

CLASS STRUGGLE

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain



Vol. 6 No. 12 DECEMBER 1982 - JANUARY 1983 SPECIAL 2 MONTH ISSUE.

20p

BUILDING AN IRELAND SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT - A TASK TAKEN UP FOR SOLUTION

Photo: Paul Mattsson.



By Keith Anderson

The November 20 Conference on "Building an Irish Solidarity Movement", called by the North and South London Irish Solidarity Committees was a great success, a success that was achieved by the activists of the Committees working flat out in the weeks that led up to it.

250 delegates packed Caxton House in North London. They included members of Ireland Solidarity organisations, left groups and the Labour Party, black people, Irish Republicans, and local Irish workers. A broad range of organisations and individuals sponsored the Conference. They included 20 Irish prisoners of war, a Scottish political prisoner, other prisoners, Rhona Toland, aunt of plastic bullet victim Stephen McCoomy, the Wolfe Tone and Connolly Keegan Cumainn of Sinn Fein, Bangladesh Workers Association (London), Plaid Cymru MP Dafydd Elis Thomas, veteran black activist John LaRose, Labour Councillors Charlie Rossi and Keith Veness, Hemel Hempstead Branch of ACTT (a trade union), Epsom & Ewell Peace Group, Mosquito Press, Bradford Irish Solidarity Committee, Tyne-side Action Committee on Ireland, Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee, South London, West London, Harringey, Bristol and Merseyside branches of the

Troops Out Movement, the Revolutionary Communist League, Revolutionary Communist Group, Michael Holden (shop steward and Sinn Fein member), International Solidarity Front - Iran, Welsh Political Prisoners Defence Committee and Hornsey Constituency Labour Party. In addition messages of support came from ten Ireland Solidarity groups in West Germany and from the Aboriginal Commission to Europe.

The attendance and sponsorship of the Conference showed that it is possible to build a movement in this country that supports the struggle of the Irish people. It also showed that such a movement will only be a living movement if it is firmly based on the working class and the oppressed. Therefore, the November 20 Conference can be said to have been a powerful blow to the opportunist forces in the Ireland Solidarity Movement who deny that a movement based on the oppressed can be built, who try to distance the Solidarity Movement from the anti-imperialist struggle of the Republican Movement, and who make concessions to the Labour Party rather than to the Irish people.

The theme of the Conference was set in a keynote speech by the author of "The Communist Tradition on Ireland", Comrade David

Reed, entitled "Building an Irish Solidarity Movement". Starting from the end of the hunger strike and tracing his themes back into Irish history, Comrade Reed focussed his talk around two main themes: that "British imperialism cannot play a progressive role in Ireland" and that "Ireland is the key to the British revolution". Drawing attention to the historical experience of the Easter Rising of 1916, the 1918 General Election that led to the convening of the first Dail Eireann, the partition settlement, the civil rights movement, the current war of liberation and the hunger strikes, Comrade Reed summed up,

"The history of the last 13 years, like the history of the period 1916-22, conclusively proves that British imperialism cannot play a progressive role in Ireland. That British imperialism has only made any concessions at all in the face of mass revolutionary force. That the Irish people can only be free if British imperialism is driven out of Ireland. That is why to fight in this country for the right of the Irish people to self-determination means to fight for the defeat of British imperialism in Ireland. That is why we call for Victory to the Irish people and Troops Out Now!"

contd. on p.5.



Photo: Paul Mattsson.

KITSON PICKET - TRIUMPHANT END

by Keith Anderson

On Thursday November 18th, over 300 people closed the non-stop Free David Kitson picket of South Africa House with a triumphant rally after a momentous and heroic 85 days and nights. The main immediate demand of the picket - that David Kitson and the other political prisoners in Pretoria Central Hanging Jail should be moved to a more modern prison and receive medical attention - had been met.

For 85 days and nights, the picketers had stuck it out. In the forefront of the campaign together with Norma, Amandla and Steve Kitson, were black and white unemployed youth. They braved torrential rain and bitter cold, police harassment, arrests and assaults, and the sniping and backstabbing of labour barons and revisionists. And in doing so they showed the potential base that exists for an anti-imperialist movement in this country.

On November 18th, the revolutionary youthful exuberance, that had always been the hallmark of the picket, was at its height as African freedom songs and anti-imperialist slogans followed one after the other, and above all the cry to taunt the police and defy harassment: "Viva, Viva picketting!"

This campaign is rich in valuable lessons. The hundreds who attended the picket, the tens of thousands who signed petitions, donated money, etc. and above all the youth who braved everything that either nature or the state could throw at them, and in that process built up their conscious leading role, showed that a real working class anti-imperialist movement can be built. The youth of Britain who face racism, police harassment, unemployment and poverty will readily identify with the masses in the oppressed nations who are already fighting these evils. Through this process of identification they will learn invaluable lessons for their own struggle.

Another lesson from the picket was its internationalism. It received support from people of many nationalities. In turn, the picket repeatedly declared its solidarity with the fighting peoples of Ireland, Palestine, El Salvador and elsewhere.

The picket was an event that truly united all who could be united. On the basis of the self-reliant strength of the oppressed youth, it won support from hundreds of people from all walks of life, from left groups, trade union leaders, the entire Parliamentary Labour Party, and even from some Conservative MP's! The picket was an anti-imperialist and militant affair run by the poor and the oppressed. But far from that driving away support, as some rightist elements would claim, it was precisely because of that rock solid base that others were forced to lend their support. Similarly, some people claimed that the picket was "Ultra-left", and that it would never achieve anything. This charge came particularly from well-paid trade union hacks who are supposed to have been campaigning for David Kitson for years, but have precious little to show for it. Their slanders were refuted! It was shown that militant activity can bring results. Viva, Viva picketting!

The picket may have ended but the campaign is just beginning! The City Branch of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Kitson family and the youth are determined to go forward from the solid foundations they have laid. A national speaking tour, a film and a book are all planned. Permanent premises are being sought in Islington. Regular pickets are being supported: To Save the Moroka 3 (ANC Freedom Fighters) from the gallows, and to demand the release of Nelson Mandela (internationally respected leader of the ANC) who has served 20 years on the notorious Robben Island. Most importantly of all, a programme of street meetings in working class and national minority areas of London is being planned.

There is no doubt that support exists amongst the oppressed here for the freedom struggle in South Africa. But for too long, South Africa solidarity has meant middle class cake and coffee mornings. The Kitson Picket has changed that for ever! The task now is to build on this, so that the question of freedom in South Africa becomes a mass question in British political life. British imperialism depends on the huge superprofits it extorts from the degraded and oppressed black masses of South Africa. The smashing of the chains of apartheid will thus also be an enormous step forward for the working class in Britain.

If you want to help build that movement, then contact: City AAM, c/o 22 Brownlow Mews, London, W.C.1.

SOVIET/SOUTH KOREAN FLIRTATION

By James Holt

Korea suffers from partition, a particularly cruel form of oppression by imperialism. A great, independent socialist regime has been established, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with its capital in Pyongyang. But the southern half of the country remains a haven of neo-colonialist exploitation.

The south Korean puppet 'state' is an example of a recent trend in neo-colonialism: a certain kind of industrialisation is deliberately created, under tight control by the foreign bosses. They can extract immense profits from the super-exploitation of workers, far above the exploitation possible in the imperialist heartlands. Figures over the past few years show that people in south Korea work 2,800 hours per year on average - about 50% more hours than workers in the Federal Republic of Germany, for example - for wages only about one-fifteenth of those paid to

workers in a developed country like the USA. Women are particularly exploited, earning less than half of the already miserable wages of men. In the Masan Free Export Zone, 19% of the largely female workforce suffers industrial accidents each year.

This exploitative system, for the benefit of foreign imperialists, is maintained by the most ruthless repression, exercised under US auspices by the authorities of the so-called 'Republic of Korea'.

A NATION ONCE AGAIN

The Korean masses, both those who are liberated in the north and those still suffering exploitation, deeply aspire to reunite their country and make it a nation once again. The DPRK has put forward practical and reasonable proposals to bring this about through the formation of a single Democratic Confederal Republic. It is the most elementary thing for revolutionaries in all countries to stand by them, and to refuse to recognise the legitimacy of the foul neo-colonial partition.

But the Soviet leadership are fairly tripping over themselves in their haste to establish relations with south Korea, drooling at the prospect of a share in the fruits of economic superexploitation. In October this year they sent a delegation from Tass to participate in a meeting of Asia-Pacific news agencies held in the south Korean 'capital', Seoul, followed by a leading member of their Ministry of Culture, Zh. Popov, to study direct co-operation with the regime. A flood of further visits by Soviet bloc delegations is expected in the near future.

Firmly reacting to this provocation, the DPRK press pointed out during November that this action had "thrown muddy water" on the friendly feelings of the Koreans, and that it is not possible to support "in words our Republic's efforts for reunification and at the same time to have relations with the south Korean splittists".

NO TEMPORARY ABERRATION

Soviet infiltration of south

Korea is by no means a temporary aberration, but forms part of a deep trend. A few years after the victory of the 1917 Russian Revolution, J.V. Stalin warned of the danger of the new Soviet regime departing from the principles of support for revolution and national liberation, becoming obsessed with its own 'national interest' and spheres of influence, and thus following "the path of nationalism and degeneration". In 1963 the Communist Party of China published a brilliant article entitled 'Apologists of Neo-Colonialism', quoting these words and pointing out that the prophecy was coming to fruition.

Today, 20 years on, more than ever can we appreciate the truth of these statements. The Soviet Union has fundamentally accepted and apologised for the whole neo-colonial system with its exploitative "international division of labour", and on this basis has carved out its own neo-colonial career. It has drawn Afghanistan, Ethiopia and numerous other countries into its sphere of influence; it accepts the basic premises of Western neo-colonialism so long as it can gradually muscle in to the rival sphere of influence

and share in the pickings.

JUCHE LEADS THE WAY

The DPRK is in the forefront of a great historical tide of struggle, the most important single positive current in world history today, whereby the oppressed are rising up to undercut the world exploitative system and challenge the domination of the imperialist rulers of America, Britain, the Soviet Union or wherever. It is no accident that with the rising of this tide, the Soviet Union should increasingly expose itself. The Juche idea upheld by the Workers' Party of Korea emphasises that a country must be built by self-reliance, and giving full play to the human factor. The Korean people have no axe to grind with the Soviet Union, since the direct enemy is obviously western imperialism. But, while the Soviet leadership may tactically give some support to certain liberation movements insofar as they serve to destabilise western spheres of influence, the Juche idea, with its stress on thoroughgoing and systematic opposition to all forms of great-power domination, is something which makes them shiver to the very depth of their rotten, imperialist souls.

M-L MOVEMENT

From: a Corby reader.

I take the opportunity to correct a judgement made in last month's issue. In the article "Irish Independence and Britain's Communists", H. Stephens' description of 'Vanguard' as the paper of "a pro-China splinter group from the CPGB" is a distortion of, and blackens the record of the CDRCU.

The Committee to Defeat Revisionism, for Communist Unity (CDRCU) was the first organisational break from the revisionist CPGB and the taproot of the Marxist-Leninist movement.

The subsequent degenerate groups ACW and ECM pale in comparison to the pioneering role and achievements of the CDRCU led by comrade Michael McCreery

In the International Polemics of the early 1960's, the CDRCU took a stand in defence of Marxist-Leninist principles and attempted to rebuild a genuine working class political party whose anti-imperialist stand was beyond doubt.

Some of the positions, expounded by McCreery, on the importance of a democratic-centralist organisation whose unity is based on a theoretical perspective that encompassed a recognition of the importance of an anti-imperialist stand and the relevance of the national question to the revolution in Britain, have only recently resurfaced in the M-L movement.

The lost years in the ultra-left quandy that followed McCreery's untimely death in 1965 may have been avoided under his leadership. Thus to simply describe the CDRCU as a "pro-China splinter group" draws a veil over its raison d'etre, the reassertion of Marxism-Leninism as a weapon of change.

KEITH ANDERSON replies: Thank you for your letter which is a contribution to the work of summing up the history of the Marxist-Leninist movement in Britain, a task still in its early stages. The article by H. Stephens you take issue with, was not meant to be such a summing up and so did not give a full analysis of the CDRCU. None the less, I would like to take issue with you on a few points. Whilst the CDRCU was by no means simply "pro-China", it is a fact that the early Marxist-Leninist movement took

defence of China as a basic standpoint. That was totally correct because then China was leading genuine communists around the world to rescue communism from a full-scale revisionist onslaught, just as today it leads the struggle to defend world peace.

I think that some of your analysis is one-sided and undialectical. It is not enough to ascribe the subsequent disintegration of the CDRCU, to the tragic death of one comrade. Similarly, it is one-sided and sectarian to just write off the ACW and ECM as "degenerate groups". Whatever weaknesses these groups had, and whatever became of them subsequently, it is a fact that they waged struggles to defend Marxism-Leninism and to support national liberation movements and socialist China. The ECM placed considerable stress on integrating with and supporting the most oppressed.

Whatever the problems faced on their road of advance by the communists of China or other countries, the failings of communists in Britain cannot mainly be attributed to an "ultra-left quandy". The main deviation in the Marxist-Leninist movement in Britain has been right wing pro-imperialism, represented most notably by the 'Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)', and by the history of our organisation and its antecedents. The seven lean years when we slandered the Republican movement and ignored black people were a manifestation of a failure to break with the social imperialist traditions of the British working class movement, not "ultra-leftism".

The Marxist-Leninist movement exists not simply for "the reassertion of Marxism-Leninism as a weapon of change". By making Marxism-Leninism the ideology of the most oppressed on a world scale, Mao Zedong Thought has enriched and developed (not merely reasserted) Marxism-Leninism. There is nothing wrong with being "pro-China".

IRISH TROTS

From: Brendan Hill

Returning to London after a visit to Belfast at the time of the recent Assembly elections I was bemused to find it claimed in the middle class left rag "Socialist Challenge", that their cohorts in the north of Ireland, People's Democracy,

had aided Sinn Fein in their electoral successes.

But whereas "Socialist Challenge" clearly implies that People's Democracy's votes transferred to Sinn Fein, the truth is somewhat less revolutionary. From the voting figures detailed in the "Irish Times" it emerges that in North Belfast, the only constituency where unequivocal details are available due to a joint redistribution of P.D. and S.D.L.P. candidates' votes in West Belfast, the P.D. votes went mainly to the S.D.L.P.. The percentage distribution of P.D. votes being:

S.D.L.P.	60%
Sinn Fein	20%
Sticks (W.P.)	8½%
Untransferable	6%
Alliance	4½%
Unionist (various)	1%

An added confusion was the references, in the article concerned, to P.D.'s standing variously in South, West and North Belfast. The "Socialist Challenge" hacks clearly identify so closely with the valiant struggle of their colonial progeny that they don't even know where they operate. P.D. stood candidates in West and North Belfast by the way - South Belfast being fairly solid Loyalist territory.

So it can be seen that far from aiding the cause of Sinn Fein self-reliance, the Belfast Trots staged a temporary diversion for Stoop Low Party and various Loyalist (including Sticky) votes.

Had all, or even 90% of P.D.'s votes transferred to Sinn Fein, then Sinn Fein's Joe Austin would have been elected to represent the nationalist people of North Belfast.

Such is the way the middle class socialists of the Fourth International "support" the national liberation struggle of the Irish people.

GUERRILLA WAR IN TOTTENHAM

From: a Brixton reader.

In watching the new TV programme 'Black on Black' on Channel 4, I was struck by a remarkable item (extraordinary in terms of what the media usually cover, though quite common in terms of everyday life) about police harassment of the predominantly black population of Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, North London. Speaker after speaker, testified that the harassment was both persistent and system-



Write to: "Class Struggle",

c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London, N.4 3NG.

atic until the community was driven to defend itself. A youth project was started there, where young blacks could take part in sport and cultural activities, etc. But the police quickly came to treat the centre as the place they would automatically go to whenever they were looking for trouble or wanting to pick someone up for an alleged 'offence'.

The youth made every effort to be reasonable and open to dialogue. Their football team played the local police, and a visit was even arranged to Hendon Police College. But the day before it was due to take place there was an escalation in provocation. A squad of the police's fascist Instant Response Unit had been detailed for repressive activities at a Spurs football match, but, not finding enough violence there for their taste, they wantonly invaded the estate in order to terrorise the population.

Or so they thought! Driven to the end of their tether by a series of beatings and insults, the black youth fought back. The local 'community policeman' was beaten up. A police car cruising through the estate was bombarded with beer barrels from an overhead catwalk, and the roof and bonnet caved in.

In interviews, brimming with anger and determination, the youth made it clear that here was an attack on their community. There was no answer left but force, so force definitely would be used. In the 'audience-participation' part of the programme, despite the reformist and bureaucratic attitude of the presenter, it emerged clearly that the pattern on this estate was reproduced in numerous areas up and down the country.

This programme was powerful testimony to the strength of the contradictions building up between the national minorities and the forces of the state. It shows that the issue is not just one of traditional democratic rights but goes further than this: events are clearly posing the demand of the national minorities to develop their own style of life within areas

where they live, in other words of free national development with an element of territorial control.

MINERS AND PARASITES

From: an unemployed reader in Wrexham.

At a time when unemployment in Wrexham is running at an all time high of 20%, a long overdue memorial to the miners of the Gresford pit disaster who lost their lives in a horrific explosion followed by a rampaging inferno in the nineteen thirties, has at long last been realised. The county bureaucrats, civic dignitaries and councillors have seen fit to have the memorial officially inaugurated by Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana.

There has been some criticism that the whole issue was being turned into a "royal circus" of visiting Upper Crust personages including the Lord Mayor of London and that old miners who perished in the Dennis seam of the mine, would not have wanted it done this way. As one letter to the press stated: "Those who strut will be the direct heirs of the old coal owners who failed to spend money to ventilate the mine properly with the resultant build-up of explosive gases resulting in the explosion."

With one in six people unemployed in the region, these visiting parasites will be wined and dined on our rates. Smoked salmon and caviar no less, is on the menu for thirty people, whilst local people are living largely on 'stodge'.

If you are puzzled as to why I have gone to the trouble of writing this letter to you, it is to inform your readership that the bulk of the Wrexham councillors are all stalwarts of the Labour Party and it is largely their idea to invite these people. But are we really so surprised?

CAPITALIST CRISIS - No End in Sight

by Steven Brock.

Let us not be mistaken. We are not enduring a Thatcherite experiment. Since 1976, British economic policy has been remarkably consistent. Tory administrations have applied more stringently what their Labour colleagues began. The present crisis is a danger signal to capitalism to readjust, restructure and regenerate its predatory operation. Behind a seemingly vandalistic programme lies a conflict between bourgeois interests whereby the loser remains the working class.

The fear of the manufacturing sector is the perspective of de-industrialisation whereby far from being "leaner and fitter" the shrunken manufacturing sector will emerge "smaller and weaker". In this period of economic contradiction capitalists fear that a continuingly depressed market will accelerate the decline of manufacturing.

OVERSEAS EARNINGS

Whilst the capitalist recipe for recovery requires a drop in "unit labour costs" and labour intensification extracting more output per worker, the logic of "control money and fight inflation" is contributing to the problems of the manufacturing based capitalists. The emphasis on tight financial

constraints on the domestic producer does not harm the interests of those capitalists whose principal income is from "invisible" exports. On the contrary, in 1981 the investment earnings from overseas bank lending, insurance business and other service institutions produced foreign exchange worth £3,452 million, an increase of 50% over 1980. Financial capital is the main foreign earner with £1 billion in foreign interest payments. But expensive credit and fluctuating exchange rates does not stimulate either a domestic or export market revival in such recessions. Bourgeois economists assume that over 2 million jobs discarded since 1979 and the drop of one-sixth in manufacturing output to be lost permanently. The likelihood that the service sector can absorb such unemployment is remote. An economy becomes more service orientated when people can spend a larger proportion of their income on travel, dining out, leisure etc. This is not happening. It is elementary that unemployed people are not consumers, they are wealth absorbing. Yet without consumption there is no demand. Without the mysticism of market demand the operation of a "market economy" stalls. In whatever form, the consensus solution has been to inject demand into the system by credit financing. But few can afford such expensive credit. Thus

the CBI survey reports a collapse in business confidence and a worsening of industry's short-term prospects.

The economic rationale that poor productivity and declining profitability are at the root of Britain's maturing economic "sickness" also involves a verbal commitment to invest to restore competitiveness and production. Capitalists must consider employees to be either naive or economic innocents to swallow a line of "national interest" in their argument. Investment is replacing or modernising old factories, it is not building new ones. It is used to maintain and improve upon productivity with fewer workers. This has been the case at BL paint and body shop in Longbridge where two sets of welding robots replace 200 workers. Such capital intensive investment gives rise to structural unemployment as limited alternatives prove inadequate to absorb the growing pool of unemployed. Thus in Sheffield, where the local employment office reckons that industry has lost around half its jobs in the past 3 years, the city's 7,000 school leavers were chasing just 26 registered vacancies in July.

THE FALKLANDS FACTOR

THE RHETORIC OF PATIENCE, the "national spirit" and the pain

of endurance for others, that is the working class and national minorities, is relentlessly pursued by this government. Each to their place, they cry: those working work, managers manage and let the rich be rich. In their obscene calculations the rich need more income as an incentive and the low-paid and unemployed need less income as an incentive. The Chauvinism of the Malvinas Conflict rebounds and is reflected in such ideas of "Great Britain Limited". The illusion of that ploy is not only revealed in the fact of day-to-day experiences of decaying imperialism but in official statistics that show that living standards are under greater pressure than at any time since the Second World War as wage levels are eroded to keep production costs down.

During the summer months, 11 Midland footwear makers, representing some 15% of the country's manufacturers, closed. Amidst the fear of industrial anorexia nervosa, make goods competitive is the hackneyed advice. If cutting the living standards and social wage of the working class is the principle domestic element of imperialism's remedy, it is not restricted to one imperialist economy. Its operation throughout the imperialist economies is contracting: total demand for one another's products which is reflected in the cumulative decline since 1979 of 15% in British manufacturing output. How to stimulate demands for goods and thus ensure profitable returns rather than actually meeting

the existing social needs is the bosses' concern.

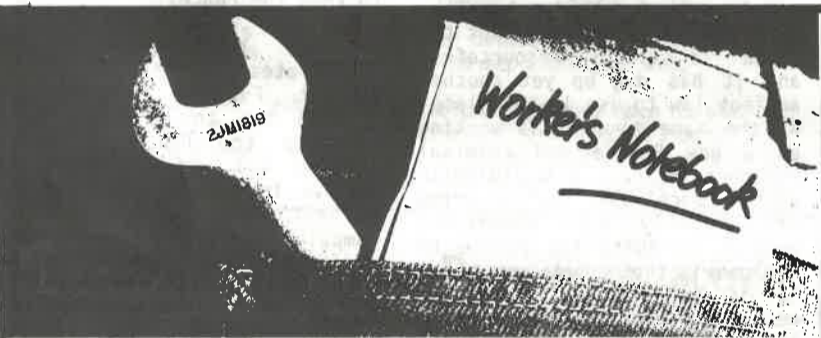
A further dilemma for the poor worried businessman is that the gains in productivity, encouraged by a parcel of measures to defuse resistance, are subject to erosion by high interest rates and the international value of currency that benefits "invisible" trade. The importance given to the level of interest repayment is because even trans-national companies depend on borrowings to finance operations, i.e. Grand Metropolitan, the hotel and leisure group, borrowings amount to 80% of its equity capital and reserves. A rough guide is repayments for every % shift in interest rates; a strong currency is equated with dearer raw material imports and difficulties in pricing in international markets i.e. less competitive.

While the large business concerns can survive to some extent a long period of contraction, it is those with relatively few reserves and a continuous cash-outflow in a restricted market that go to the wall. The much heralded pro-small businessman philosophy which was supposed to soak up the unemployed in a blaze of "free enterprise" cannot afford the bank charges, and bankruptcy rose by 30% last year. There were 3,615 business failures among small businesses with the construction industry (918 failures) and retailing (780) particularly hit. Together with the 1,129 non-trading bankruptcies, liabilities amounted to £189 million: a figure equal to the sum spent by Britain's top 12 advertisers in an attempt to maintain consumer interest.

POLITICAL OBJECTIVES

There are political objectives essential for the success of the economic strategy. These involve an atmosphere being created whereby present levels of unemployment are accepted as the inevitable byproduct of the "cure" for Britain's maturing "sickness". The social wage is the product of a 'wealthy economy', thus the crusade to "roll back the frontiers of the state" involves the liquidation of increasing costs as more people place demands on welfare provisions they previously financed when employed. That earnings-related benefits were abolished in January, and that unemployment benefits were made taxable from July is part of the 'discomfort' of unemployment.

Anti-trade union laws, cuts in welfare provisions and the rhetoric of "moral freedom" are all elements of the state's attempt to underpin a new equilibrium whereby surviving manufacturers will operate against a background of mass unemployment as a way of life.



The old saying that there is a law for the rich and another for the poor has to be amended. There is no law for youths working under the cheap labour Youth Opportunities Programme. When 18-year old Jean Daley brought a complaint of racial discrimination against Lipton's store to (the misnamed) Employment Appeal Tribunal it was dismissed as Mr Justice Neill ruled that there was no legal protection against racial or sexual discrimination. This denial of basic democratic rights is on the ground that young people on YOP's are not employed either by the company for whom they work or the state agency, Manpower Services Commission, which organises such "work experience schemes". Reverting to sophistry, Justice Neill argued that youths are complying with instructions as trainees and not as employees, that there is no contract "to execute work or labour". Try telling that to youths paid £25 a week.

Since they were introduced in April 1980, more than 5,000 young people have suffered the regime of drill activities and parade sessions in "short, sharp shock" detention centres. They have included those diagnosed as medically unfit, physically deformed and handicapped, amongst them one youth who was deaf and dumb. The oppressive, demoralising hell holes seek to use iron fisted discipline to gain obedience and instil fear into the detainees. The youth will not be intimidated!

What has TUC Chairman Frank Chapple got in common with Shirley Williams, the chairmen of the following companies: United Biscuits, Rank Hovis MacDougall, a director of the Rank Organisation and a Tory MP?

They are all on the Management Council of a New Research Organisation called Work and Society. It describes itself as a non-political organisation that is researching into attitudes to the workplace.

Its claims to independence look pretty hollow whenever you look at who finances it; BAT Industries, Rank Xerox and Marks and Spencer (who all refuse to recognise trade unions) are amongst the companies donating a total of £120,000 a year to keep it going.

Birmingham Social Services Dept went on strike for 3 weeks at the end of October in support of 3 social workers who were sacked for refusing to cooperate with a so-called 'efficiency survey'. The aim of this survey was to introduce privatisation into the Social Services and rationalise cuts in services already planned for next year's budget. The strikers included social workers, home helps, staff in children's homes and day nurseries. Most of them were women who had not been involved in industrial action before. The union, NALGO, tailed behind the strikers all through the dispute and eventually succeeded in selling them out by voting for a settlement which reinstated the 3 members in return for cooperating with the survey.

However, several important political lessons were learned. Management showed very clearly just how little they care about jobs and services. NALGO leadership showed that it will sell out if given half a chance. Social Services workers in Birmingham joined the Social Security and Health Service workers in standing against the

running-down of the welfare state and the increasing poverty and misery this will mean for the ordinary people of Birmingham.

The 10% increase in the single parent's family allowance is the equivalent of one small loaf of bread (worth 35p). The allowance now stands at £3.65 a week.

The political degeneration of the Birch's party (the so-called 'CPB-ML') is completed. The obituary is its 6th Congress document which displays a total inability to grasp the marxist method of dialectical materialism. It marks the completion of the process of reconciliation with Soviet Social Imperialism claiming that "capitalism cannot be restored in the Soviet Union", denying the hegemonic designs and threat to world peace the Soviet Union poses. Some crystal ball gazing suggests that hope for artificial respiration lies with unity with their bed-fellows in the 'New Communist Party'. Good riddance!

This year no more patients, with kidney failure, can have life-saving treatment at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Public spending cuts have forced the Central District Health Authority to order the doctors not to take on any more of these patients for treatment.

Recently, Kenneth Clark, Minister of Health, denied that government underfunding of the NHS would be responsible for the death of patients.

In 1981, 413,498 injuries to workers at the place of work were reported. 447 were fatal. To this horrific figure must be added occupational diseases, as well as a growing number of illnesses and deaths as a result of the speeding up of the rate of work in the interest of maximum profits.

Last year 553,000 youths were forced onto Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) schemes, an increase of 54% over the previous year. In 1984 the government plans to extend such schemes to cover all youth. The bosses have no solution to the problems of the youth. They want the youth to serve as cheap labour, thereby increasing profits and further driving down working class living standards.

The government plans to claw back 2½% of the pension increase that is due next November. Already six million of the 9½ million old age pensioners are on incomes below the official poverty line. Whilst the rich award themselves enormous pay rises, workers who have slaved all their lives are thrown onto the scrap-heap and condemned to poverty by the heartless capitalist system.

A report by the Institute of Economic Affairs, published last month, highlighted the plight of the poor in Britain. Since 1978-79 the tax bill for all but the most affluent has risen by between 8%-15%. The report estimates that at least 5½ million people (20% of the workforce) are trapped in a demoralising low income state. They are unemployed and/or caught in the 'Poverty trap', which means any wage increase is lost because of higher taxation or loss of state benefits.

Liverpool's council building programme has fallen from 2,000 homes a year in the late 1970's to only 171 in 1981. Of the existing 77,000 council properties 29,000 require major work and a further 20,000 need partial improvement.

In the UK 6 million council tenants owe a total of £80 million in unpaid rent. The reason for this all time high is rising unemployment and poverty. As Tony McBrearty of the Greater London Council put it "people are exercising the choices of those in extreme poverty, buying their child a new pair of shoes because it is raining or turning up the heat because they feel the cold. Then there is a hole in the rent money and they are in arrears."

To Our Readers

To enable those who work on 'Class Struggle' to have a break over the Christmas and New Year period, this issue of 'Class Struggle' is a double issue for the months of December and January. It consists of 12 pages. The February issue will be produced at the end of January, and will also contain 12 pages. Therefore, whilst there will be only 2 issues over a 3 month period, there will be the same number of 'Class Struggle' pages over that 3 month period.

We take this opportunity to wish all our readers the very best for Christmas and New Year, and thank them for their support and solidarity. We look forward confidently to your continuing support and solidarity in 1983.

All at 'Class Struggle'.

Women and the Nationality Law

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

The New Nationality Law coming into effect on January 1st discriminates against women on sexist and racist grounds. This was the theme of a conference "Women, Immigration and Nationality" held on 24th October. About 400 women attended this one day conference held in County Hall.

THE BACKGROUND

Women are seen as appendages of men by the law. Marriage is seen as fundamentally altering the position of women but not men and making a woman dependent on her husband.

i. A woman can be deported (even if there are no legal grounds for her deportation) if her husband is being deported.

ii. It is assumed that a woman will follow her husband wherever he goes, but not vice versa. This is used to restrict the rights of women settled here to be joined by their spouses from abroad.

The Home Office routinely refuses to grant citizenship to women resident in UK, whose husbands are living abroad. This is usually because the Home Office will not allow them to live in the UK. The rationale for the refusal of citizenship to women is that since the husband lives abroad, the woman cannot possibly intend to live here permanently.

The racist nature of the Nationality Law is obvious. The concept of patriality which was introduced in the 1971 Immigration Act is central to Nationality Law and thus Nationality and Immigration are directly linked. A new form of citizenship "British citizenship" is created for 'patrials'. Full citizenship is being taken away from non-patrials (i.e. all non-white) under the new law. They are fobbed off with pieces of paper giving different types of citizenships which are absolutely useless. Some rights and privileges that some Commonwealth citizens had until now are phased out and they will be treated as 'aliens'. Again this will affect mainly the Asian and Afro-Caribbean peoples. This has to be seen in the context of increasing powers being granted to the Home Office to refuse the new "British citizenship" to those who previously had full citizenship. (Before the Act there was no such status as British citizenship. UK and Colonies citizens and Commonwealth citizens were all "British subjects" with the same citizenship rights.)

THE CONFERENCE

The conference opened with strong, militant and detailed speeches from the platform.

"Attacks on black and minority people come from institutionalised state racism and white working people's racism." This was stated by an Asian woman speaker. She pointed to Home Office harassment in relation to immigration, such as use of virginity tests which had been used for years. There is also increasing discrimination in Housing Departments which have no suitable accommodation for a large family; social security offices regularly refuse minority people benefits to which they are entitled; and in one school in London, a headmaster demands a passport before registering an Asian child.

The speaker gave three examples of attacks by white racists where police departments refused to do anything (their job!).

i. A young African man was kicked in the face and lost the



The campaign to support Anwar Ditta made the oppression of national minority women a political issue in Britain.

sight of one eye as a result. Even when he identified his attacker, the police refused to prosecute due to "lack of evidence".

ii. Eleven members of an Asian family were attacked in their own home. Instead of finding and bringing those attackers to justice, the police have dished up trumped-up charges against each member in that household.

iii. The Newham 8, whose case has already been publicised in 'Class Struggle'.

She gave a historical account of immigration laws, pointing out that both Labour and Tory governments have been responsible for increasingly repressive measures being brought in. She said the 1980 immigration rules attack the Asian custom of arranged marriage by refusing to recognise marriages on the sham excuse that "the parties have not met" or "the marriage was primarily for admission to UK". The 1983 Nationality Law will take away the automatic right of citizenship from children born here which has existed till now. Also the widows and divorcees of UK Nationals won't be able to register but will have to naturalise.

Carmen Pedrosa spoke from United Filipino Association or Pagkaka, an organisation that was formed when large numbers of Filipino women were threatened with deportation.

She said that 85% of Filipinos in Britain are women. Although there is no colonial connection between Philippines and Britain, there had been active recruitment by the British government. They were considered "pretty-smiling-as an attractive product which could be discarded when necessary." When in the late 1970s, the Tory government came to power on a "restrict immigration" ticket, Filipino women were considered an ideal target. They were women; docile and disposable, and were unorganised. Also the government of the Philippines uses its people for an export and for economic reasons, is dependent on migration. Politically the government of the Philippines was unable to do anything for its nationals.

Between 1978-1979, deportation

notices were served on many women by using a legal technicality. When entering the UK, they came as single women as it was said that the British government wanted single women on "compassionate grounds" so as not to divide families. Since recruitment was done through agencies, married women came without being told the implications or asked to state whether they had any children.

Through the help of the JCWI, (Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants) and the Migrant Action Group, a campaign was started to publicise this. "Out of desperation came success. Otherwise, it would have been a disaster for us. We showed that women can organise." 85% of the cases have been won. Carmen Pedrosa said that in the future Filipino women will take an active part in the collective network for women's rights.

An Afro-Caribbean woman who works at Lambeth Law Centre gave a short speech. She said that it is a misconception that since most of the migration from the

Caribbean occurred prior to the immigration controls that Afro-Caribbean people have no problems. In fact, they face the same "internal controls" as so-called foreigners.

A common situation for Afro-Caribbean women is that she has to come on her own initially to work in England. She makes the best arrangements possible for her children: usually leaving them with grandparents but sending money regularly for their maintenance. When she later applies to bring her children to live with her, this is prevented by Home Office rules devised for the purpose. The Home Office will say that she is not "solely responsible" for them or she does "not take primary decisions" about them because naturally the grandparents will decide when the children will be christened, when they will start school and what school they will go to, etc.

Similarly, when she wishes to bring her elderly dependent relatives, the Home Office will point to some distant relative such as a second cousin, in the Caribbean and say that that person is capable of looking after the relative.

Thus the Home Office will recognise the extended family system only when it enables them to keep black people out of this country.

Many people cannot come back to the UK after a period of absence of two years, (under the so-called returning residents' rule), even though they might have lived here for many years prior to it without any residence qualification. Some Afro-Caribbean women had an automatic right to citizenship when many islands became independent recently, whilst men lost that right. However this was not publicised and many women went through the expensive and lengthy procedure of registering for a British passport.

Many women, who are themselves facing deportation, also spoke of their specific situation, thus illustrating vividly what a little phrase on a piece of paper can mean in terms of human misery. It was excellent to see also their determination to resist this unjust discrimination, and to win. Although the conference did not have any formal organisation, it showed the growing strength of the anti-imperialist trend in the women's movement.

Black woman resists

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

An example of the everyday treatment that black people receive at the hands of the police is shown in the case of Fowzia. This black woman was attacked by a white man whilst walking through Handsworth a couple of months ago. The police arrived on the scene and took Fowzia, the only black person present, away to Thornhill Road police station, ostensibly to "help with enquiries". The white man and his companion were merely asked to make statements to be used in court against Fowzia. At 6.00 p.m., after spending 4 hours in police custody, Fowzia was charged with 'Blemish of the Peace' and locked up for the night.

"BLEMISH OF THE PEACE"

'Blemish of the Peace', which is behaviour likely to lead to a Breach of the Peace, is another example of the way that the state uses its laws to oppress and control sections of the people. In particular, it is being used against black people and both black and white women. Women protesting outside a cinema showing pornographic films in Bradford were recently charged with 'Blemish of the Peace', as were the women peace protestors at Greenham Common.

The 'Sus' laws which were used almost exclusively against black people were repealed only after a great public outcry. But the state is always resourceful, and it has dug up yet another ancient law to use in its place. At the same time it is working on a new Police and criminal evidence Bill. With 'Blemish of the Peace' and 'Sus' no crime has actually been committed, but if it suits the police to 'suspect' that you are about to do so, a conviction will result, thus criminalising innocent people. The courts being an integral part of the state generally accept police versions of events without question.

In anger at the thought of the 'justice' likely to be meted

out at the hands of a judiciary, racist to the core, people united and picketed Thornhill Road police station in strength. At a subsequent court hearing, also picketed, the charge was dropped and Fowzia was asked to "show good cause why she should not be bound over to keep the peace", thus shifting the burden of proof onto Fowzia. So much for innocent until proved guilty!

The effect of being bound over is that should the police charge her with any offense during a length of time chosen by the magistrates, she will automatically lose a sum of money, again decided by the magistrates, and probably receive a stiffer sentence for the new alleged offence as well. In effect, anyone who has been bound over has to keep well away from pickets, demonstrations and anywhere that people are exercising their democratic rights to protest. It is therefore, an effective means of controlling people.

All along, Fowzia has protested her innocence and has refused to go along with the court process which criminalises innocent people by pressurising them to plead guilty to alleged minor offences and to accept 'punishments' such as being bound over and small fines. She argues emphatically that she has not Breached the Peace, so why should she be Bound over to keep the Peace?

At the last hearing, the magistrates found the case against Fowzia 'proved' and ordered her to be bound over to keep the Peace. Fowzia refused and was sentenced to 7 days in prison. She is now on bail pending an appeal. The campaign against the harassment and criminalisation of Fowzia has gained a lot of support and further demonstrations in support of Fowzia and in resistance to the state, are being planned for the period up to and during the appeal.

For further information contact: c/o 101 Villa Road, Birmingham 19.

Farmworkers Fight



marched to the Houses of Parliament and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmworkers are amongst the lowest paid workers in Britain and they are demanding a 100% increase on their basic pay, which would give them £120 for a 35-hour week. At the moment the average pay of a farmworker is £102.30 for a 47 hour week, only two thirds of the average industrial wage. Many farmworkers take home as little as £50 for a 40-hour week.

The capitalist farmers have offered an increase of 4%. This is at a time when they are reaping massive and increasing profits, and when productivity has increased to the extent that whereas ten years ago farmworkers produced 60% of Britain's food requirements, today they produce 75%. Labour costs on British farms amount to only 14% of production costs. According to Lloyds Bank farm income rose by 15% last year. In this situation, the farmers are not merely offering a paltry 4% increase, but are demanding cuts in holiday pay and are employing more casual and part-time workers on seasonally adjusted rates of pay. Last year they used free of charge the labour of 11,000 school leavers on the Youth Opportunities Programme.

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

As part of their struggle for a wage increase, hundreds of farmworkers demonstrated in London on November 10th, and

In this situation, the farmworkers have no alternative but to step up the struggle for their just demands.

A TASK TAKEN UP FOR SOLUTION

IRELAND CONFERENCE

- from front page.

Key to the British Revolution

"The second major lesson to be drawn from the Irish national liberation struggle is that Ireland is the key to the British revolution. Therefore an Irish solidarity movement in Britain will be supported by those in Britain whose interests lie in the overthrow of British imperialism and will be opposed by those whose interests lie in the continued existence of British imperialism. Over 100 years ago Marx and Engels first established that the question of Irish self-determination stands at the heart of the British revolution. Before 1848 Marx and Engels thought Ireland would be liberated as a result of the victory of the working class movement in Britain. Deeper study, however, convinced them that the opposite was true. The British working class would never accomplish anything until it had got rid of its present connection with Ireland. Ireland is the key to the British revolution.

"In defending their stand on the Irish question in the First International, Marx and Engels came up against the opportunist leaders of the British Labour movement who at that time were moving closer to Gladstone and the leaders of the liberal bourgeoisie. They were forced to deal with political attacks on the Irish liberation movement which have recurred ever since. These included those of the 'English would-be liberators' who thought Fenianism was 'not altogether wrong' but wanted the Irish movement to use the 'legal means of meetings and demonstrations...' by which the English movement conducted its struggles. Supporters of Marx and Engels argued that the Irish had every right to use force since force was used to deny them their freedom. When Marx, in supporting the call for an amnesty for Irish political prisoners, accused Gladstone 'of deliberately insulting the Irish Nation', and attacked the conduct of his government, there were those who thought he went too far. Marx's reply is a political guideline for today: 'It is more important to make a concession to the Irish people than to Gladstone.' Finally, Marx and Engels faced defenders of British rule over Ireland who argued that Ireland could not be independent because it would undermine the security of Britain. That the International was able to build a demonstration of nearly 100,000 people in support of the demand for an amnesty for Irish political prisoners was mainly due to the political fight Marx and Engels conducted in support of Irish self-determination in the First International.

"What was true of the relationship of Britain and Ireland in the latter part of the nineteenth century was mirrored all over the world with the development of imperialism as a world system. By the turn of the century capitalism had entered its imperialist phase - a world-wide system of colonial oppression and financial domination of the overwhelming majority of the world by a small number of imperialist countries. Imperialism divides the world into oppressed and oppressor nations. It also divides the working class. A handful of imperialist countries obtains high monopoly profits out of the brutal exploitation of oppressed peoples worldwide. Out of these 'super-profits' imperialism is able to create and sustain a small privileged and influential

layer of the working class in the imperialist countries whose conditions of life isolate it from the suffering, poverty and temper of the mass of the working class. This privileged layer has a material interest in the continuation of imperialism for it is the source of its economic and political privileges. Such workers, a labour aristocracy, constitute the social base of opportunism in the working class movement. So critical was this development for the working class movement and so great the damage done to the interests of the working class as a result of the activities of these opportunist layers that Lenin, at the Second Congress of the Communist International (1920), said that opportunism is the principal enemy.

'Opportunism is our principal enemy. Opportunism in the upper ranks of the working class is not proletarian socialism but bourgeois socialism. Practice has shown that the active people in the working class movement who adhere to this opportunist trend are better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie itself. Without their leadership of the workers, the bourgeoisie could not remain in power.'



"Marx and Engels had already come into conflict with the opportunist layers of the working class movement in Britain especially in relation to Ireland. These opportunists argued in exactly the same way as their successors in today's Labour Party and trade union movement. The developments in Britain towards the end of the nineteenth century in fact proved to be the forerunner of developments worldwide. So that by building on the political experience of Marx and Engels on the Irish question, Lenin was able to formulate the revolutionary position in relation to national oppression in the epoch of imperialism. In particular, he was able to make clear the attitude the working class of an imperialist nation should adopt towards national movements.

"The mass of the working class in the imperialist countries cannot liberate itself without uniting with the movement of oppressed peoples to destroy imperialism. Only such an alliance will make it possible to wage a united fight against the imperialist powers, the imperialist bourgeoisie and its bought-off agents in the working class. The unity of all forces fighting imperialism can only be achieved on the basis of the internationalist principle 'No nation can be free if it oppresses other nations'. And this is expressed through the demand of the right of nations to self-determination. Far from being counterposed to the socialist revolution, this demand must be insisted upon precisely in order to promote the socialist revolution. For unless imperialism is fatally weakened and opportunism defeated the socialist revolution cannot succeed.

"This standpoint demands that the working class in the imperialist nation 'makes common cause' with the oppressed peoples fighting imperialism. And, as Lenin argued, socialists could not, without ceasing to be socialists, reject such a struggle right down to the uprising or war. For the working class to side with its own ruling class, or not actively oppose it, in the imperialist

domination of the oppressed people necessarily means to strengthen the domination of opportunist forces over itself. Further, it undermines the unity of the working class in the oppressed and oppressor nations and hence the possibility of defeating imperialism and beginning the socialist revolution.

"Since the rise of the Fenian movement in the 1860s up to today, the most critical revolutionary challenge to British imperialism has come from Ireland. The dominance of opportunist forces in the British working class movement, however, has not only held back the working class struggle in Britain but also limited support for the Irish revolution. The failure of the working class movement in Britain to rid itself of its opportunist leadership and 'make common cause' with the Irish revolution has meant a severe set-back for the socialist revolution in both Ireland and Britain. Ireland is undoubtedly still the key to the British revolution."

Comrade Reed showed how all these principles still apply today by looking concretely at the recent history of the Ireland Solidarity Movement. In particular he pointed out,

"During the last 13 years, at crucial moments of rising revolutionary struggle against British rule in Ireland, the Labour Party and official trade union movement have come forward as the best defenders of British imperialist rule. In doing so they only confirm Lenin's description of these elements: 'they are better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie itself.' Without their influence over the working class British imperialism would already be defeated in Ireland. Far from being potential allies of the Irish people, the British Labour Party and official trade union movement have proved to be their most treacherous enemies. This has however not stopped all the major organisations of the British left active on the Irish question from trying to find some section of the imperialist Labour Party prepared to play a 'progressive' role on Ireland."

Finally, Comrade Reed dwelt on the connection between democratic rights in Britain and the Irish Revolution. He showed how the solidarity movement will inevitably confront the British state, and also spoke of how the uprisings showed that there were real forces for revolution in Britain who would stand for the Irish people's right to self-determination. He concluded,

"In this context an Irish solidarity movement must be based on the two central demands which express support for the right of the Irish people to self-determination, Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! It would give unconditional support to the struggle of Irish POWs in British gaols who have been murdered, brutalised and continually harassed by the British state. It would also campaign on issues such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the appointment of Kenneth Newman, the abolition of plastic bullets, the defence of democratic rights such as the freedom to speak out against British rule in Ireland.

"This means that while an Irish solidarity movement itself would be based on those forces who

fully support the anti-imperialist position on Ireland, it would also work with other organisations and individuals who supported, for example, the abolition of plastic bullets, whether or not they support the two main demands of the Irish solidarity movement. This would include, for example, members of the Labour Party and individual MPs who can and must be made to support such demands as the democratic right to speak out on Ireland. The Irish solidarity movement would, of course, be fighting to win all those it works with, in whatever campaign, to the anti-imperialist position on Ireland without making this a condition for working with them.

"This conference represents a new beginning. It is a call for real unity - unity based on the common interests of the Irish people and the British working class in the defeat of British imperialism.

**"VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!
TROOPS OUT NOW!
BUILD THE IRISH SOLIDARITY
MOVEMENT!"**

Following Comrade Reed's speech representatives of the Wolfe Tone Cumann of Sinn Fein, South London Troops Out Movement,

Bangladesh Workers' Association (London), Bradford Irish Solidarity Committee, Connolly Keegan Cumann of Sinn Fein, Revolutionary Communist League and Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee took the floor to present their views on the building of an Ireland Solidarity Movement.

Local work

During a discussion of local work experience statements were made by the North and South London and Bradford Irish Solidarity Committees, Tyneside Action Committee on Ireland, Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee and the Colchester Branch of the Troops Out Movement. Emerging very clearly from all the reports was the police harassment of Ireland solidarity work. But what also emerged equally clearly was that where there was a determination to fight back combined with a spirit of uniting all who can be united then these attacks on democratic rights could be beaten back.

Prisoners of War

Uppermost in the minds of those attending the Conference was the question of Irish prisoners of war in English gaols. Speaking on this subject were solicitor, Alastair Logan, and Helen O'Brien, the sister of an Irish prisoner of war. Alastair Logan said that our "solidarity must be up front". He related the systematic persecution of the prisoners but equally clearly pointed out how they had always resisted and were leading the fightback inside the prisons. He told the conference of his great respect for the prisoners and said that people in the solidarity movement had to learn from how they united together, worked with a single mind, and were even prepared to lay down their lives. Helen O'Brien told how the Irish prisoners had built unity with other prisoners including Palestinians and Iranians. Relating the story of her own brother, she said that he had been inside for 8 years, including 3 in solitary confinement, but he was more determined now than before he

was imprisoned. Shop steward and Sinn Fein member, Michael Holden, gave an account of how the Prevention of Terrorism Act had been used to prevent the Irish community from supporting the struggle in Ireland.

Discussion

Throughout the day there was full democratic discussion of each item on the agenda. The vast majority of the audience agreed with the orientation of the conference but a small number of vociferous members of a Trotskyite organisation argued for a position of ignoring black and Irish people in favour of working with white trade unionists. They argued that instead of working to build an Ireland Solidarity Movement, we should be aiming to "expose" the Labour Party and trade union leaders. Many conference delegates angrily refuted this attempted diversion.

The conference concluded by adopting an extremely important resolution which reads as follows:

1. Conference agrees to set up a co-ordinating committee consisting of representatives of all groups and local bodies which support the two demands 'Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now!' This co-ordinating committee will receive and distribute all information on local activities; co-ordinate national work; support any campaign backed by the Irish prisoners in support of Irish POWs in English prisons; receive and distribute all information on all cases of police harassment of Irish solidarity work.

2. Conference agrees to launch a national petition as follows: "We, the undersigned, recognising the right of the Irish people to self-determination call for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland."

3. Conference empowers the co-ordinating committee to call a national demonstration in London on Saturday, 12 March, 1983 calling for Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! The co-ordinating committee will invite all groups active on the Irish question to support and take part in the building of this demonstration.

In addition, an amendment was passed setting up a Trade Union Sub-Committee to co-ordinate work on Ireland in the trade union movement.

Build the Solidarity Movement

The work must now be intensified to build the Ireland Solidarity Movement, to set up new committees (new ones are already being formed in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and West London) and, in particular, to ensure that March 12, 1983 sees a huge demonstration that can begin to tap the support which exists amongst the oppressed for Ireland's fight for freedom.

A task taken up for solution

It is a vitally important task to build the Ireland Solidarity Movement because Ireland is the key to the British revolution. When the November 20 Conference was planned, the question of building that movement was a task placed on the agenda. The successful outcome showed that it is now no longer a task that has been placed on the agenda, but is a task that has been taken up for solution.

There are those who say that the line of uniting with and relying on the most oppressed is sectarian. The Conference refuted this slander in practice and showed where a real, flourishing revolutionary movement can be built in this country.

**BUILD THE IRISH SOLIDARITY
MOVEMENT!**

PRISONERS SUPPORT CONFERENCE

The North London Irish Solidarity Committee was extremely heartened by the support that it received for the November 20th Conference from the Irish Republican Prisoners of War. This support showed what a tremendous role these captured revolutionaries can play in the building of a genuine solidarity movement.

We quote in detail from a number of the letters sent by the prisoners to the conference, because of the exceptionally important political lessons they contain for us. The revolutionary steadfastness and integrity, the courage, the open heartedness and non-sectarianism and the genuine internationalism of the Irish POW's, is an inspiration to all revolutionaries in Britain.

BRENDAN DOWD **LEICESTER**

We POW's and all Republicans, appreciate the concern and support shown by some British people, we also appreciate the courage of our British comrades, which they have displayed in confronting the brutal police state.

I and my comrades, Brian and Eddie, send greetings to you and to all comrades, we also wish you success at your conference. However, if you, or a committee, should ever call on the IRA to lay down its arms and surrender, then we would condemn you as being counter-revolutionaries.

JOHN McCLUSKEY **HULL PRISON**

12th November

We believe we are entitled and have a right to demand total support from all sections of the British working class, in our struggle to rid our country of British imperialism and to achieve self-determination for our people.

Any political group or individual who refuses to stand with us in our struggle will not only be seriously weakening their own position to struggle against oppression, but by their inaction they will be condoning the terror campaign by the British state against the Irish working class.

We appeal to all those political groups and individuals who claim to support the right of self-determination for the Irish people to come together and help to form an Irish Solidarity Movement. By showing full support with the Irish struggle you will also be helping the British working class. We are fighting the same enemy as you - i.e. the British ruling class.

VINCENT DONNELLY **PARKHURST**

9th September

I wish to state my heartfelt support for all your efforts out there in the struggle for justice and freedom from oppression, not just on behalf of we Irish, I hope, but also for all other minorities here in Britain - our black and Asian brethren, and our Welsh and Scots cousins. Keep your campaign broadbased and ignore factionalism.

VINCENT DONNELLY **WINCHESTER**

You may have found over the years that we in the Republican movement tend to be a bit distant with the various socialist groups supporting the United Ireland policy. This is of course because we have learned from practical experience in the past how easy it is to get your hands burned. The one thing that comes most vividly to mind is the promised support for Larkin in the 1913 lockout in Dublin when the workers hopes were built up on outward show of support by the parent TUC in England; only for this support to be withdrawn when the political pressure came on. The TUC in recent years have not shown much difference in attitude to their 1913 forebears.

Luckily this generation are fully educated and aware that the TUC are almost totally a right wing and imperialist institution, and don't honestly reflect the views of the grassroots. So be understanding with our reticence while we too will understand your problems in organising a united, anti-imperialist group.

PATRICK HACKETT **PARKHURST**

19th October

I'm delighted to see such unity amongst so many diverse organisations. Keep it up.

CORNELIUS McFADDEN

WORMWOOD SCRUBS

17th November

Over the years much work has been done by groups such as you, in this area of attempting to educate the British working class as to what's really going on in Ireland.

However, it always seemed to me that the impact of such efforts was always weakened, simply because there were many small groups working for the same aims yet independently of each other.

If this coming conference can unite all those various factions into a single unit - with a common strategy - then it will be a victory, one which will help lead to the ultimate victory of the Irish people over British imperialism and oppression.



Photo: Paul Mattsson.

IRISH POW'S **ALBANY**

Revolutionary greetings to all comrades gathered together for this conference. We wish every success to your endeavour and firmly believe that it will conclude with a much clearer idea on how to build an efficient Irish Solidarity Movement.

The building of a principled unity around the main issue of British withdrawal is of paramount importance. We fully realise that the forging of an alliance among groupings with widely varying political perspectives is fraught with many difficulties but it can be achieved if semantics and shibboleths are discarded and the minds of all delegates are concentrated on the main issue. British withdrawal and on the dire necessity of constructing an efficient Irish solidarity movement in this country.

Remember comrades, the three giants of socialist theory, Marx Engels and Lenin valiantly supported the Irish people's struggle for national liberation therefore, we feel it is the duty of all true socialists and democrats to work strenuously for the achievement of this aim.

We believe that revolutionary goodwill is an essential element in cementing any alliance and we hope to begin this process by extending our revolutionary goodwill to all delegates attending this conference.

Venceremos
Irish POW's
Albany Prison
Isle of Wight

ANDY MULRYAN **LONG LARTIN**

22nd October

I'd like to express my deepest appreciation for the support lent by the working class movement in Britain to the people of Ireland in their struggle for freedom. It will not be forgotten.

in Gartree are in total agreement with and wholly endorse, the one day conference being organised by the NLISC on the building of an Irish Solidarity Movement.

As I pointed out in my previous letter it is gratifying to us in here to see so many people of various political organisations coming together under one banner to promote one specific cause i.e. the struggle of the Irish people for freedom, justice and peace. The time has surely come for all groups to come together on one issue, to oppose the establishment parties who run this country and who incidentally, adopt a common approach to the Irish Struggle regardless of party political differences.

PATRICK GUILFOYLE

We are all in this together, it's not just Ireland v. England. As you know it is a big big world. Imperialism is a world problem. Nations of people must work together to crush it. Should I walk out of this prison tomorrow, I would not be free. To live under Thatcher is to live a life with no future. She is the governor of an open prison, full of working class prisoners.

PAUL NORNEY **ALBANY**

13th November

Many English based groups have paid lip-service to Irish Freedom whilst at the same time condemning the actions of the Irish Republican Army. Also, these groups will give support to liberation movements throughout the world - in the Middle East, Africa, Spain etc. - and explain their actions in the context of war. To us it looks like national chauvinism to take such a contradictory stand.

The main aim of an Irish Solidarity Movement, then, must be to break through and overcome this chauvinist attitude and enlist those groups not only to support Irish freedom, but to support the war being waged at present by the Irish Republican Army.

KEVIN DUNPHY **WORMWOOD SCRUBS**

Having read your letter and studied your leaflet, I am in full sympathy with the aims of your committee and offer you my unreserved support in your work. Any attempt at any time to rid Ireland of its oppressors is to be welcomed, and should be fully supported by all true socialists.

LIAM BAKER **GARTREE**

3rd November

I'm writing this letter to let you know that I and my comrades

IRISH REPUBLICAN POW'S **HULL**

Comrades, it is in as much your interests as ours, that a strong solidarity movement is built. The experiences which you will derive from that movement, will stand by you when it comes to organising your own revolution in Britain. It is no use just talking about it. To be effective you have to involve yourselves in every aspect of the struggle in Ireland... In asking you to build a solidarity movement, we believe that any political group or individual who classify themselves as socialists, have a duty to build that movement in order to promote socialism in Ireland and Britain... I am sure you will all agree with us that the national war of liberation being waged in Ireland today is a shining example of what a risen people can achieve in any country subjected to oppression and imperialism.

P. WARDLAW **PETERHEAD**

SCOTTISH POLITICAL PRISONER

...Your organisation's proposal to build a genuine Irish solidarity movement, when implemented will be a vital aid to the British workers' understanding. Particularly important is the demand for the immediate withdrawal and unconditional ending of British presence in Ireland, and the exposures of British imperialism's murderous activities. For the awareness of these matters is a revolutionary awareness.

Gerry McLochlainn: Message to Conference

Framed Irish Prisoner of War, Gerry McLochlainn played a major role in building for the November 20th Ireland Solidarity Conference. The following is the very powerful message of support that he sent to the Conference. It was read out by the sister of an Irish Prisoner of War, to a warm welcome.

"End of an Illusion" was the title of the main leader in 'The Times' of Saturday October 23rd. It was a leader dealing with the elections to the British assembly for occupied Ireland and the illusions smashed by that poll. It is no longer reasonable to claim that the 'Ulster problem' was capable of resolution by "conciliation, compromise and conjuring of consensus". 'The Times' went on: "The disorder is more radical than that. It lies at the most fundamental level of political organisation, the level of allegiance...."

So after 14 year of revolution and counter-revolution in Ireland, the voice of the British

ruling class spells it out. What is going on in Ireland has nothing to do with criminal conspiracies or sectarian bigotry - it is a war of national liberation and what's more it is one that is going very badly for Britain. 'The Times' then proceeded to suggest a strategy to defeat that liberation struggle - I trust that this conference will seek to map out another strategy to assist it.

The massive vote for Sinn Fein, in the nationalist ghettos, does indeed shatter an illusion but it is an illusion wholly invented by British or pro-British propagandists. It is no longer possible to dispute the massive support for Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Republican Movement, which is the only mass revolutionary movement in these islands. But the poll victory did not come out of the air, the evidence has always been there as the IRA have been able to sustain a gruelling guerilla war for 14 years against the most experienced imperialist power in

history. This could only result from the active support of a major layer of the nationalist people. Yet until now the vast majority of those in Britain who purport to be internationalists, anti-imperialists, socialists or whatever, have produced little else but rehashes of British propaganda and apologies for anti-Irish racism and militarism among British workers. The heroic and selfless struggle of the IRA which has the overwhelming support of the nationalist ghettos has been vilified by British socialists who have been unwilling to challenge the overwhelming chauvinism of the British labour movement. This conference, however, is called by one of the few exceptions to that general rule by a group of socialists who represent the best traditions of British socialism by attempting to present our struggle without illusions - as a legitimate war of national liberation. I have no hesitation then in endorsing this attempt to build an Irish solidarity movement which

refuses to deal in illusions.

Since 1968 when the nationalist people took the road of insurrection in order to achieve our democratic rights, we have met with baton charges, internment, torture, Diplock courts, criminalisation of our captured soldiers or political workers, plastic bullets and more often than not the lead bullets of regular soldiers or SAS goon squads. Each fresh escalation of the war by the British state has been matched first by the stones and petrol bombs of our youth and later by the heroism and sacrifice of our secret army, the IRA. The armed resistance by the IRA, on a scale not seen since the twenties, and with a sophistication and determination that has confounded every British strategy has now been endorsed overwhelmingly and claimed two more victims: Tory Gauleiter Prior and his revamped Stormont.

As unemployed and poorly paid youth in Britain, particularly black youth, begin to tread the

same path as we did 14 years ago, opportunities open up to demonstrate that our struggles are, in fact, one struggle and our enemy - British imperialism - is one enemy. I call on you therefore to go out from this conference committed to the building of an Irish solidarity movement which will educate British working people using films, meetings and visits to the occupied territory. A movement which will agitate among British people by street meetings, marches and demonstrations and most of all organise them into a movement which stands with its Irish brothers and sisters and against British imperialism. In so doing, you will encourage them to fight for their own rights and freedoms with no illusions in the self-styled 'mother of parliaments'.

Build the Irish Solidarity Movement.

Victory to the Irish Republican Movement

Gerry MacLochlainn,
Irish Republican POW,
Maidstone.

SPIRIT OF FREEDOM

RCL

STATEMENT ON IRELAND

The following is the full text of a policy statement by the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain concerning the building of an Ireland Solidarity Movement. It was distributed as a document of the conference called on November 20 by the North and South London Irish Solidarity Committees. A shortened version was presented to the conference in a speech by a representative of the RCLB.

Ode to the fallen warrior

The following poem was written by Jimmy Anderson, an English prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs, in honour of Bobby Sands. It was sent to the November 20th Ireland Solidarity Conference, and was read out there.

ODE TO THE FALLEN WARRIOR: SON OF ERIN

If they are the darkness
Of a starless midnight sky;
Your memory is a candle's flame
One that shall never die.

And if they are the rain clouds
Let them rain their worst.
For your memory is a desert
Burning with endless thirst.

If they are the ice and snow
Of a freezing winter storm
Your memory is that glowing ember
The one that keeps us warm.

And if they are a blazing sun
Burning down harsh and cruel
Your memory is a shaded stream
With waters ever cool.

And if they are that mighty mountain
Casting shadows across our land
Your memory is the patient wind
That wears all stone to sand.

Never shall they tame an ocean
Time and tide alone control
Nor tarnish what you revealed
From deep within your soul.

Neither shall they catch the wind
And still your songs of liberty
So rest you proudly - brave son of Erin
And know that Ireland shall be free.

Sile Darragh, a Republican activist released from Armagh Jail last year at the end of a five year sentence for alleged IRA membership, gave an interview to a 'Class Struggle' correspondent in Belfast at the time of the recent Assembly election campaign. Here are some highlights:

SOLIDARITY WORK IN BRITAIN

Sile stressed the need to work with the youth who rose up last year in cities throughout Britain, especially the black youth. She saw the uprisings as a major development to be upheld and united with.

WORK AND TRAINING FACILITIES IN ARMAGH

"The situation in Armagh is that the only work there is is very demeaning work. It's washing sheets in the laundry, making sheets and pillow cases - stuff like that - which the women just will not accept because it is just absolutely demeaning!

"Another point - in the H-Blocks they have what they call vocational training, where a man can decide, 'I want to train to be a bricklayer', or, 'I want to train to be an electrician', or something like that - there's nothing of that sort in Armagh. My opinion on Armagh isn't only about the demeaning work. It's the situation that they have put women in. They've stereotyped the women. They've said 'Well all they're good for is washing!', and, 'All they're good for is working a sewing machine!'. The only classes really, that they considered even offering were typing classes, shorthand classes, which basically does stereotype a woman. I know many women in Armagh who would be interested in being a motor mechanic or an electrician, and I don't see anything wrong with that - but the system seems to offer!"

Republican activist speaks out



DEATH OF A BIGOT

"You were asking about the screw being killed? It was an action by the INLA where they shot a UDR man and by accident he hit her car and she was killed in it. I was very disappointed that it was the INLA - I would have preferred it, of course, if it had been the IRA that had done it - but she's gone and that's the main thing. She was actually one of the screws that held me down in the reception area on the day of my release, for other screws to take photographs. She was absolutely hated! She was one of the worst! A very, very bigoted Loyalist. She was the type of screw who taunted, and went out to start aggro. If she managed to get aggro started - get her friends involved in it - she'd have some Republican woman beaten up. She was absolutely detested!

"It (her death) was really welcome. It got a great reception when it was discovered that she'd died!"

17 November 1982

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) bases its view on the struggle in Ireland both on the particular relationship between the revolutionary processes in Britain and in Ireland, and on our understanding of the leading role played in world revolutionary struggle today by the movements of the oppressed for their national self-assertion.

Ireland and World Revolution

The Irish people's struggle is a part of the broad movement of the vast majority of the people of the world to oppose imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. The struggle of the Irish people has continued for centuries in which time an unconquerable spirit of freedom has built up amongst the Irish people, and invaluable lessons have been accumulated both for the Irish people's struggle, and for revolutionary struggle throughout the world.

Since the October Revolution of 1917, the national liberation movements of the oppressed have formed a definite part of the world proletarian socialist revolution. The struggle for national liberation in Ireland is fully a part of this historical movement, indeed the Easter Rising of 1916 can be said to have prefaced it. Today this means that the Irish Revolution is fully a part of the movement sweeping the world that has seen the birth of a risen Third World. The Irish people are waging the same struggle - people's war - as the peoples of Palestine, southern Africa, Eritrea, El Salvador and Afghanistan, to name but a few, and they are bringing that struggle right into the heart of Western Europe where it holds a dagger to the very throat of British imperialism. Therefore, the Irish Revolution is an advanced representative of the trend of our times which has been so admirably expressed by the leader of the Korean revolution, Comrade Kim Il Sung.

"Ours is an age of independence when the oppressed and humiliated people have appeared as the masters of the world and are pushing the wheels of history with vigour according to their own will and demand. The people of the world oppose all forms of domination and subordination and call for independence, and many countries are taking the road to national independence and sovereignty. This is the main trend of our times which no force can stop."

IRELAND AND BRITAIN

The particular relationship between the revolutions in Britain and Ireland was cogently explained by Karl Marx when he said,

"After occupying myself with the Irish question for many years I have come to the conclusion that the decisive blow against the English ruling classes (and it will be decisive for the workers' movement all over the world) cannot be delivered in England but only in Ireland."

In our view this statement remains as valid today as when it was first written, in spite of the continual attempts that are made to pronounce it as "out of date" by the revisionists of various hues.

Similarly, we take as our own the revolutionary standpoint of the Communist International that,

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

Revolutionary developments and opportunities in Britain have always reached their highpoints in conjunction with, and with identification to, highpoints in the struggle to free Ireland from British domination. Furthermore, to be consolidated they have to be brought into the closest active co-ordination with the Irish revolution. This is an historical materialist law of the British revolution. And, indeed, Irish workers have always been in the forefront of the class struggle in Britain. As James Connolly observed,

"O'Connor was one of the first of that long list of Irish fighters in Great Britain whose unselfish sacrifices have gone to make a record for an 'English' labour movement."

THE EVENTS OF '81

The momentous events of 1981 illustrate very clearly the above-mentioned historical materialist law. That year saw the enormous political advances made by the Republican Movement in Ireland (and its initial reverberations on the Irish community in Britain) in the context of the heroic martyrdom of 10 hunger strikers. It also saw the open emergence of real forces for revolution (and hence potential allies of the Irish revolution) here in Britain, namely the Black Youth, and sections of the white youth under their leadership who, in town after town, took the insurrectionary road, the Irish road, and rose up against the racist and imperialist British state.

In the precursor uprising of 1980 in St. Paul's, Bristol, the youth said, "We are the Black IRA". We must particularly note the mutual expressions of solidarity between these two struggles, because this is of immense practical significance to our work of building the solidarity movement. This mutual solidarity was clearly shown in two recent letters published in "An Phoblacht/Republican News", and reprinted in "Class Struggle".

Tariq Mahmood Ali, one of the Bradford 12, wrote,

"It was heart-warming to receive telegrams from comrades in Ireland as, indeed, it is heart-warming to hear that the IRA have carried out yet another successful operation.... On many an occasion whilst in prison on remand, I gained strength from the martyrs of the Irish struggle. They may be buried a long way away in Ireland, but their spirit of resistance shone through into my life in prison... To all those who have sacrificed their lives and are continuing to sacrifice themselves for the unification of Ireland I send revolutionary greetings and fraternal salutations."

Gerry McLochlainn, the framed Irish Prisoner of War, wrote with reference to the Black Youth,

"Such youth will provide a layer of republican sympathisers (in the real sense) in Britain who, far from being 'horrified' by IRA successes, will take heart from these and will redouble their efforts in their own struggle for justice.... As they experience for themselves the pressures which drove the nationalist youth of Ireland to war in the first place they will provide a natural base.... Demonstrations by these forces will help to draw the lessons of the Irish war and its connection with their fight for their rights, giving confidence and inspiration to the oppressed people of Britain, as well as exposing the nature of the Brits' war in Ireland. This is the revolutionary way towards the winning of the hearts and minds of the oppressed people of Britain."

BUILD THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

In view of all of the above, the RCLB holds that it is both

possible and necessary to build in this country a solidarity movement that explicitly supports the Irish Revolution, a movement that calls for "Victory to the Irish People!", and that gives unconditional support to the Irish people's revolutionary struggle and to its Republican leadership. Further, we hold that the only mass base where that movement can take root, grow and develop is amongst the most oppressed, who have grasped, or are beginning to grasp, the imperialist nature of the British state, and who have no illusions in British "parliamentary democracy" and its various institutions, such as the police, courts, etc. These sections are the poorest sections of the working class, first and foremost the national minorities, mainly the Irish community and black people, and in particular the youth.

We do not rule out utilising, neutralising or winning over any middle forces, or exploiting any contradictions in the enemy camp that can usefully be exploited. But even this can only be done in a stable and effective way, if it is done from a self-reliant mass base amongst the most oppressed.

The arguments against this view all too often proceed from a standpoint that replaces genuine support for the Republican Movement with the notorious trotskyite doctrine of "critical support", that attempts to foist on the Republican Movement the programme of this or that British sectarian organisation, that has illusions in the imperialist Labour Party, and does not realise that the Solidarity Movement can only be built in the course of a struggle against the British state. Most fundamentally, they all too often proceed from a middle class disdain for the oppressed which does not grasp that there always have been, and still are, working class forces in Britain that will steadfastly support the struggle of the Irish people.

Historically these forces have been mobilised by such great revolutionaries as Karl Marx, Jenny Marx and John Maclean. More recently, they were mobilised by organisations such as the Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front and the Prisoners Aid Committee. Today they are being mobilised by organisations such as the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee and the North London Irish Solidarity Committee (NLISC). Whenever the NLISC goes out onto the streets it witnesses the support for Irish liberation that exists amongst the working-class. To date, over 10,000 working-class people have signed its petition that recognises the right of the Irish people to self-determination and calls for the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

A recent RCLB Conference resolved that our work in the Ireland Solidarity movement will aim to build that movement, and in an open, principled and above-board way will seek to unite that movement (organisationally and politically) around the principles outlined above.

In summary, we will work to build a principled and united solidarity movement that supports the Republican Movement and which is solidly based amongst the most oppressed. This is a key task in the class struggle in Britain and is essential to the building of a revolutionary working class movement and a real, living revolutionary Communist party.

VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!

VICTORY TO
THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT!

TROOPS OUT NOW!

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND!

BEING IRISH MEANS YOU'RE GUILTY

'Class Struggle' is very pleased to present this analysis of the workings of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) as revealed by the individual experience of one comrade.

The author was a veteran worker for the cause of Irish freedom in Britain. One of the first people to be deported under the PTA, he now lives in Dublin. Whilst this is a highly personal account, the graphic description can arm people with an understanding of the PTA and how it operates. Other readers of 'Class Struggle' with experience of the PTA, or with comments on the article are very welcome to send them to us.

TRAVELLERS TO BRITAIN BEWARE

Much has been written about the PTA and its 'Draconian' effect on Irish workers in Britain and the 6 counties. The Brits, who had been looking for some excuse to pass legislation to repress support for the Irish struggle by emigrants in Britain got the opening they were looking for, when the Birmingham bombings took place.

BIRTH OF THE PTA

They used this opening to rush through legislation in Parliament. The Bill drafted by that champion of socialism, Roy Jenkins, went through Commons and Lords in 26 hours, and now the state was set to purge those elements they regarded as subversive. No need for evidence, no need for trial. Habeas Corpus and all that jazz was not for Paddy. The old jingoistic adage 'All Wogs Begin at Dover', was now amended to include the Irish entry ports (Liverpool, Holyhead etc.) and of course those malcontents who had lived there for years and raised their families there.

Many of these were militants in the trade union struggles, in the fight to expose the face of British Terrorism in the 6 Counties, and some were communists. These then were the prime targets for the Act. The Act was in fact, so useful, it was later introduced into the 6 counties by the Security forces.

Numerous are the accounts of how the Secret Police went about their work, the early morning knock, people just disappearing from pubs, ports and even jobs, into police stations, kept incommunicado until either

released days later or deported back to Ireland. So I'll say no more of this aspect but move on to what happens if you appeal against an exclusion order in Britain, and later to Strasbourg.

Having been served with an exclusion order, and having given notice to appeal, you are then removed to prison, where believe it or not, your conditions improve. Meals will be at a regular time (in the police station you will do two or three days before you get anything to eat, and then irregularly to try and disorientate you, and nothing to drink for the first day), two periods of exercise, added to which association with other prisoners in the Top Security Block, that's if they don't decide to hold you in solitary. The beatings will have stopped unless you annoy some of the more fascist screws. You will be entitled to remand prisoner conditions (although you are a prisoner of the State and not the courts) which means visits every day except Sunday, food sent in from outside if you can afford it, but it's better to get used to the swill they dish up just in case they frame you. Tobacco, sweets, write as many letters as you want to (Remember they are all censored) and newspapers. If you can't get Irish papers go for the Times or the Guardian, plenty of reading there (and it always pays to know what the enemy are saying) plus crosswords and chess problems. There is another bonus with these papers, it really wires the screws up to see ignorant Paddy enjoying such reading, after all they are quite happy themselves with the Sun and the Star as are the Ordinary Decent Criminals. Funny breed these Paddies. You are also entitled to a radio so long as it does not receive FM or VHF channels. Mustn't have you listening into police calls or the screws on their two-way radios. You might become corrupted.

So safely ensconced in your cell, - having resisted the offer of a uniform with patches, "so you can keep your clothes clean for visits and your interview with the assessor". Resist this appealing blandishment - if things go wrong you'll be wearing them soon enough. So you wait the pleasure of the assessor.

This boyo turns up 8 or 9 days later. He'll be either Lord Alport (ex-Artists Rifles, the forerunner of the SAS) or a renegade right wing trade union official, knighted for his services to the establishment, so now you know how impartial the hearing is going to be, and how the dice are loaded. But you go along with the nonsense, you've nothing else to do, and you are most assuredly not going anywhere just now, and you feel like a laugh, brother you have a starring role in the pantomime

about to be unfolded, such crack should not be missed.

"Not for you a judge, or jury, not for you a trial at all, being Irish means you're guilty, so they're guilty one and all." (Stolen from Men Behind the Wire ... but in a just cause.)

The meeting will be held in a special room in the main prison, where you, complete with escort, confront the portly peer of the realm (the escort remains during the interview). He will have a stenographer with him, and will ask, if you object to the note-taker's presence, and of course you say 'No', he's only earning a crust, and if anyone should leave it should be the escort. This of course is refused on grounds of security, you being such a dangerous man (or woman). So now the interview goes ahead. At this point it is a good tactic to insist on a copy of the transcript of the proceedings be supplied to you. This will be conceded if you push, but it will not be offered.

He will establish for the record who you are, you do the same, asking: Is it true you were a member of the Artists Rifles, which became the SAS? Are you a member of Skinners Company of which there are many members who are SAS officers? (The Skinners Company is a club similar to Whites and Boodles and like them, very select, and used by Service, Foreign Office, Secret Service Personnel and other members of the ruling class.) Were you not a member of the Colonial Service? You will be told: "After the war my regiment became the SAS, I was a member of the Skinners Company, I am not aware if any members are officers of the SAS. I was a member of the Colonial Service in Africa." It is as well to point out to him here, that as a member of a club that is notorious for the number of SAS men in it, you cannot see how he can give an unbiased judgement on your case. Alport will tell you that although you seem to know a lot about him, he knows nothing about you. In fact he admits to knowing nothing of Irish history, the current Irish situation or indeed why the order has been made against you, so doesn't that prove how impartial he is? When you say you have no idea why the order has been made, on what evidence, if any, and lodged by whom, how then can you refute the allegation that you are a terrorist? And if, as he claims, he has seen no dossier, what is the point of the exercise? You will be told: "All I am concerned with, is to get the background to your representations." In other words you might just be foolish enough to be conned into saying something incriminating. But you're watching points anyway, so it just degenerates into a discussion of your family background, work you do and political views you hold, but at no

time will he discuss the allegations against you.

Away goes Alport to report back to his mate in the Home Office. After another ten or twelve days, (must give the appearance of having seriously considered the appeal - a prompt response might give the wrong impression) back comes the reply. The order will stand, so Paddy you are on your way home, all expenses paid from prison to Dublin. No trouble catching the plane - the car goes right out to it. You're the last on, but don't fret, you'll have a seat, even if someone else has to wait for the next plane. And so back home...uncharged - untried - unconvicted and uninformed ... to the devoted attention of the Special Branch of Dublin Castle.

BACK TO DUBLIN

Your first priority is to get a place to live and a job, so that you can pay such unimportant things as rent, send money to help keep the family, stranded on the other side, and if they are coming back, to raise money to bring back as much of your worldly goods as you can salvage. This occupies a fair bit of your time but after several months with any luck you are reunited, so now you turn your attention to what can one do to expose the Brits and the PTA. Well-intentioned people tell you it will not be long before the Brits will announce a review procedure. You contact various people in England to push for this and in the meantime contact the National Council for Civil Liberties to take your case up. (The Irish Council of Civil Liberties don't want to know. Too busy on injustice in other parts of the globe, no doubt.)

Unfortunately, the time you contact the NCCL there is a continuing change of personnel on their Irish desk. Finally you get someone there to take your case. It is now January 1980. In the meantime in June 1979 the Brits announce their readiness to review cases of orders in existence three years or over. You send away immediately and in March 1980 you get a reply. The order will stay in force. NCCL contact you in October - they will take your case to Strasbourg European Commission of Human Rights charging Britain with breaching articles 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights. These involve the right to liberty, to a prompt and fair hearing, to respect for an individual and his family, freedom of expression and freedom of Assembly. You wait. The case listed for hearing 6.10.1981.

Case comes before commission on that date. They meet in private session, you are not allowed in to make a case or hear evidence. The case is flatly rejected on all counts, there will be no full or public hearing. So the whole matter

has been carried through with the greatest secrecy. The appellant was not even given a copy of the judgement. The first he knew was when he read it in the press. Three months later a copy was sent him by the NCCL who said if Strasbourg has sent you one, will you please return their copy. In fact the appellant never received one document in the whole case. Those he did, were copies sent to him by the NCCL.

Your detention without charge or trial is condoned. Normal family life is not for you. You are told once your child reaches the age of 18, blood ties no longer exist and why should you wish to attend weddings and see your grandchildren - such finer feelings are not for you, even if they are for all other Europeans, like Lech Walesa. It does not matter that your children's rights are abused - the right to have their parents at weddings and like functions. They can always go back to Ireland, that way they have got rid of the whole tribe of you with one exclusion order, that's a bonus. Anyway, they have an escape clause, if you do not bring the case before them (Strasbourg) within six months any injury no longer exists. So what is the lesson of this?

Basically this: if you are served with the order do not bother to appeal. You will waste one of your precious months in police stations and prison. Immediately on your return to Ireland make an appeal to Strasbourg, if for no other reason than to embarrass them and the Brits.

Legal Jurists are a pretty conservative and reactionary bunch usually and will in the final analysis stand together to defend the frontiers of each other and keep the veil of secrecy over such violations, while giving an appearance of liberalism on such issues as corporal punishment and Gay Rights etc. If necessary Interpol will be used to circulate dossiers of your alleged activities.

So there is little you can do except to embarrass them with such appeals, so that they will stand exposed in the cold light of day as a reactionary and anti-working class front organisation. And then fight like hell for Irish freedom. To expose the collaboration that exists among the ruling class and their quislings both national and international, and their very real fear of an emergent Irish Socialist Workers' Republic, and their terror of a resurgent people. As Karl Marx said: "...you have nothing to lose but your chains...and a world to win..."

Remember dear comrade. They came for me last night, they'll be coming for you in the morning.

Police harassment

By Sheila Kelly.

I have recently become involved in Irish Solidarity work in London. Shortly after the start of this and a few weeks after I went with a TOM delegation to the north of Ireland, I was visited by police at my home. One plainclothes policeman, who said he was CID, asked to come in as he wanted to talk to the people who lived here. As he would not explain at the door what he wanted, and after politely insisting, I let him in as I had no reason to believe it had anything to do with the work I have become involved in. It wasn't until we were seated in the sitting room that he said

they had received an anonymous phone call stating that there was an 'Irish terrorist' living here.

Alarmed, I hurriedly tried to explain that I was only involved with legal work. I was very frightened and my only thought was to convince the police that I was not a 'terrorist'. (Don't laugh.)

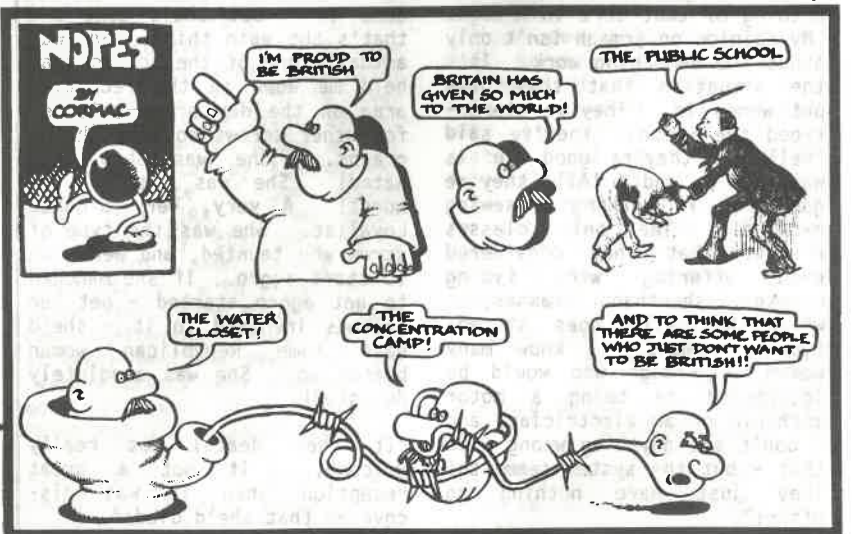
In retrospect, I see the visit as a typical act of police harassment of people who speak out on Ireland, and an attempt to end my involvement by intimidation.

This demonstrates how the agents of the British ruling class defend imperialism not only by

their brutal and repressive activities in the occupied six counties but also by the suppression of anti-imperialist tendencies within its own working class.

Although my own contact with the state machinery has been thankfully only minor (so far), I will no longer underestimate the formidable nature of the forces acting against the anti-imperialist struggle here in Britain and the lengths to which it goes to prevent the people here from learning the truth about the war in Ireland.

Cormac cartoon taken from "Cormac Strikes Back" - available from New Era Books, 203, Seven Sisters Rd. N4 3NG - £2.50+post.



AP/RN 11 Apr 81

NEW POLICE ATTACKS

'Class Struggle' correspondent

Renewed attacks on democratic rights were published on 18th November under the guise of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. In increasing statutory police powers, the bill reduces the formal safeguards of anyone taken into police custody. The increased powers:

- * allow detention without charge up to FOUR days with a further two days with a magistrate's consent.
- * delay access to a lawyer for up to TWO days on the authority of a police superintendent.
- * increase police powers of search of persons, cars and premises.
- * allow the arrest of someone seen committing a non-imprisonable offence, such as refusing to identify oneself to the police when asked.

* accept in evidence any 'confession' obtained in breach of the rules during police interrogation.

* further criminalise the youth by reducing the minimum age for finger printing from 14 to 10.

INTERMENT

Existing police procedure erodes any fiction of legal guarantees. The police attack on the homeless at Oxford last September saw a systematic denial of basic rights. Claimants were subject to detention without exercising the right to inform anyone, denied the right of access to solicitors and legal advice prior to being railroaded through specially convened magistrates' courts. The denial of bail to people charged after last summer's uprisings amounted to a policy of internment: 69%

of defendants kept in remand in Liverpool; 61% at Leeds; 39% in Nottingham. Such mass custodial remand was evidence of the state's panic.

BALANCE

Following on Scarman's proposals the bill's minimum obligations of statutory consultation without accountability are a cosmetic device that does nothing to alter police practice. Indeed, where such existing groups as Lambeth's community police consultative group do operate, the police role remains that of defender of a racist state, as seen recently in Railton Road, Brixton.

This bill marks a new stage in the attack on democratic rights and even frightens the liberal National Council for Civil Liberties who seek to campaign for 'reform' of the police. The need is for a broad offensive against such police powers based on the leadership of those principal sufferers from such state oppression. It is for the black and Irish communities, and their supporters who form the backbone of the fight against state terror to lead the building of a genuine anti-imperialist working class movement which will smash the police attacks on our democratic rights!

PHIL ROBINS CAMPAIGN



Phil Robins: badly wounded

FREE PHIL ROBINS NOW

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

The Phil Robins campaign has continued to work around Phil's frame-up and his fight for compensation. Phil Robins is the black footballer seriously injured by CS gas shells during the July 1981 uprisings and who was framed by the police after he put in a claim for compensation for the injuries which put paid to his football career.

The period allowed in which to appeal has now elapsed, and the only course now open in this respect is a direct appeal to the Home Secretary, to which end the signatures are being collected. A writ has been served on Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, claiming damages for Phil's severe injuries.

TWO VICTORIES

Two victories have been won by Kenneth Anderson and Paul Conroy. Kenneth Anderson was shot with CS gas shells at the same time as Phil - he too put in a claim for compensation, and was charged on the same day as Phil, 3½ months after the shootings, with serious riot charges. But the frame-up didn't stick - at his retrial at Mold in October he was acquitted, without the defence evidence even being heard. Paul Conroy, whose back was broken when police drove at him, was also acquitted at his retrial. Both Kenneth Anderson and Paul Conroy are continuing to fight for some compensation.

Free Phil Robins Campaign, PO Box 52, Liverpool L69 8AT.

Pickets and petitioning have been carried out outside St George's Hall, Liverpool, where Tony Benn was due to speak, at a pre-Labour Party conference rally in Blackpool, at Southport FC, where Phil played, at the Khan family demonstration in Manchester, and in Great Homer Street market, where there was a warm response from many people who need no telling where the police are at.

The Phil Robins Campaign was started shortly after Phil was sentenced. The campaign has written over 250 letters to MP's councillors and other organisations. It has a petition with 4,500 signatures on: its aim is 10,000. Nine of the MP's it has written to, have taken up Phil's case.

A well-attended seminar, organised by the Bangladesh People's Democratic Movement (UK), was held at the London Hospital on 13th November 1982 on the New Drug Policy and the Multinational Drug Companies in Bangladesh. Dr Andrew Herxheimer, a member of the WHO (World Health Organisation) experts committee, Dr S. Ali of the Bangladesh Medical Association (UK), Dr Costa Gazidis, Principal Physician of the London Borough of Hackney, Miss Diana Melrose of Oxfam, Mr A. Chetty of War-on-Want, and Mr Z. Husain of BPD (UK) spoke in the seminar. Speeches were followed by a lively discussion. Dr M. Talukdar of BPD (UK) presided over the seminar.

Dr Herxheimer spoke with great clarity on the principles of WHO recommendations for a Drug Policy. Commenting on the role of WHO in implementing the policy, he said that WHO has to strike a balance between the people on the one hand and the industries on the other. Oxfam and the War-on-Want representatives spoke in detail about the great difficulties faced by the third world governments in implementing policies favourable to the broad masses of people. They gave a thorough exposure on the unethical practice of misleading and inaccurate characterisation of medicine, often covering up the adverse reactions and wide-spread malpractices of the multi-national corporations (MNCs) in promoting drugs. Dr Gazidis dwelt on the preventive side of the Health and Medicine Policy of the third world countries and made many

DRUG POLICY AND BANGLADESH

'Class Struggle' Correspondent

constructive suggestions. The BPD (UK) representative examined the New Drug Policy in the broad context of national health requirements and condemned the MNCs as ruthless exploiters who turn a blind eye to the untold sufferings of the people.

Bangladesh is the first country of the third world to try to implement the WHO drug recommendations. The seminar wholeheartedly supported this attempt and opposed the pressure tactics of the MNCs to flout the bold policies in Bangladesh, and the third world in general. The seminar urged all concerned to contribute in any way they could including appealing to relevant quarters, lobbying MPs, the European Parliament and UN General Assembly Health Committee in order actively to assist in implementing the WHO drug recommendations.

Strong views were also expressed with overwhelming support from the participants that the success of any policy against MNCs or any foreign interference will depend on the national mobilisation and the participation of the broad masses of people. Only this all-embracing political process can stop the slide of rich getting richer and poor getting poorer in this one world of ours.

Arab League Cancels Visit

by Keith Anderson

An Arab League delegation consisting of King Hussein of Jordan, the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation has cancelled a visit to London that was planned for early December. The Committee had been set up to visit the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to explain to them the terms of an Arab peace plan.

The first hint of trouble concerning the London visit came when the British government said that it would refuse to receive any member of the delegation who was from the PLO. A commentary on the Baghdad based radio station, "Voice of Palestine" pointed out:

"Our Palestinian people realise very well that the British government, which yields to Zionist influence and pressure, is still hostile to our people's aspirations and objectives of determining their own future and achieving their own national rights. Our Palestinian people are also aware of the fact that the British, with the Balfour declaration, is the reason for our people's ordeal and the establishment of the Zionist entity. It seems that Margaret Thatcher's government is trying to resurrect the image of the Balfour declaration in the Arab and Palestinian mind. Our Palestinian people and Revolution will not forgive the British government for its disgraceful position... that antagonises our Palestinian people and their legitimate rights."

The final straw that led the delegation to cancel its visit was a supremely arrogant demand from the British imperialists. In a statement calculated to deeply offend the risen Third World, and reminiscent of the racist era of Queen Victoria/Lord Palmerston style gunboat diplomacy, it was demanded of the delegation that it issue a statement "denouncing terror-

ism of all kinds and indicating that all members of the committee approved the statement", before they could be received at the Foreign Office. Clearly, the British imperialists have not realised that the days when the Third World can be lectured and bullied are over.

With the dignity and pride of the risen Third World, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry said that the British statement was "an act unusual in international relations and an unacceptable precedent."

As with her attitude to Argentina over the Malvinas, and to China over Hong Kong, Thatcher seems determined to alienate the Third World. By her actions she is provoking a new tide of opposition to British imperialism around the world. The "Arab News", published in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has called on Arab countries to suspend all economic relations with Britain to "teach the British government a lesson."

THE REAL TERRORISTS

British imperialism's "opposition" to "terrorism" is utterly specious. It does not prevent Britain from maintaining the most intimate connections with the Israeli regime, the butcher of Lebanon. Recent instances of British terrorism include the starving to death of ten young Irish patriots and the murder of over 300 young Argentine sailors on the "Belgrano". Indeed, during this century the biggest terrorist in the Middle East has been British imperialism itself! To give a few examples:

- * Britain savagely bombed the people of Iraq in 1932.
- * Britain engineered the coup that overthrew the anti-imperialist government of Dr Mossadeq in Iran and restored the Shah to power.
- * Britain invaded Egypt in 1956 in an attempt to steal back the Suez Canal.

* Britain carried out a particularly savage war against the people of Yemen during the 1960's where Brit soldiers awarded themselves 'golliwog' labels for killing innocent civilians, and murdered prisoners of war with cyanide injections.

* Britain tested its counter-insurgency theories at the expense of the people of Oman in the 1970's, employing such choice methods as the poisoning of water wells.

With such a charming history, British imperialism is in no position to give lectures to others on "terrorism". The Third World will be lectured to by nobody, least of all by British imperialism. Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, once summed up the attitude of patriotic Arabs to British imperialism when he said that relations with Britain could only improve when they stop "behaving the way they used to in the past... and when they finally erase their image of Iraq as one of the jewels in the British crown".

Communists in Britain denounce the rapacious and predatory activities of British imperialism in the Middle East, and firmly support the just struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

Summer Palace

The 122nd anniversary of the burning and looting of the Summer Palace in Beijing (Peking) by imperial British savages, was marked recently by a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Chinese Summer Palace Society, and other organisations, according to a recent report from Radio Peking. At the meeting a poem was recited that vividly shows how the current Chinese drive for modernisation is based upon a profound hatred of imperialism, and a determination that China will never be weak, and therefore open to humiliation, again.

"The Palace's grandeur is still in our memory. But it was burned and plundered by invaders. From its stormy experience one should not forget the need to build an independent nation. Let us not forget, not forget, to love our great motherland."

ANTI RACIST STRUGGLE IN FRANCE

'Class Struggle' correspondents.

"We have 20 people on unlimited hunger strike. They are prepared for the final sacrifice, these people, to seize victory no matter what the price."

These are the words of a Moroccan worker, a supporter of the Immigrants Hunger Strike which began in Paris on the 19th October. 20 national minority workers, Senegalese and Malians, have been refusing all food in protest against the 'socialist' government's phoney 'amnesty' for those working without proper papers in France. One member has already been hospitalised. The following article is based on an interview given to a 'Class Struggle' correspondent in Paris in November.

The Moroccan worker explained the situation in detail: "I'm from Morocco and have been here 4 years, working secretly, and not in possession of any papers. Like everybody, when the socialists came to power and announced that all those working in secret in France would have their situation regularised, I had confidence in the socialists headed by Mitterand and we were ready both to denounce the boss for whom we worked secretly, and in some cases to identify ourselves to the authorities, giving our addresses, places of work ...

"But what happened is that the offices for regularisation were opened, we were about 300,000 secret immigrants in France, we presented ourselves at the offices to obtain our permits to work temporarily...

"However, it turned out that among the 300,000 only about 140,000 were able to file a claim. And that of these 140,000, 20,000 were rejected."

31st October was the deadline set by the government. From this date the 20,000 rejected, and all those not entitled to claim, are in danger of deportation. The speaker went on to explain how the hunger strike was organised by and supported by the national minority workers:

"So what happened is that many immigrants living in hostels decided to face up to the situation after the despair and refusal they had met with at the hands of the French government. I emphasise, it was in the hostels that was born the idea of conducting a hunger strike ...

"In these hostels there were 150 people who offered themselves to carry out the hunger strike. Out of these 150 people, 20 were chosen for two reasons: first because they were up to it physically and secondly

because they represented typical examples in relation to their cases ..."

A support committee was set up and various activities carried out to win support for their action. On 4th November a second hunger strike began in Nice by 19 more black workers. The strike had already won a victory in forcing the government, who had refused to talk, into negotiations, after 11 days of the strike.

The hunger strike has received support from 71 organisations mainly of national minority communities themselves, including AMF (Moroccans in France); Immigre Workers' Association; Tunisian Workers' Association; Algerian Workers' Association - and many others - Malian, Haitian, Senegalese etc. Most significantly 21 residential groups of national minority people are in the forefront of the campaign.

The real solidarity expressed in this support was explained: "There are other hostels prepared to take over from them on hunger strike. I should point out that among the 20 present hunger strikers there is one who, having exhausted his reserves, has been hospitalised. But these people are determined to go through to the end, to carry through the struggle of all the workers here in France."

The speaker explained: "The solidarity which I feel and look forward to as a Moroccan living in France is, in the first place a solidarity which in fact constitutes itself among foreign people, that is among foreign nationalities here in France (whether these be Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian, Senegalese, Malian) from the Third World ... "You find that the immigrant population is always concentrated in certain districts, and this solidarity is natural. It's because the French regard them as something different that they find themselves forced to create a certain solidarity amongst themselves..."

Support has also come from religious organisations and a few left-wing groups. To their shame, but not surprisingly the major 'left' groups and the trade unions have given no support. Only 3 trade union branches have given any support at all. When 'Class Struggle' asked about the Communist Party of France, the reply was:

"The French political parties, whether PC ('Communist Party') or PS ('Socialist'), they are people who don't speak, who say nothing. But for us, if they

say nothing and won't speak, that means that they don't support the hunger strike, that they don't support the people without papers.

"Whether it was the PC or the PS, or CFTD, whenever they had a problem, whenever they had something wrong, they always looked for support to the working masses, to the immigrants. But today, one observes that the PC and the CFTD and the CGT (major trade union federations - CS) do not, I repeat, do not support at all the hunger strike or the people without papers, with the only exception of 2 or 3 branches of the CFTD."

The lessons for this country are clear. The reactionary nature of social democracy and revisionism has been exposed again. And this is no sudden change. In 1954 Mitterand said: "Algeria is part of France and, from Flanders to the Congo, there is only one law, one nation and one Parliament ... The only negotiation possible is war." And it is this 'socialist' who defended French imperialism, then as now, who sits at the head of a government that, like in this country, launches harsh attacks on the national minority communities within the country.

The national minority people in France and Britain, will continue to organise and fight back, pioneering new forms of struggle in the process. But the organisations of the majority working class have generally failed to support this fight back.

Sometimes they simply ignore these struggles. Sometimes trade union officials tell black people they are inexperienced and need help. Sometimes they quite openly attack black people and their methods of struggle. To fail to support the struggles of the most oppressed is chauvinism and it is a test of all who claim to be communists or progressives. It is also important to grasp that the forms of struggle being developed by the most oppressed will have to be learned by the class as a whole, as the crisis deepens.

The hunger strike supporter stressed the need for support from other nations: "...financial material and moral, and by their presence as well, which is essential for the mobilisation of the masses and for informing the public about the situation of immigrants in France or elsewhere in the world."

The hunger strikers are demanding that the status of all who have submitted their papers be regularised, that discussions be started concerning the others and that there be no deportations or loss of national insurance benefits.

Messages of support, donations, etc. can be sent to:

Comite de Soutien de la Greve de la faim, Eglise Sainte Hippolit, 27 Avenue de Choisy, 75013, Paris, France.

SOCIALIST KOREA Britain Must Recognise DPRK

by H. Stephens.

A short article in 'The Times' of October 29th 1982 reported that a group of Labour MP's who visited North Korea last year had attempted to issue an invitation for a Korean delegation to visit Britain for a cultural tour, but that a Minister of State at the Foreign Office had indicated that such a delegation would not be admitted into this country by the British government.

A copy of a written reply from the Foreign Office to one of the Labour MP's concerned includes the following intriguing remarks on why the British government refuses to admit visitors from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: "Our policy stems from the fact that we do not recognise North Korea as a State nor the authorities there as a government ... Whenever they are considering a visa application from a North Korean passport holder, the Home Office consult the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) for advice on whether there are grounds to admit the applicant in spite of the invalidity of the document offered. In general we are not disposed to recommend the admission, even on a private visit, of persons who directly represent the North Korean authorities ... To do so would be inconsistent with our declared support for the South Koreans, who with considerable justification, regard North Korea as a threat to peace and stability in the Peninsula."

ASIAN COMMUNISM

The full story that lies behind these remarks centres on the undying hatred of the British government for Asian communism. The DPRK was founded in 1948 in the heat of anti-imperialist armed struggle. In the early 1950's it survived the all-out attempt of US imperialism and its stooges such as Britain to crush it by armed might. Even till today Korea remains partitioned, and southern Korea remains a US colony.



Britain, vindictive to the last, still after thirty years refuses to admit defeat and crawls to the US so that it can continue to get its share of the loot from southern Korea.

All the world knows that it is the continuing US military presence in southern Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and elsewhere, and Britain's presence in Hong Kong that is the

root cause of international tension in the Western Pacific region. Left to themselves, the Chinese, Korean and other peace-loving peoples of the area would be free to pursue their favoured policies of independence, non-alignment and self-reliance, and would be fully able both to exclude the dangerous rivalry of superpower military blocs from the region and to control any hegemonist ambitions of any local power in the region.

SLEEPERS, AWAKE!

The bulk of even the most activist anti-imperialists in Britain are afflicted with a degree of parochialism that is truly astonishing. How many more times does one have to issue the reminder that a third of the world's population live in the Asian socialist countries which have long-term and fundamental antagonistic contradictions with British, US and all other imperialisms? Communists in Britain should place the Asian communist tradition at the centre of their assessment and presentation of world affairs. Asia's communist achievement has been in the vanguard of the third world national liberation movements, is firmly in unity with the most oppressed peoples of the world who are standing up and asserting their independence with vigour, and cannot fail to be of central concern to communists in this oppressor nation, Britain.

For Irish republicans and their supporters there will of course be no difficulty in identifying the contradiction involved here. Britain's collaboration with the partition of Korea, and its obstinate refusal to recognise the united republic legitimately established by Korea's armed forces of national liberation, cannot fail to strike a common chord. Nor indeed could worldwide progressive opinion fail to make the following rejoinder to the impudent remarks of Britain's Foreign Office as quoted above:

"Our policies stem from the fact that we oppose British imperialist domination; for example, we do not recognise the six north-eastern counties of Ireland as part of the British state nor the authorities there as a government. As for the 'validity' of 'UK' passports, it is common knowledge that they are a complete fraud and that the Home Office does all it can to deny their holders the legitimate exercise of their right of entry to Britain should the colour of the skin of their holder be anything less than lily-white. As for 'threats to peace and stability', the people of the world regard the British state, with very considerable justification, as having been precisely such a threat for centuries in every continent of the globe."

* * * * *

Note: Readers of 'Class Struggle' can contact the Korea Friendship Committee (KFC) at the following address: BM 2966, London WC1N 3XX. The KFC is an alliance of Labour MP's, communists, progressive academics and others working for friendship with the Korean people.

Kampuchea Solidarity



Khieu Samphan and Norodom Sihanouk, leaders of the Kampuchean independence struggle.

"Class Struggle" Correspondent

October 23, 1982 saw a day of solidarity with the Kampuchean people's struggle against Soviet-backed Vietnamese aggression. The British-Kampuchean Support Campaign (BKSC) called a picket of the Vietnamese Embassy which was also supported by the Kampuchean community in Britain, Malays, Bangladeshis and the Revolutionary Communist League. The picket kept up a militant shout of "Victory to the Kampuchean People! Vietnam Out!"

After the picket, the BKSC held its Annual General Meet-

ing. The main speaker was Arthur Clegg, a veteran British communist, and former international editor of the "Daily Worker". His speech made the following main points:

- the new coalition government is the only instrument of independence;
- true friends of Vietnam will tell them to end their aggression rather than play the sycophant;
- drew comparisons with 17th century British history when the subjugation of a neighbouring nation served to rot its own revolutionary achievement, and suggested that Vietnam has created

an Ireland that will go on and on;

- spoke of his friendship with Malcolm Caldwell and his brutal murder. Who benefited? The only ones to benefit were Hanoi. His voice, with the authority to speak out for Kampuchea was silenced.

The AGM noted with satisfaction the visit to the liberated areas of Kampuchea by the Chairman of the Campaign and the developing links with the Cambodian Association in the UK, the London Office of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the Bath-based Vietnamese Committee for National Relief.

UNITED NATIONS: BRITAIN DEFEATED

On November 4th, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted a resolution proposed by Argentina concerning the future of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. The voting was 90 for, 12 against and 52 abstentions. The preamble points out that the maintenance of situations of colonialism is incompatible with world peace. Concretely, the resolution calls on both sides to open negotiations, and for the question to be placed on the agenda of the 1983 UN session.

Britain voted against even this moderate resolution. In this she was totally isolated, backed only by a handful of states where British neo-colonial influence is particularly strong.

Both superpowers voted in favour, thus clearly seeking to curry favour with Latin America in preparation for a new round of contention over this strategically important area. The USA in particular sought to erase the memory of its whole-hearted support of Britain in the recent war, in preparation for Reagan's tour of the region. But at a meeting of the Organisation of American States soon afterwards, the US representative got a very cool reception, showing that the

Latin American governments are not quite as stupid as Reagan apparently assumed.

The Common Market governments, with the exception of Greece, abstained on the vote. To see them taking an even worse position than the United States on a major world issue is pretty shocking. But it goes to show how in the present crisis these states are not able to take a clear stand with the third world in resisting great-power domination, but on the contrary slither back into a futile and reactionary attempt to hang onto the vestiges of colonialism.

France gave the impression that it would vote for the Argentinian resolution, and then at the last minute abstained. This decision helped it to suck up to Thatcher on the eve of her trip to Paris, but there are also deep reasons for it. France's so-called 'socialist' President, who has as much in common with socialism as the back end of a number 73 bus, was reported to be deeply angered by Argentinian references to the question of Mayotte. The background to this story is that former French President Giscard d'Estaing conducted a referendum over independence for the Comoro

Islands; instead of treating them as a single entity, each island was questioned separately. Mayotte, where a large proportion of white settlers is concentrated, voted 'No' and was thereby detached, to remain as a colony.

This neo-colonial partition settlement, which is ardently upheld by Mitterand, strikingly resembles the Irish question. No need to wonder, then, at Mitterand's warm feelings for Thatcher, as he assiduously deploys his reactionary 'anti-terrorist' legislation to hound Irish patriots and other activists from the oppressed nations, living in France.

All this is part of a deep pattern, namely the bubbling to the surface of ever more hideous colonial reflexes as Europe faces the crunch of the crisis. In Britain, the Anglo-Argentinian war has proved a focus for many of these abominations. Only the most recent is the decision to grant full British nationality to the 'Falkland' Islanders, thus abandoning even the slimmest figleaf covering up the racist essence of Britain's 'immigration' and nationality laws.

Syria: who cares?

By a member of the Committee for the Defence of Freedom and Political Prisoners in Syria.

Who cares what's happening in Syria? Few people in Britain, it would seem.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, 18 MPs, one Lord and assorted others entertained the Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and his delegation to dinner in November. Obviously they didn't flinch from associating with a regime which massacred 30,000 of its citizens in Hama earlier this year.

Did you know that Syrian agents assassinated a student in London this year?

Did you know that leading Syrian human rights lawyer, Naaman Kawaaf was kidnapped from Cyprus this year?

Did you know that Hafez Al-Assad, President of Syria, has just bought a leading London hotel?

We are sure that "Class Struggle" readers would care if they knew what was going on.

The Committee for the Defence of Freedom & Political Prisoners in Syria is a non-governmental organisation comprising a group of persons working for the defence of human rights, fundamental freedoms and political prisoners in Syria by all available means, regardless of their political outlook and their ideological preferences. The Committee is happy to collaborate with all organisations and individuals with a view to realising its aims.

The Committee publishes a bulletin "The Tribune" from time to time (in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish). Recent editions have been "The Genocide from Hama to Lebanon"; "Political Detentions in Syria"; "Suppression of Liberty, of Democracy and Trade Unionism in Syria". If you would like copies and/or would like to be on the mailing list, please write to the Committee, BM Box 6236, London WC1N 3XX.

The "Master Butcher" did not escape justice though. The brave and resourceful soldiers of the Irish Republican Army carried out the sentence of the people. Murphy's elimination was welcomed not only by Irish nationalists. Many Irish Protestants and even organised Loyalists could scarce conceal their quiet gratification that somebody at least had the courage to give this sadistic thug his just desserts.

Again it has been shown that the only force representing democracy and justice for all the Irish people is the revolutionary Republican Movement, with its political campaign for justice spearheaded by Sinn Fein and the revolutionary soldiers of the I.R.A. carrying it out.

Palestine Solidarity

by David Evans.

During the past month, there have been a number of Palestine Solidarity activities which indicate the growing support the Palestinian cause is winning in Britain.

Asian people in Britain, have always been unfaltering in their support for the Palestinians, and have made an effort in recent months to demonstrate their solidarity. Recently there have been marches in Leicester and Sheffield which Asian people, along with other national minority people and Arab students, have been well to the fore in organising. The Pakistan Workers' Association (Britain) organised a film show and meeting in Birmingham.

In Glasgow, wider sections of the people have taken part in solidarity demonstrations in which national minority peoples have been a key driving force; Scottish workers, including miners from nearby coalfields have also been actively involved.

London saw an important development on 14th November, when a march called by over 30 Asian organisations, took place in Newham. Practically all sectors of Asian people in the area supported the march - Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Indians, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Christians, from youth groups like the Bangladesh Youth Federation to the Asian Senior Citizens' Association. This testified to the deep identification Asian people in Britain have with the Palestinian struggle. Ireland Solidarity organisations were also well to the fore on the march.

About 250 people came to a rally afterwards, where a speaker for the PLO, referring to the dispersal of PLO forces from Lebanon, stated: "Our place is not in Yemen, Tunis or Sudan, but in Palestine." He drew loud applause when he stated: "Our struggle is the same as that of black people in Brick Lane."

A speaker for the Black People's Socialist League reminded the audience that: "The US declared that it was going into Vietnam to sort out the Vietnamese, and it ended up being sorted out itself! The Palestinians will definitely sort out Israel and US imperialism!" Other speakers included ones from the Lebanese National Movement, Indian Workers Association, World Islamic Mission, Matzpen (Israeli Socialist Organisation) Women for Palestine and Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

To mark the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the PLO organised a photo exhibition in central London and a rally and film show at Chelsea Old Town Hall, where the guest speaker was Dr Fathi Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign is organising a conference for December 11th, at which some 20 local groups will be represented. It is hoped to create a strong Britain-wide campaign as a result. Since its foundation just before the invasion of Lebanon, PSC has organised or participated in about 100 solidarity events, but hopes to do still better following the conference.

Revolutionary Justice

THE "MASTER BUTCHER" PAYS FOR HIS CRIMES

by Bryn Gunn.

In the middle of last month, on the evening of 16th November, an active service unit of the IRA carried out the execution of Lennie Murphy, the "Master Butcher", a UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) leader notorious even amongst loyalists for his particularly sadistic murder campaign against Catholics. His last victim, Joseph Donegan was beaten to death in retribution for Sinn Fein election victories in October.



Murphy, a product of British imperialism's divide and rule racist policy in Ireland, was responsible for organising, leading and carrying out the exceptionally brutal series of killings by the "Shankill Butchers" from 1975-77. During this series of killings, six people died from horrific knife wounds including having their throats cut from ear to ear, right back to the spine. The seventh was bludgeoned to death with a hatchet.

As the IRA pointed out in their statement after they had ended his despicable career once and for all: "Lennie Murphy ("Master Butcher") has been responsible for the horrific murders of over 20 innocent nationalists in the Belfast area and the murders of a number of Protestants.

"The IRA had been aware for some time that since his release recently from prison, Murphy was attempting to re-establish a similar murder gang to that which he led in the mid-70's and, in fact, he was responsible for a number of the recent sectarian murders in the Belfast area.

"The IRA takes this opportunity to restate its policy of non-sectarian attacks, while retaining its right to take unequivocal action against those who direct or motivate sectarian slaughter against the nationalist population.."

In 1976 Murphy was arrested following a murder bid on two Catholic women in North Belfast. He got off the attempted murder charge and was sentenced to 12 years after pleading guilty to possession of weapons. Even in prison he continued to inspire and organise the slaughter by his "Butchers". Brit complicity in Murphy's pogromising is shown by the active participation of Edward McIlwaine, a serving UDR soldier, and also by the RUC's failure to stop the killings despite the mass of clues left by the "Butchers" who were usually well drunk when they hacked into their victims.

Only when one of the victims, Gerard McLaverty, miraculously survived their mutilation of him were the "Shankill butchers" arrested. Even then, despite being claimed by them as their leader, Murphy escaped any charge relating to their carnage.

In August of this year, Murphy, commander of the UVF prisoners in the H-Blocks, was released having been given full remission.

Coincident with his release, sectarian killings of Catholics increased sharply. He was unequivocally identified with two recent killings, that of 48-year old Catholic Joseph Donegan, hacked to death and mutilated beyond recognition with a hatchet, and that of a UVF leader in an internal power struggle. Even after definite evidence that Joseph Donegan was butchered in Murphy's old house, he was released without charge.



Joseph Donegan, last victim of the "Master Butcher".



● Lennie Murphy's Rover saloon car, after the IRA execution photo. AP/RN.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



Parkhurst and elsewhere have already shown that they have fulfilled the trust placed in them by the generations of martyrs who have fallen before them.

Furthermore, in published letters and also in sponsoring the Ireland Solidarity Conference in London on November 20th, these imprisoned revolutionary activists have extended the hand of comradeship and collaboration with Ireland's supporters in Britain.

They have in addition expressed support not only for Ireland but for all the oppressed national minorities in Britain. There could be no clearer demonstration of the truth expressed by Mao Zedong that "for an oppressed nation, patriotism is applied internationalism."

This internationalist standpoint of the prisoners places us all on the spot and demands of us that we answer the question: Are we to leave these prisoners to languish unnoticed as the British 'left' has so long been content to do, or are we to work to strengthen their ability to play a leading role in revolutionary developments in Britain?

The example of the Manchester Martyrs, the Hunger Strikers and countless other Irish patriots in Britain's jails has demonstrated that neither rigged trials nor press censorship nor prison bars can prevent Irish republican prisoners from continuing to play a leading political role if we on the outside rally round to play our part.

Commemorate the Manchester Martyrs!

Defend Irish Republican Prisoners in English jails!

God Save Ireland!

Remember Bloody Sunday

By the Bloody Sunday Mobilising Committee.

January sees the eleventh anniversary of Bloody Sunday when the British Army opened fire on a Civil Rights demonstration in Derry, killing 14 unarmed marchers.

The anniversary is marked in Britain every year by a national demonstration in a different city.

LEEDS is the venue for the Remember Bloody Sunday march on Sunday, January 30th, 1983.

Leaflets and posters are available. We are in urgent need of donations to help pay for these and for all the other arrangements. We will be organising a creche in Leeds to look after children during the march and rally.

Please publicise and urge maximum support for this demonstration.

REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY. National March and rally in Leeds. Sunday, January 30th 1983, 12.30, Savile Park, Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. Creche, posters, leaflets and more information from, and donations to: Bloody Sunday Mobilising Committee, Box BS, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2, West Yorkshire.

Manchester Martyrs GOD SAVE IRELAND

Commemorating the Manchester Martyrs of November 1867.

by H. Stephens.

Simmering beneath the surface of the vaunted calm exterior of British society there has always loomed the spectre of rebellion and insurrectionary 'outrage', particularly amongst the most oppressed and their time-honoured vanguard, the youth led by national minority youth.

During the mid- and late- 1860's this spectre of insurrection in Britain's cities loomed particularly large. The Irish famine of 1845-49 had resulted in the migration of hundreds of thousands of Irish men, women and children to Britain. Lancashire, and above all Manchester was a major centre for the new emigrants, who formed during the 1850's and 1860's a destitute and frequently rebellious community totally at odds with England's law and order.

THE FENIANS

Those Irish emigrants who reached America supplied many of the recruits for the armies of the American Civil War of the early 1860's. At the conclusion of that war, many seasoned and experienced Irish military veterans were thus able to turn their aspirations and skills towards the national liberation of their country of origin.

The revolutionary Irish nationalist organisations of the time - known collectively as the 'Fenians' - were, if not firmly united, at any rate active and determined, with the common aim of bringing about an internationally coordinated attempt at an uprising. Military preparations took place, and a rising was attempted in Ireland early in 1867.

Though the attempted rising was rapidly suppressed, the Irish communities of the world continued to seethe with expectation of further action, and eventually what turned out to be the political climax of the Fenian campaign was enacted on the streets of Manchester.

On September 11th 1867, Kelly, a veteran of the American Civil War who had effectively become the leader of the Fenians in the increasingly military phase of their history during 1865-67, was arrested in Manchester along with his associate Deasy, another important Fenian military officer.

THE SMASHING OF THE VAN

A week later, the two Fenian prisoners were placed in a guarded and locked van for transfer to Bellevue Jail. On the way, there occurred the most famous of all republican armed actions on English soil in the nineteenth century. A brilliantly executed ambush involving, some later said, as many as sixty Fenians armed with revolvers, brought the prison van and its military escort to a standstill. The van was smashed open (a policeman inside being shot dead in the course of the engagement) and the prisoners were spirited away on a chain of friendly hands that took them at last back to safety in America.



The significance of this armed action was lost on no one - that it was executed in a manner that relied for its success on the support of the community on the streets. Far from having to mobilise support, republican stewards had actually to temporarily clear sympathisers away from the immediate area as part of the preparation of the scene of action! It was an insurrectionary event that showed the unity of the people with their armed vanguard, and their willingness to defend that vanguard by means of street fighting.

The vindictive fury of the British state knew no bounds, and turmoil reigned in Manchester during the ensuing hours and days. An anti-Republican pogrom was unleashed, and mobs of hoodlums were given free license to chase and beat up Irish people on the streets. Irish homes were searched and ransacked, and waves of arrests were carried out.

But Kelly and Deasy were not betrayed. All that Britain received from the Irish people was defiance - defiance on a scale that was to become legendary and is still celebrated to this day.

THE MARTYRS

The charges against those arrested for involvement in this action were pathetically weak, and eventually all but four of those arrested had to be released. The state decided to go ahead with a show trial of these four. But this manoeuvre badly misfired, for the defiant patriotic stand of the defendants rallied Irish and all other democratic opinion around the world.

One after another, the republican defendants in this rigged trial gave out this message loud and clear: "I am confident that my blood will rise a hundredfold against the tyrants..." "There is nothing in the close of my political career which I regret...I cannot die on the field, but I can die on the scaffold, I hope, as a soldier, a man and a Christian." "I will die proudly and triumphantly in defence of republican principles and the liberty of an oppressed and enslaved people." "I have nothing to regret, or to retract or take back. I shall only say, God Save Ireland!"

BRITISH ATROCITY

One of the prisoners, being an

American citizen, escaped execution. The remaining three - Allen, Larkin and O'Brien - were on November 23rd brought to a specially constructed scaffold to be hung in one of the last public executions in Britain. The three martyrs had wished to make a final statement before the assembled crowd, but in the event their final words were limited to brief but loudly audible prayers.

Britain's savagery had not ceased even after the martyrs fell. Due to incorrect adjustment of the nooses, only Allen was killed by the fall. The executioner leapt down into the pit where, hidden from public view, the martyrs hung, and killed Larkin. The priest now intervened and forbade him to touch O'Brien, who died in great agony after a further three-quarters of an hour.

PHOENIX

The greater Britain's atrocities against Ireland, the greater the flames of resistance. Tens of thousands of the Irish and their supporters took to the streets for funeral processions and demonstrations in cities throughout the world. A hastily extemporised ballad on the subject entitled "God Save Ireland" rapidly became the national anthem of Irish republicanism until replaced by the "Soldier's Song" nearly forty years later.

A letter from Allen to his family as he awaited execution stated his conviction that he was "dying for liberty. Every generation of our countrymen has suffered...I should like to know what trouble, what passion, what mischief could separate the true Irish heart from its own native isle."

Allan's faith in his compatriots was justified. In the Easter uprising of 1916 the next generation rose, the veteran Fenian leader Thomas Clarke being one of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic. Britain's cruel deed had merely fanned the ashes from which the Phoenix of Ireland's resistance was to rise again.

DEFEND SUCCESSORS

Those who wish to commemorate the Manchester Martyrs can do no better than rally round their successors, the Irish republican prisoners in English jails today. The anti-imperialist vanguard forces now incarcerated in Birmingham, Wormwood Scrubs,

THATCHER'S DEATH SQUADS

by Bryn Gunn.

As reported in last month's 'Class Struggle', the Brits and their RUC cohorts issued open threats during October's Assembly election campaign to go all out to get their revenge on the Republican movement and the nationalist people for their use of the elections to smash the Brit's claim that the IRA was isolated and the armed struggle without support from the people.

On November 11th, an RUC death squad carried out the summary execution of three IRA volunteers in a planned ambush. Gervais McKerr, Eugene Toman and Sean Burns were all respected local Republicans in the area of Lurgan, County Armagh. Eugene and Sean had been in hiding for a while after Sean had been recognised on an IRA operation. They had just returned to active service when the death squad struck.

Seeking to cover up this blatant act of murder, the RUC claimed that the car in which the three volunteers were travelling failed to stop at a road block and knocked down an RUC man. It was after this, the RUC claim, that they opened fire on the car. The lie is given to this, however, by the evidence from local people, that no such road block existed, and that no injuries were sustained by any of the RUC. Indeed it was clear from the position of and condition of the bullet holes in the car (almost exclusively in the sides) and the wounds sustained by the volunteers, that far from firing after a fleeing car, an ambush was laid and the death squad opened up when the car entered the "kill zone".

The RUC pumped some 60 rounds of ammunition into the car, mainly through the driver's door with the clear aim, not of stopping the car, but of slaughtering its occupants.

THE SECOND ATTACK

Any doubts about the existence of RUC death squads in Armagh must surely have been totally eradicated by their reappearance only 13 days later when, in another carefully laid ambush, barely 4 miles away, they aimed 3 to 4 minutes' worth of concentrated fire on two Catholic youths, Michael Tighe, who was killed, and Martin McAuley who miraculously survived though he was critically wounded. This time the RUC claim to have found three pre-1917 rifles in the vicinity, none of which were fired even once. Not surprisingly, since none of them were loaded, nor was there even any ammunition for them! In fact it is now clearly established that the three rifles were discovered by Michael and Martin while helping out at the farm where they were ambushed. The weapons were from the Irish War of Independence of 1921. Furthermore, since regaining consciousness, Martin has graphically described how two "SAS men" burst in on Michael and himself and directed magazines full of automatic fire at them. Since the place was so well staked out, with well over a dozen RUC men in attendance, it seems possible that the three old rifles were "plants" and that Michael and Martin were the hapless victims of Brit fascist terror.