



AN OPEN LETTER

'A slave yourself, you assist in the enslavement of others'

Danny Morrell is the author of this open letter. He is a worker and in his spare time he mixes with the people in the Irish and Black communities selling the "Irish Liberation Press" and talks to them about their problems.

To those Black soldiers who have joined the British Army and are now being used as instruments for the suppression of the heroic Irish people in their just struggle to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, I would like to ask you a few questions.

Why have you joined the British army? Why are you in Ireland at the behest of British imperialism helping to gas, murder and torture these patriotic people? Why have you allowed yourselves to be used as tools for carrying out the dirty work of British imperialism?

You cannot be a party to the oppression of the Irish people without also going against the interest of Black working people here in Britain, because just as we have been forced to pull up our roots and leave a country that we love so well and are forced to come here to seek a living, so it is with the people of Ireland who have for centuries been forced to emigrate from their beloved country because of imperialist plunder and aggression, the like of which you are now participating in.

Imperialism has bled our country dry, the very same way they have done to Ireland. Just as the profiteers have and still try to whip up racism so they can divide and rule workers here in Britain, so in Ireland they try the same old business, only there where you are they use religion to divide the people and try to spread the lie that it is a religious struggle when clearly it is a question of one class—the exploited working class—doing battle against another class—the exploiting bosses.

The Irish people have the same class interest as us, Black workers and thus when you attack them you also attack all of us Black brothers and sisters fighting oppression here.

Why is it that you, a slave who still hasn't gained his freedom, is fighting the dirty war of your master, who is your real enemy, against the brave Irish people, who are your real friends? A slave yourself you assist in the enslavement of others. Have you lost your sense of reasoning? Has your mind become so warped that you fail to see reality?

I say to you, let's take a look at the Black experience in this country. You know that we as people face open and hidden racism, exploitation and oppression, and police brutality daily. Do you know that

many Blacks are arrested on pretext by the racist police and in lots of instances brutally beaten, locked up, refused bail, and are then brought before the reactionary courts where the same police lie their heads off and the judge accepts whatever they say and convicts us when we have done nothing wrong. Everywhere there are Black people this goes on. In the field of employment do you know that generally the lowest paid and the most menial jobs are reserved for Blacks? Do you know about the struggle of Black people in America, about the murder of brother George Jackson, who was serving life for allegedly helping steal seventy-three dollars from a petrol station, when he was murdered in cold blood by racist guards in accordance with a plan worked out by the U.S. fascist ruling class who feared the rapid revolutionary politicization of Black prisoners. Why don't you buy a copy of "Soledad Brothers", you might learn a lot from its pages.

Look at that beautiful sister, Angela Davis, who has committed no offence but has been framed by the same fascist gangsters headed by Nixon that control America. Have you heard about the many Black brothers who were massacred at Attica Jail in New York State? Do you know about the millions and millions of Black people struggling against fascist oppression in Rhodesia and South Africa. and in Mozambique and Angola?

Their vicious oppression was and in part still is engineered directly by the very same British imperialism that you now loyally serve in Ireland.

Is this enough to acquaint you with some of the problems of Black people? Don't you see... are you blind... that all your energies are being directed in the wrong direction. So useful are you to your masters that the papers of the rich bosses in Britain (and no doubt elsewhere in the world) have been carrying lots of pictures showing that you may be even more eager than your white mates to attack the Irish people. You are being used not only to try to keep down the legitimate struggle of the Irish people for independence and socialism, but also to assist racist divide and rule in this country where your pictured exploits are splashed across the pages of every reactionary rag to cause contradictions between Black and Irish immigrants, in order to set us at each others' throat while the bosses class laughs its plump head off at our expense.

I hope this open letter from a Black British worker will help open your eyes so you can begin to see the light. One thing is for sure, if any Black man thinks he can join the British imperialist army and become a mercenary—for that is what you are because you are selling yourself to the slaveowners—and at the end of the day expect to return to the people as a hero he is sadly mistaken because they will denounce him and hound him out of the community as a fascist murderer and enemy of the people. The choice is yours.