

CLASS STRUGGLE

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BRADFORD 12

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN IS GROWING

By a "Class Struggle" Correspondent

Since the arrest last summer of 12 black youths in Bradford on conspiracy charges black people and organisations all around the country are uniting in their defence.

As the October issue of "Class Struggle" showed, these charges - conspiracy to damage property and life, conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and manufacture of explosives - are intended by the state to be an attack on all black people. In particular it is an attack on their right to organise their own defence against racist attacks and harassment. As such it is vital for these 12 comrades and for all black people in Britain, that these charges be defeated.

'CONSPIRACY' CAN MEAN 'LIFE'

The use of 'conspiracy' charges show clearly that the state intends to make an example of these comrades because it means that they can be given HEAVIER sentences than if they had actually committed the offence. In effect discussion of a criminal act becomes worse than the act itself. It also means that anyone present can be prosecuted irrespective of whether they had any intention of being involved.

POLITICAL TRIAL

If there is any doubt that this is a political trial then a brief comparison of the way these comrades have been treated and racists who have actually thrown petrol bombs makes this clear. When, on July 14, 40 white youths giving Nazi salutes and chanting racist slogans threw a petrol bomb at an Asian pupil in Keighly only 2 were charged and then only with assault and stealing petrol to make the bomb. The Asian who was attacked was also charged, with possession of an 'offensive' weapon which he had to keep on him after a previous attack.

Similarly on July 24, 3 white men were arrested for the firebombing of 2 Asian homes on Leeds Rd., Bradford. Although they were charged with 'conspiracy to assault' the magistrate did not hesitate in giving bail.

Compared to the Bradford 12 this was like a pat on the back. The 12, who fire bombed nothing, were refused bail for up to 3 months.

2 have still not been released. Sureties of up to £20,000 had to be given and most of them are practically under house arrest. They have to report to the police every day, under curfew from 10 pm 'till 7 am and are NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE PART IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, including any meeting organised for their defence. It is

clear why these conditions have been imposed. The state is trying to kill off the resistance by isolating the 12, from each other and from

Cont. P.5.

Inside...

SPECIAL FEATURE
War and Peace

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Public concern over the threat of war is growing. CND claims a nearly ten-fold increase of membership over the past year. Marxist-Leninists have always had a distinct position on war and peace. Our Special Feature and Editorial outline our position, show where the threat of war comes from and look at CND and anti-nuclear movements in Europe.

The Deportations Continue p3

The British state continues its racist campaign of deportations. We look



BRADFORD 12 CONSPIRACY CHARGES (cont. from page 1.)

their friends and supporters. They will not succeed because the reasons why they picked on the 12 is the same reason why we cannot and will not desert them. These comrades, as members and supporters of the United Black Youth League, have been active in many anti-racist struggles in the past. It was this activity which encouraged the police to attack them, but this activity also gained them widespread respect which will guarantee them support.

ATTACK ON THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE

Primarily this attack is not aimed against the 12. Essentially it is an attack on the black community's right to organise. After the summers uprisings the state has wanted to hit back. Already we have seen the kangaroo courts, sentencing people indiscriminately on the flimsiest of evidence. Now we have this calculated attack on a black organisation which is designed to intimidate all militant black organisations and the whole revolutionary movement in Britain.

SUPPORT COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL MOBILISING COMMITTEE SET UP

The importance of this political trial has been widely recognised and support committees have now been set up in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester and Coventry, with a national mobilising committee to co-ordinate between them.

These have organised a wide variety of activities from public meetings, fund raising socials, pickets and leafletting. The central

focus of their activities will be the demonstration in Bradford on December 12. Many Asian and West Indian organisations are mobilising and a massive show of strength is essential. We hope therefore that all our readers will attend.

ASSEMBLE 1.30 pm

MANNINGHAM PARK, BRADFORD

COACH DETAILS -
LONDON PICK UP POINTS:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| York Way, Kings Cross | 7.30 am |
| Toori, Reg St | am |
| Lambeth Town Hall | 7.30 am |
| Cato's, Southall | 7.30 am |
| East Ham Town Hall | 7.30 am |

Queries: Southall Rights (01-571-4920)
Other cities, ask the paper seller,

REVOLUTIONARY UNITY

The United Black Youth League was one of the only two organisations from Britain (the other being the Troops Out Movement) to have fraternal delegates at the recent Ard Fheis (congress) of Sinn Fein in Dublin. The UBYL delegate, Praktibha Parmar, received a standing ovation. Here was a clear statement: the revolutionary Republican Movement identifies itself with the emerging revolutionary forces of the oppressed in Britain, and those forces identify with the advanced example of the Irish freedom fighters.