

What they did have was a community that stood up and said loudly and clearly that they wanted this South African family to stay and that the laws are wrong when a wife and children are punished simply because the husband deserted them.

But Sarah is not just another name to add to the impressive list of courageous people who have stood up to this racist state and its racist laws. What makes her case different and undoubtedly more worrying to the Home Office racists is that her support was almost entirely from white people, and white

ISC Rally

At a 70-strong rally organised by Irish Solidarity Committees in London, on April 25, Michael Holden, Shop Steward and Republican said in a speech that received a standing ovation, "It's very obvious the state machine now sees the emergence of an Irish Solidarity movement in Britain as a real and genuine threat. I have no doubt whatsoever that further arrests and charges and intimidation will occur in an attempt to suppress Irish Solidarity members in Britain...And, comrades, without mentioning names or organisations there are those also, no doubt misguided comrades who would play down the work of building an Irish solidarity movement in Britain. I would appeal to them, be they Irish, be they British, to think...carefully about what they are doing...to ask themselves who benefits from division. Is the need not greater now, than ever before to build a united solidarity movement in England?"

Other speakers were from the London ISCs, Helen O'Brien, sister of an Irish POW, RCL and FRFI. Messages of support included ones from Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, South London TOM and the Reinstate Lionel Vida Campaign.

A statement from the Prisoners of War in Albany (see full text on pps. 7&8) was read out and attracted a great deal of interest.

working class people at that. In fact, in the new town of Cwmbran, it was probably the first issue to unite almost the entire population with 8 out of 10 signing on door to door petitions. When over 10,000 had signed, it was no wonder that Sarah's Tory MP, Mr Stradling Thomas (Minister of State at the Welsh Office) was so active on her behalf.

It is good to know that the government cannot simply rely on racist and chauvinist ideas when it attacks black people. It is a lesson the Labour Party would also do well to learn.

by James Holt.

The Central American state of Nicaragua has alerted world opinion over the past few weeks to an acute invasion threat against their territory.

This threat comes from the United States, using the US-controlled right-wing regime of Honduras, Nicaragua's northern neighbour.

Nicaragua, is a revolutionary state, springing from a lengthy armed liberation war waged by the Sandinista National Liberation Front against the hated dictatorship of General Somoza. Like in other parts of Latin America, the masses lived in appalling poverty, their economic development blocked by the world imperialist system while the USA gave political and military backing to a corrupt ruling elite.

The only way out was to instal democracy through armed struggle, and thus mobilise the energies of the people in a drive for economic development. Nicaragua's great revolutionary victory was an inspiration to the oppressed the world over, particularly in Latin America.

In the third week of March, 2-3,000 counter-revolutionaries crossed from Honduras to invade Nicaragua. Foreign diplomatic sources in Managua (capital of Nicaragua) confirmed that this marked the change from sporadic guerrilla action to "concerted large-scale military action" by the revolution's enemies. These are described as Somozists, but the important questions are: who arms, pays, trains and controls them, who for example provides the planes to parachute them in?

US - THE CULPRIT

Without a shadow of doubt, the culprit is the US government, which makes no real effort to deny what it is doing, and the American press itself provides

# nicaragua revolution under attack

many details. 'Time' magazine has shown that the invasion is under the control of a committee headed by John Negroponte, US ambassador in Honduras, which in turn gives orders to a general staff of Honduran officers who directly command the counter-revolutionaries. Sources close to the Pentagon, cited by the American TV network ABC, revealed that 100 CIA agents work in Honduras, and some have crossed into Nicaragua. The invasion forces are armed by America, in collaboration with Israel. One of the most sophisticated US military systems, the AWACS airborne radar, patrols the area to give information for planning the invasion, while US warships patrol Nicaragua's waters.

This worries even some bourgeois governments. Sweden's foreign ministry has declared itself "convinced" of US responsibility, while the French government was spurred to make a strong statement of support for Nicaragua, after the murder of a young doctor, Pierre Grosjean, by Somozists. Two days before his death, Grosjean wrote a letter together with other French people in Nicaragua, protesting about false information in the western media: far from being a 'civil war', he wrote, the problem in Nicaragua is created by professional soldiers, well armed and trained abroad.

What explains the attack? US rule has always rested on the most unspeakable reactionary dictatorships. For instance,

in 1954, foreshadowing the present tactic, Honduras was used as a springboard for a US-backed invasion of Guatemala, which then had a moderate nationalist government. Since then - according to an independent human rights organisation - probably more than 100,000 people have been murdered by successive US-backed governments there.

WHOSE DEMOCRACY?

Despite hypocritical claims of 'upholding democracy', the US denies even the simplest democratic aspirations. When Nicaragua won, the then US president Carter sensed the weakness of relying on regimes with no popular basis, and thought it might be worth developing friendly relations with the new regimes. But now Reagan is determined to 'roll it back.' A key issue for Reagan is the popular revolutionary movement in El Salvador, inspired by Nicaragua's success. The reactionary government there would collapse in weeks if not shored up by massive US aid (Reagan is trying to get Congress to agree to another \$177,000,000 in the coming year).

Befogging the issues, Reagan has spoken of El Salvador as a test for US-Soviet relations, referring to the key geopolitical importance of the Central American-Caribbean region, while Admiral James Watkins, Chief of Naval Operations, warns of this region becoming a "new eastern Europe."

STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Now, the reality is that the people's struggle in El Salvador and Nicaragua - like in Ireland, Afghanistan and elsewhere - is part of the spirit of the age, the mighty current for new democracy, self-assertion of the working masses, national and popular sovereignty. This is completely independent of the will of any particular country: even if the USSR had been a socialist country, sincerely aiding the revolution in Central America, there is no way putting pressure on it could possibly hold back the revolutionary current for long. In fact, the Soviet Union is an imperialist country, seeking to expand its spheres of influence, and it is quite possible that Reagan's stupidity will present it with opportunities to do so in Latin America. But the most important factor in Latin America is overwhelmingly the oppression of the popular masses by US imperialism. Nicaragua - like Angola, for instance, - has a perfect right to call on support from Cuba or anyone else. There are real dangers of Soviet infiltration, but the people concerned must judge these for themselves.

In fact what worries Reagan is really the growing mass struggle. Even US diplomats in El Salvador admitted to the French paper 'Le Monde' that between October 1982 and February 1983, the tide had turned away from the dictatorship and in favour of the

guerrilla. Small wonder that - following a tour of Latin America by Jean Kirkpatrick (US ambassador to the UN) - Reagan decided to go on the offensive.

In early February, 1,600 US troops carried out manoeuvres in Honduras on the border with Nicaragua, followed by further exercises related to the so-called 'defence' of the Panama Canal.

Then in March, terrified at the popular upsurge, the US launched its current offensive against the central American-Caribbean region, including the planned aggression against revolutionary Grenada.

Nicaragua managed to get its complaint debated by the Security Council of the United Nations, and the USA emerged from this quite badly scathed. A year ago, when it supported Britain's aggression against Argentina, the US was politically isolated from Latin America; now once again, most Latin American governments, whatever their politics, agree in condemning outside intervention in Nicaragua (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama have formed a group to attempt to negotiate a diplomatic solution).

Particularly telling was the USA's point-blank rejection of an irrefutably logical proposal from Nicaragua to hold bilateral negotiations between itself, the USA and Honduras under UN auspices. This arrogant stance fully reveals Reagan's determination to press ahead with his aggression. But the current of struggle for revolutionary democracy, for economic and political self-determination, is not confined to central America. It will flare up in all corners of the world. The superpower warmongers and all reactionary forces of imperialism had better realise their days are numbered.

## FORWARD EVER BACKWARD NEVER!

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

Nestled among the Caribbean islands lies Grenada, a small island with a population of only 100,000 people, but which has in recent years become an important and controversial country. Formerly a British colony, it was for many years under the neo-colonial rule of the US through the corrupt and reactionary puppet Gairy. However in 1981 the New Jewel Movement (NJM) led the people of Grenada in revolution for freedom from imperialist rule. Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister of revolutionary Grenada and leader of the NJM spoke recently at a public meeting in London on his way back from a successful visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other countries.



picture by Dan Harriott

The meeting itself was impressive, organised with less than a week's notice, nearly 2,000 people including many from Grenada and the Caribbean,

London and also the London representative of the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador. Both expressed their support for the Grenadan revolution and denounced the attacks on it by the USA. In addition the recent US-inspired and backed invasion of Nicaragua from Honduras was singled out as the most blatant assault on the Nicaraguan revolution.

In a speech frequently interrupted by applause, Maurice Bishop outlined the many ways in which the US had tried to undermine and destroy revolutionary Grenada. He spoke of the CIA lie-machine which had manufactured false reports of Soviet missile bases directed against America. Only a week after Ronald Reagan had appeared on national TV with spy-plane pictures of this so-called missile base, camera crews from ABC television were able to fly to Grenada and visit it for themselves. As their photos revealed, this "missile base" was in fact an airport. Far

from being "Soviet-built", several American and British firms have been there for months fulfilling their contracts.

Apart from this the US imperialists have obstructed the granting of IMF and World Bank loans to Grenada, and have obstructed normal trade. Comrade Bishop told the audience that Reagan had not even answered a letter from himself suggesting talks at any level between the USA and Grenadan governments. In addition to this pressure, Grenada has faced the problems that confront any developing third world country. They have to pay high tariffs in order to gain access to valuable western markets and are subject to the rise and fall of commodity prices. Despite this, Comrade Bishop was able to tell the audience that in the three years since he last spoke in Britain, Grenada had achieved a total economic growth of 15% at a time when other Caribbean

countries were "going backwards." Unemployment was down from 20,000 to just over 5,000, education had been expanded and there was now a free health service. Despite the refusal of IMF loans the government had managed to raise investment in the economy from \$7 million to over \$100 million! Unsurprisingly the morale and involvement of the Grenadan people in their revolution has grown rather than diminished. At all levels mass meetings are held where governmental policy is explained and discussed. Maurice Bishop went into the question of democracy at some length and explained that in Grenada it meant everyone was involved in decision-making every day and not just one vote every five years!

Concluding his speech with a tribute to the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba, Maurice Bishop left the platform to loud cheers and a standing ovation.

### Oil Workers

Clapham, south London, was the scene of a meeting held on March 24 by the Alliance of Black Parents Movement, Black Youth Movement and Race Today Collective to explain the social crisis in Trinidad and Tobago. Main speaker was David Abdullah, executive member of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU).

The audience heard how the ruling professional middle class of Trinidad and Tobago had been bailed out of a desperate situation by the oil price rise of 1973. But, failing to use the

money to create an independent infrastructure, they had only got more and more corrupt and driven the country deeper into the pockets of the transnational corporations. In today's new conditions, Texaco, for example, can cheerfully make not just its refinery in Trinidad, but in fact the whole nation redundant.

Plunged into crisis which is not just economic but social, political and moral, the ruling class is utterly bankrupt and devoid of solutions, able only to use its electoral politics to stir up racist divisions between people of African and Asian origins.

However, speaking with authority and vision, Comrade Abdullah told the audience that there is a force capable of taking over responsibility. This is the working class, whose organised core is the OWTU. The OWTU 20,000 strong, has a clear policy for telling Texaco to get out if it wants to get out, and managing the economy in the interests of the whole nation. The guarantee of success will be close unity with the predominantly Asian sugar workers.

Listening to Comrade Abdullah, it was clear that the OWTU is an organisation of a new type, one of the precious new things

in history which could only have emerged out of the multi-faceted movement of the Third World and oppressed nations. Just as the struggle of the Third World to control its economic lifelines and natural resources has been an indescribably bitter one, so too there has been a long, hard process of finding authentic forms of struggle. Since its foundation in 1937, the OWTU has advanced in opposition to the old sell-out trade unionism characteristic of the West, and has forged a New Democratic structure which is a model for a wider democratisation: as the speaker pointed out, once the workers see that the bourgeoisie isn't needed to run the economy,

they will draw the same conclusions about society as a whole.

The crisis of the 1920s and 30s gave rise to oppression, war and fascism, Comrade Abdullah said. But amid the conflicts of that period, the workers' struggle also reached fresh heights, including the foundation of Caribbean trade unionism. These forces of New Democracy, which have now reached a certain maturity, must rise to still greater challenge of the present crisis, and assert their claim to take over the leadership.

# PRISON BARBARISM

## POWs Fight On

by Brendan Hill.

Both in British and Free State gaols, Irish POWs face the spiteful barbarism of imperialism. Here we outline four cases of this Brit inhumanity, and the prisoners' fightback against it.

### BIRMINGHAM FRAME-UP VICTIMS DEMAND NEW INQUIRY

In the wake of the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974, six Irish men were picked up, beaten mercilessly, framed and, despite clear medical evidence of their savage beatings delivered to the court by a prison doctor, all six were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Since that time they have fought a fruitless series of battles to gain some sort of justice from the British state. The state is blatantly aware of their innocence as is clearly revealed by the so-called liberal Lord Denning's invocation of an "Estoppel", (literally "a cork or bung") a vestige of Norman law used to keep a lid on the case. For if the six won, this would, in Denning's words, show that the police "were guilty of perjury ... violence and threats". That particular cat would be too much for 'British justice' to face, should it be let out of the bag.

In 1981, Patrick Hill, one of the six, spent 41 days on hunger strike as part of their fight for justice - still none was forthcoming. Today all six are seriously considering a hunger strike starting on June 1st. As Patrick Hill declared: "We have been condemned to die in prison for a crime we did not commit and if we are to die in these hell-holes, then I for one, would rather die fighting on hunger strike..."

Conservative MP John Farr is tabling a question for the Home Secretary regarding the trial and several other MPs and members of the House of Lords are backing the call for action around the six.

With these six framed Irish Prisoners of War planning to begin their hunger strike at the start of next month, it is vitally important that all possible pressure be put on the British government to face the music and set about the process of removing their frame-ups and freeing and compensating the six.

### GILLESPIE SISTERS REFUSED RIGHT TO ATTEND FATHER'S FUNERAL

Ann and Eileen Gillespie, having all but completed their time in prison as a result of a Brit conviction on "conspiracy" charges, were recently refused the right to attend the funeral of their father on the specious grounds that it was to take place in the Free State 'Republic' where escorting screws would have no jurisdiction. The refusal

decision came from the top - i.e. Home Secretary, William Whitelaw's office. With only four months captivity facing Ann and Eileen after spending some eight years in Brit hell-holes, the inhuman callousness of the state stands revoltingly clear. Letters of support and sympathy should be sent to: Ann and Eileen Gillespie, Style Prison, Cheshire.

### GERRY TUIE EXPOSES DEVELOPMENT OF "AN H-BLOCK SITUATION" IN BRIT INSPIRED PORTLAOISE PRISON IN THE SOUTH

"I want to complain about strip searches when coming to court and about the violation of our bodies in the strip searches. We are in full view all the time, it is just harassment. If this is Government policy, if they want to start another H-Block situation, they are succeeding." These words of Gerry Tuite, famed Brixton escapee and first man to be tried and convicted in the south of Ireland (by Free State authorities) for patriotic Irish activities in England, revealed to the world just how closely the Brit puppets in the 26 counties base their treatment of Irish patriots on that meted out by the Brits themselves.



Gerry made his statement in court when attending a hearing at which he was honoured by fresh charges of patriotism being levelled at him in order to boost the Free State traitors' excuse to keep him incarcerated. But H-Block conditions, repugnant and inhuman as they are, have not cowed the nationalist people of the North and will equally fail to do so in the South. The indignity of anal searches reflects all too damningly on the perpetrators. For revolutionaries like Gerry Tuite, as with the revolutionary women in Armagh, the violation of their bodies is recognised as yet another vain attempt to humiliate them into subjection. The humiliation rebounds on the screws who carry out the dirty work, and on their masters and mistresses who order it.

### NICKY KELLY ON HUNGER STRIKE

Nicky Kelly, an IRSP supporter framed for a mail train robbery in 1979, responsibility for which was later claimed by the IRA, started a hunger strike on May Day to protest against his continued imprisonment.

Nicky is one of three IRSP supporters framed by the Brits' henchmen in the South; but whereas the others were rightly released on appeal, Nicky remains incarcerated as a hostage against the full exposure of the torture used to extract 'confessions' in the first place.



Nicky has announced that he would rather die on hunger strike than serve a sentence for a robbery he did not commit.

The Release Nicky Kelly Committee can be contacted at 11, Grange Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

### UNITED IN THE OPPRESSION AND DIVISION OF THE OPPRESSED

British imperialism has long used the tactic of divide and rule in its struggle to build and maintain its sway over oppressed peoples all over the world. At the historic Baku Congress of the Peoples of the East, the Polish communist Karl Radek drew attention to this in a particularly lively way,

"Comrades, in a book which is a sort of Koran for British imperialism, a book by Professor Seeley which was published many years ago, and which is used in the education of British officers when they are sent to India, and used to educate British Governors - in this book, Seeley, a learned advocate of British imperialism, discusses the question: How is it that a little handful of British are able to keep under their heel hundreds of millions of Indians? And he answers that there is no magic in this. In India one part of the population fights against another on behalf of the rule of British capital. If a revolt breaks out in the North, we mobilise the Indian peasants in the South, make soldiers of them, and with their aid suppress the revolt in the North. If the Indians in the West revolt, we throw in Indians from the East, and thus, by using some Indians against others, we keep them all under our control."

Thus, in Ireland we see the people artificially divided by the Brits between the 26 counties of the Free State and the 6 counties of 'Northern Ireland'. But the governments of Britain and 'Ireland' are firmly united in their fight against Irish nationalism, as the above four cases show. A clear case of unity of the oppressors in the subjugation of the divided oppressed.

Photographs from AP/RN.



ANN GILLESPIE



EILEEN GILLESPIE

# ALBANY UNITY CALL

cont. from back page

so this leaves them open to the charge of attempting to manipulate the solidarity movement in their own party's interest, we are not at all sure that this is the case, as, in the past they have performed much positive work on the Irish solidarity front, therefore they should be given every opportunity to play a positive role in the Irish solidarity movement in the future.

We suggest that there should be amalgamation of the ISCs and the IFM on a completely democratic basis, i.e. this amalgamation must be impeccably democratic in character and organisation, every committed group or party, however big or small, must have equal voting rights on all matters and equal rights to speak on any Irish solidarity platform provided they adhere to the three demands:

1. complete British withdrawal from Ireland.
2. self-determination for the Irish people.
3. repatriation for all POWs to Ireland.

We believe that no genuine anti-imperialist could quarrel with these demands on an ideological basis. The tactical differences that exist between RCG and the RCP on the most effective way of building an Irish solidarity movement can be overcome by allowing each group to concentrate on the people, institutions, or parties that they believe to be most important in building a cohesive solidarity movement. We, now, add two stipulations:

1. no political demands whatever will be asked of the Irish Republican Army i.e. a tactical ceasefire etc. *The war goes on regardless.*
2. no pseudo-humanitarian calls for a ceasefire in England as a *quid pro quo* for our repatri-

ation, the continuation of the liberation war takes precedence over our repatriation.

We believe that this amalgamation can be brought to fruition if it is given full-hearted support by the Sinn Fein leadership in Ireland. Sinn Fein (Britain) should do everything to encourage this amalgamation especially as they already have Cumainn in both groupings. Sinn Fein (Britain) for perfectly understandable reasons have virtually no influence in the trade union or labour movements, therefore they should concentrate on setting up ISCs in Irish ghetto areas throughout Britain's main cities.

The Troops Out Movement (TOM) has failed abysmally to build a genuine anti-imperialist movement in Britain. The leadership of this grouping is totally reformist in character, and their failure to understand the true nature of British imperialism led them to pursue humanitarian solutions in lieu of participating in Realpolitik, therefore, their ability to build a solidarity movement must be treated with great circumspection. The leadership of this grouping are hostile to the national liberation war, however, many of TOM local branches adopt a progressive role on the liberation war, we believe that these branches should be strongly urged to join the proposed new ISC amalgamation. We further urge that this amalgamation should seek to attract every shade of political opinion from progressive social democrats leftwards to Revolutionary Marxism. These proposals can be implemented without any diversion of much needed resources from the liberation war.

The Republican POWs of Albany, Venceremos.

## 'They misquoted me'

- Sean Mac Stiofain

In an exclusive interview with the Andersonstown News, Sean Mac Stiofain, the ex-I.R.A. Chief of Staff has slammed the All Ireland Forum as "a farce and a fraud" and stated that the war in the North will continue as long as Britain remains in Ireland. Mr. Mac Stiofain is accusing the press of misquoting and distorting an interview he gave to the Irish language newspaper Inniu. And now, in an effort to set the record straight, Sean Mac Stiofain says:

He did not and would not call on the I.R.A. to call a ceasefire. The All-Ireland Forum is a farce and a fraud and an attempt by the Southern Government to help the SDLP.

In the Inniu interview Mr. Mac Stiofain said the IRA should cease "offensive actions" and Sinn Fein attend the All-Ireland Forum "if it is a serious and sincere thing."

Yesterday Mr. Mac Stiofain told the Andersonstown News that he now realised the Southern Government was neither "serious or sincere."

"It is very clear that the Forum is a political gimmick.

"I have always been an advocate of a real national assembly which would hear representatives of every grouping in the country including the trade unions, the unemployed, cultural bodies and political parties. However this forum is not a genuine attempt to find a solution.

Speaking of the reports of his alleged call for a cease-fire he said:-

"I never used the word cease-fire at any time during the interview and accept that it is not my business to call for a cease-fire.

"That decision," he went on "lies with the leaders of the Republican Movement who understand what they are doing.

"I wouldn't have the right to call for a stop.

"As long as the British are in Ireland the war must go on," he added.

Mr. Mac Stiofain is unhappy at the fact that the media published inaccurate accounts of his interview without contacting him. He has now written a letter to the national papers setting the record straight.

(Reprinted from 'Andersonstown News'.)

### NEW ERA BOOKS ....BOOKS AT REDUCED PRICES

- Hundred Days War by William Hinton, Monthly Review Press, 75p.
  - Unequal Development by Samir Amin, Harvester Press, £2.10
  - Imperialism and Unequal Development by Samir Amin, Harvester Press, £2.10.
  - Letters from Prison, Gramsci, Quartet Books, £1.90.
  - Black Africa by Diop, Zed Press, £1.60.
  - Dirty Work, Vol 1, The CIA in Western Europe: edited by Philip Agee and Louis Wolf ....£1.80.
  - An Unhitched Life: Charlotte Despard, Suffragette, socialist and Sinn Feiner, by Andro Linklater (hardback) £2.35.
  - South Africa: Method in the Madness by Kane-Bernan, Pluto Press, £1.10.
- New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London, N.4 3NG.

# FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



## THEIR DAY WILL COME

by Keith Anderson.

A review of "One Day in My Life": Bobby Sands.

"All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient Chinese writer Szuma Chien said: 'Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather'. To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather." - Mao Zedong.

We are now marking the second anniversary of the deaths on hunger strike of Volunteer Bobby Sands MP, and nine of his heroic comrades in the struggle to gain political status. On this sad anniversary we can see the immense truth of Mao Zedong's statement. When the Brits or one of their mercenary lackeys are killed in the war in Ireland, they are very soon nameless and forgotten to all but those who were closest to them. By contrast Bobby Sands and his comrades live on in the hearts not only of the risen Irish people, but amongst oppressed and struggling people the world over. The flame they lit will continue to burn until national oppression and class exploitation have been confined to museums. The hunger strikes were a turning point in the long struggle of the Irish people, and the subsequent political, military and other victories of the Irish people can all be traced to the impact of the hunger-strikers on Irish society. As the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran said on the death of Bobby Sands: "This revolutionary resistance has demonstrated that the heroic people of Ireland, with its unswerving determination, will ultimately win control, over its own destiny."

### ONE DAY IN MY LIFE

To mark this anniversary, Pluto Press has published, in Britain, "One Day in My Life" by Bobby Sands. It was published earlier in the year by Mercier Press in Ireland, and will no doubt be published in many countries and many languages.

Political considerations aside - for the moment - this book deserves to be considered a literary masterpiece, for example in its superb use of imagery. In describing one of the many calculated acts of screw sadism, Bobby wrote:

"'B-' shouted: "Mr 'A-', there seems to be a fish short."

"A sickening feeling hit me right in the chest, almost crippling me. I was the last man. That stinking bastard 'B-' ate it. I felt like screaming it out the door, but that was what they wanted me to do.

"'Ah! Mr 'A-', said 'B-'. "I seem to have made a mistake. There's not a fish missing at all."

"My heart lifted.

"'There's two missing, Mr 'A-!'"

"I thought Sean was going to go through the door. I knocked on the wall quickly to remind him that he wasn't on his own. I could hear him cursing them up and down. I felt as sick as the fish must have felt when it was hooked."

The quality of the book is all the more remarkable when one



Bobby Sands O/C, MP remembered, May Day 1983 in Birmingham.

where the pipes ran through which would enable them to pass the cigarettes up and down the line, as well as a light. A light for the cigarettes would be engineered by one of the lads using a piece of glass, a small flint and a wee bit of fluffy wool. A wick would be made and lit, allowing the glowing material to be passed carefully from one cell to the next, until everyone got a light. Getting a line across would be tricky and dangerous."

This selflessness is an oft repeated theme in the book. Bobby had been savagely beaten up, but still his thoughts were for his comrades:

"The rest of the lads on the boards would be lying battered and sore. I wasn't feeling the best myself. My earlier wounds grew more and more painful but I knew that I was a lot better off than the boys on the boards."

Elsewhere, Bobby even has time for the birds outside his cell: "I lifted a few crusts of bread from the corner and flung them out the window remembering my little friends again. Winter was a hard time for the birds, with the snow coating the ground and hiding the land." What a rejoinder to the lying British hypocrites who talk of "mindless Irish terrorists."

### SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

Bobby was often frightened: "I was scared stiff, frightened to the verge of panic." Yet he never gave way, because there was a stronger force at work, what Bobby Sands elsewhere described as "the revolutionary spirit of freedom." This meant that despite having all the odds stacked against them, the oppressed could at all times retain an immense moral superiority over their oppressors. Whilst being driven to his visit, Bobby has a conversation with a screw:

"How long have you been on the blanket now?" he enquired, and added immediately, "Don't you think you'd be as well packing it in?"

"No, I don't." I answered him dryly.

"You aren't getting nowhere," he said matter-of-factly.

"No one ever does until they reach what they set out for." I said sharply.

"You must be mad." he said. "I wouldn't do what you are doing if I were in your position."

"I'm quite sure you wouldn't." I said. "Maybe that's because you're a screw and I'm a Political Prisoner."

It is with this spirit that the Irish prisoners can lead a mighty struggle against British imperialism, and it is with this spirit that they will win. Korea's revolutionary leader, Comrade Kim Il Sung sums up this spirit:

"Independence is what keeps man alive. If he loses independence in society he cannot be called a man; he differs little from an animal. We might say that socio-political life is more valuable to a man than physical life. He is a social being. If he is forsaken by society and deprived of political independence, though he seems alive, he is virtually dead as a social human being. That is why the revolutionaries deem it far more honourable to die in the fight for freedom than to keep themselves alive in slavery."

### SOLIDARITY

In relating letters and visits Bobby shows how the news of support on the outside acted to boost the morale of the prisoners. "You had to have something to hope for, to look forward to, to speculate on or to cling to. The way a good bit of scéal (news) could live up the wing was unbelievable. Like after the Coalisland to Dungannon march when one of the lads brought back an estimate of the turn-out, plus a smuggled photograph, I nearly cried myself and I'm sure more than a few of the lads did. I'll never forget it, sitting in the midst of a living nightmare without even a friendly face in sight and when it came to my turn to see the picture I looked at it and I never felt so happy in all my life. I just stared at it, and stared at it, never wanting to let go of it." Here is the answer to those who wonder whether work, on Ireland, on the streets is worth it or not.

### THEIR DAY WILL COME

In a masterful conclusion the

anti-imperialist movement, in fact, the movement is open to all comers. The RCG has over the years given consistent and militant support to the Irish war for national liberation, one hundred of their members have been arrested for selling pro-Irish war literature; they have produced ten pamphlets and one book advocating total support for the national liberation war in Ireland, therefore, in our opinion their credentials as a solidarity group are beyond question.

The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) are the group who print 'the next step'. They founded a solidarity group called the Irish Freedom Movement (IFM) which appears to us to be a party-controlled grouping

cont. p.7, 'Albany'.

particularities of Bobby's situation are related to the general struggle against British imperialism.

"It was hard, it was very, very hard, I thought, lying down upon my damp mattress and pulling the blankets around me. But some day victory would be ours and never again would another Irish man or woman rot in an English hell-hole.

"It was cold, so very, very cold. I rolled on to my side and placed my little treasured piece of tobacco under the mattress and felt the dampness clinging to my feet.

"That's another day nearer to victory, I thought, feeling very hungry.

"I was a skeleton compared to what I used to be but it didn't matter. Nothing really mattered except remaining unbroken. I rolled over once again, the cold biting at me. They have nothing in their entire imperial arsenal to break the spirit of one single Republican Political Prisoner-of-War who refuses to be broken, I thought, and that was very true. They can not or never will break our spirit. I rolled over again freezing and the snow came in the window on top of my blankets.

"Tiocfaidh ár lá," I said to myself. "Tiocfaidh ár lá." (Our day will come.)"

No review can possibly do justice to this book. It must simply be got and read. Having read it you will hopefully be moved to help build the Irish Solidarity Movement. This book simply must be read by every communist, class conscious worker, progressive and democratic person in Britain. In particular it should be read by those cowardly, whining, petit bourgeois "socialists" that would dare "criticise" the revolutionary IRA.

SALUTE THE MEMORY OF BOBBY SANDS!

VICTORY TO THE IRA, THE GLORIOUS PEOPLE'S ARMY!

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND!

THEIR DAY WILL COME!

('One Day in My Life' by Bobby Sands is published by Pluto Press and costs £2.95. It is available from New Era Books. Please add 21p for post and packing.)

### BRAVE FRIENDS FOREVER

For Patsy O'Hara & Micky Devine

CAIRDE CRÓGA GO BRÁCH  
(Brave Friends Forever)

O're James Connolly House, the black flag flew  
While 'neath it wept comrades old and new  
Hundreds lined in columns long  
To bid a last farewell to our martyred sons.

Filing past each flower-decked bier  
The common people, sighed, 'mid tears  
For two workers' sons had come back home  
To we Bogside folk, forever, each our own.

Like hundreds, naked, lay in jail  
Each cell their tomb, a sole blanket grey  
Comrades all, on protest stayed  
Neither to meet, nor, 'hello' say.

For four long years in solitude  
No books, or papers, ever to read  
The outside world was far away  
Even God's sunlight, denied, each day.

They cried for justice, but few took heed  
The rich man as ever, stayed aloof  
The clerics, mainly they were deaf  
As politicians like the ostrich stood.

When all other means, did not prevail  
On hunger-strike went ten, some, for o're sixty days  
Yes, freedom came, but with it death  
While the May Flower blooms, we shan't forget.

Fionnbarra O'Dochartaigh,  
Samhraidh, 1981,  
Doire Colmille.

## ALBANY: Prisoners Speak Out

'Class Struggle' is very pleased to be able to publish a statement from Irish Republican Prisoners of War in Albany Prison. Originally sent to the Liverpool Irish Solidarity Committee, it contains a short but cogent analysis of the Solidarity Movement here and makes a number of proposals. Once again this extremely important section of the Republican Movement has shown its great concern for the work of building a strong, united and anti-imperialist solidarity movement in Britain. The Revolutionary Communist League will be paying very careful attention to the opinions and proposals of the Prisoners in Albany, and we hope that other comrades will do likewise.

### SOLIDARITY GREETING 19.4.83

We, the Irish POWs in Albany, would like to give a short analysis and make some proposals in relation to the building of an Irish Solidarity Movement in Britain.

In November 1982 a conference was convened in London in an attempt to inaugurate an Irish Solidarity Movement. This conference was attended by Revolutionary Communist Group, Revolutionary Communist League, two Sinn Fein Cumainn and various independents and the end result was the setting up of Irish Solidarity Committees (ISCs) in many cities throughout Britain. The unifying criteria

for these groups are the two demands: 1. complete British withdrawal from Ireland. 2. self-determination for the Irish people. Their basic aims are to carry out much needed propaganda work on the Irish liberation war in the working class areas of all Britain's main cities amongst the poor and disaffected, i.e. the Irish, the blacks, the unemployed, the youth, in the trade union movement and the labour movement.

The RCG are the group who prints 'Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!' This group played an important role in inaugurating the ISCs but they do not control nor do they seek to control this broadly-based