

# FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

Issue No 33 15 October – 15 November 1983 Price 20p

AN PHOBLACHT/REPUBLICAN NEWS



## GREAT ESCAPE

On Sunday 25 September the IRA delivered a crushing blow to the corrupt British legal and penal system in the Six Counties when 38 Volunteers fought their way out of Long Kesh concentration camp. In one blow, the IRA destroyed British imperialist propaganda claims that the IRA was 'reeling' in the face of supergrasses. Some of the escaped prisoners were people convicted on supergrass evidence. Also among the escapers was Gerard Kelly repatriated after the 206 day hunger strike in 1973/4 in which Michael Gaughan died. FRFI sends its heartfelt congratulations to the Republican Movement on this magnificent escape which has destroyed the myth of the 'invulnerable' H-Blocks for ever.

Long Kesh has been a symbol of resistance for nationalist people in Ireland since the Stormont government interned hundreds of people there in 1971. When the Labour Government ended Special Category Status in 1976 Republican prisoners began a bitter struggle against brutality by the loyalist guards, for better conditions, and for political status. This culminated with the Thatcher Government's murder of 10 Republican hunger strikers in 1981.

Long Kesh was the most secure prison in Europe with internal gates separating each of the four wings of each H-Block, 20 foot high walls surrounding each block, double gates separating sections of the prison, and double perimeter fences.

One thousand prison warders were employed to control 1,100 prisoners, 850 of whom are Republicans, with shifts of 24 warders to 126 Provisional IRA POWs in H-Block 7 where the escape began. British soldiers patrol the perimeter of Long Kesh and man watchtowers while Army helicopters are stationed nearby. All this failed to crush the resistance of the prisoners.

Despite these massive barriers the IRA POWs, in cooperation with IRA GHQ, carefully planned their escape over four months, smuggling guns, watches and other equipment and boldly carried it out. At about 2.45pm on Sunday 25 September six IRA Volunteers who had penetrated the central

control area of the block overpowered their guard. 2 prisoners produced pistols and forced the duty officer inside to let them in. Simultaneously the prisoners in the four wings of the block overpowered and tied up the other warders with some donning the warders' uniforms. Another volunteer, Brendan MacFarlane who was O/C during the hunger-strike, penetrated the 'air-lock' double gate at the entrance to H-7 and after overpowering the warden donned his uniform and guarded the gate himself. The IRA was in complete control of the block for nearly an hour.

The signal for action was that 'when everyone was in position one of the prisoners in the circle called the circle screw and told him nicely that there was a cup of tea in the mess for him'. Instead of a cup of tea, he got a gun in his back. A lorry bringing food to the block arrived at about 3.45 and was waved through the gate by the IRA guard. The driver was held at gunpoint in the cab while the other 37 escapees boarded the back of the lorry. The driver then drove the prisoners through four sets of security gates to Tally Lodge office at the main

continued on page 16

## Millions starve billions spent on war drive

A world disaster is taking place at this moment. It has not reached the front-page headlines of British newspapers because the victims are not white inhabitants of major industrial countries. The cause of the disaster is said to be the freak weather conditions which have brought floods and drought to Africa, Asia and South America, affecting more than 40 countries. Billions of tons of seed grain and seed potato have been eaten by starving people, making the prospect for 1984 even more catastrophic. In the drought-stricken north east of Brazil, women have raided supermarkets and municipal food stocks to provide meals for their families. In the Andes people are sleeping on the roofs of their houses to escape the floods.

Yet freak weather conditions are not the real cause of this misery. For the victims are inevitably the poor who are unable to stave off the effects of the weather. Children who are malnourished from birth are the first to die of drought. Families who live in shanty towns are the first to be made homeless in a flood. Every year, regardless of weather conditions, 12 million children die before they are 1 year old from simple, curable illness. \$12.50 per head would save their lives by the provision of basic health care. In other words, one fifteenth of military spending in the world would save the lives of 12 million babies. The imperialists drive to stock up for the next World War means death now for millions, as well as obliteration in the

future. The real situation throughout the world is encapsulated in just one country – South Africa.

South Africa is facing its worst drought for more than a hundred years. The white urban population only noticed it recently when they were forbidden to water their gardens, and concern was expressed for the local wild-life. The black populations of the bantustans – driven out of their homes in the white cities – have been dying from the effects of the drought for months. Millions are suffering from

continued on page 3



## BRAZIL Bankers v. The People

Brazil is sliding faster and faster down the slope of economic and political crisis, propelled by the enormous weight of the debt owed to the imperialist banks. No-one knows for sure how much Brazil owes, but the commonly quoted figure is an unimaginable \$100bn. These loans are enormously profitable for the banks – US Citibank has 5 per cent of its loans in Brazil, but the country accounts for 20 per cent of the bank's profits! Yet this bleeding process is so impoverishing the country that it is impossible for it to service the loans any longer. For months the Brazilian ruling class has been rushing from country to country, from banker to banker, begging billions to tide the economy over.

The imperialists have, in turn, sent in the International Monetary Fund to give advice on how the government should attack the people so as to ensure that the banks keep getting their payments. The IMF has proposed a sweeping austerity programme which slashes wages, cuts food subsidies, wipes out jobs and cuts social spending. So drastic were the IMF demands that the ruling class is splitting, with the Governor of the Central Bank resigning in protest against their severity. And now even the IMF, this bankers' bank, is bankrupt, short of money to bribe imperialism's puppets, and is making the same begging trip as the Brazilian rulers. The outlines of the world's worst financial crisis are becoming clearer as the imperialist props for the bankers' exploitation of the world crumple under the sheer burden of debt.

continued on page 11

## Old wine New bottles

The Trades Union Congress of 1983 saw the labour movement on the run. The crushing defeat of the Labour Party in the election, four years of mass unemployment, the slashing of the state sector and a fall in TUC membership to 10½ million from 12 million in 1979, created the climate for a qualitative turn to the right. Two major and related issues which ran through the Congress – the shooting down of the Korean airliner and the revelation of the contents of Scargill's letter about Solidarity – served only to highlight this state of affairs.

Before Congress had even started, the TUC General Council had issued a statement which, in a manner almost indistinguishable from that of Reagan and Thatcher, condemned the Soviet Union, calling for a 'speedy apology' and chastising the Soviet Union for increasing 'the current atmosphere of tension and suspicion'. Not a mention of the fact that blatant US military interference and aggression in Central America and Lebanon is daily costing hundreds of lives and flagrantly inviting the possibility of global war! Arthur Scargill,

who merely argued along with Ken Gill of AUEW/TASS that the General Council should wait for the facts before coming out in criticism of the Soviet Union, became the target of every vicious attack and smear that the rest of the trade union leaders could muster during the week.

These attacks became even more vitriolic when the contents of Scargill's letter to *Newsline* (paper of the Workers Revolutionary Party) about the Polish trade union Solidarity, were revealed. In the letter he states 'I believe it is an anti-socialist organisation who desires the overthrow of a socialist state.' This was the last straw for those ardent defenders of imperialism, the TUC leaders. Frank Chapple, notorious right-winger and Chair (fittingly) of this year's TUC, called this the 'ravings of an idiot'. Alistair Graham, one of the new smart young men, secretary of the CPSA, said 'Poor old Arthur. He is now a poor pathetic and lonely figure in the trade union movement.' Syd Vincent, the Lancashire miners' leader stated that they would soon be 'wearing bells on their arms to notify people we are members

of the NUM.' What a contrast the backstabbing behaviour of these 'leaders' was to the attitude of a group of miners, themselves born in Poland, when Scargill met them at a pit meeting to discuss his viewpoint. They refused to slander Scargill in front of the TV cameras although egged on to do so. In fact, all Scargill had done was to defend the socialist countries against imperialist propaganda. In such a climate as the one at this year's TUC, this did indeed leave him standing alone.

It came as no surprise therefore that the decision by the TUC General Council before Congress to begin talks with Norman Tebbit, was endorsed by a majority of 2-1 at Congress, with only the TGWU, NUPE and the miners voting against the major unions. Len Murray, clearly finding it much easier to breathe in this let-it-all-hang-out atmosphere of right wing 'pragmatism' and 'realism' (ie thank god we don't have to pretend about the class struggle anymore) even started to hint that the Labour Party wasn't the only party...

Thus Congress, saving most of its big

continued on page 2

### INSIDE

Editorial: Facing Political Reality	2
Ciskei: People Challenge Apartheid, Murder in Prisons	3
Police Defend Racist Attackers, Newham 8, Trafalgar 9, French Fascists Win Election	4&5
Notes and Comments, Police File	6
Irish Solidarity One Year On, Conference, Demonstration, Way Forward Debated	7,8,9 & 10
Racism in Japan, Nicaragua	11
Prisoners Fight Back	12
Lebanon, Pakistan, Iran	13
Round-up, Letters	14 & 15
RUC Raid West Belfast, Abortion Referendum	16

## Facing Political Reality

There has been much talk of facing 'political reality' over the last few weeks as representatives of the organised Labour movement have fallen all over each other in an attempt to come to terms with the Labour Party's disastrous election defeat. 'Political reality' has dictated that the TUC collaborate with the Tories in discussing measures to severely restrict trade union activities. 'Political reality' has dictated that an ambitious windbag and a right-wing social democrat lead the Labour Party along the path it has never actually left - representing the interests of a privileged stratum of the British working class only now in very threatening political and economic circumstances. The British Labour movement is indeed once again on the run.

The growing economic crisis of British imperialism threatens the alliance that has tied the organised working class to the capitalist system in Britain. The attack on living standards, the growing unemployment and poverty is eroding the material conditions that have consolidated the political hold the labour aristocracy has over the whole working class. This process, while still in its early stages, has nevertheless led to a developing crisis within the Labour Party and trade union movement. This in turn has had its impact on the more radical elements of the new middle class - white collar, professional and technical workers - and therefore on the British socialist organisations which draw their membership from such groups. Finally the more oppressed sections of the working class are increasingly demonstrating their independence from the traditional organisations of the working class. They have little faith and few ties to the organised trade union movement. Many not only did not vote Labour in the last election but large sections from among them did not vote at all. A growing split in the British working class is taking place. Socialists will now be judged by the side they take in what will be a growing and increasingly significant conflict of interests.

The threat of growing unemployment, the run down of traditional sectors of British industry has dramatically curbed the power of what were previously militant sections of the working class. Steel workers, car workers, railway workers, miners over the past few years have chosen to hang on to the jobs they have rather than fight for jobs for the future. Where workers have fought they have done so sectionally and divided. Although a small minority still have the power to push through their demands, others have gone down defeated.

Throughout industry trade unions have been all too willing to allow jobs to be sold off, knowing full well that the other side of voluntary redundancies is youth unemployment. It is little surprise that this same trade union movement has done nothing to prevent the regimentation of tens of thousands of young people into youth training schemes as cheap labour, paid £25 per week for often dirty, dangerous and boring work. The organised trade union

movement has accepted four million unemployed without fighting. It has stood by as the health service is being run down, as schools are closed, and as public transport is cut back. It has done nothing to combat the attacks on social security benefits. In short it cares little for the oppressed, the poor and the unemployed.

Many have argued that the recent stand of the TUC, particularly the decision to discuss with Tebbit his latest package of anti-union proposals, represents a shift to the right. While this is true, it is necessary to go further and relate this development to the fundamental character of the British trade union movement. This movement represents the interests of the more privileged strata of the British working class. During the period of the last Thatcher government (1979-1983) this stratum held its own with a small increase in living standards. This should be compared with a substantial fall in income over the same period for those becoming unemployed and for lower paid semi-skilled manual and council manual workers (see FRFI 28). Over the last year real wages for people with jobs rose by some 3-4%. The 'political reality' of the privileged strata of the working class who hold onto their jobs begins to look quite different from that of the more oppressed strata of the working class. And this gap will widen as the Tories intensify their attack on the poor and unemployed. Little wonder then that those the TUC speaks for want to hold onto what they have and not risk it by 'unnecessary' confrontation with the Tory government.

The Labour Party gives organised political expression to the interests of the labour aristocracy. It attempts to further the status and position of the more privileged strata of the working class. It has never defended the poor and unemployed. In fact it has never reduced unemployment on coming into office. Its problems have arisen because those sections of well paid workers which the Labour Party represents have shifted to the right as the crisis has deepened. Terrified and threatened by any class polarisation they have voted SDP/Liberal Alliance or even (the more far gone) Tory. They will not tolerate any shift to the Left in the Labour Party however minimal. They want things to

remain as they are and will vote for the party which appears to protect their security and well-paid jobs. The Labour Party has been squeezed from the 'right'.

But more significantly it has also been squeezed from the 'left'. Many of the poor, the unemployed and the most oppressed workers not only did not vote Labour but, as we have shown, did not bother to vote at all (see FRFI 30). These facts underline the polarisation of class forces in Britain today. There is a growing split in the working class movement between the privileged strata of the working class on the one side and the growing ranks of oppressed workers on the other. In this situation the Labour Party can only go into deep crisis. Unable to appeal to the most oppressed it is inevitably forced to shift rightwards to try and get back to power. Neil Kinnock during his campaign to become leader of the Labour Party made this clear:

... we can only protect the disadvantaged in our society if we appeal to those who are relatively advantaged. The apparent overconcentration of our energies and resources on these groups like the poor, the unemployed and the minorities - does a disservice both to them and to ourselves... if we are to be of real use to the deprived and insecure we must have the support of those in more secure social circumstances - the home owners as well as the homeless, the stable family as well as the single parent, the confidently employed as well as the unemployed, the majority as well as the minorities.

The message is clear as it was during the Labour Party Conference: the Labour Party will now abandon in words, as it abandoned in deeds long ago, the interests of the poorest and most oppressed workers in Britain. This is the significance of the Kinnock/Hattersley election result.

The 'left' of the Labour Party is now out on a limb. People like Ken Livingstone have argued that if the Labour Party is to go forward then it must appeal to oppressed minorities and the unemployed and not concentrate on the 'labour aristocracy' and the middle class. His position and that of his followers was overwhelmingly defeated. In the Labour Party it always will be. Those who follow Livingstone now have to take sides. Either they will be integrated into the mainstream of the Labour Party or they must leave and join with the oppressed to build something new. There is no third way.

Livingstone's recognition that sections of the British working class are reactionary and hostile to socialism has brought an extremely bitter attack on him from one of the few middle class socialist organisations still outside the Labour Party. Unable to accept this

political reality the Socialist Workers Party is faced with a dilemma. For like the other 'left' radicals in the Labour Party they share the belief that socialists must work first and foremost among the more privileged sections of the working class. However they believe this should be in the organised trade union movement and not the Labour Party. Livingstone's position is a danger to them. It forces them into a corner. Hence the hostility of their attack. So middle class academic Alex Callinicos attacks Livingstone for calling electricians and engineers 'privileged "labour aristocrats"' and white-collar workers 'middle-class' and goes on to say:

'One wonders who is left in the working class according to Livingstone. The implication of this sort of analysis is that socialists must create a new popular base by linking up with groups which are not part of the working class. The examples most often given are those of such "minorities" as women, blacks and gays.' (Socialist Worker 1 October 1983)

The strikingly reactionary character of the Socialist Workers Party standpoint lies exposed. So blacks, women and gays are now not part of the working class! The SWP has taken sides - it, like Neil Kinnock, has chosen to stand alongside the privileged workers and not fight for the interests of the most oppressed strata of the British working class.

The brute reality that the traditional 'big battalions' of the organised trade union movement have repeatedly proved incapable of even defending their own jobs and conditions whilst the trade union struggles of the lower paid and most oppressed workers have repeatedly been betrayed by the organised trade union movement has forced on the SWP this reactionary extreme. Little wonder that today the SWP has adopted the pathetic standpoint that the only form of socialist work possible today is to support the small, for there are no 'big' ones, trade union struggles of small sections of the organised trade union movement.

This despair, born of the SWP's refusal to face 'political reality' and acknowledge the split in the working class movement, is the inevitable product of middle class socialism - in or outside the imperialist Labour Party. Unlike the SWP, real communists do not elevate the elementary duty of supporting workers' trade union struggles into the only possible revolutionary strategy. Unlike the SWP real communists do not concentrate their work among the privileged strata of the working class but following Lenin's standpoint go 'lower and deeper, to the real masses'.

The truth is that the only revolutionary strategy today is to work among the most oppressed sections of the working class to build an anti-imperialist, anti-racist movement which can destroy the influence of the labour aristocracy over the working class as a whole. The conditions now exist for doing this. The crisis in the Labour Party and organised trade union movement shows this to be the case.

### continued from page 1

guns for attacking the Soviet Union, spent comparatively little of its energy discussing unemployment and the destruction of the NHS. They overwhelmingly agreed to endorse the Youth Training Scheme, overturning a resolution which sought to reject it on the grounds that it aimed to create a pool of cheap labour as an alternative to providing real jobs and apprenticeships for young people.

### LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

The Conference opened with the election of Neil Kinnock as the new party leader (71% of the vote) and Roy Hattersley as deputy leader (67% of the vote). Neil Kinnock, a previous member of the 'soft' left is moving to the right at the speed of light and ready to say and do anything to become the next Prime Minister. Roy Hattersley too has always subscribed to this philosophy. In fact both members of the 'dream ticket' could be aptly described by the maxim that all Labour MPs are unprincipled,

but some are more unprincipled than others. Hence Kinnock's first stroke at Conference was the endorsement in secret of the expulsion of the 5 Militant leaders upheld by a vote of 4 or 5 to 1.

The discussion on Labour's disastrous election defeat was mainly centred on issues such as Labour's 'lack of professionalism', need for better organisation and media image, and lack of unity. No leading member of the party cared to speculate why only 39% of trade unionists voted Labour and why Labour's proportion of first time voters had fallen from 41% in 1979 to 17% in 1983 - 3% less than the SDP and 11% less than the Tories, and, still more significantly, why almost half of them did not vote at all. Only half a dozen out of the 2,000 delegates were black. The only 'debate' on the question of racism in Britain was when 3 of the black delegates pointed to this fact. Conference's response was to refer the matter to a working party. As far as the youth were concerned, the Labour Party did decide to oppose the Youth Training Schemes as being inadequate. And

why? As one delegate from Scarborough stated:

'Unless we win them to the Labour movement they will take to the streets. We must win them to parliamentary action, not to street violence. If they resort to violence they will make Brixton and Toxteth look like a schoolyard scrap.'

The issue of Ireland was discussed at the conference and was highlighted by the attendance of Gerry Adams MP at a fringe meeting of 500 people. When it was rumoured that he would be trying to get into the conference of so-called socialists, extra stewards were put on duty to stop him getting in and Labour Party General Secretary Jim Mortimer announced that Gerry Adams would not be welcome. Gerry Adams, elected representative of a liberation movement fighting for 13 years against British army terror, unleashed in the first place by a Labour Government against the nationalist people, stated of Kinnock 'I assume he's no different from his predecessors.' How right he was. When Tony

Benn proposed the motion to conference that the Protestant veto on constitutional change in the North be dropped, he was viciously attacked by the odious Don Concannon (Labour spokesman on Ireland) and the motion was heavily defeated. A motion proposing talks with the nationalist parties (including Sinn Fein) was even more heavily defeated. The Labour Party remained true to form in its support for British imperialism in Ireland. While it did pass a motion condemning US military aggression in Central America, we cannot forget Labour's hysterical support for Thatcher's Falklands adventure. As Lenin once said 'Fine words butter no parsnips' - and it is the Labour Party's deeds not its phrases at conference which count. And we only have to look at its attitude to Ireland and Gerry Adams, to see the true content of Labour's internationalism. Despite new leaders, Labour's message is still the same - a determination to outdo the Tories in its support for imperialism and its scabbing on the oppressed.

Olivia Adamson

### in brief

#### Whites queue up to buy killer dogs

Two bull terrier watchdogs viciously attacked and killed a black woman in Johannesburg. So savage was the attack that parts of her body were found scattered all over the yard. Her employer found her late at night although residents who had heard frantic screams had called in the police. By the time they arrived the screams had stopped so they didn't bother to investigate further. As soon as the story was printed in the South African press, the animal home where the dogs had been placed was inundated with calls from whites outbidding each other in their eagerness to buy these killer dogs. This sickening 'interest' in the dogs was not matched by any for the dead black woman, who was reported only as 'being known as Gladys'.

#### Amandla Viva ANC

Some indication of the strength of the ANC is given in comments made by the South African Defence Minister, General Malan on 7 September. Replying to a suggestion that all Defence Force offices should be removed from central city or residential areas to military bases, he said that this would not solve the problem of repeated bombing attacks. For, he pointed out, attacks had been made on many other government buildings such as the police, administration boards, law courts and the Presidents Council - thus moving only Defence offices would not solve the problem. Furthermore, if they were moved out of the cities they would be ideal targets for air and missile attacks. The ANC followed this with bombings of 2 electricity sub-stations near Johannesburg on 10 September. Painted on the wall of one after the explosion were the words 'Amandla Viva ANC'.

#### Victory to SWAPO

On July 18th this year, the South African Administrator General of Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, proclaimed the new Namibian State Council, the latest in a long line of puppet administrations designed by South Africa to quieten international protest over its continued illegal occupation of Namibia. Immediately, the Namibian people, through their vanguard, SWAPO, demonstrated their recognition of this latest cynical con-trick for what it was. On the very morning of the proclamation, a massive bomb blast rocked the main street of Windhoek, carrying the struggle of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, SWAPO's military wing, into the Namibian capital itself.

The year 1983 sees imperialist occupation of Namibia reaching its crisis. In January, South Africa sacked en masse its last band of lackeys, the 'National Assembly' and 'Council of Ministers' arising out of the 'Democratic Turnhalle Alliance', it having become too glaringly obvious to everyone that this frightened gang of thieves and jailers represented no-one but themselves and their South African and imperialist masters. South Africa formally reimposed direct rule and a dusk to dawn curfew over half the country. Despite this, SWAPO's political and military offensive has gone from strength to strength, putting greater and greater strain on the alien structures imposed on the Namibian nation.

South Africa's occupation of Namibia continues however for much the same reasons as Britain's occupation of the Six Counties of Ireland. Firstly, whatever the cost of these occupations, the financial rewards accruing to international capitalism and to the occupying power from their grinding oppression of the people are still great enough to produce a net profit. More important, however, is the political stake which imperialism has in those countries suffering this oppression. The liberation of Namibia will have repercussions within South Africa as serious as those which Britain's being forced to relinquish its hold on Ireland will have in this country. Such a victory will hasten considerably the overthrow of the apartheid state, an event which will in turn result in great changes here at the heartland of imperialism. This is why, in the words of SWAPO's Secretary for Labour, John Otto:

'the condition of the Namibian workers is, and should be, the concern of the entire working class of the world. Their solidarity is indispensable and will confirm the maturity of the working class as a revolutionary force.'

# SOUTH AFRICA

## UDF RALLY IS BANNED

In FRFI 32 we reported on the establishment of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in South Africa. It is now estimated that more than 500 organisations are affiliated to the UDF which together have a membership of between 1 and 1½ million. An indication of the political strength of the UDF came on 7 September when the UDF urged voters to boycott elections of the government-created 'Coloured Management Committees'. The result was an incredibly low poll: in Athlone only 1.8% of those registered to vote bothered to turn up. As the Secretary of the UDF in the Western Cape pointed out 'only 8% of those so-called coloureds are registered as voters. If you are talking about 1.8% of 8% you have an idea of the kind of acceptability that the management committees have.'

The South African state has already responded to this growth in political struggle by arresting people distributing UDF News, and on 23 September banning a rally planned to take place in East London to establish a new branch of the UDF. This was one of four rallies banned in recent weeks, the others being a rally to establish a new campaign to free Nelson Mandela, a rally to commemorate the 6th Anniversary of the death of Steve Biko and a rally in honour of the memory of leading South African communist and ANC member Yusuf Dadoo who died in London on 19 September.

The UDF will continue to fight apartheid and in particular the proposals to alter South Africa's constitution to the complete exclusion of the black majority.

Chris Fraser

continued from page 1

some degree of starvation - the figures for deaths are unrecorded because the apartheid regime does not want the world to know of the real barbarity of their concentration camps. In a normal year more than 30,000 black children die of malnutrition in one of the richest countries on earth. Diseases such as kwashiorkor, TB, measles and cholera are spreading. In neighbouring Namibia bubonic plague is now considered endemic in the Ovambo region, with seven new cases reported each day. The South Africans' main worry is that their occupying army might catch it. The real disaster for black people in South Africa is apartheid: the drought worsens their existing misery.

Yet the drought has not left white South Africa untouched. The implications of water-shortage for the economy are serious. The farmers have lost the income from exporting food. They are claiming drought compensation and paying reduced taxes. The mines and industry rely on water for power. If it does not rain soon, the economy will be in serious difficulty.

The same applies to the Asian and South American continents. The economies of these countries, drained already by the flow of super-profits to the imperialist countries, can barely survive as it is under the austerity imposed by imperialist banks and the IMF in return for loans. The floods and drought will result in a harsher existence for their already immiserated peoples.

The disparity between the wealth of white South Africa and the bitter disease-ridden poverty inflicted on black South Africans is a microcosm of the world. Imperialism ensures a measure of health and prosperity for a small portion of the world's population at the expense of degradation for the majority. The numbers starving and dying of disease each year are growing whilst fewer and fewer live in greater and greater luxury. This happens regardless of the weather. This is the imperialist system. Oppressed people throughout the world are beginning to reject it. The squatters in South Africa, the women raiding the supermarkets in Brazil, the liberation movements in Southern Africa and Central and South America - they have no illusions about the weather, they are fighting imperialism.

Carol Brown

Ciskei

## PEOPLE CHALLENGE APARTHEID PUPPETS

The racist South African regime has in the past few weeks faced its most determined challenge yet to its bantustan policy. Thousands of black people have demonstrated in the so-called 'independent' Ciskei that no longer will they tolerate being forced to live in conditions worse than slavery for the benefit of the privileged white minority in South Africa and its imperialist backers.

Since July, the people in Mdantsane have boycotted Ciskei Transport Corporation buses in protest at steep fare increases. The response of the South African controlled Ciskei puppet regime has been brutal repression; people have been gunned down for refusing to use buses, a state of emergency has been declared, and the revolutionary trade union South African Allied Workers Union, SAAWU, which has massive support both in the Ciskei and nearby East London, has been banned.

There is no work in the Ciskei, over 40% of the population are unemployed and a further 40% of men have to work outside the Ciskei. It is a massive overcrowded concentration camp where those of no use to capitalism are left to die; for example the infant mortality rate is estimated at over 50% whilst the rate for white South Africans is 1.2%. When granted 'independence' South Africa installed stooges loyal to apartheid, headed by President-for-life Chief Lennox Sebe. His job is to crush all resistance to this brutal form of exploitation.

In late July bus fares in the Ciskei were increased by 11%. For the people already on the starvation line this was the last straw. They started a boycott of the buses which is still strong today. On 3 August, a state of emergency was declared - a curfew was imposed from 10pm to 4.30am and a further provision forbids more than 4 people to walk together in the street or to be together in any house during the day. The penalty

for breaking these is a fine of R2,000 or 2 years imprisonment. At least 200 people are being held for breaking these curfew conditions. The Ciskei has further warned that those who encourage others to take part in the bus boycott shall be jailed for up to 10 years. Those choosing to travel to East London have had to face gunfire from both the South African and Ciskeian police and army. On 4 August alone, 15 workers were murdered and many more injured when they tried to board trains to work. Thousands of school children have been boycotting their classes in solidarity with the bus boycott. Many of them have been detained as a result.

The Ciskei authorities fear the organisation of black workers and the growing power of the independent black trade unions. They are already compiling a central computerised register to store all the details of every worker in the Ciskei. This will become the sole labour recruiting agency in the Ciskei and membership of a trade union and any involvement in workers' struggles will be recorded. The latest attack on militant workers has been to ban SAAWU in the Ciskei on 3 September. SAAWU has always voiced its total opposition to apartheid and the bantustans, and has always vehemently condemned the sham 'independence' of the Ciskei. It has always linked the struggle for workers rights with the national liberation struggle to smash apartheid. Ever since its formation in 1979 SAAWU has faced severe repression by South African and

Ciskeian employers. In February 1981 500 workers were sacked from the sweet factory, Wilson-Rowntree, in East London, a British company owned by Rowntree-Mackintosh, for demanding basic workers rights such as recognition of their union, SAAWU. Hundreds of their members and their entire leadership was detained, and their President Thozamile Gqweta has since been detained 8 times (See FRFI 20). In this most recent wave of repression amongst the many SAAWU members and officials arrested are, Vice President Sisa Njikelana and organiser Bonile Tuluma. Yet, in defiance of these attempts to intimidate SAAWU into submission Sam Kikine, General Secretary of SAAWU, has said that the apartheid regime will never succeed in crushing revolutionary trade unions because 'they cannot ban a people's ideology. You can ban the name but you cannot ban the ideology.'

The African National Congress, which leads the liberation struggle in South Africa has united with those in struggle in the Ciskei. In their latest act of solidarity, on 13 September, the ANC bombed the hated Rowntrees sweet factory! On 26 August, the ANC bombed the Ciskeian Consulate in the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg, followed on 11 September by another successful bombing this time at the Ciskeian Consulate in central Pretoria - the explosion was heard up to 8km away!

The ANC have always stressed the links between different struggles - the armed struggle being waged alongside those in the community and the workplace. In Ciskei the people are united to defeat the apartheid regime's policy of genocide in the bantustans.

Ruby Khan

South Africa!

Since December a further 9 prisoners have been murdered at Barberton. The reported circumstances of these deaths and the fact that 34 prisoners were prepared to testify in the trial above indicate the strength of resistance of the prisoners:

- August 1983 3 prisoners die at the hands of warders in a 'brawl'
- 12 September 1 prisoner is shot dead 'trying to escape'
- 20 September 4 prisoners shot dead for 'fighting warders'
- 30 September 1 prisoner shot dead after successfully killing a leading screw, Lieutenant Colonel Grundeling, with a sharpened copper pipe!

This catalogue of barbarity is the tip of the iceberg in a country which boasts the highest rate of imprisonment in the world. 500,000 people are imprisoned every year in South Africa, the great majority black people imprisoned for breaking racist laws. As outlined in the International Defence & Aid Fund pamphlet 'Akin to Slavery' (see FRFI 27) thousands of these prisoners are forced to work on farms without pay, such as the one where the 3 black prisoners were murdered last year. The fact that the racist South African regime imprisons and murders so many black people is an indication of the strength of opposition it faces and a warning of the revolutionary struggle that will destroy apartheid. While the British government is loudly complaining about the treatment of white-minority South African prisoners, the same government is silent about the treatment of black prisoners. The fact that the British government is silent about the treatment of black prisoners is a warning of the revolutionary struggle that will destroy apartheid.

## South African Prisons

### brutal murders

Whilst the daily barbarity of apartheid is ignored and thus condoned by the British media, every few months a particularly vicious example of brutality in South Africa is given limited publicity in the South African and British press and a few South African officials brought to trial. 8 prison warders who systematically murdered 3 black prisoners at Barberton top security prison last December became the latest scapegoats: their trial supposedly an example of South Africa's 'democracy' in a country where over 80% of the population are denied the vote. Yet these 8 were all acquitted of murder and no warder has been brought to trial for the 9 prisoners murdered since last December. Recent events indicate determined resistance from the prisoners.

On 28 December 1982 a number of prisoners were taken by truck from Durban Point Prison to Barberton. After a journey of 1,000km without food or drink they were beaten on arrival. The following day 37 of them were ordered to work on the prison farm. They were forced to load and push wheelbarrows all day in a temperature of 35°C (December is in the height of the South African summer). When one prisoner, Ernest Makhatini, complained that he had come straight from a prison hospital he was repeatedly beaten on the back with a rubber truncheon until he could no longer stand. Other prisoners were beaten, and when they fell beaten again, whilst the chief warder, Smith, had his dog put under the shade of a tree. Smith then had the prisoners thrown together in a pile and left to die. Ernest Makhatini, Mayo Khumalo and Mhlakaza-Xaba all died and many

others suffered permanent injuries.

In giving evidence at the trial one prisoner pointed out that 'If it wasn't for the attitude of the black warders all of us would have died that day' for the black warders had prevented their bestial white colleagues from beating the prisoners when they were piled together. The medical officer at the prison, who had heard warders plan the beatings earlier in the day did nothing to prevent the murder. Indeed prisoners testified that once left to die he came and turned their faces with his foot forcing them to look into the sun. 8 warders who were brought to trial were sentenced on 28 September all were acquitted of murder and given sentences of 1-4 years. The head of the prison, Lieutenant Colonel Grundeling, who had planned the beatings, was not brought to trial. The fact that the British government is silent about the treatment of black prisoners is a warning of the revolutionary struggle that will destroy apartheid.

## MNR BASE OVERRUN

Further proof that the racist South African regime is backing the counter-revolutionary forces of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) was provided by a recent raid on a key MNR base in the province of Inhambane.

The Mozambique army destroyed the base capturing 9 tons of arms and equipment and causing hundreds of MNR men to flee. 3 civilians who had been kidnapped by the MNR described how MNR leaders boasted of South African support, and the fact that 300 of their men had recently been sent for training in South Africa. Equipment was frequently dropped to their base. The civilians also stressed that they saw no popular support for the MNR - one said 'Whenever we passed a settlement it was empty because the people had fled'. Most of the fighters were terrified young Mozambicans captured by the MNR, many of whom said they would like to leave but were too scared.

The apartheid regime is trying desperately to destabilise the front-line states through the use of force and terror. They are meeting strenuous resistance from the people of Mozambique who are fighting to defend the democratic revolution.

Chris Fraser

## LEEDS 24-HOUR PICKET

Another very successful 24 hour picket was held in Dortmund Square, Leeds city centre, from 5pm Friday 23 to 5pm Saturday 24 September. Called under the slogans Stop Apartheid's War in Southern Africa! Victory to the ANC and SWAPO!, this was the third 24 hour picket to be organised this year by Leeds FRFI. The picket was sponsored by several local Labour councillors, Leeds NUPE no. 1 branch and Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group. It brought together animal rights supporters, AAM supporters and other anti-racists in solidarity with the South African people and in defence of the Frontline States and Namibia under attack from the apartheid regime.



An array of banners, flags and placards, the chanting of slogans and the singing of South African freedom songs drew the attention of the public, including many youth, who stopped to listen to speeches, talk to the picketers, buy anti-apartheid literature and look at the exhibition. Once again hundreds of people were told of the evils of apartheid, of the struggle of the South African people for freedom and justice and of British collaboration with the racist regime. 251 FRFI's were said, 1500 people signed the petition demanding the release of Nelson Mandela, and funds were raised for the ANC. Coverage of the local press was in the following week.

### in brief

# POLICE DEFEND RACIST ATTACKERS

On Saturday 3 September Dipak Amin, a 22 year old medical student, was brutally attacked in Shoreditch. His attackers left his clothes ripped to shreds, his body covered in slashes (there were 40 cuts on his face alone) and his back broken. It took him two hours to crawl to a phone booth to get help.

His attackers clearly identified their motives by carving the initials NF on his arm. Yet the police typically stated that they did not know what the motive was and that they were 'not convinced' it was a racist attack. They even told a local newspaper not to mention the carving of NF on Dipak's arm as it 'might put off white witnesses with racist sympathies from coming forward'.

The attack on Dipak Amin is one of a rapidly growing number of racist attacks. These are just a few of the attacks that took place in July and August:

- An Asian family in Birmingham escaped when a firebomb was thrown through the window of their house late one night.
- An Asian family in Park Lane had their home set on fire when a burning substance was poured through their letterbox.
- A Hindu Temple in Oldham was set on fire as was a Mosque in London.
- An eight year old black child was attacked by skinheads who picked her up and threw her into the garden of a nearby house.
- In Ilford Ajit Singh Boll was set on by 12 white youths who pushed him over and repeatedly kicked him until local people scared them away.

In many areas black people are forced to travel in groups lest they come under attack. Asian families are forced into virtual imprisonment in homes that are besieged by racists. And these attacks are on the increase as various fascist groups have, over the summer, openly resumed their activities and newspaper sales.

As in Dipak Amin's case the police



almost invariably deny the racist character of these attacks. They rarely bother to investigate them even when the racists are identified by their victims. And frequently the police either abuse, threaten or even arrest the victims of racist attacks.

Thus it was when in July, Raj Thakur was stabbed by skinheads as he went to the aid of friends whose home was under attack on the Golf Links Estate in Southall. 30 skinheads attacked and seriously wounded Raj. It took 3 phone calls and 35 minutes for the police to get there. When Raj's friend pointed out the skinheads the police told him to shut up or he would be arrested for threatening behaviour. It took police 10 days to bother taking Raj's statement. Not surprisingly, soon after this Raj's friends' home was once more under attack by fascists. The fascists had every reason to be supremely confident that the police would not hinder them.

That confidence lies at the root of the escalation of fascist attacks. A vicious racist climate has been fostered by ruling class politicians, media and police. Black people are constantly attacked and harassed by the police. When they

organise against racism they are arrested and criminalised. They are subjected to racist immigration and nationality laws and passport checks when they attend hospitals or Social Security offices. The



newspapers constantly print racist propaganda about 'mugging' and similar police lies. Small wonder that the fascists should sprout like weeds in dirt. They act as the unofficial arm of the racist state's attack on black people in Britain.

Nor is it any coincidence that the British fascists should be actively making links with Loyalist organisations in the Six Counties of Ireland. Both are loyal supporters of racism and imperialism. In the Six Counties the Loyalist terror squads are used as an auxiliary to the state's efforts to crush nationalist resistance. They work hand in glove with the police and Army, often using their information to target victims. Now, as black resistance grows in Britain fascist groups are also growing, sharing the same vile outlook and motives of the Loyalists.

And these groups are growing under the protection of the British state and its police. Whereas the police can never manage to catch the racists they move like lightning to stamp out black people's efforts to defend themselves. Thus in July in Dewsbury a spate of racist attacks culminated in 5 Asian

youths being attacked by fascists with iron bars. The police arrived and took away the fascists but did not arrest them. But later that night the police raided an Asian family's home arresting 3 brothers and charging them with actual bodily harm, damage to police property and affray. When local people marched in protest the police set dogs on them injuring two children.

In Newham Asian youth mobilised to defend themselves against serious fascist attacks. The police arrested 8 of them and charged them with serious charges including conspiracy which carries a heavy gaol sentence. But the black community refused to be cowed by fascists - in or out of uniform. As the Bulletin of the Newham 8 Defence Campaign states:

'It is time to fight back. From their experiences, black people have been left with no other choice except to defend themselves, as did the Newham 8 when their community was under attack from white racist thugs. However, when black people defend themselves against these attacks, the police criminalise their actions and arrest them, while their racist white attackers are allowed to get off scot free. This is exactly so in the case of the Newham 8... The charges against the Newham 8 are a challenge to our right to defend ourselves against racist violence. The police are constantly harassing and intimidating the black community. This increasing intimidation by the police which is backed up by the courts, is to criminalise any resistance against this oppression. We must unite, organise and fight back and state clearly that we will not put up with any form of intimidation or oppression. We must support any forms of resistance and defence of our people. It is for this reason that we have to support the Newham 8. They stood in defence of our community, we in turn must stand by them.'

The black community has learned from bitter experience that the fight against fascism cannot be separated from the struggle against the British state, its police and courts. That is a vital political lesson for all anti-fascists and anti-racists.

Maxine Williams

# FRENCH FASCISTS WIN LOCAL ELECTIONS

On 11 September the local council elections in Dreux, near Paris, saw the victory of the right wing candidate in open alliance with the National Front, the largest fascist party in France.

In an area with a 23% immigrant population stemming from 61 nationalities, an area of poverty and deprivation, the fascists had gained nearly 17% of the vote in the first round, as the result of an openly racist campaign. Their standpoint was not new. But the size of the vote in this working class area made Dreux exceptional, as did the alliance of the 'respectable' Tory with this crude racism: an alliance uniting on one ticket the Rally for the Republic, Union for French Democracy and National Front.

The demands were straightforward: repatriation of all immigrants; no social services, welfare benefits or social security for any remaining in France. The theme underlying the campaign was one which has been repeated ever since the economic crisis hit France with growing unemployment: '2 million unemployed - 2 million immigrant workers'.

In return for the fascists' support, the 'respectable' Tory promised them three

major positions on the new local Council: they would be in charge of 'civil protection', culture and social welfare.

The racists' campaign won a large proportion of votes from the traditionally Communist and Socialist white working class in the area. (The immigrants themselves are not allowed to vote). Horror at this rise of racial hatred, memories of similar developments in the 1930s, were expressed daily in the more left wing newspapers and in public debates on television. Famous actors, authors, singers, joined in with veterans from the Resistance movement against Nazism pleading for such a regrowth of barbarism to be stopped.

This sudden demonstration of racism did not come out of the blue however. One glance at the past few years in France reveals that the National Front is not the only party practising racism. The Mitterrand government's measures against immigration and its repatriation

and deportation of many North Africans have continually reinforced the idea that unemployment can be at least partially blamed on immigrants. Its increased policing of inner-city areas like in Lyons has put the blame on the North African youth for delinquency and street-crime as surely as the whole campaign against 'mugging' in Britain has tried to criminalise black youth here. Finally, only a few days before the election, Mitterrand brought in new rules to control immigration strictly and set up new teams of 'labour inspectors' to spy on firms employing immigrants without permits. All such measures simply fan the flames of racism by placing the blame for the disasters caused by the capitalist crisis on black people and immigrants.

Among large sections of the French working class the Communist Party holds a leading position. Yet in Dreux many workers' allegiance has switched to a fascist party for this election. Looking at the record of the French CP it is easy to see how this came about. In December 1980 the communist Council of Vitry sent a bulldozer to knock down an immigrant workers' hostel, complaining that Vitry was becoming a black ghetto. Rather than join in solidarity with the 400 immigrant workers to fight for a decent hostel, the Communist mayor and councillors treated them as enemies, and tried to whip up racist anger among the local population.

Nor was this an isolated incident. Around the same time in another poor suburb of Paris, Saint-Denis, the Com-

munist mayor refused a petition from immigrant workers. He replied to them, 'Why don't you go back to your own country' and had them violently thrown out of the town hall. In Montigny the Communist mayor called a picket outside a Moroccan family's flat chanting 'Don't let the poison spread'. Later the mother had an epileptic fit while the daughter was physically attacked. In one area after another, Communist mayors and councillors refused to admit any more immigrants, claiming a 'tolerance threshold' beyond which the area would be 'flooded'.

This is the leadership the French working class has been subjected to. This racist chauvinistic behaviour, based on a purely national ideology, bears no resemblance to Communism! Communism has to mean uniting the struggle of the working class with the struggle of the oppressed against racism and imperialism. The French CP has sided long since with the racists and the imperialists. So to vote National Front is not such a great step to take if for years you have been educated in a racist and nationalist standpoint by your so-called 'Communist' leaders.

The victory for fascism and racism in Dreux means increased suffering and insecurity for the immigrant population. But those who believe that the racism began with the arrival of the fascists are blind to reality. The French CP in particular has laid the basis for an upsurge of racism among those most hit by the crisis.

Sheila Marston

### ● Baldev Gill - framed and terrorised

Baldev Gill, an Asian woman from Southall, is fighting a frame-up charge (of importing heroin) that could mean life imprisonment. She was arrested on 4 July during a raid on premises, where she was only by accident. Her ordeal started when Customs Officers threatened to smash a typewriter on her. It continued at Southall police station, where she was held isolated from solicitor, family or friends for 2 days. Customs Officers and police refused her sanitary towels and persisted in interrogating her even though she was bleeding heavily and her clothes were soaked in blood. Her 13 year old sister was illegally interrogated, mistreated and detained.

Baldev has already spent 6 weeks in jail on remand, for a charge of which she is innocent. She is now on bail awaiting committal to crown court.

Further information from 86 Northcote Avenue, Southall, Middlesex. tel. 01-843 0578/0343  
Charles Bolton

### ● Strip searched

Of six Asian women protesting to stop the deportation of Afia Begum, five were arrested. They were taken to Rochester Row police station and, like the three women comrades of the 'Trafalgar 9' were strip searched. One woman was forcibly dragged naked through the corridor in front of male police. The Sari Squad had chained themselves to the railings of Home Secretary, Leon Brittan's London home. No one can now doubt the limitless depths to which the British state will sink in its assault on black women. No one can doubt their courage and determination to fight back.

### ● Patels reunited

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! is very pleased to congratulate Sanjesh Diptesh and Jayesh Patel. In FRFI 1 we reported the deportation of the three sons of Mrs Manju Patel. Mrs Patel was forced to let them go to Bombay on the understanding given by the Home Office that the normal waiting period of 8 months would be speeded up. Only last month was the family at last reunited at Heathrow. Mrs Patel told reporters:

'I am so happy my sons are back with me. We are not going to celebrate, we can't afford it. For four years I have had to suffer. The boys lived in a very dirty place in one room. If the Home Office had thought before about me they could have got this sorted out very easily a long time ago.'

### ● Waddington's reception

When David Waddington - minister for deportations - went on a 'familiarisation tour' of Sylhet in Bangladesh, he got a reception he hadn't bargained for. Women and children from 16 families led a crowd which jostled him to demand why are they being kept apart from their husbands and fathers for years on end. The fuse of hatred for British imperialism burns all over the world, to explode in their faces when they least expect it.

### ● Deportations

250 people are deported from Britain every month. All over the country local campaigns are grouping around those under threat, mostly women, to fight back and win against the British state's racism. Mrs Nurten Osman, a Turkish Cypriot woman and her six children, are threatened; as are Hilmi and Nazli Hassan, also from Cyprus, and their two daughters. Dr Ronaldo Munck, who came here 13 years ago from Argentina; Malika Benkhe Benkhelefa and her daughter originally from Morocco; Mr Cheema who lives in Southall; the Vythelingum family from Mauritius; Josephine Thomas who came in 1962 from Grenada and now lives with her children in Huddersfield; Afia Begum and Mohammad Idrish from Bangladesh are all living under threat of deportation. Mrs Terry Soliman, a British woman, and her Egyptian husband, have been living together for three months in a tent in France because the Home Office says theirs is a false marriage and will not allow Mr Soliman to enter the country. This is British democracy. No wonder it stinks in the nostrils of oppressed people from every corner of the globe.

## Health workers strike back

'It is perhaps a pity that it is Hackney, as vulnerable as it is already, which has been forced into the vanguard of that fight.'

*Standard, 26 September, recognising that the oppressive conditions of deprivation in the borough will no longer be tolerated by the community.*

A limited victory was scored on the evening of Monday 26 September when the 'almost certain' decision to close St Leonards Hospital, 'taking almost immediate effect' was delayed. All due to the determination of health workers, local people, community groups and others, under the banner of Hackney Health Emergency.

Over one thousand people took part in the protests telling Thatcher's cut-throats that the 'Health Service is already over-stretched and that further cuts will not be tolerated. The punitive cash restraints must be withdrawn.'

Meanwhile, the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign (SNHDC) which had supported the protest, started a lobby of Hackney Council Labour Group against it accepting the Home Office proposals for a Lambeth-style police consultative committee in Hackney. We addressed those gathered outside giving our solidarity with the struggle, making the point that the enemy they face in the fight against the cuts is the same faced by those who protested at the death of Colin Roach, the same enemy which murders black people whilst arming the police, then

deviously claiming it wants to 'talk': that the struggle of the Health and other oppressed workers is one and the same.

Upstairs the DHA was now in an 8-8 deadlock on whether St Leonards would stay open. The public gallery as well as the council chambers were packed with protestors, led by black women health workers. Resident of Mayfair, racehorse owner and property developer, obviously not dependent on the NHS, Louis Freedman, chairman of the DHA, was terrified at the protestors' determination. He refused to use his casting vote, although he had already voted for the hospital's closure. The meeting closed without any decision being made. Capitalist Freedman and colleagues attempted to leave the chambers only to be confronted and surrounded. He was shielded by, amongst others, Labour

MP Brian Sedgemore, who helped to save him from the people's righteous indignation. As can be expected, any determined actions against the aims of the British state will be met by its agents of repression. Within minutes of Freedman and Co leaving the chambers, 9 racist police were drafted into the building to protect the parasites whilst they exited through the back door of the Town Hall.

One of the 9, PC G665, proved his loyalty to racism and oppression on 8 June when he arrested a Defence Campaign supporter outside the South African Embassy for protesting against the death sentence of 3 ANC freedom fighters.

As the health dispute ended councillors of the Labour Group at their 'closed' meeting were, against their will, told by Ace Kelly of the Defence Campaign, that selling out to the police on 'consultation' was not acceptable - again the decision to refuse was not taken. We will keep you informed.

**Ace Kelly**  
Chair SNHDC

Hackney Health Emergency can be contacted at 95 Georges Road, London, N16. Phone no: 249 8086 (day) 249 4828 (evening).

## Trafalgar 9 are innocent!

Defend the right to demonstrate outside the South African Embassy

*Trafalgar 9 are innocent!*

Arrested on 8 June for demonstrating outside the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square, London, against the hangings of the Moroka 3, Marcus Motaung, Jerry Mosololi and Simon Mogoerane, the Trafalgar 9 are due to appear in court on 5 December facing charges of obstruction, threatening behaviour and indecent language. The Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign, which was established shortly after the 9 arrests, is fighting for the dropping of all charges and in defence of the democratic right to demonstrate outside South Africa House.

With these demands it has won broad support including the sponsorship of many London Councillors, most recently Ken Livingstone. Westminster Labour Group will attend a picket of the trial which is expected to last 2 weeks, and NUPE have taken extra leaflets to distribute to all their branches in London. Representatives of the campaign have spoken to trades councils, teachers groups, students and many others.

Given the number of people being arrested on political activities and thereafter refused bail, strip searched and photographed against their will, the Defence Campaign is organising a picket of the Home Office on 9 November (12.30-2pm) under the following slogans:

- No strip searching!
- No holding overnight!
- No forced photographing!

This type of bullying and information gathering was the experience of the Trafalgar 9 and many other political activists (eg 'Stop the City', Upper Heyford etc) and thus the Defence Campaign hopes that its sponsors, other campaigns and political groups will support such a picket and add their names to a letter of protest which will be handed in to the Home Office.

Other future activities include a public meeting on 23 November, Conway Hall, London WC1 at 7.30pm and a picket of Bow Street Magistrates Court at 10am 5 December and every day for 2 weeks thereafter. Please send all donations and requests for leaflets, petitions and speakers to BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX

Chris Fraser

## NEWHAM 8 MARCH

'We as a community are proud that Asian youths went out to beat up the fascists. To hell with talk of law and order - there is no law and order when we are attacked on the streets. We claim the right to defend ourselves... We will face the state itself for the right to self-defence.'

*Gautam Appa, Newham 8 Defence Campaign*

300 youth led the 2,000-strong demonstration on 24 September in support of the Newham 8. Hundreds of people came out of shops and houses to join the march. The depth of feeling was clear. The Newham 8 defended their community against fascist attacks and have now been victimised by the police. The black community will not tolerate fascist and police attacks and knows, as the chanting on the march made plain - 'self defence is the only way'.

The militancy of the youth dominated the march. At one point the police looked set to launch an attack as they brought out a coach load of reserves and began to push photographers out of the way. But the numbers of determined youth were too great and the police thought again. Many anti-racist campaigns supported the march, some from as far away as Sheffield and Bradford. The 50-strong Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign contingent included supporters of FRFI, Irish Solidarity Committees and City Anti-Apartheid Group, who joined the Stoke Newington youth in non-stop chanting against the racist police.

The march had been called to highlight the case of the Newham 8 whose trial on serious charges carrying long sentences begins on 24 October. Only one incident marred the unity and strength of the demonstration. The RCP/Workers Against Racism contingent refused to accept the order of the march and repeatedly rejected stewards' instructions to move to the correct place. They behaved in a disgraceful, arrogant and racist manner. Two of their leading members, Judith Harrison and Fran Eden rounded on Ace Kelly and told him 'We'll have you, you bastard'. They continued such racist threats and policeman's daughter, Fran Eden, kicked Ace. They were finally forced to the side of the march by stewards and rather than march further



back, left altogether. Their behaviour is typical of the grossly sectarian and chauvinist RCP who care only for self-publicity rather than the interests of the anti-racist movement.

600 attended the rally after the march and heard, amongst others, Kwame Ture (formerly Stokely Carmichael). He said:

'At the end of the march the police stay police, will we stay organised? Will we remain constant fighters? In

**PICKET**  
10am Monday 24 October  
Snaresbrook Crown Court,  
London E18  
Black Community on Trial  
Newham 8 are Innocent!  
Self Defence is No Offence!

Further information:  
Newham 8 Defence Campaign,  
c/o PO Box 273, Forest Gate,  
London E7 9JN

order to win the struggle we must remain constant like the Irish who have been constant in their struggle against British imperialism for 800 years! We must be determined - as determined as the Palestinians in their struggle against Zionism! In order to make this march meaningful we must be more organised!

Self-Defence - The Only Way! Newham 8 are innocent!  
**Andy Goddard**

## STOKE NEWINGTON AND HACKNEY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN REPORT

### FITZROY ANDREW

Fitzroy was one of a group of mainly black youth arrested after the 22 January demonstration for an independent public enquiry into the death of Colin Roach. He was the most severely beaten of the 25 arrested that day. Fitzroy was beaten unconscious and when he came to he asked what he was charged with. He was told 'We'll think of that later' and punched again. Fitzroy is a friend and neighbour of the Roach family. He has been charged with threatening behaviour, actual bodily harm and assault on the police. Knowing that the police have arrested 100 people including Colin's father who they beat up but were not able to frame, knowing that 7 black youth have been imprisoned for demanding the truth into Colin's death, it is absolutely essential that Fitzroy gets maximum support as he faces possible imprisonment.

### ACE KELLY

Ace Kelly, Chair of the campaign is facing a frame-up charge of possession of 2.61 grammes of cannabis. This charge arises from 28 March when the police attacked black women in Old Street Court. Ace was arrested for obstruction but the charge was dismissed

after police lies and contradictions were exposed in court. Unable to get a conviction on one frame-up charge the police simply brought another one and two months after the arrest they suddenly brought the cannabis charge. Sir Kenneth Newman has already laid the basis for such a frame-up by publicly attacking the Colin Roach campaign as a 'front for stolen goods and drugs'. This attack on Ace is a direct attack on the right of black people to defend themselves. His trial begins on 25 October. Be there!

### NO TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The campaign held a lobby of the last Labour Group meeting in Hackney at which the setting up of a consultative committee, ie collaboration with the police, was discussed. No decision was reached but sections of the Labour Party are fighting to get the scheme accepted and thereby join in the police efforts to isolate the black youth. The Labour Group meets again on 24 October and SNHDC will be lobbying the meeting again and saying: No to police consultative committee in Hackney! Crime is not the issue - racist policing is!

### STREET MEETINGS

Crime is not the issue - racist policing is!  
11 am Saturday 15 October, Ridley Road Market, Dalston E8

### COURT PICKETS

Defend Fitzroy Andrew! Drop the charges now!  
10 am Monday 24 October  
Defend Ace Kelly! Drop the charges now! Defend the right to organise!  
10 am Tuesday 25 October  
Both at Snaresbrook Crown Court, E18 (nearest tube Snaresbrook on the Central Line)

### LOBBY

No to police consultative committee in Hackney!  
Crime is not the issue - racist policing is!  
6.30pm Monday 24 October Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street, E8  
The SNHDC meets on 18 October, 1 and 15 November at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, E2



● **Judge's last case**

It may surprise some people to learn that a British High Court judge knows nothing of the law. To others, the news will merely confirm long held suspicions about the intelligence (or lack of it) of these geriatric dinosaurs.

In this particular case, His Honour Bruce Campbell, 67, 'Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple' and former Tory MP, was asleep on his boat as it entered Ramsgate harbour, when customs men pounced and seized 10 cases of whisky and 10,000 cigarettes. The judge claimed total innocence of the law relating to avoidance of import duty on alcohol and tobacco.

'I'd bought the whisky and cigarettes in Guernsey. Guernsey is a funny place (!) It's in the UK but there is no VAT and things like this in the High Street are very cheap. I didn't see anything wrong in bringing it in.'

Of further embarrassment to His Honour were revelations that his bootlegging partner and co-owner of the boat was a used-car dealer with a 'criminal past'.

● **He was only human**

Anyone looking past the 'I will blow you away' headlines of the David Martin trial will have noticed a considerable number of gross inconsistencies in the police evidence, to say nothing of the open collusion of the judge, Justice Kilner-Brown, with the police.

Martin is accused of the attempted murder of a policeman. When he was first arrested, he was shot in the neck by Detective Constable Van Dee. Van Dee, and all the officers present, claim to have seen nothing of what then happened, which was that DC Finch hit the prostrate, wounded Martin across the face with a gun. After endless police denials, DC Finch admitted to this act of brutality - but not in court: Finch, very conveniently, was not called as a witness because he is charged with the attempted murder of Stephen Waldorf!

The Judge told the jury that such a reaction (smashing an injured man across the face no less) 'would only be human if they (the police) reacted quickly'.

There are a good deal more peculiarities in the police evidence, (in which Martin must be portrayed as a lunatic if the police are to win the Waldorf trial) and, space permitting, they will be catalogued in next month's File.

**Stop Press** The police have suffered their first important defeat in the Martin trial. The prosecution has been forced to drop the charge of attempted murder because of the inconsistencies in the police account. Martin still faces other charges, including grievous bodily harm.

● **Question:** Why have ambulancemen in the West Midlands been issued with new hats? **Answer:** Because wearing the old ones they were continually mistaken for policemen - and attacked.

● **Grave business**

Old habits die hard. Six 'retired' coroners' officers have been remanded on bail at Bow St magistrates court. The officers are accused of accepting bribes from undertakers for helping them to obtain the business of carrying out the removal of bodies from coroners' premises. Is nothing sacred? No, of course not: our six latter-day bodysnatchers are ex-members of the Metropolitan police.

# notes and comments

**A RICH MAN'S JOKE**

A rich man's joke, it is said, is always funny. That is, of course, unless it happens to be you that he is mocking. President Reagan, although short on talent, is a very rich man, and he surrounds himself with rich men too, and it seems there is nothing they like more than sharing a derisory joke at the expense of those they despise and trample upon. Three recent examples will illustrate, and if you weep instead of laughing be assured you do not weep alone.

Reagan's friend and Secretary of the Interior James Watt, remarking on the composition of a panel he set up to investigate coal-leasing said, 'we have every kind of mix you can have. I have a black, I have a woman, two Jews, and a cripple, and we have talent'.

Apparently this was meant to be funny!?! Such scorn for human dignity that is the hallmark of fascist mentality, elevated to a creed in the intoxicated visions of Reagan's former chief speechwriter Aram Bakshian Jr. Reviewing a book entitled 'Endless Rapture', Bakshian reflected that 'Rape, especially, seems to strike a deep instinctive chord in millions of female readers, a cherished fantasy that is not confined to air-headed bits of fluff or frustrated dowds'. Currently, one in ten US women can expect to be seized by this 'rapture' and official rape figures are rising at a rate of 30% a year. Many rape victims take up to six years to recover (if they ever do) from what the Presidential speechwriter legitimises as 'a cherished fantasy'.

But when it comes to walking the tight-rope between the incredible and the insane you cannot beat the unscripted Reagan himself; he will trip right over it. Directing his lofty intelligence to the ecological destruction being wrought across America by the giant corporations that finance him, Rockhead Reagan pointed out that 90% of all air pollution is caused by flowers and trees! You can bet that this got plenty of laughs, though the flowers and the trees might think twice about spring next year. With all this undiluted bilge spewing out of the White House is it any wonder that swimming and water-skiing are forbidden in the river Potomac that runs teeming with bacillus through the centre of Washington? **Trevor Rayne**

**TORIES BUTCHER NHS**

Such is the viciousness of Norman Fowler's new proposals involving the loss of 12,000 jobs that divisions are emerging in the health authorities' ruling bodies. There is a real fear of the devastating consequences of the cuts and the anger of the low paid and unemployed which will erupt at the loss of their vital services. This real pressure has forced four health authorities (to date) into voting to defy the latest cuts: Sheffield, Northumberland, Islington and Brent are areas of industrial devastation, massive unemployment and deprivation. They are areas with greater than average health needs, yet their NHS manpower is to be slashed.

The NHS is now facing massive job losses concentrated in the poor inner-city areas. 6,000 jobs will go from London, Merseyside and the North West. By March 1984 there will be 5,000 fewer jobs than March 1983 instead of the planned 7,000 more - a cut of 12,000 jobs. These cuts will mean thousands of deaths and countless misery.

**Spanswick betrayal lives on**

It is almost one year since the defeat of the NHS workers' strike. The main architect of that defeat was Albert Spanswick, then leader of the health workers' union COHSE. He is now dead, mourned by few save his fellow hatchet-men in the TUC and Tory ministers Fowler and Clarke. His dirty work paved the way for a massive government assault on the NHS. It happened with British Steel and Leyland. Now with the NHS, as soon as the strike was defeated, with the aid of the TUC, plans were laid to decimate the service. In February, Fowler appointed Griffiths, the managing director of Sainsbury's Supermarket chain to prepare a report on how to slash the NHS. The same ruthless brand of capitalism which gave the three Sainsbury brothers £7.8m in dividends in 1982 alone is being applied to strip the NHS bare. The NHS workers will now be faced with a demoralising, impossible task of tending the sick and dying with hopeless resources, and at the same time wondering if their job will be next. The government

says their wage increase will be 3% this year, yet inflation will be 6% by December - a further attack on the living standard of the low-paid. Hatchet-man Griffiths' salary is £55,000 before his increase. Fowler is also forcing health authorities to seek tenders for transferring NHS catering, cleaning and laundry to private firms. This affects 250,000 NHS workers. All sections of the NHS are now threatened.

**Cuts mean murder and suffering**

There is already chaos in the NHS which is causing widespread deaths and disasters. It was reported recently that six patients suffering from different illnesses, refused admission to or discharged from Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, died soon after being sent home. The Medical Defence Union, which insures doctors and dentists against their errors, paid out £5.2m compensation to patients in 1982, compared to £3.6m in 1981. Fatal or disastrous mistakes in anaesthetics and drug dosages are almost daily reading as we hear of untrained nurses left in charge of emergency beds at night whilst thousands of trained nurses are on the dole. **Tony Sheridan**

**BRITS VANDALISE 'KIDSO' MEMORIAL**

Not content with the cold-blooded murder of 'Kidso' Reilly (see FRFI 32) and then freeing the soldier who murdered him, the British army have now vandalised the memorial marking the spot where he was murdered.

On Saturday 10 September two Saracen armoured cars pulled up at the memorial, smashing a 120 year old cross fixed there by a local woman. British soldiers then jumped out and threw paint over the inscription, 'In memory of Kidso, murdered by the Brits 9.8.83'. The soldiers then kicked over vases containing flowers before driving off down the Springfield Road. **Alan James**

**POLICE ARREST 203 ON 'STOP THE CITY': IRU RAID SQUAT**

In order to try and prevent the 3,000 strong 'Stop the City' protest for peace in the City of London on 29 September, police arrested 203 people and launched a mass raid on a squat in Central London using Instant Response Unit (IRU) riot police.

'Stop the City' started at 6am with access to roads into the City being blocked, leaflets being distributed and banks picketed. Using officers from 7 divisions the police were determined to try and prevent the protest and during the day did all they could to stop crowds gathering. They arrested 203 people, some just for giving out leaflets, and as a result of their brutality one man had to go to hospital with head injuries. Most were charged with obstruction and, where they were able to, the police took photographs, fingerprints and other personal details.

Earlier that day at 1am the police had launched a mass raid on the 'St Ives House Peace Collective', a squat in Roseberry Avenue, Central London, in an attempt, apparently, to find out what would happen during 'Stop the City' and as a means of intimidating those who intended to take part. Having broken down the door, 40 police entered, the majority wearing the black overalls (often unnumbered) of the IRU. 13 vanloads waited outside, many with riot shields and helmets. Having entered, the police ransacked rooms, body-searched the residents and took address books, diaries, leaflets etc all without giving a receipt. They repeatedly refused to show any warrant and when they finally did, it authorised them to search the premises on the grounds that someone with that address had earlier been arrested for possession of a marker pen: the warrant specified a search for evidence of criminal damage! Having taken the material they wanted the police left, only to discover that they had left 3 of their officers behind - forcing them to enter for a second search!

The 'Stop the City' protest was not in fact organised from the squat which was set up in September as an alternative centre with cafe, library, workshops and bands. The residents are now taking legal action for the return of their property. A meeting will be held there (95-119 Roseberry Ave, WC1) for all those arrested on 'Stop the City' at

10am on 15 October to organise defence. All donations towards this defence should be sent to the above address. **Chris Fraser**

**GRAVE PLANS**

Comforting news has emerged from West Germany to join the reassuring smiles with which the British government politicians and newscasters are greeting the deployment of 160 US Cruise missiles in Britain (about one third of the total bound for Europe). They are scheduled to begin arriving at the end of this year. The US army's semi-official daily newspaper 'Stars and Stripes' reports that as part of the recent 'Confident Enterprise' manoeuvre, US troops practiced bulldozing mass graves; 'There were no flowers, few mourners and little ceremony' we are told.

With a third of the US Poseidon nuclear missile submarine fleet docking in Scotland and 156 F-111 bombers, a fifth of the US forward nuclear attack airforce, already in Britain it will come as a relief to readers to know that there are over twenty five thousand US troops here, the second largest US troop contingent in Europe, to see that we will get a burial. Cruise missiles are an integral element in the new NATO 'Flexible Response' strategy called Air-Land Battle which envisages a pre-emptive first nuclear strike against the Soviet Union, combined with a chemical and conventional weapon assault. **Trevor Rayne**

**SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE**

On Thursday 11 August Helena Conningham appeared in Leeds Crown Court with the threat of a six month prison sentence, for carrying a flick-knife to defend herself with. Helena has written this article for FRFI.

I was in court for possessing an offensive weapon without 'reasonable' excuse after being nicked on an anti-militarist picket.

I went to Crown Court and pleaded 'Not Guilty' since I had a 'reasonable' excuse to carry a knife - for self-defence, because of the high number of attacks on women and because I'd been attacked by British Movement fascists, and because the police do not want to protect women from male violence, preferring to hassle them, the same way they do when black people are attacked by racists.

Anyway, the judge M P Beard, ignored my defence, suggesting that if I feared attack I should stay in at night, and not go on political demonstrations. He even asked if I had been wearing 'demo gear' when I was attacked!

I was convicted and the judge said that I would get six months in prison, partly to keep me out of political activity. He put off sentencing for six months till August.

So when I came back to court I had spent six months waiting to go to nick. Women in Leeds had started campaigning to stop me being jailed for carrying a knife for self-defence. There was a big picket outside the court and 1,000 signatures on a petition when I was back in court. This paid off since the judge was too frightened of causing an uproar to send me down, so he fined me £150.

Though happy not to be sent down, £150 is a lot to pay for male violence - especially when David Steel's son was fined £25 last month for the same offence. All the state does is to punish women for being prepared to defend themselves - the same as they punish black people who fight back against racism. **Helena Conningham**

**GAYS UNDER ATTACK**

● Seven men at the Kiltale computer firm in Cheltenham have been sacked as a result of a gay 'hit list' drawn up by the management. The purge is being fought by Gay Rights at Work and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

● About 7,000 gay people are arrested each year by the police. A project has been set up by the NCCL to monitor police raids on gay pubs and clubs, the way the police respond to attacks on gay people and the use of agents provocateurs to trap 'offenders'.

● The despicable assault on a 6 year old boy in Brighton in August was exploited

by the pornographic gutter press to step up its propaganda offensive against gays. Through slurs and innuendo the myth is being promoted that gays = paedophiles = child molesters. The attack was automatically labelled a 'homosexual' offence. Yet never was the Yorkshire Ripper referred to as the heterosexual murderer. And the fact that most sexual attacks are committed by heterosexual men is quietly forgotten.

● Malicious propaganda surrounding AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is being used to fuel anti-homosexual sentiment. The 'popular' press has labelled this so far incurable condition the 'gay plague', despite the fact that gays are by no means the only victims.

The Nazi British National Party is calling for the 'loathsome disease of homosexuality' to be outlawed. This sick language is finding support in respectable medical circles. The British Medical Journal is calling for the 'abandonment of homosexuality'. The DHSS is advising gay blood donors not to give blood because of the supposed risk of AIDS.

● Another fanatical champion of sexual oppression is the Pope. In addition to condemning premarital sex, divorce and abortion, he describes homosexuality as 'immoral' and 'incompatible with God's plan for human love'. The private family performs a number of essential economic functions for capitalist society; gays are oppressed because they challenge the heterosexual 'norm' on which the family is based. At the same time, sexist ideology (like racist ideology) creates scapegoats and diversions and helps to divide and weaken the working class. Anti-homosexual propaganda encourages violent physical attacks on gay people. The persecution of gays is an inevitable product of capitalist 'civilisation'. **David Jackson**

**MATT LYGATE RELEASED**

Socialist activist Matt Lygate has been released on parole from Edinburgh's Saughton Prison after 11½ years for bank robbery, an offence which normally carries a 6-8 year sentence.

Repeatedly refused parole because of his refusal to bow down and swallow his socialist principles, parole has at long last been granted because of a broad based campaign uniting Scottish Republicans, Labour Party members, GIFAC and the RCG, which was about to escalate into marches and other forms of street protest.

Interviewed by the Scottish media who hoped that the threat of being taken inside again under parole conditions would cow him at least into swallowing his principles, Matt has made a resounding public stand denouncing the reactionary and undemocratic nature of the British state. He has insisted that the working class will fight fire with fire as the ruling class rains down repression. Matt has clearly informed the media of his intentions to reinvolve himself in anti-imperialist campaigns. FRFI congratulates and sends best wishes to Matt whose spirit of resistance is an inspiration to us all. **Paul McKinlay**

**LOW PAID WORKERS TAKE ACTION**

Six health service workers from Halifax were each given sentences of 12 months conditional discharge at the Crown Court on 23 August. The six had been arrested whilst picketing outside Halifax General Hospital last August during the NHS pay dispute and charged with obstruction. They had been found not guilty by the Magistrates Court, but such was the determination of the police to secure a conviction that the prosecution took the case to the Crown Court.

The result represents a serious threat to the democratic right of trade unionists to effectively picket. Clearly when low paid workers take militant action to demand decent wages and conditions, demands which crisis-ridden imperialism cannot satisfy, then they are going to be harassed by the police and the courts. They too will be forced to confront the state like other oppressed workers, the Irish people, black people and the youth are already doing. **Chris Taylor**

At the 2 October Conference over 200 delegates from all over the country voted unanimously to launch the Irish Solidarity Movement (ISM). This unanimous decision was a reflection of the great success of the Conference. Working class youth dominated the proceedings bringing their experience, imagination and enthusiasm to bear on the day's discussion. The vast majority of the audience were activists committed to doing the work. Anti-imperialist unity, enthusiasm and confidence were the keynotes. Everyone at the Conference was clear: the ISM will be a fighting anti-imperialist movement, calling for:

**VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!  
TROOPS OUT NOW!  
RIGHT OF REPATRIATION FOR ALL POWS!**



On Saturday 1 October nearly 500 people from all over Britain joined the demonstration. It was headed by a massive green banner calling for 'Complete British withdrawal from Ireland! Self-Determination for the Irish People! The Right of Repatriation for all POWs!'

**RESOLUTION  
SUBMITTED BY  
LONDON AREA  
COMMITTEE OF  
BUILDING AN IRISH  
SOLIDARITY  
MOVEMENT**

1. This conference agrees to set up an Irish Solidarity Movement based on the following slogans:

Victory to the Irish People!  
Troops Out Now!  
The Right of Repatriation for all POWs!

2. The Irish Solidarity Movement will be open to all organisations and individuals accepting the above three slogans. It will be organised on a fully democratic basis. Within two months of this conference a meeting should be organised to elect the officials of the Irish Solidarity Movement and determine its constitution. All organisations and local bodies who will be active in the solidarity movement can send a maximum of 2 delegates with voting rights to the meeting. In areas where there is no active organisation, individuals active in the work of the solidarity movement can attend the meeting with full rights.

3. The Irish Solidarity Movement will, as did the Co-ordinating Committee for Building an Irish Solidarity Movement, continue to seek united action with all those opposing the British presence in Ireland or any aspect of British repression. In particular it will continue to work for united action on the three demands set out by the Albany POWs' letter of 19.4.83. These demands are:

Complete British Withdrawal from Ireland!  
Self-determination for the Irish People!  
The Right of Repatriation for all POWs!

4. The Irish Solidarity Movement will as one of its first major national events organise:

- a. A national petition calling for the 'Right of Repatriation for all Irish POWs'.
- b. A national week of action in support of 'The Right of Repatriation for all Irish POWs' including prison pickets, demonstrations, rallies and other activities, culminating in pickets of as many prisons holding POWs as possible. The Irish Solidarity Movement will support any campaign on this issue initiated by the Republican Movement.
- c. A series of public meetings against the use of informers.

# IRISH SOLIDARITY

The ISM is an anti-imperialist movement which will direct its work towards the most oppressed sections of the working class and fight for unity of all forces and individuals supporting the Irish people's struggle for freedom.

The ISM is an active movement. The conference voted to organise a national week of action in support of Irish POWs and to launch a national petition calling for the right of repatriation for all Irish POWs.

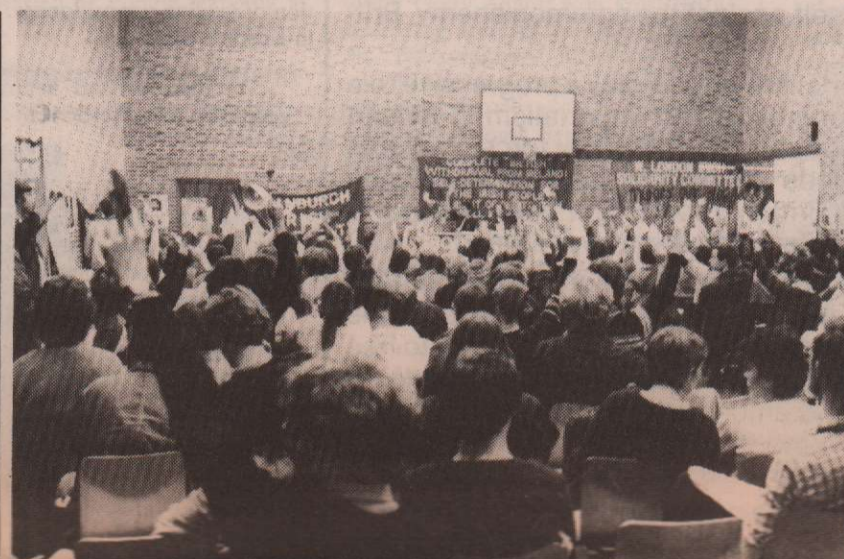
Within days of this decision SLISC supporters produced the petition, travelled to the Labour Party Conference to begin the campaign. We are proud to announce that the very first signature is Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein Vice President and MP for West Belfast!

The conference also decided to fight and expose the corrupt and ruthless supergrass strategy by organising a national campaign of public meetings against the use of informers.

As the motion, carried unanimously, makes clear, the ISM is a democratic, non-sectarian movement open to all organisations and individuals who accept its three demands.

Building such a movement, as David Reed said in the opening speech,

'... will not only be a contribution to the Irish revolution but will also be a major step forward for the British working class.'



On Sunday 2 October over 200 delegates attend a national conference in Caxton Hall which at the end of the day voted to establish an Irish Solidarity Movement. Delegates attended from ISCs in Dundee, Edinburgh, Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Southampton and London. There were also delegates from the Connolly/Keegan Sinn Fein Cumann, Glasgow Sinn Fein, Manchester IRSP, Asian Collective of East London, Iranian Students Association (SETAD), Stop the Strip Searches Campaign, Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign, the RCG, RCL, Red Action, Proletarian and many others.

## PRISONERS FIGHT BACK

Irish POWs have consistently defended their own rights as political prisoners and fought for the right of all prisoners in the barbaric British prison system. The Irish POWs in Britain are unique in that they directly combine the revolutionary national liberation struggle to free Ireland from British imperialist rule with the struggle for the democratic rights of all prisoners.

The first session of the afternoon was devoted to the struggle of Irish POWs in English prisons. Terry Marlowe in the opening speech declared that

'The political consciousness, the organisation and the dedication of the Irish POWs has indeed placed them in the front line of the struggle against British imperialism.'

The consistent, courageous and dedicated resistance of Irish POWs and their support for the right of all prisoners has forged powerful bonds of solidarity among long-term prisoners. This has flowered in the Albany and Wormwood Scrubs protests.

On the roof of Albany, Irish POWs, a Palestinian freedom fighter and ordinary long-term prisoners stood together against the barbaric and inhumane prison system. The strength of this solidarity was further shown in the Wormwood Scrubs protest and the unprecedented retreat forced on the Home Office by the prisoners' organised resistance.

Terry Marlowe concluded by saying:

'It is our task on the outside to learn from the struggle of the prisoners: that any victory for the POWs is a victory for all prisoners and for all working class and oppressed in this country. In that spirit we should go forward and not just say but fight for the right of Irish POWs to repatriation on demand and victory to the prisoners.'

The conference then heard a stirring song written by Wormwood Scrubs prisoner Jimmy Anderson, sung by an activist from the anti-apartheid movement.

The session was closed by a speech from Helen O'Brien, sister of Irish POW John McCluskey. She praised the work of the ISCs, saying that the prisoners

'really live to see us doing political work out on the streets, getting as many people roped in as we can. This is exactly what we need.'

She also stressed the important role ISCs had played in keeping the prisoners informed of every event.

Helen O'Brien told of how the Home Office vindictively refused to allow John McCluskey to attend the funeral of his father. She confirmed the growing solidarity between POWs and other prisoners saying that it was this that really worried the Home Office. She called for action in support of the prisoners.

Vigorously defending the Republican Movement and the armed struggle she ended by saying:

'People for years and years in Ireland talked, debated, begged and pleaded but it was no good. The only way is through struggle... the armed struggle, plus political work here and in Ireland until the British get out of Ireland with their armoured cars and tanks and guns.'

The warm and prolonged standing ovation that greeted her speech was evidence of the enthusiasm she had aroused. Conference voted unanimously to send solidarity greetings to the POWs. And the new ISM will be determined to ensure that a campaign worthy of the great example of the POWs is built.



## POW'S MOTHER SPEAKS

Mother of Irish POW Paul Hill, Mrs Elizabeth Hill, invited over from Ireland to address the conference, was the guest speaker in the morning session. Her impassioned and deeply moving speech made a powerful impression on the delegates. She spoke with the voice of the oppressed nationalist working class in the Six Counties. Speaking on behalf of Belfast mothers she graphically described how British imperialism incarcerates and murders their sons. The spirit of Irish revolutionary resistance shined through her speech. She declared that Irish POWs in English prisons 'will not rot', they are fighting, alongside all prisoners, against the British prison system. And she pointed to the unity of the oppressed when she said:

'I would also like to say how encouraging it was to see the riots in Brixton. My father who is deceased danced the floor because he was so delighted. He said they will soon find out about the "friendly" Bobby, their friendly Bobby will batter them to the ground.'

She ended by reciting her poem dedicated to her son 'Show them Justice'. The entire conference, some delegates moved to tears, rose and gave Mrs Hill a long and warm standing ovation.

## NEW PETITION

**THE 2 OCTOBER 1983 CONFERENCE 'BUILDING A UNITED IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT' ATTENDED BY OVER 200 DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER BRITAIN VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO LAUNCH THE FOLLOWING PETITION:**

We, the undersigned, call for:

**THE RIGHT OF REPATRIATION FOR ALL IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR.**

Name

Address/Organisation

Gerry Adams

Sinn Fein

H BLOCK

ESCAPE PROOF



**TROOPS OUT NOW!**

**IRISH SOLIDARITY**

# 1 YEAR ON

This is the text of the opening speech given by David Reed to the 2 October 1983 national conference 'Build a united Irish Solidarity Movement'

At the founding conference of Building an Irish Solidarity Movement (BISM) on 20 November 1982 a number of key political points were established.

**First**, that Ireland is the key to the British revolution. For 14 years the most direct revolutionary challenge to British imperialism has come from Ireland. If the British working class fails to 'make common cause' with the revolutionary national struggle to free Ireland from British rule, then not only will it undermine the Irish people's struggle but also it will be incapable of defending itself against the common enemy, British imperialism.

**Second**, that British imperialism cannot play a progressive role in Ireland. Any concessions by British imperialism in Ireland have only been brought about by revolutionary force. Peaceful and constitutional methods of protest have always been ignored. Time and again British imperialism has resorted to outright terror to maintain its domination over Ireland.

**Third**, that the Irish 'Free State' is a neo-colonial agent of British imperialist rule in Ireland. The only path to progress for the Irish working class is the revolutionary national struggle to free Ireland from British imperialist rule. The only reliable basis for this struggle is to be found among the most oppressed Irish workers north and south. Both the Six County and Twenty-Six County states must be destroyed if Ireland is to be free.

**Fourth**, that forces exist in Britain which can be won to an anti-imperialist solidarity movement on Ireland. These forces are to be found, first and foremost, among the most oppressed sections of the working class—particularly black and Irish workers. That the Labour Party and organised trade union movement far from being potential allies of the Irish people have proved to be their most treacherous enemies.

**Fifth**, that a new movement had to be built—an anti-imperialist democratically organised and non-sectarian Irish solidarity movement. This movement had to direct its work to the most oppressed sections of the British working class and at the same time seek to work in unity with other forces and individuals in any campaign which promotes the interests of the Irish people against British imperialism.

Political developments both in Ireland and in Britain over the last year have confirmed all these points.

## Ireland: the key to the British revolution

As was argued last year a decisive political factor in the defeat of the 1981 hunger strike was the fact that no political pressure was placed on the Thatcher government in Britain. This failure on the part of the working class movement in Britain considerably strengthened the most reactionary Tory government since the Second World War. The most dramatic proof of this was the landslide victory of this government in the 1983 General Election. The events of the last year provide further evidence that a working class movement which fails to 'make common cause' with the Irish people in their struggle for freedom cannot defend itself against the British imperialist state. Indeed, the British ruling class, almost unopposed, has been able to use its experience in Ireland to prepare to meet any resistance here in Britain.

There has been no significant opposition to the appointment in July 1982 of General Frank Kitson as head of the UK Land Forces, or, three months later in October 1982 to the installation of Kenneth Newman as head of the Metropolitan Police. These two men represent the accumulated experience of the British

ruling class in oppressing national liberation movements, particularly in Ireland where they both served during crucial periods—Kitson 1970-72, Newman 1973-79. These appointments make it clear how the British ruling class intends to deal with the inevitable resistance to its rule in Britain. It is important to examine this development in some detail.

Kitson is an 'expert' in counter-insurgency, that is putting down revolutionary democratic struggles against imperialism. His book *Low Intensity Operations* is designed to gather together this experience and is easily adapted for use in a crisis-ridden Britain. Kitson argues that it is necessary ruthlessly to stamp out 'subversion' that is, revolutionary opposition, whilst simultaneously strengthening 'moderate' elements who support the state. Intelligence gathering operations are an essential feature of this process to target those capable of organising serious opposition.

His method of gathering intelligence relies heavily on a 'large number of low grade sources'—small pieces of information acquired by the police and army—fed into computers to build up a total picture of the community and its inhabitants.

At the same time 'psychological oper-

ations' are used in an attempt to isolate the opposition from the people. These include propaganda against the opposition cause, use of the press and media to put over the government side, government schemes to win 'moderate' opinion and support, 'dirty tricks' such as fake leaflets and eventually provocateurs and agents who masquerade as oppositionists to discredit the cause, and finally, if necessary, the assassination of leading oppositionists. The aim in Kitson's words is

'...to discover and neutralise the genuine subversive element ...'

and

'...to associate as many prominent members of the population, especially those who may have been engaged in non-violent action with the government.'

'Intelligence gathering' and 'psychological operations', Kitson emphasised, had to take place before the emergence of subversion or an offensive phase of conflict had begun. This is the significance behind Newman's and Kitson's appointments in Britain. The ruling class is preparing for the major unrest and popular rebellion which is inevitable even here in Britain. They are acutely conscious of the depth and severity of the imperialist crisis and know it can only be solved by imposing intolerable levels of unemployment, poverty, homelessness and repression on the British working class. Already Newman's reorganisation of the Metropolitan Police as outlined in the 1982 Metropolitan Police Report shows him putting phase I of Kitson's overall strategy into operation. The strategy developed in Ireland is being put into practice in Britain with no opposition from the British working class.

Newman's proposed reorganisation of the Metropolitan Police to make it an effective intelligence gathering force is outlined in the 1982 Report. Newman's plan is to centralise and computerise information gathered from a variety of 'low grade sources'. Its emphasis is on information obtained in local police districts through police/community 'consultative committees', 'neighbourhood watch schemes', 'inter-agency co-operation' which involves liaison with social security, social services, schools etc, and increased police foot patrols in priority areas.

Newman calls this making the police 'responsive to local needs'. What he actually means is a centralised and directed police response to community-based intelligence and consultation with middle class 'moderates' for the purpose of isolating and attacking those liable to organise opposition or create problems for the police.

Intelligence and surveillance units will be set up in each of London's four police districts and will undoubtedly operate in black and poorer areas. All the information gathered is to be stored on massive computer systems to enable the police to target opposition and deal with it before it takes root in the working class. Newman carried out a strikingly similar reorganisation of the RUC in Ireland to make it an effective intelli-

gence gathering force directed at Republicans.

Newman is also an expert at psychological operations, including manipulation of the media. In the 1982 Metropolitan Police Report Kenneth Newman attacks political activists, who have exposed the repressive role of the police, as 'dedicated denigrators', and 'a threat to public order'. At a press conference he went further and associated political activists with drug dealing and other criminal activity—he particularly mentioned the Colin Roach campaign. In this way Newman attempts to criminalise political opposition to the police. This is the first step to turning any effective political opposition to the British state into a criminal act. In Ireland Newman supervised the 'criminalisation' strategy, he denounced all exposure of RUC torture as IRA propaganda, and continually attacked the IRA as 'gangsters, mafia etc'.

'Psychological operations' at this stage also consist of building links with 'moderate' community figures and projecting a favourable image of the police through police-organised sports events, visits to schools and youth clubs. Newman's emphasis on community relations is clearly designed to control rebellious forces especially black youth. Newman unsuccessfully attempted to do this in Ireland through the RUC with 'blue lamp' discos etc.

Should all this fail and disorder break out the Metropolitan Police have been well prepared for offensive operations. The Instant Response Units, riot control police dressed for combat and armed with shields and truncheons, have already been used swiftly and violently to crush any street resistance. Last year there were '21,775 single day attendances' on riot shield training courses and '14,398 single day attendances' on courses for Instant Response Units. The number of police authorised to use guns is now 4,476. It is certain that stocks of CS gas and plastic bullets are available should they be needed. And should all this fail to contain opposition—behind Newman stands his brother-in-torture and repression General Kitson with his UK Land Forces.

The case of Newman/Kitson dramatically confirms the relationship between the Irish people's struggle for national liberation and the struggle to defend the working class here in Britain. The consequences of failing to 'make common cause' with the Irish people are plain to see. There are other obvious examples of this.

The Jellicoe Report on the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1983, which the government will implement, aims at strengthening and extending the PTA; Jellicoe recommends the extension of the PTA to 'suspected international terrorists of any group, cause or nationality'; that the word 'temporary' be dropped and the PTA be enacted for five years and then replaced by a new act; that loyalist paramilitary groups should not be proscribed. His report stresses the true role of the PTA as an instrument of political censorship and intelligence gathering. The extension of the PTA to so-called 'international terrorists' will allow the police in Britain free rein to harass and intimidate sup-

porters of national liberation movements, especially those challenging the interests of British imperialism. The recommendation to drop the word 'temporary' and replace annual renewal by a period of five years is exactly the same process as took place with the Special Powers Act in the Six Counties. That Act was introduced as a temporary measure in 1922, renewed annually until 1928, when it was renewed for five years, then in 1933 it was made permanent. The PTA road has been travelled before. In December last year Sinn Fein elected representatives, Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison, and Martin McGuinness were banned under the PTA from entering Britain in a blatant act of political censorship.

Shoot-to-kill came to London on 14 January 1983 when the police ambushed, shot and very nearly killed Stephen Waldorf. He was shot several times without warning by an armed squad of policemen who claimed to be hunting David Martin. Recent evidence in the *Sunday Times* has revealed the use of hooding by the Birmingham serious crimes squad to extract confessions. According to the report four men have said they suffered hooding. Hooding is the technique used in Ireland in August 1971 during the internment operations and involves putting a plastic bag over the head of suspects and tightening it so that they cannot see or breathe. Britain was condemned in the European Court for this technique and gave a pledge that it would not be used again.

Finally, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which was going through Parliament before the 1983 General Election, proposed extended police powers including powers to: detain people for 96 hours; set up road blocks; and fingerprint and photograph detainees. This Bill will certainly be reintroduced and alongside a strengthened PTA, will give the British police the same kind of sweeping powers as the RUC in the Six Counties of Ireland. Little wonder that the British state has plans to build ten more prisons over the next period to house an extra 5,000 prisoners.

None of these developments have met any significant resistance from the organised Labour and trade union movement in Britain. Successes against this growing repression in Britain have in fact so far only come from the impact of the Irish people's struggle. The election of Gerry Adams as MP for West Belfast forced the British government to lift the PTA ban on him. It was fear of mass resistance in Ireland which prevented the ruling class from reintroducing judicial murder through hanging in July this year.

## British imperialist repression

Today the repression of the nationalist minority continues unabated in the Six Counties. Daily the fact that British imperialism cannot play a progressive role in Ireland is borne out by its actions. A major new weapon has been added to the armoury of repression being used in the British government's war against the Irish people—the 'supergrass'. There were, in September 1983, over 350 people facing imprisonment on the uncorroborated 'evidence' of informers. This figure compares with the internment operations of August 1971—it is a major escalation of judicial terror against the nationalist people of the Six Counties.

The use of informers is not new. What is new is the scale of the operation. This massive use of informers reflects the successful campaign against torture in Castlereagh. The Diplock non-jury courts rely on confessions for convicting and imprisoning nationalists. However, the international exposure of the use of torture and the unbroken resistance of the nationalist people has forced the imperialists to turn to the 'supergrass' tactic whereby a single 'confession' can be used to imprison scores of nationalists. Raymond Gilmour's 'evidence', for example, has already led to 71 arrests; 38 nationalists were arrested on Christopher Black's 'evidence'—22 were given prison sentences totalling over 4,000 years in

# VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! TROOPS OUT NOW! THE RIGHT



... were arrested on Jackie...  
 ... evidence, later retracted,  
 ... on that of informer Robert Lean.  
 ... efficiency of the tactic is clear: the  
 ... minimum number of arrests on the min-  
 ... possible evidence. In non-jury  
 ... courts there is no fear of the  
 ... claims of touts being  
 ... The real character of the  
 ... court system stands exposed:  
 ... internment. That such methods  
 ... brainwashing and bribery are  
 ... necessary to maintain British imperial-  
 ... rule in Ireland is yet further  
 ... evidence that this rule can only be  
 ... sustained by terror and corruption.  
 ... Alongside the use of the supergrass  
 ... there has been a revival of shoot-to-kill  
 ... operations. The first round of these  
 ... operations took place from November  
 ... 1982 to February 1983, that is to say,  
 ... they started after the Sinn Fein success  
 ... in the Assembly elections of October  
 ... 1982. The latest round of shoot-to-kill  
 ... operations involves murders by all the  
 ... British forces of repression - the RUC,  
 ... UDR and British army. And again the  
 ... use of shoot-to-kill follows the Sinn  
 ... Fein electoral success in the June 1983  
 ... General Election. Since last November  
 ... at least 13 nationalists have been  
 ... murdered in such operations. These  
 ... deliberate murders are the response of  
 ... the British government to the legal,  
 ... constitutional and peaceful Sinn Fein  
 ... electoral campaign. Once again British  
 ... imperialism has replied to peaceful  
 ... protest with bloodshed and terror.  
 ... The repression in the prisons is  
 ... continuing, particularly in Armagh

ed. On 8 September 1983, two soldiers  
 were acquitted of the murder of  
 Eamonn Bradley who they had shot  
 down in cold blood in Derry on 25  
 August 1982.

### Free State reaction

Over the last year the reactionary  
 character of the Irish 'Free State' and  
 the bourgeois parties within it has been  
 demonstrated again and again. In the  
 'Free State' elections in November  
 1982, the Irish Labour Party treacher-  
 ously abandoned its pre-election prom-  
 ises, formed a coalition government  
 with the ex-blue shirts Fine Gael and  
 thus created the first stable government  
 for 18 months. This stability has  
 allowed continuous repression against  
 the Republican Movement and an all-  
 out attack on the Irish working class.

One of the first acts in the first  
 Cabinet meeting of the coalition govern-  
 ment was the banning of INLA. This  
 attack on the Republican Movement  
 was quickly followed up by an emer-  
 gency budget which raised the price of  
 petrol, tobacco and drink, hitting  
 hardest at the working class and the  
 poor. In February 1983 Republican  
 POWs in Portlaoise gaol were assaulted  
 during strip-searching. One of the  
 prisoners, Angelo Fusco, was given two  
 months solitary confinement for being  
 assaulted. In the very same month the  
 Irish Labour Party-supported coalition  
 government started imprisoning Rank  
 Flour mill workers who were on strike.  
 The Rank workers had to fight not only  
 their Fine Gael/Irish Labour Party

have recently set up their New Ireland  
 Forum. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Irish  
 Labour Party, and SDLP are involved  
 in this 'fools forum' as a desperate  
 attempt to shore up the 'partitionist'  
 bloc against the military and political  
 successes of the Republican Movement.  
 The 'Free State' ruling class knows that it  
 will inevitably face rising opposition to  
 poverty, unemployment and homeless-  
 ness. They know that the dispossessed  
 and the poor of the 'Free State' will  
 increasingly turn to the revolutionary  
 national struggle to defeat British imper-  
 ialism and its neo-colonial agents in the  
 26 Counties. They, therefore, are  
 forced to attack the Republican Move-  
 ment before mass resistance breaks out  
 all over the 'Free State'.

The neo-colonial status of the 'Free  
 State' and its consequent poverty for  
 the masses is undeniable. In July the  
 official unemployment figure reached  
 192,000 which is more than the total  
 number of people employed in manufac-  
 turing industry. For the youth the posi-  
 tion is even worse. One in three under  
 25s are unemployed. More poverty is on  
 the way as the Irish ruling class seeks to  
 pay its staggering debt to the imperialist  
 banks at the expense of the Irish masses.  
 Its overall debt of IRE5bn is equal to  
 40% of GNP and equivalent to one  
 year's total export sales. This crushing  
 burden of debt is higher per person than  
 that of Mexico or Poland standing at  
 IRE1,500.

### Revolutionary forces in Ireland

Over the last year the Republican  
 PAUL MATTSSON

UDR since its formation in 1970.

A week ago today the complacent  
 propaganda of the British imperialists  
 was shattered. 38 Republican prisoners  
 broke out of the H-Block concentration  
 camp in the most daring escape in recent  
 history. The news was greeted with jubila-  
 tion in the nationalist areas and  
 amongst anti-imperialists everywhere.  
 The propaganda of the imperialists was  
 in one might blow turned against them.  
 The supposedly 'demoralised' and 'pan-  
 ic-stricken' IRA has sent waves of demo-  
 ralisation and panic through the British  
 ruling class and its agents in the Six  
 Counties, who are now turning on each  
 other to find a scapegoat to get them off  
 the hook. The now liberated prisoners  
 (19 in all) include some of those framed  
 and gaoled on the evidence of informers  
 and also Gerard Kelly who was gaoled in  
 Britain and was one of four POWs  
 repatriated to Ireland following the long  
 and courageous hunger strike in 1973.

On the political front the gains made  
 in the Assembly elections of October  
 1982 were carried forward with the vic-  
 tory in March 1983 of Seamus Kerr in the  
 Carrickmore local council by-election  
 and most dramatically of all in the  
 General Election of June 1983. Despite  
 systematic harassment of Sinn Fein can-  
 didates and election workers and a prop-  
 aganda onslaught from the British ruling  
 class and neo-colonial agents north and  
 south, Gerry Adams won West Belfast  
 destroying arch-traitor Gerry Fitt and  
 the collaborationist SDLP. Sinn Fein  
 won 40% of the nationalist vote. Over  
 100,000 nationalists voted for the rev-  
 olutionary national struggle to free Ire-  
 land from British rule.

Sinn Fein has destroyed the SDLP's  
 lying claim to represent the nationalist  
 people. The *Irish Times* pointed to the  
 contrast between Sinn Fein and the  
 SDLP saying it was

'... youth versus middle age, work-  
 ing class versus middle class and  
 enthusiasm versus weariness'.

In an important interview in July 1983  
 the IRA explained its revolutionary  
 strategy and assessed the results

'For years the political establishment  
 claimed that the IRA had very little  
 support. The election results have  
 answered that conclusively... They  
 will not lead to any real change in the  
 strategy or tactics of the IRA... The  
 military struggle will not slow down  
 to relate to Sinn Fein's political activ-  
 ity. If anything... the war is likely to  
 be stepped up... Our strategy has  
 been, by military and political action,  
 to frustrate the British aim of making  
 the six counties governable through  
 local power-sharing-type institutions.  
 So far we have succeeded in this and  
 the Brits can only govern in a direct  
 colonial way using 30,000 armed men  
 ... we recognise that even if the entire  
 nationalist population in the six coun-  
 ties voted for Sinn Fein, that wouldn't  
 be enough. There must be an increase  
 in political activity in the 26 Counties  
 so that they also demand that the  
 Brits get out. Even that wouldn't be  
 enough because the only thing  
 colonial rulers will listen to is  
 force...' (Magill July 1983)

There is nothing that any revolutionary  
 could add to this clear and precise state-  
 ment of revolutionary strategy.

### Revolutionary forces in Britain

The last year has produced even more  
 evidence of the bankruptcy of the org-  
 anised Labour and trade union move-  
 ment in Britain. The Prevention of Ter-  
 rorism Act came up for renewal in  
 March 1983. Despite official Labour  
 Party policy of opposition to the PTA  
 only 129 MPs voted against the act and  
 not all of these were Labour MPs. The  
 parliamentary Labour party refused to  
 put a three line whip on the vote, thus  
 allowing the likes of Concannon, Rees,  
 Mason, Callaghan and others to  
 abstain. The real character of Labour's  
 opposition was exposed by Kevin Mac-  
 Namara who said



Michael Holden, Connolly/Kegan Cumann Sinn Fein, delivering the main speech at the rally:

'Comrades, the only true way we can support that struggle is to show our solidarity with the risen people, by word and by deed, in solidarity with the Republican POWs here in England, and in Ireland North and South.'



Comrade from Asian Collective of East London delivered a solidarity message to rally:

'Black and Asian people share the same experience as Irish people.'



Glasgow Sinn Fein comrade brings greetings and solidarity to the demonstration.



Ace Kelly, Chair of Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign addresses rally:

'The struggle of the Irish people and black people in Britain is one struggle, one fight against the same enemy - British imperialism. No matter what methods they use they will never keep us down. Victory to the Irish People!'



Working class youth from Edinburgh ISC bring greetings and solidarity to the rally.



Contingents on the march included CC-BISM, Provisional Sinn Fein - West Herts, Glasgow Sinn Fein supporters, Women for Palestine, Iranian Students Association (SETAD), SN&HDC, Asian Collective East London, RCG, FRFI, L, Bristol TOM, London ISCs, Manchester, Bradford, Dundee, Edinburgh, Southampton, and Liverpool ISC, Red Lion, Colchester University Troops Out Society, South London TOM, Edinburgh YCL, GIFAC and Mosquito Press.

men's prison. Since the reintroduc-  
 of strip-searching on 9 November  
 the Armagh women have been sub-  
 d to continual brutality and  
 sment. The women are constantly  
 given punishments for trivial  
 ces but the most serious repression  
 sts of brutal and degrading strip-  
 es. The women POWs have resist-  
 strip-searching which is a form of  
 e. For this they have been  
 asy attacked. In January 1983  
 of the women, Philomena Lyttle,  
 erine Moore and Lorraine Nichol  
 beaten to the ground and forcibly  
 ed.  
 ally, it is clear that British soldiers  
 ontinue to get away with murder  
 Six Counties. The inquest into the  
 er of Stephen McConomy held in  
 established beyond doubt that  
 he was shot dead with a plastic  
 there was no 'riot' or any other  
 nce going on. Yet the soldier  
 killed him has not been charged.  
 n McConomy was eleven years  
 April 1982 when he was murder-

gaolers but also the ITGWU which had  
 withdrawn official recognition from the  
 dispute. Supporters of the workers  
 picketed the prison, the mill and Liberty  
 hall, headquarters of the ITGWU,  
 underlining the alliance of reactionary  
 'Free State' forces ranged against them,  
 and finally still in February the coalition  
 government introduced its second bud-  
 get in two months of further tax and price  
 increases alongside cuts in public  
 expenditure and public sector employ-  
 ment.  
 In April and May 1983 the 'Free State'  
 Gardai carried out a series of raids,  
 arrests and detentions of Sinn Fein  
 members. On 1 May IRSP member  
 Nicky Kelly, framed for the Sallins train  
 robbery, was forced to go on hunger  
 strike in an effort to gain his release. He  
 ended his hunger strike on 7 June after  
 38 days and after a nationwide cam-  
 paign for his release. He still remains in  
 prison for a robbery he had nothing to  
 do with.  
 The collaborationist forces north and  
 south who betrayed the hunger strikers

Movement has continued the military  
 and political resistance to British imper-  
 ialist rule scoring important successes  
 on both fronts. In January 1983 the IRA  
 struck back against both the shoot-to-  
 kill operations and the corrupt British-  
 controlled judiciary. In Rostrevor the  
 IRA executed two members of the RUC  
 Divisional Mobile Support Unit believed  
 responsible for RUC shoot-to-kill opera-  
 tions.  
 In the same month the IRA executed  
 Judge William Doyle. In the run up to  
 the June General Election the IRA  
 mounted a military offensive of com-  
 mercial bombings and attacks on the  
 security forces. At least four members of  
 the security forces were killed and 10 in-  
 jured. The most spectacular attack took  
 place on 17 May when the IRA destroyed  
 the hated Andersonstown RUC bar-  
 racks. On polling day itself INLA  
 bombed the British army/RUC Stew-  
 artstown Road barracks. And on 13 July  
 1983 - the day of the hanging debate -  
 the IRA executed four UDR soldiers.  
 This was the worst blow suffered by the

continued on page 10

# REPATRIATION FOR ALL IRISH PRISONERS!

# IRISH SOLIDARITY

# 1 YEAR ON

continued from page 9

'Ordinary decent coppers using ordinary decent police methods apprehended those responsible for the Birmingham outrages.'

The ordinary decent police methods referred to were in fact vicious beatings, threats against the families of those arrested and the framing of the Birmingham 6. It is no surprise that these same people did nothing to oppose the PTA ban on the Sinn Fein delegation of December 1982 or protest against the Home Office refusal to allow Gerry Adams to visit Irish POWs in English gaols.

When Ken Livingstone in August 1983 compared Britain's treatment of Ireland with Hitler's treatment of the Jews he was subjected to the usual barrage of ignorant abuse in the British press and, predictably, from his Labour Party 'colleagues'. All the contenders for the leadership of the Labour Party rushed to disown him.

Peter Shore: said that Livingstone's remarks

'justified all the murders and maimings of the IRA';

Neil Kinnock: called him 'eccentric', and said Livingstone's remarks were a

'misreading of both Irish history and the history of Nazism';

Roy Hattersley: called Livingstone 'absurd and offensive'.

Eric Heffer: said Livingstone's remarks were 'unfortunate'.

The speed with which these 'rivals' rushed to disown Livingstone's statement is eloquent testimony to their united commitment to continued British oppression in Ireland.

No significant section of the organised Labour and trade union movement has done anything to oppose the use of 'informers' or the 'shoot-to-kill' operations of the last year. In the face of this the significance of the trend in the Labour Party represented by Ken Livingstone must not be exaggerated. How weak this trend is in reality, and how little influence it has, is shown in two examples. When the Sinn Fein delegation visited the House of Commons after the June 1983 election only 6 Labour MPs had sufficient courage to meet them. The recent 'fact-finding' delegation to the Six Counties led by Clive Soley publicly and shamefully grovelled and apologised for meeting the Sinn Fein representatives. Little wonder that such a labour movement cannot and will not defend the working class in Britain. The 8 months long strike of low-paid workers in the NHS was defeated in December 1982 by the treachery of a trade union leadership which has always opposed the Irish people's struggle for freedom. The Tory government as a result has now announced plans for thousands of redundancies which will devastate hospitals and health care throughout the country. And yet it is now that the TUC leadership under the guise of facing the 'political reality' has decided to discuss with this viciously anti-working class Tory government. Nothing but reaction can be expected from such a labour movement on the Irish question.

The struggles which have taken place against growing repression in Britain have come from outside the organised Labour and trade union movement. A determined and courageous struggle is now taking place inside the prisons against the brutal and inhuman prison system here in Britain. In Albany prison in May 1983 prisoners rose up against intolerable conditions and arbitrary punishments. The protest was brought to public attention by the courageous act of 10 prisoners who broke out on to the roof. Four of them were Irish POWs, one was a Palestinian freedom fighter and the others were ordinary

long-term prisoners. This showed the growing anti-imperialist unity and solidarity of a section of prisoners. Throughout the roof-top protest prisoners displayed banners calling for prison reform, repatriation for Irish POWs and condemning Zionism. Since the protest prisoners have been given long sentences, loss of remission and solitary confinement by internal kangaroo courts. But through legal and political organisation they have continued to fight back and have forced the Home Office into an unprecedented retreat, suspending 12 hearings and in some cases suspending punishments.

The protest quickly spread to Wormwood Scrubs D-Wing where long-term prisoners on 16 June staged their own protests in solidarity with the Albany prisoners. In order to undermine Home Office and press attacks on Irish POWs, this protest was carried out solely by ordinary long-term prisoners. They were viciously beaten and also given long sentences of solitary confinement. They too have fought back through legal and political organisation. Finally on 24 June a prisoner, Tommy Tangey, carried out a courageous solo protest in support of his Wormwood Scrubs comrades. These protests show how a determined, united, and politically organised resistance can achieve some victories even under the most difficult conditions. The movement outside the prisons has a great deal to learn from these prisoners.

These protests have confirmed the revolutionary role of Irish POWs. Through their consistent defence not only of their own rights as political prisoners but also of the rights of all prisoners, they have placed themselves in the forefront of the struggle against the repressive British prison system. They therefore occupy a unique position, uniting the struggle of the Irish people for national liberation with the struggle for basic democratic rights in Britain.

Since 1981 there has been no repeat of the widespread uprisings that took place in the Spring and Summer of that year. However, throughout the country local, smaller-scale campaigns against the racist police, racist laws and fascist attacks have taken place. In Dewsbury Asian youth have mobilised against police and fascist attacks in their area. The campaign to defend the Newham 8, Asian youth arrested by the police after they defended themselves against fascist attacks, is continuing and a 2,000-strong march took place only last week. The best-known campaign of the last year has been the campaign for an independent public enquiry into the death of Colin Roach in Stoke Newington police station. The fight to expose the truth about Colin Roach's death drew in widespread support from the Hackney black community especially the youth. Predictably the police sought to crush the campaign with over 100 arrests and repeated attacks on demonstrations. The Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign was formed to defend the youth against this police harassment. It is an anti-racist, anti-imperialist campaign. Throughout its short history it has not only given legal and political defence to the youth but has exposed the connection between racism in Britain and British imperialism. The SNHDC has consistently pointed out the role of Kenneth Newman in Ireland and the significance of his appointment as Head of the Metropolitan Police. It has given active support and solidarity to anti-imperialist movements and other campaigns - on South Africa, Ireland and anti-racist struggles in this country. Indeed, representatives of the Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign are here at this conference today.

### Build the Irish Solidarity Movement

Throughout the last year the ISCs and organisations affiliated to BISM have worked to build a democratic, non-sectarian, anti-imperialist Irish Solidarity Movement. By working on the streets in working class areas BISM supporters have directed their work towards the most oppressed sections of the working class. Through this work it has been proved that there is indeed widespread sympathy with and interest in the Irish

people's struggle for freedom. Thousands have signed the BISM petition calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops and the work of the ISCs is financed by donations given by people on the streets. However in general this sympathy with our work has yet to be translated into active support. Where, as in Edinburgh, local working class youth have been drawn in to active work, it has led to important political gains such as when the Edinburgh ISC open-air rally fought off and roundly defeated loyalist attempts to disrupt it. Elsewhere black and Irish workers, unemployed youths, have been involved in the work but not on anything like the scale needed.

The ISCs have everywhere worked in unity with other forces and individuals wherever possible. Nationally BISM has supported all national solidarity events on Ireland despite the fact that restrictions were placed by the organisers on BISM's participation. And in response to the Albany POWs' letter calling for a united solidarity movement, BISM initiated a unity campaign culminating in yesterday's (1 October) demonstration and today's conference. Locally too such unity efforts have been pursued. An important success was made in Manchester on 20 August with a 150-strong march that gained support from local Women and Ireland, the LCI and the IRSP. It has to

be said, however, that we have not yet overcome the sectarian refusal, particularly of the national Troops Out Movement and the Irish Freedom Movement, to unite in such campaigns. We must, however, in spite of everything, continue this struggle for united work.

The ISCs have firmly defended the democratic right of free speech and public assembly vital to any work in this country on Ireland. When Lambeth Tories attempted to ban SLISC from the use of Lambeth Town Hall, SLISC successfully mobilised to defeat this move with support from South London Troops Out Movement and Labour Party councillors amongst others. A similar successful campaign has taken place in Manchester.

When the Albany roof-top protest began the Co-ordinating Committee of BISM immediately responded calling two pickets of the Home Office. Those pickets were also supported by South London TOM, and the IFM. When Ken Livingstone was attacked for telling the truth about British barbarism in Ireland and was disowned by his own so-called 'colleagues', SLISC produced a special leaflet defending Livingstone's right to speak out on Ireland. These are just a few examples which demonstrate the point made at the Conference last year: that those in Britain determined to build a real Irish Solidarity Movement will play a central role in the defence of dem-

ocratic rights of all workers in Britain.

The experience of the last year, the political developments which have taken place, have shown that a new Irish Solidarity Movement can be built and must be built in Britain. The overall political stand adopted last year has been confirmed in all its major points: Ireland is the key to the British revolution - if the British working class failed to make common cause with the Irish struggle it would be incapable of defending itself; British imperialism cannot play a progressive role in Ireland; and finally forces exist in Britain which can be won to an anti-imperialist solidarity movement on Ireland.

The new Irish Solidarity Movement basing itself on the anti-imperialist slogans

**Victory to the Irish People!  
Troops Out Now!  
The Right to Repatriation for all Irish POWs**

directing its work towards the most oppressed sections of the working class and fighting for unity of all forces and individuals supporting the Irish people's struggle for freedom can be built. Such a movement will not only be a contribution to the Irish revolution but will also be a major step forward for the British working class.

**Victory to the Irish People!**

## WAY FORWARD DEBATED

The final session was opened by a Secretary's Report given by Eddie Abrahams. Outlining the last year's work by BISM, he made it clear that the time had come to launch a new Irish Solidarity Movement. Then followed the debate on resolutions and amendments submitted to the conference.

There was complete unity on the need to launch the ISM and on the three slogans of the ISM. A major debate arose over the question of the relationship of the ISM to the Republican Movement. The majority view, which was also supported by RCG/FRFI delegates, was embodied in the motion submitted by Terry Marlowe (RCG) and Michael Holden (ACTT Shop Steward and Sinn Fein member):

'The Irish Solidarity Movement supports the right of the Irish people to self-determination and therefore defends the right of the Irish people to pursue that demand by whatever means they choose.'

This motion makes absolutely clear the firm anti-imperialist position of the ISM in defence of the right of the Irish people to fight by whatever means they choose right down to uprising, or war. No honest observer could doubt for a moment this anti-imperialist stance, proven in practice by both the ISCs and the RCG. Many activists have spent time in police cells precisely because of this resolute position.

The minority view was contained in the GIFAC motion. Despite GIFAC's boycott of the conference, the motion

was fully discussed having been proposed by the RCL. The essence of the GIFAC motion was expressed in paragraph 2 of the motion:

'This conference believes that recognising the right of the Irish people to self-determination carries with it a duty (on the Irish Solidarity Movement in England, Wales and Scotland) to support the methods used by the Irish people to achieve self-determination and to support the movement chosen by the Irish people to lead this struggle - the Irish Republican Movement (IRA/INLA/Sinn Fein/IRSP). We therefore agree that the Irish Solidarity Movement will give full, wholehearted, unconditional, uncritical support to all sections of the Republican Movement.'

This motion obliterates the distinction between the movement in the oppressed nation (Ireland) and the movement in the oppressor nation (Britain). Lenin pointed out sixty years ago that this distinction was the 'essence' of the communist position. The motion seeks, in effect, to merge the anti-imperialist movement in Britain with the Republican Movement ignoring the fact, as obvious to Republicans in Ireland as it is to anti-imperialists in Britain, that they are separate and distinct movements united in a common goal: the defeat of British imperialism in Ireland. The Republican Movement formulates its tactics and strategy in the light of political conditions in Ireland. The anti-imperialist movement must be free to formu-

late its tactics and strategy in the light of political conditions in Britain. Such an anti-imperialist movement by its very nature gives its solidarity to the Irish people and the organisations which they have created to lead the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland without attempting to masquerade as though it were the Republican Movement itself.

The GIFAC motion, wrong in principle, would be sectarian in practice. A comrade from EISC showed this. EISC fought a physical battle with loyalist thugs to defend its right to conduct solidarity work on the streets. The EISC comrade made the telling point that in their work they had met people who were uncertain about the armed struggle. The EISC had brought them into the work and through practical work and discussion had won them to the anti-imperialist position. The GIFAC motion, by excluding such people in advance, would have made this impossible.

The consequence of the GIFAC position was shown by an amendment on the prisoner campaign submitted by the RCL. This called on the ISM not to launch or continue its own campaign in support of the POWs in the event of the Republican Movement calling a campaign on this issue. This position completely absolves anti-imperialists in Britain of their duty to carry out work in support of the POWs. The conference, in any case, pledged itself to support any Republican campaign. The ISM is for more not less work in support of the POWs.

Both the RCL amendment and the GIFAC motions were clearly and overwhelmingly defeated. The ISM has a clear anti-imperialist position which allows it to reach out to the widest possible forces and win them to the anti-imperialist solidarity movement.

## GIFAC BOYCOTT

GIFAC, in a disgusting display of sectarianism, withdrew its support from the conference, dissuaded the Wolfe Tone band from supporting the march and circulated a lying and slanderous leaflet at the march. The leaflet attacked the march organisers and the RCG. Mosquito Press also joined in this disgraceful behaviour.

GIFAC had put proposals about the march to the 1 October Mobilising Committee (10MC): that it be led by a Starry Plough and Tricolour; that republican organisations march at the head. 10MC, by a clear majority, and after full discussion, decided not to accept them. GIFAC describes this as an attempt to 'push the Irish Republican Movement into obscurity'. In fact Glasgow Sinn Fein addressed the rally and Michael Holden, Connolly/Keegan Cumann, gave the main opening speech. The Wolfe Tone band would have been the first contingent behind the lead banner and the CC-BISM banner. GIFAC's claim is nonsense.

GIFAC also demanded the confer-

ence agenda be reversed to allow them to leave early. This also, after full discussion, was not accepted as 10MC recognised that it would mean abandoning the interests of the majority in favour of the demands of a small minority. 10MC, however, offered to pay the expenses of a GIFAC spokesperson to stay and put GIFAC's motion. GIFAC rejected this.

GIFAC responded to these decisions with slander. They accused the RCG of 'following some of the worst traditions of the Great British "left"'. In fact it was 10MC which democratically made these decisions. GIFAC could have come to the conference and asked the conference to overturn these decisions. They chose not to do so.

Despite GIFAC's sectarian boycott, their motion was put in their absence by the RCL. The RCL publicly dissociated themselves from GIFAC's slanders and, unlike GIFAC, pledged their support whether or not their position was accepted. GIFAC have rejected this principled stand in favour of divisive, disruptive sectarianism.



**VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! VICTORY**

# War drive on Nicaragua

Following the air bombardment of their cities, the firing upon of their boats, the burning down of their villages and the murder of their citizens, the Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega stated before the United Nations General Assembly in late September that US imperialism had 'declared war on the people of Nicaragua'. On 6 September a light plane fired rockets into the city of Esteli, two days later Managua's international airport was bombed by planes flown out of Honduras, and the following day two more unidentified planes, this time coming from the direction of Costa Rica, attacked the docks and fuel supplies at Puerto Sandino. Air sorties over Nicaragua have continued and in October Sandinista anti-aircraft batteries downed a US registered DC-3 transport plane, adding to what Ortega listed as five hundred and twelve violations of Nicaraguan airspace since January 1981.

At sea, where the giant imperial armada (see FRFI 32) has been joined by two British Royal Navy frigates in a pincer movement on Nicaragua, US and Honduran planes have fired on Nicaraguan boats, and US warships have forced Nicaraguan merchant vessels to declare their cargo and destination.

These deliberate escalations in the drive to all-out war with the Nicaraguan revolution by the imperialists came as the US ruling class is becoming increasingly frustrated at the failures of the land assaults mounted by the counter-revolutionary 'contras' based in Honduras and Costa Rica. One ex-Somosa guard confessed that 'Our effort to simply fight a war in the rural countryside was a failure because it did not produce the popular uprising of the Nicaraguan people we had hoped for... Our strategy now has been to go for important economic targets'.

US military investment in El Salvador has risen from US\$1 million in 1979 to US\$116 million in 1982. Estimates of the cost of training and equipping the Nicaraguan 'contras' rise to over US\$80

million, but these do not compare with the vital imperial investment in the myth of Yankee indomitability in Central America. The US ruling class is desperate for results. As US troops manoeuvre with the Honduran Army, weapons, radio equipment and medical supplies are now being ferried from the US through US Southern Command Headquarters in Panama and on to El Salvador and Honduras. There, they are transferred to the local forces and to the counter-revolutionaries gathered along Nicaragua's border and within the remote parts of Nicaragua itself.

Superior airpower is vital to the imperial war effort. *Time* magazine gives an example of their use on the villages of Tenancingo in El Salvador:

'... the fighter planes unloaded their cargo of 250 pound bombs, sending bottles and statuettes of saints flying from shelves and demolishing many adobe homes. Fleeing civilians were gunned down in indiscriminate fire from jets and helicopters...'

Honduras has been equipped with the

largest airforce in Central America. Helicopters are to be part of the new military aid agreement between the US and Guatemala. This October a joint meeting of the Defence Ministers of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala with the new head of US Southern Command pledged its intention to 'employ forces' in Central America.

## GUATEMALAN PRECEDENT

The sequence of frustrated land assaults by US proxy bands, air raids and full US Airforce involvement, combined with a carefully planned propaganda campaign, replicates an earlier CIA success in 1954 against Guatemala. Then Somoza's Nicaragua and Honduras were used as the launching pads to crush the democratic reforms of the Arbenz government and to plunge Guatemala into the nightmare it suffers to this day. In 1954 the Guatemalan government armed the people too late, when the imperialists and their tools were already upon them. This autumn the Nicaraguan revolution has added another fifteen thousand combatants to the hundreds of thousands in the militias, and Comrade Ortega told the assembled representatives of the world that Nicaragua would go 'everywhere' to get the combat planes that the revolution needs. In the best gesture of solidarity that they could give to their Nicaraguan brothers and sisters, the popular liberation forces of the Salvadorean FMLN openly declared a provisional government in the province of Chaltenango while other freedom fighters captured the eastern city of Jucupa.

Trevor Rayne

# RACISM IN JAPAN

Japan is an imperialist nation which has for years past attempted to dominate oppressed nations in South East Asia. Today it has renewed that drive and become the major financial power in South East Asia. In addition it is embarking on a large scale arms build-up to defend its imperialist interests both from the oppressed nations and from its imperialist rivals. As with all imperialist nations racism is an intrinsic part of Japanese society. As this article, submitted by a Japanese comrade living in Britain shows, racism in Japan is directed against the peoples from nations oppressed by Japanese imperialism.

During the second imperialist war the Japanese government invaded many Asian countries. It caused enormous damage and devastation for which it has never even attempted to compensate these nations. On the contrary it now justifies the invasions and authorised school textbooks say that Japan 'went into' these countries. The word invade is banned and books containing it are censored.

Japanese imperialism has always oppressed Korea. It set up a puppet government and merged Korea into Japan. As 'Japanese'—although as second class Japanese—Korean people were forced to move to Japan to fill job vacancies caused by enforced conscription. They were sent to the most dangerous jobs such as mining. Countless people died from medical neglect, starvation and accidents. Today there is a 'digging up movement' to show the people's history by excavating the mines and decently burying the murdered Koreans and other prisoners found there.

Those Koreans who managed to survive the war hoped to see the liberation of Korea after the war. But many could not return due to the confusion there and the later partition of Korea by US imperialism aided by the British Labour Government. Today, Koreans in Japan are discriminated against. They are obliged to have identity cards and when they are renewed, to give fingerprints. Even the Koreans who worked for the Army as enforced 'Japanese' cannot receive a soldier's pension. Nor are Koreans included in the national pension and insurance system. They find it hard to get work and are forced into the worst jobs. Many are organising against this and groups fighting to defend Korean human rights are being set up.

There is also discrimination against the Ainus, whose islands were invaded by Japan. They were forced to leave their land without compensation so that the Japanese government could exploit the gold there. Since then they have been forced to live as an oppressed

minority in Japan. The ownership of the Kuril Islands is disputed between Japan and the USSR. The Japanese government is campaigning to 'recapture the northern islands indigenous to Japan from the USSR'. In doing so it is fanning anti-Soviet feeling and using it as a pretext to build up its armed forces. Are these islands indigenous to Japan? No. They were stolen from the Ainus!

Fierce racism is directed against the 'Buraku'. In the past the lowest ranks were called 'Senmin' (today they are called 'Burakmin'). They were treated like the Untouchables in the Indian caste system. Burakmin cannot work for small companies let alone the large firms that control the economy. Companies employ detectives to investigate applicants' histories, particularly to check if they are Burakmin or Korean. Burakmin cannot get a job and have to live together for protection.

Why does racism not disappear? It is not enough to say that old-fashioned thought dies hard. Far from being old-fashioned racism is renewed by a ruling class and government which can fish in troubled waters. How can racism be overcome? The history of oppressed peoples' struggle tells us. Before 1914 the Senmin (Burakmin) organised themselves and insisted that they are Senmin and that Senmin is great. Those who take their position at the lowest can shoot furthest!

Seiju Nakajima

# JUMBO COVER UP

Facts have come to light which highlight the part played by Korean Airlines flight 007 in the anti-Soviet espionage activities of the US imperialists. The most significant of these, censored by the lying imperialist media, is the activity of the US electronic surveillance satellite Ferret-D, on the night of August 31st—September 1st.

The satellite made three orbits which synchronised with the flight path of the airliner and enabled it to compare Soviet radio and radar transmissions under normal conditions with their intensified activity when on full alert.

Stationed along the flight path of the South Korean plane were:

- 3 Orion Reconnaissance aircraft
- 2 RC135 electronic surveillance aircraft
- An AWACS electronic spy plane
- Several US Navy ships.

At first the United States tried to conceal the presence of the RC135s. When part of the truth was wheeled out, the imperialists then claimed that the RC135 was 'just a routine flight'—'just' part of the 'routine' espionage conducted against the Soviet Union. Then two former US Airforce communications intelligence specialists who flew RC135s, T Edward Eskelson and Tom Bernard, pointed out that the US aircraft had the technical resources to prevent the entire incident. The RC135s can communicate directly with the US President, could have talked to the Jumbo, and could contact the Soviet fighter planes and even their ground control.

'We believe, based upon our experience, that the official US version of events is incomplete and misleading. There are serious questions in our minds as to not only what specific role did the capabilities of the RC135 play in the eventual shooting down of the KAL airliner but also why these capabilities were never utilised in an attempt to head off the tragedy.'

It is clear that a major effort has been undertaken to bewilder the American public... we believe that the entire sweep of events... was meticulously monitored and analysed by US intelligence.'

The United States has refused to release the recordings, allegedly of the Soviet pilots who intercepted the airliner. The transcripts of this recording have appeared in two versions, the second 'improved' one significantly different from its predecessor. A leak from US intelligence sources concludes that

continued from page 1

Inside Brazil the economy is falling apart at the seams. Petrol is rationed. Spare parts are virtually unobtainable, thanks to the shortage of foreign exchange, all of which has to be handed over to the imperialist robbers. Companies are resorting to massive smuggling operations to obtain the raw materials they need to keep going. Mass impoverishment is growing. In 1980 34 per cent of the population were on the minimum wage. In 1982, the proportion grew to 41 per cent, and it is expected that, thanks to the IMF, it will rise to 50 per cent in 1985.

Yet the Brazilian debt crisis would not threaten imperialism if the masses had not already begun to get up off their knees. A wave of direct political action, whipped up by the IMF austerity programme, has swept the land.

In the north-east, now suffering its fifth year of drought, the peasants have had to resort to eating lizards, rats and hunting rattle snakes for food. Thousands of starving peasants have poured into towns, breaking into food warehouses and raiding markets in the state of Ceará. In Santa Fe, some 500 starving women, some of them pregnant, carried off two tons of cereal and powdered milk from the National Food Institute.

In the cities, too, the poor are refusing to go on living in the old way. The

Soviet defence forces did not know that the South Korean flight was a commercial airliner.

The information gathered will be used for planning nuclear attacks on the USSR. According to the appraisal of the information by a US Air Force Officer, quoted by the *Economist* 'a B-52 with all its decoys, jammers and other countermeasures could be over Moscow before they figured out what was going on'.

Compared to these hard facts revealing the imperialists' duplicity, the fairy tales dreamt up by the Fleet Street hacks about the plane being 'accidentally' off course—by hundreds of miles!—are simply laughable. The Boeing 747s are crammed with sophisticated navigational equipment to establish the plane's position. The two South Korean pilots were very experienced—and both were reserve Colonels in the South Korean Air Force. Captain Chun Byung In had 10,500 hours flying in command (mostly in military aircraft), had two years of experience flying the Anchorage-Seoul route, and had been selected to fly the South Korean President. Nor has any explanation been given by the imperialists of why US and Japanese air traffic controllers made no attempt to correct the plane's course—although this is normal practice when aircraft go off course.

For all their crocodile tears, the US imperialists care nothing for the lives lost as a result of their escapade. They see the incident as an occasion for whipping up anti-Sovietism, escalating war preparations, and countering the US peace movement—an important factor in election year. Taking advantage of the hysteria they had created, the imperialists showed their concern for human lives by rushing a \$187.5 billion Military Authorisation Bill through Congress, funding production of nerve gas and development of the MX inter-continental missile. As the reactionary Senator Jesse Helms exultantly told his colleagues: 'This is the best chance we ever had to paint these bastards into a corner'.

Steve Palmer

poor from the shanty towns, who could be found sifting the garbage tips for food, have turned to more audacious measures. Starving crowds have been sweeping down on supermarkets, ransacking them and carrying off the food. Literally hundreds of such expropriations by the starving have taken place.

The poor are beginning to take their future into their own hands, a prospect which terrifies the opportunists, based on the labour aristocracy. The so-called Workers Party, based on the metal-workers union, has set up a camp for the unemployed in the middle of Sao Paulo, in an attempt to divert protest into 'non-violent' (ie ineffective) protest, and is babbling about the need for elections. But the poor do not want elections: they want food.

The ruling class are well aware of this, and know that it is not ballot boxes but the hunger of the masses which will determine Brazil's future. Pedro Conde, past president of the Brazilian bankers federation explains:

'It is not the unions that worry me now, it is the poor... This debt crisis and the state of the economy are the worst things I have known in my life. But they do not frighten me in the way that the poor do.'

Stephen Palmer

## ALBANY PROTEST THE FACTS

**IRISH POW EDDIE O'NEILL HAS ISSUED A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ALBANY ROOF-TOP PROTEST 20-25 MAY. HIS ACCOUNT EXPOSES THE TRUTH ABOUT THE ALBANY PROTESTS AND THE LYING DUPLICITY OF THE HOME OFFICE.**

Eddie O'Neill reveals two main factors in the Albany protest: first the vindictive refusal of the Home Office to grant long-term prisoners demands for reform; second the intolerable conditions and growing repression in Albany itself. He refers to three months of tension: 'smash-ups/several serious knife attacks/food strikes/food being dumped in protest at its quality/general work strikes over 1/2 remission etc'. Other prisoners involved in the Albany protest have also exposed the intolerable conditions at Albany. Jimmy Murphy, sentenced to 400 days loss of remission, wrote from Winchester: 'Never have I felt so much hatred as there is in Albany'. And Robert McGhee, sentenced to 400 days loss of remission, also wrote from Winchester: 'I have never entered a prison with so much tension as Albany' (see FRFI 31).

Eddie O'Neill's account focuses on the period 12-25 May. On 12 May prisoners refused to sew mailbags. As Eddie points out, the prisoners regard mailbag-sewing as 'degrading and punitive'. The prison governor responded with repression. Some prisoners were put on disciplinary charges whilst others were transferred out under the punitive secret Circular Instruction 10/74. The prisoners decided to protest by organising a one day work strike for Monday 16 May. The strike was successful; Eddie O'Neill writes that Albany was 'shut down' on Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 May. Prisoners involved in the mailbag strike were fined 60p-£1—a huge amount out of the miserable pittance prisoners are paid. On the Tuesday afternoon another dispute broke out when prisoners protested against an attempt to restrict association in B wing. More prisoners charged. That night the cell of a 'blackleg/stool pigeon' was burnt out.

Wednesday 18 May, morning, more prisoners transferred under CI 10/74. Another dispute takes place in the workshop. Yet more prisoners charged. That evening another cell belonging to a 'blackleg/stool pigeon' was burnt out.

By Thursday 19 May tension was very high in the prison as prisoners continued to resist repressive measures. A protest took place in the punishment block involving prisoners sent there for their part in the earlier workshop protest. At the same time another issue came to the boil.

The previous week a prisoner in A wing went on hunger strike in protest against the prison's refusal to give him a medical diet. Such deliberate medical neglect is the norm throughout the British prison system. After five days, this prisoner also went on thirst strike. The

prisoners decided to stage a strike in solidarity with this comrade and timed to start at 12 noon on Thursday 19 May. The prison authorities, by now aware of the strength of the prisoners' resistance and solidarity, backed down. At 11.05 that day, the prisoner was put on a medical diet. But, as Eddie says, 'the tension remained'.

Late that afternoon four prisoners, including Jimmy Murphy and Robert McGhee, went onto the workshop roof in protest against the continuing repression in the prison. They stayed on the roof until Friday afternoon. Eddie O'Neill reports that 'the authorities in a heavy-handed show of strength attempted to stop the rest of the prisoners' exercise but failed'. The prisoners warned the chief prison officer of the consequences should any violence be used against the workshop roof prisoners. But that night MUFTI squad officers were seen between 8 and 9pm. Eddie O'Neill says 'the prison was "alive" throughout the night' as prisoners barricaded themselves into their cells and remained awake.

Friday 20 May dawned with extra personnel all over B wing, four prisoners still on the workshop roof and the prisoners on the alert. Another dispute broke out in B wing, dealt with in the, by now, routine 'heavy-handed' manner. This, says Eddie O'Neill, 'straw broke the camel's back'.

Eddie describes what happened. He was on exercise and on his way to throw food up to the workshop roof prisoners when 'from behind me came an explosion of sound, B wing literally blew apart'. Eddie spotted MUFTI personnel in the yard and went over to try and warn his comrades. Unable to get through to them, he became one of ten prisoners who went onto the roof of B wing and exposed the intolerable conditions and repression in Albany to the whole world.

Seven prisoners spent five days on the prison roof (see FRFI 30, 31, 32). Eddie O'Neill describes in detail the negotiations which led to the peaceful and voluntary ending of the protest. Given that the Home Office has consistently lied about these negotiations it is important to report them in detail.

**SATURDAY 21 MAY:** first approach from a prison officer who asks what the demands of the protest are. Prisoners demand pen and paper to put their demands in writing. Refused.

**SUNDAY 22 MAY:** Deputy Governor demands surrender. Prisoners give appropriate reply. Deputy Governor returns in evening and again refuses to supply pen and paper.

**MONDAY 23 MAY:** a prison officer and Roman Catholic priest re-open negotiations. After discussion, and consultations in the Emergency Control Room, they finally agree to supply pen and paper. Prisoners write out their demands.

At 2.30pm the prisoners give three conditions *before* agreeing to hand over demands or surrender: 1) guarantee of personal safety; 2) Owen Carron and Joan Maynard MPs to be phoned; 3) Guardian reporter Nick Davies to be phoned. The prison officer and priest, after further toing and froing, promise personal safety, that *letters* could be sent to Owen Carron and Joan Maynard *after* the prisoners came down, and nothing on the third condition. Prisoners tell them to go away. Finally, a prison officer agrees to take the prisoners demands down in writing.

**TUESDAY 24 MAY:** William Whitelaw, then Tory Home Secretary, publicly rejects any mediation by Owen Carron. Prisoners raise banner accusing Whitelaw of electioneering with prisoners' lives. Prisoners observe preparations being made for a violent assault on them—planks, scaffolding and steel-jacking equipment as well as MUFTI and military personnel in the prison.

At 5.15pm the prison officer and priest return and, after two hours, claim that Home Office still considering prisoners' proposals. Finally, at 10.30pm the Home Office gives in. The prison officer and priest read out a statement. Eddie O'Neill describes it:

'1) The Home Secretary was guaranteeing our personal safety if/when we came off the roof 2) that a phone call would be made to O Carron when we came down, stating that we had come down that we were safe and that a document containing our written grievances had been received by the governor... 3) that the Guardian via Nicki Davies would be informed... and the contents of our documents ie grievances would be divulged to N Davies. 4) that our families would be informed...'

The Home Office reneged on this agreement and has since denied its very existence. This is the typical lying and deceitful behaviour meted out to prisoners by the Home Office.

The facts of Albany are now clear for all honest observers. The Albany protest was the legitimate response of protesting prisoners to the vicious inhumane British prison system. The continuing resistance and organised fightback of Albany and Wormwood Scrubs prisoners proves that the Home Office will not succeed in crushing the struggle for justice in the prisons.

Terry O'Halloran

## VICTORY FOR RAY McLOUGHLIN

After seven years, Irish POW Ray McLoughlin has forced the Home Office to give back 120 days remission lost after the Hull prison protest of 1976.

Following the Hull protest Ray McLoughlin was given a total 350 days loss of remission by the crooked Board of Visitors in one of their kangaroo court hearings. 240 days of this was on the basis of two charges which Ray denied. One was quashed on the grounds that it duplicated another charge and so Ray got back 120 days. But the Home Office refused to budge on the other. The prison authorities, as always, delayed and obstructed court proceedings so when it finally got to court the judge ruled that the application had merit but was 'out of time'. The judge took no notice of the fact that it was the prison authorities who were responsible for its being 'out of time'.

However Ray persisted. Finally, in September this year, the threat of taking the case to Europe forced the Home Office to back down. So Ray will now be released in December 1983 instead of April 1984.

Irish POW Gerry Cunningham was also caught up in the Hull prison protest. He was given the savage sentence of 810 days loss of remission and 308 days solitary confinement. 120 days of this was on a charge of attempted gross personal violence ie throwing things off the roof. This was quashed but Gerry is still fighting to get back 180 days given on a charge of looting. The only evidence offered for this charge was a prison officer who claimed to have seen him carrying a pillow case! The Home Office has refused to quash this sentence. It looks as though Gerry Cunningham will now join the long trail to the European Court to get this blatantly trumped-up charge and sentence overturned.

The fact that POWs have persisted for seven years in fighting Home Office frame-ups underlines the determined resistance which the Irish POWs have mounted against the repressive British prison system. FRFI sends heartfelt congratulations to Ray McLoughlin.

Terry O'Halloran

## the struggle for rights

The legal battle on behalf of prisoners involved in the Albany and Wormwood Scrubs prison protests continues. As reported in FRFI 32, Albany and Wormwood Scrubs prisoners forced a historic retreat on the Home Office on 12 August when Jimmy Tarrant won a judicial review of the internal disciplinary hearings. Jimmy Tarrant was one of 28 Albany prisoners charged with mutiny. This legal success forced the Home Office to suspend the remaining 12 hearings against prisoners charged with mutiny. However, in a last ditch effort to exact its revenge, the Home Office refused to suspend the punishments against prisoners already tried.

But on this front too prisoners have struck back and scored successes. On 7 September Albany prisoner Roy Leyland successfully challenged his punishment of 400 days loss of remission and 56 days loss of earnings. He too won a judicial review and the Home Office was forced to suspend his punishment. Wormwood Scrubs prisoner Tommy Tangey also went to court on 12 September and forced the Home Office to suspend his punishment. Wormwood Scrubs prisoner Chris Clarke also got his punishment suspended.

Jimmy Anderson took part in the Wormwood Scrubs 16 June protest and won a judicial review in July. However, the prison authorities attempted to force a Board of Visitors hearing on him. The date set for this kangaroo court was Wednesday 21 September. Jimmy reacted speedily and won an injunction preventing the hearing from taking place. The first of the judicial reviews is expected to take place on

Thursday 13 October.

The Home Office is still exacting its revenge where it can. The 12 Albany prisoners whose cases have been suspended are all still in solitary confinement after four months. Irish POW Ray McLoughlin is still in solitary confinement after nearly five months although he has not been charged with anything. Graham Little, also transferred from Albany, recently finished four months solitary confinement. He too has not been charged with anything. Graham Little is now in Gartree.

Despite solitary confinement, constant transfers, savage sentences, prisoners from Albany and Wormwood Scrubs are still scoring successes against the Home Office victimisation machine. Their victories are victories for all working class and oppressed people in this country.

Terry O'Halloran

## LETTER FROM PAUL HILL

I take this opportunity to both thank and inform all the Solidarity Committees re recent events with regard to Albany. Firstly I send thanks on behalf of all the POWs for the many cards constantly received, which at various times in blocks, when things at times feel depressing, they are very heartwarming, and I have at many times felt moved to read expressions of solidarity and proud sentiments from people that I have never met.

**'WE SURVIVE BECAUSE THE PEOPLE SUPPORT'**

With regard to those involved in the Albany protests, it now appears that many prisoners, especially the Irish POWs, are going to be kept in isolation

for as long as possible; the POA (Prison Officers Association) are at present planning for this, 'tho it now seems that things have now overtaken the Home Office with the BOV (Board of Visitors) hearings now before the European Court. I have yet to be dealt with by the BOV for mutiny, my case being remanded after the chamber pot (contents in stages of deep ferment) was poured over a screw witness (they say water finds its own level).

Paul Norney is still in Durham, in solitary, 'tho his punishment is finished. Tony Clarke—Manchester, Seamus Bennet—Wormwood Scrubs, both in Blocks, punishment finished. Steve Blake—Wakefield, moved from Walton. The latter we are concerned about as a

new control unit has just been opened in Wakefield, we do not know if he is in fact there. Another guy by the name of Graham Little is in Bristol in isolation after Winchester block where he has been since Albany. He was never charged with anything, reports indicate he is getting a hard time. I am sorry this is not more comprehensive but I have a creeper, who I think is a voyeur by nature, at the spyhole pretty regular.

Once again many thanks for the hard work on the streets and the commitment from you. Words at times do not express things properly.

'Total solidarity'  
Paul Hill

## FRFI FOR PRISONERS

**FRFI needs your help. We need your money to carry on the political service we provide to prisoners. There are many political prisoners and others who are becoming political in British prisons. They have a right to read FRFI and other political literature.**

**FRFI is already sent free of charge to over 50 prisoners, and more are added each week to the list. In addition, FRFI provides many prisoners with books, pamphlets and other material they cannot easily obtain.**

**We appeal to all our readers to help us continue providing these necessary political services. Please send us a donation. You can send £4 to cover an FRFI subscription for a prisoner, or any donation large or small. Please rush your donation to:**

**FRFI**

**BCM Box 5909**

**London WC1N 3XX.**

**Cheques and postal orders payable to Larkin Publications.**

## LEBANON

## Imperialist bombardment

Imperialist firepower came to the rescue of President Gemayel's Lebanese Army during four weeks of fierce combat against Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militias in the Shouf mountains this September. To stem the advance of the PSP forces, the US imperialists unleashed their biggest naval bombardment since the Vietnam war, indiscriminately pounding Druse villages with fragmentation bombs, howitzer shells and other weaponry. US soldiers from the front ranks directed the Lebanese Army defence of the strategically situated Souk-al-Gharb. French Super Etendards based on an aircraft carrier anchored off Beirut flew bombing sorties over PSP positions. British 'reconnaissance' planes helped locate targets for the Yankee armada, the British airbase in Cyprus was made available for Italian jet fighters and reinforced with six Royal Air Force Buccaneer jets. Only this massive military intervention saved Gemayel's regime from collapse.

These latest events follow the Israeli withdrawal from the Shouf to the Awali river in southern Lebanon. The high casualty toll suffered by the Zionist forces in their advanced positions was becoming politically unacceptable in Israel leading to increased protest at the Israeli troops' presence in Lebanon, repeated governmental crises and the growing derangement of mass murderer Begin. The move south was an attempt to solve these problems by securing a more easily defended forward line. In addition, an Israeli aim was to draw in more active imperialist involvement in sustaining the Gemayel

regime. This would create the possibility of dividing the opposition to Gemayel, some sections of which have shown preparedness to negotiate with Gemayel through the medium of his US backers.

A ceasefire now holds and imperialism has resorted to new tactics. The failure of the Lebanese army in the Shouf battles and against the militias in West Beirut has demonstrated to them that exclusive reliance upon Gemayel and the Phalange will not succeed in restoring imperialist order in Lebanon, the complete isolation of the PLO and the defeat of the Lebanese democratic and patriotic forces. The

imperialists, through errand-boy and US envoy Robert MacFarlane, are attempting to broaden the Lebanese government's basis by making deals with bourgeois and middle-class elements that have previously opposed the Zionist-Gemayel alliance. They hope to induce these elements into cooperation with the Phalange by offering them some concessions and a share of political power in the existing regime as the best defence of their own interests. Off shore a mighty armada of over 15,000 soldiers, destroyers, aircraft carriers and weaponry sufficient to annihilate the whole of Lebanon are staked as the ultimate persuader in this latest imperialist escapade.

Central to the success of these moves is the compliance of the Syrian government headed by President Assad which is in occupation of north Lebanon and much of the Bekaa Valley. It is in a position to control the supply of weaponry and the fighting ability of the PLO and Lebanese patriotic forces. Imperialism has grounds to be optimistic: the Assad regime seeks primarily its own security and stability and has often demonstrated its readiness to sacrifice the Palestinian and oppressed Arab masses' interests. It will bargain with imperialism: if you check Israeli expansionism against Syria, withdraw Zionist artillery out of range of Damascus then we will ensure that neither the PLO nor the Lebanese patriotic fighters get the weaponry they need to defy you or your chosen clients - Zionism, Gemayel and any other applicants for their posts.

These latest imperialist manoeuvres are all designed to thoroughly isolate and destroy the PLO which has acted as a galvanising force for the Arab peoples' struggle against imperialist control of their territory and resources. Currently they rest upon the armed might of NATO forces in and off the shore of Lebanon. All democrats and communists must demand the immediate withdrawal of all imperialist forces and an end to the imperialist plans which have resulted in tens of thousands murdered, the ceaseless destruction of

Lebanese towns and villages and the erection of a fascist puppet hauled up from the rubble to stand sentinel in defence of imperialist interests in the Middle East.

Trevor Rayne  
Eddie Abrahams

## CHAD

After a lull in the fighting, the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) liberation forces clashed with Habre's troops in the eastern Chad town of Oum Chalouba on 2 September. The French occupation force's response was planned and immediate: Mirage and Jaguar jet fighters sustained a ten hour bombardment of the TGNU line, returned to their base in the capital Ndjamena, allowed Habre's US and French equipped artillery units to advance, and then resumed their attack.

Predictably, and in keeping with the controlled information we are receiving (see FRFI 32) the French Socialist Party Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy muttered that only a minor clash had taken place, while the 'unnamed Western diplomatic sources' knew only of a single high flying plane dropping a few bombs in the desert!

France retains one of the strongest colonial presences in Africa. Its troops are strategically positioned to safeguard the food and raw material supplies that furnish French multinationals with super-profits. Apart from its cotton wealth the French ruling class has prospect of uranium and oil wealth beneath Chad's desert. In its alliance with French capital and imperialism the so-called Socialist Party leader and French President Mitterrand called an early October gathering of the leaders of thirty eight French speaking African countries. He made his purpose in exonerating the French venture in Chad explicit: without a qualm of embarrassment at his hypocrisy he called for the 'territorial integrity and the exercise of legitimate sovereignty' in Chad, adding that without it 'there will be disorder everywhere'. Such is the authentic voice of French capital in its imperial mission. Trevor Rayne



US fighter planes on the USS Eisenhower

## Pakistan

## BELL TOLLS FOR ZIA

Since 14 August the hated military government of General Zia-ul-Haq in Pakistan has been severely shaken by a rising tide of mass protests and demonstrations. After suffering under the imperialist puppet Zia's relentless repression for over six years, the Pakistani people greeted Zia's announcement that democratic elections would not be held until March 1985 with an anger and militancy that has sent shock waves through Zia's regime and its imperialist backers in Washington and London. In all of Pakistan's four provinces and in the major towns and cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Peshawar, workers, peasants, women, students, lawyers and activists have taken to the streets to hold huge marches and rallies and attack symbols of the Zia regime.

It has been in the southern Sind province where the most sustained and militant opposition to Zia has developed rapidly. The movement in Sind has been of a truly mass and increasingly anti-imperialist character. Numerous general strikes, marches of up to 50,000 people and street fighting against the Punjabi-dominated Pakistan army and police has taken place in every town in Sind. When US Defence Secretary Weinberger rushed to Pakistan to reassure Zia of American military support, Sindhi people burnt American flags and effigies of President Reagan. Zia himself was stoned when he visited

Sind, and the people have smashed up the offices of the bogus 'Support Zia Campaign'. Prisons have been stormed by the people and government offices, courts and railway stations repeatedly attacked.

Although the Western press has depicted the growing anti-Zia movement as being co-ordinated by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (a coalition of eight bourgeois and opposition parties, led by the Pakistan Peoples Party), it is the mass and united opposition to Zia which continues day by day that poses the most deadly threat to his regime's survival. Indeed it is the

determination of the people to see Zia topple that has pushed collaborationist elements in the MRD off the fence and forced them to join the protest. In Sind, it has been anti-imperialist forces such as the Sind Awami Tehrik that have played the leading role in mobilising the people.

As Zia has carried out bloody repression of the Pakistan people there has been predictably little outcry from the British press and politicians who are always telling us how much they treasure democracy and human rights. Over 200 have died in police/army killings, more than 40,000 arrested and hundreds sentenced to flogging and hard labour. Teddy Taylor, Tory MP and pro-hanging campaigner has even penned eulogies to Zia in the *Guardian*.

Zia's Pakistan today is a prison for the Pakistani people. Pakistan was a creation of the British-imperialist partition of India, and today remains a country totally dominated by imperialism. The burden of Pakistan's crushing debt of £12 billion to the imperialist banks has been shouldered by the people. Half of the population live below the poverty line. Over 77% of the people have no access to adequate medi-

cal care. With only 25% of the population able to read and write Pakistan has the highest illiteracy rate in all of South Asia. The position of women under Zia has also considerably worsened - a recent court ruling made the word of a woman worth only half that of a man. National oppression of the people in Sind and Baluchistan has also intensified under Zia, who has imprisoned and tortured their freedom fighters.

Reagan, Thatcher and the likes of Teddy Taylor MP have every reason to quake at the thought of Zia falling. Pakistan is a vital caretaker of imperialist strategic interests in South Asia, and is also used to carry out and co-ordinate aggression against the revolution in Afghanistan. Despite the mass arrests and shootings, the anti-Zia movement is growing in strength. As Zia called fake local 'elections' at the beginning of October (in which political parties and opponents of Zia were banned from taking part), the people successfully disrupted polling in many areas, signalling their determination to continue the struggle until the US puppet Zia is overthrown.

Bill Hughes

## ● Iran

It is almost five years since the struggle of the Iranian people against imperialism and its lackey in the region has succeeded, through armed struggle, in overthrowing one of this century's most brutal dictatorships. Khomeini's regime promised a democratic and classless society but in the first few months, showed its reactionary nature by trying to suppress the struggle of the Kurdish people for self-determination. Since then, thousands of people have been executed or brutally tortured to death. The Islamic Republic Regime, under the guise of fighting against imperialism are in fact suppressing all those who are truly fighting imperialism.

Today in Iran there are more than five million unemployed or refugees from the reactionary war with Iraq. There are more than 50,000 political prisoners. All women's rights have been suppressed. In the last two years alone, more than 15,000 people have been executed. Inflation is well over 60%, food is rationed. The rights of national and religious minorities are being suppressed.

By selling oil at two dollars a barrel cheaper than the OPEC price to the imperialists, the Iranian government gets arms and other imports from them. Iran buys most of its arms from South Korea, Canada, the USA and Israel. Recently they bought some captured from Palestinians and Lebanese by the Zionists last year. Very recently one of the Iranian oil tankers was damaged off the British coast and this incident clearly exposed the IRR's links with British imperialism.

In spite of the absolute dictatorship of Khomeini's regime the struggle is still going on. There are a lot of liberated areas in Kurdistan, the workers protest in the factories are intensifying daily, and it will not be long before the people overthrow this reactionary regime.

Long live the Iranian people's struggle against Islamic Republic Regime!  
Down with Imperialism!  
Sahin Shirazi

## ● Philippines

Since the government-organised murder of Benigno Aquino in August, massive street protests and demonstrations of up to 500,000 people have left the Marcos regime demoralised and in disarray. Marcos's mentor, President Reagan, has now been forced to cancel his impending visit to the Philippines. As one opposition leader commented, 'if Reagan comes, he will be met by at least 1 million ... he might not get out of the airport'.

In recent weeks as Marcos has unsuccessfully tried to cover up his role in the murder of Aquino the isolation of his US puppet regime has become complete. In the Makati business district of Manila, tens of thousands of white-collar workers, secretaries and even banking and insurance executives have themselves taken to the streets, burning pro-Marcos banners and attacking pro-Marcos elements.

These new developments have followed very rapidly after revolutionary youth, students and workers have taken the offensive against government riot police - bombarding them with petrol bombs, home-made grenades and rocks. Effigies of Reagan and Marcos have also been publicly burned by the people. As Marcos gloated over his ability to unleash terror, 11 demonstrators were killed and hundreds more injured.

And yet even if the murder of Aquino had never taken place, the onward march of the genuine revolutionary forces in the Philippines would have continued. The commanding and impressive political and military leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has provided the solid foundation for the anti-Marcos mobilisation. In resisting the political, economic and cultural oppression of the Philippine people by US imperialism, the CPP is successfully uniting peasants, industrial workers, the urban poor, students and radical priests. In the southern Philippines, the Moro National Liberation Front is resisting the genocide of the Bangsa Moro people.

Even if, as is widely predicted, Marcos will re-impose martial law, the confidence and steadfastness of the Philippine revolutionary movement cannot be undermined.

Bill Hughes

# Round-up

## ● Dundee pickets

Dundee FRFI and Dundee Anti-Apartheid Movement have had a series of pickets of Dundee Chamber of Commerce who plan to send a trade delegation to South Africa on 15 October. The pickets which began Wednesday 28 September have been very successful and met with a good response from the public with petitions signed and FRFI sold.

Although the show of opposition may not change this Chamber's decision it will let them know that Dundee is overwhelmingly anti-racist. At the Friday 30 September picket two of the Chamber's members signed the petition and gave large donations as did a member of Dundee District Council.

The high point in this campaign was the Dundee AAM 24 hour picket held on 8/9 October. Thousands of people came forward to sign the petition and condemn the Chamber of Commerce. The picket was sponsored by numerous organisations and during the course of 24 hours messages of solidarity were given by Dundee FRFI, Dundee CP Area Committee, the Scottish Council of the AAM, Dundee ISC and others. FRFI supporters who played a central role in building the picket sold over 160 FRFI.

Colin Dundee FRFI

## ● NCCL defend the right to sell

The campaign of the Peckham 2 (see FRFI32), arrested for selling FRFI door-to-door in South London and charged with 'Peddling without a certificate', under the 1871 Pedlars Act, received a boost when the National Council for Civil Liberties agreed to undertake their legal defence. Disturbed by the threat to political freedom implied by such charges the NCCL intends to use this as a test case.

The campaign to defend the right to sell free from police harassment is continuing - over 1,500 people in South London have signed the petition; other signatories include Gerry Adams Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast; a

full petition was returned from Cecil Gutsmore, and A Sivanandan (Editor of Race and Class) amongst others. Clare Short MP and Dennis Skinner MP have written to the Home Secretary to demand an explanation.

The two appear in court on 22 November at Tower Bridge Magistrates Court, 10am. We urge all readers and supporters of FRFI to support the campaign and to come to the picket of the court. We still need donations to enable us to produce leaflets and petitions, and so to continue the political work on the streets. Leaflets/petition sheets can be obtained from: SLFRFI, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX. (POs/cheques payable to Peckham 2 Defence Campaign)

Defend the right to sell FRFI!  
Drop the charges now!

Pauline Sturges

## ● Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group public meeting

On 29 September, 40 people attended a public meeting called by the Anti-Apartheid Group demanding 'Hands Off Namibia! Victory to SWAPO!'. The meeting began with the showing of the film 'The Liberation Struggle in Namibia' which explains the historic roots of the Namibian people's struggle.

Peeara Miller then gave a speech on behalf of the Bradford AA Group, emphasising the extent of British collaboration with South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. Giving examples of Colin Roach, of the 'hooding' of people by West Midland Police in order to extract confessions from them - she said that oppressed people in this country have every interest in supporting the Namibian people, because we face the same enemy - British imperialism.

Jenefer Thomas

## ● Manchester FRFI sellers harassed

On Monday 3 October two FRFI sellers in Manchester were continuously harassed for over half an hour by Police Sergeant A2606.

When his request for a leaflet

had been turned down in full view of black and white unemployed workers entering the Dole Office, the frustrated sergeant abused the FRFI sellers for over thirty minutes. From identifying the newspaper as that of the Revolutionary Communist Group, 'those trouble-makers', through to appealing for his own democratic right as a 'working class policeman' to read the leaflet to, finally, viciously mocking the speech defect of one of the FRFI sellers, Sgt A2606 demonstrated the full range of newly perfected community policing methods. Unfortunately for him, he betrayed an incomplete grasp of the new tactics when his temper began to rise alarmingly as one youth after another ignored his demand to see their leaflets. As one of the black youth said when the police sergeant (closely followed by his co operative) eventually went on his way:

'You beat him'.

PP, NOR & MS

## ● Edinburgh ISC

The Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee held a public meeting on 26 September which was attended by around 30 people, most of whom were the Edinburgh youth. The meeting was chaired by an 18-year-old EISC member and one of the two speakers was also 18 years old.

The first speaker began the meeting by bringing up the 'great escape of the 38' which gave the meeting a great atmosphere of solidarity with the Irish POWs. This was furthered by a motion to send a message of congratulations to the Republican Movement for the successful escape. The same speaker introduced the supergrass trials explaining their function and overall aim.

After the introduction there was a discussion on the trials which was followed by a solidarity message from Dundee ISC and the showing of the film 'Prisoner of War'. Another speech from a young EISC member, described the work of Building an Irish Solidarity Movement and its objectives and also the work done by

the Edinburgh ISC to build a bigger movement in support of the Irish people and the work done by Edinburgh ISC to build for the 1/2 October demonstration and conference.

Overall the meeting was a great success achieved by the strong effort we put into our street activity to build our Irish Solidarity Committee.

Willie C

## ● Ken Livingstone Meeting - Edinburgh 17 September

On Friday 17 September Ken Livingstone leader of the GLC came to speak at a public meeting called by the Labour Committee on Ireland. Two days before the local press carried a prominent announcement stating the time and place of the meeting thus laying it open to loyalist attack. The EISC twice offered to assist with stewarding but both offers were declined. On the night, 30 loyalists blocked the entrance and the door was locked against them. The LCI stewards were nowhere to be seen and the police bowed to the loyalist demands that everyone should be cleared from the door and form a queue behind them. When the stewards appeared from behind the door they handed over the responsibility of letting in ticket holders only to the police. The EISC managed to get 7 members into the meeting - the rest were abused and assaulted outside after the police and loyalists successfully kept them and others outside.

At the meeting, speakers were Mary Pearson of Birmingham LCI and Ken Livingstone. Mary Pearson, also a leading TOM member, spoke about the necessity to work with the trade union movement and within the Labour Party to ensure a British withdrawal from Ireland. Ken Livingstone spoke for half-an-hour and spent most of the time covering Irish history and then went on to say that although the Labour Party as a whole were 'reluctant' to withdraw British troops from Ireland we must still work through the proper channels, ie lobbying councillors etc in order to ensure that a Labour Government pull out the troops. After the speakers there was time to raise questions and discussions. A member of EISC announced the

1/2 October Unity Demonstration and Conference and proposed future joint activities with the LCI. There was no positive response to this - in fact an LCI member tried to disguise their one-party method of work by implying that the EISC was 'only the RCG' although there was not one RCG member present!

Whilst there is no doubt that Ken Livingstone's visit to Edinburgh was very welcome, the actual event failed to take the solidarity movement forward. The loyalists and police won a victory in being handed control of the audience and in being given free rein to harass and intimidate those abandoned by the LCI outside the hall. The actual audience was only 45 or so people out of a potential 200-300 because of this. There was no will to look at the possibilities of uniting all potential support for the Irish right to self-determination - instead there was a concentration of confining work within the narrow limits of the Labour Party.

Lorna Morgan

## FRFI SUPPORTER GROUPS

### ■ EDINBURGH

FRFI Supporters Group meets fortnightly every second Monday. Further details from FRFI Box 40, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

### ■ LEEDS

FRFI Supporters Groups meet every second Thursday: 13, 27 October, 10 November, at Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7, 7.30pm. Further details from FRFI, c/o LAP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2

### ■ STOKE NEWINGTON

For details contact your FRFI seller

### ■ FRFI SUPPORTER GROUPS

FRFI supporters are active in local campaigns, Irish Solidarity Committees, anti-racist campaigns and other political struggles in DUNDEE, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, LEEDS, BRADFORD, SOUTHAMPTON, BRISTOL AND LONDON. If you wish to join us in our activities, help us sell FRFI and help build an anti-imperialist movement, contact your local seller or write to FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

### ■ BRADFORD

Communist Education Programme/FRFI Supporters Group  
1) The Communist Standpoint  
2) Building a Revolutionary Movement in Britain  
3) National Liberation - the Right of Nations to Self-Determination meets monthly. For further details write to: FRFI c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, 6 Edmund St, Bradford 5

### ■ CENTRAL LONDON

FRFI Supporters Group. Next meetings: Sunday 16 October: 'If you want peace, Fight Imperialism' and Sunday 6 November 'Racism and Imperialism'. Contact FRFI sellers for details

## IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

### BRADFORD

Irish Solidarity Committee. For details contact BISC c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, The Left Club, 6 Edmund Street, Bradford.

### DUNDEE

Irish Solidarity Committee - contact FRFI sellers

### TYNESIDE

Action Committee on Ireland meets weekly. For details write to A S King, c/o Porters Lodge, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### GLASGOW

Irish Freedom Action Committee meets weekly. For details write to GIFAC c/o Box 27, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow

### NORTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets on Friday 28 October at Camden Labour Club, Carol St, near Camden Tube at 7.30pm. For details write to NLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

### SOUTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meetings are held at 7.30pm, at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Next meeting Friday 14 October. For details write to SLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

## CALENDAR

### 1984 - YEAR OF THE WOMEN

#### African National Congress

A3 illustrated monthly calendar. 3-colour graphic description of the womens struggle in South Africa with commemorative dates (£4.50 includes p&p UK)

Available from:

African National Congress Womens Section, PO Box 38, 28 Penton Street, London N1

#### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ (number) at £4.50 each (includes p&p) enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques/POs payable to ANC Womens Section (address above)

#### THE COMMUNIST TRADITION ON IRELAND

A series of nine monthly forums organised by the Revolutionary Communist Group:

- 1 Marx and Engels on Ireland Tuesday 26 July 7.30pm
- 2 Ireland - The Right of Nations to Self-Determination Tuesday 6 September 7.30pm
- 3 From Dublin Lockout to Partition 1913-1921 Tuesday 11 October 7.30pm
- 4 Civil Rights Movement and the Rise of the Provisional IRA Tuesday 1 November 7.30pm
- 5 History of the Republican Movement Tuesday 6 December 7.30pm

A further four forums will take place in the new year and will be on the following:

- 6 The Loyalist Working Class
- 7 The British Labour Party and Ireland
- 8 The Prison Struggle
- 9 Communists and the Irish Solidarity Movement

Everyone welcome! Come and take part in the discussion and the work! Admission is 75p per forum or £5 for all nine in advance. Further details from: RCG BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

#### PUBLICATIONS

Peter Wardlaw  
How to Avoid Holocaust II  
£1.35 - Survival Press. add 40p for p&p. Cheques and Postal Orders to Larkin Publications, BCM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX

## AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

### International Bazaar

Saturday October 15th  
Porchester Rd,  
Bayswater, London W2,  
11am - 4pm

Free All South African Political Prisoners!

## EVENTS

### 15 - 21 OCTOBER

#### ■ BRADFORD

Material aid collection for the Namibian people **Victory to SWAPO!** Saturday 15 October outside Boots, Darley St, Bradford 11am-3pm. Called by Bradford Anti-Apartheid

#### ■ LONDON

Picket of Court: **Defend Asela Nanayakara! Defend the right to organise!** Highbury Juvenile Court, Highbury Corner, Monday 17 October 11am. Called by Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign

#### ■ LONDON

Public meeting **Hands Off Namibia! Victory to SWAPO!** Speakers include SWAPO, Namibia Support Committee. Thursday 20 October Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1, 7.30pm. Called by City of London Anti-Apartheid Group

#### ■ EDINBURGH

24 hour picket against Apartheid **Freedom in South Africa! End British Collaboration!** Friday 21 October 8pm-Saturday 22 October 8pm by Wellington Statue, East End Princes Street. All welcome. Called by 24 Hours AA Organising Committee Box 32, First of May Bookshop 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

### 22 - 28 OCTOBER

#### ■ EDINBURGH

Public Meeting **Victory to the ANC! Smash Apartheid! End British Collaboration!** Monday 24 October WEA, Riddle's Court, High St, Edinburgh 7pm. Admission 25p. Called by FRFI

#### ■ NORTH LONDON

Lobby No to Police Consultative Committees! **Crime is not the issue - Racist policing is!** Monday 24 October 6.30pm-8.00pm Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, London E8. Called by Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign

#### ■ NORTH LONDON

Court Picket **Defend Fitzroy Andrew! Drop the Charges Now!** Monday 24 October 10am Snaresbrook Crown Court, London E18 (nearest tube - Snaresbrook (Central Line)). Called by Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign

#### ■ NORTH LONDON

Court Picket **Defend Ace Kelly! Drop the Charges Now! Defend the Right to Organise!** Tuesday 25 October 10.00am Snaresbrook Crown Court London E18 (nearest tube Snaresbrook on the Central Line). Called by Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign

#### ■ SOUTH LONDON

Public Meeting **Victory to the Lebanese People! Imperialism Out Now!** Tuesday 25 October 7.30pm Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2. Admission 20p. Called by South London FRFI

#### ■ LEEDS

Public Forum **Fightback in the Prisons** Thursday 27 October 7.30pm Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7. Organised by FRFI

#### ■ SOUTH LONDON

Committee meeting/Activity meeting Friday 28 October 1983. Meet 6pm George Canning, Tulse Hill, SW2 for estate leafletting followed by 7.30pm-10pm Committee meeting at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

### 29 OCT - 4 NOV

#### ■ LONDON

Public Meeting **The Communist Tradition on Ireland Part 4: 1969-1975 Civil Rights Movement and the Rise of the Provisional IRA** Tuesday 1 November, 1983 7.30pm Camden Labour Club, Carol Street London NW1 (nearest tube - Camden Town) Admission 75p (50p unemployed); £5 for series. Called by Revolutionary Communist Group

#### ■ LONDON

Picket **Boycott Barclays** Wednesday 2 November Barclays Bank, Lombard St (nearest tube Bank) 12.30-2pm. Called by City of London Anti-Apartheid Group

#### ■ LIVERPOOL

Public Forum **Apartheid's occupation of Namibia** AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 7.30pm Wednesday 2 November. Called by Liverpool FRFI

#### ■ BRADFORD

Picket of Barclays Bank **End British Collaboration with Apartheid! Victory to ANC and SWAPO!** Part of AAM National Day of action against Barclays Bank Wednesday 2 November 12.30-2.30pm Barclays Bank Manville Terrace, Bradford 7. Called by Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group

### 5 - 11 NOVEMBER

#### ■ GARTREE PRISON

Picket **Solidarity with Republican Prisoners of War! Troops Out of Ireland Now! Self-Determination for all the Irish People!** Gartree Prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicestershire Sunday 6 November, 1.30pm-3.30pm. Organised by the East Midlands Prison Picket Co-ordinating Committee

#### ■ LONDON

FRFI Forum **Deportations - Britain's Attack on Democratic Rights** Thursday 10 November 1983, 7.30pm Labour and Trades Hall, 94 Dalston Lane. Called by North London Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

#### ■ BRADFORD

Forum **The Communist Tradition on Ireland** A series of monthly forums organised by the RCG. 1. **Marx and Engels on Ireland** Thursday 10 November Room 3, Central Library, 7.30pm

#### ■ DUNDEE

Film Show **'Prisoner of War'** Wishart Centre, King Street, Dundee, 7pm Thursday 10 November. Organised by Dundee ISC

## Police protect racists

Dear FRFI,  
On Friday 16 September I went to get the tube from the Angel, Islington, at 11.15pm. As I was going down the stairs I could hear a terrible noise. On arriving at the station platform I saw a crowd of about 30 young skinheads shouting and brandishing a leather whip which was about 4 foot long. Two black girls were standing at the beginning of the platform obviously frightened out of their wits as about 6 of the skinhead girls, cracking the whip, walked towards them. At this point the train going North arrived and about half of the skinheads got on. The black girls were obviously scared to get on the train but luckily some men getting on the train, on realising a vicious, racist attack was about to take place said they would travel with them to protect them. About 5 minutes later 2 policemen arrived on the scene. Even though the skinheads continued cracking the whip and

shouting the police made no attempt to reprimand them at all. What would they have done if these had been black youths instead of racist thugs? No doubt called for reinforcements and arrested them all prior to charging them with trumped-up charges as seems to be standard practice.

When the train arrived going South I was in the same carriage as the skinheads. A black woman got in the carriage at the next stop and one of the skinheads shouted 'Not another one, why can't they go back to their own country?' and they started singing a song about 'wogs'.

The police are clearly disinterested in trying to stem these racist attacks, so it becomes even more essential that we continue to campaign against their constant injustice, racism and brutality in every way we can.

Sarah  
London

## British justice

Dear FRFI,  
I am writing to tell you of a story printed in a Scottish Newspaper, which your other readers may not be aware of. It involves 2 ex-soldiers who, while drunk, started a fight at a wedding in Inverness and not content with that decided to petrol bomb their opponent's house.

They then flung a petrol bomb through the open window of the supposed victim's house, the house turned out to be the home of a married couple and their kids, endangering their lives. Both these thugs were given suspended sentences of six months due to their excellent army records.

Compare these sentences with sentences given to black youths for only being in possession of petrol bombs and you see where imperialist justice places its racist values.

Andy  
Edinburgh

## Gay rights in prison

Dear FRFI,  
**Access to homosexual newspapers for gay inmates**  
Under recent 'new' prison law (about two years old) which unfortunately is still ignored by many prisons especially 'local' short term prisons and remand centres, there is no legal reason for all homosexual newspapers not to be sent in. But still we are refused access to gay literature. Why?

You will no doubt be aware that it is for the governor to decide, within the constraints of the laid-down standing orders, what periodicals/newspapers are allowed in his prison. Prisoners Are People (PAP) send in gay papers to certain prisons with no trouble, same with most top security (dispersal) prisons. Every prison is different as different governors interpret the loose rule so differently.

Nowadays the most comfortable people in prison seem to be the actual sex-offenders (homosexual and heterosexual) - rapists, and people who grab little boys and girls against their will. They are the people the screws (prison officers) take under their wing and use as lackeys and tea-boys

and when cornered by ODC (ordinary decent crime) say they are merely 'gay' thereby giving the gays a bad name.

I was prompted to launch the campaign after my own experiences in Wymott prison. Whilst in prison I was constantly refused access to gay papers/ Gay News, Mancunian Gay, etc. Surely this is a contravention of prisoners rights (the few they have) and I find this totally unacceptable and would like your support and views on this serious matter which affects all gay inmates.

The recent burst of new gay publications such as 'Gay Reporter and Sequel' shows an awareness of the importance news, ideas and information have in our lives when so much of what we do and say are totally ignored by the straight media. It is essential that gay inmates have access to these new publications.

I am enquiring to know if your readers can help in any way. I am sure gay inmates would be grateful to know that you contributed to the campaign.

Yours faithfully  
David Abdie  
Campaign for Gay-Lit, 13 Japan St, Salford, M8 7HF.

## Prison visit

Dear FRFI,  
When I recently went to Armley Prison, Leeds, I was told that I could not visit an unconvicted prisoner as visits were being limited to every other day. I was informed that this new rule had been introduced because of overcrowding at the prison and because there are so many prisoners on remand. The new ruling is aimed at men who have not been convicted of any offence - they are simply awaiting trial. It's all supposed to improve 'efficiency' - no prizes for guessing what that means!

Obviously the prison will be overcrowded because they exist basically to punish two sets of people: the poor and those who fight back against the poverty and oppression of the imperialist system. And when the prisons become overcrowded who has to suffer? The prisoners who suffer further attacks on their rights. But while the British prison system lasts, there will always be resistance from the prisoners themselves. There will be more protests like Albany and Wormwood Scrubs. We on the 'outside' have a duty to support them.

CT  
Leeds

## RCP Sectarianism

Dear FRFI,  
You have regularly exposed the positions and role of the RCP and shown what disgusting sectarians they are.

I attended the Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group's public meeting on 29 September calling for 'Hands Off Namibia', 'Victory to SWAPO', and the RCP came and exposed themselves. The RCP said that boycotting South African products and boycotting Barclays Bank were a complete waste of time! The black masses of South Africa have stated that the best way we, in Britain, can aid their fight for freedom is to isolate South Africa in every way possible. In the words of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela:

'Every effort to isolate South Africa adds strength to our struggle.'

And even in the words of nazi John Vorster:

'Every time someone buys a South African product is another brick in the wall of our existence.'

The RCP said that he would eat South African fruit! There are 2 sides - those who want to build support for the South African liberation struggle, and those who actually want to destroy support. The RCP go hand in hand with the racist South African regime by opposing and wanting to sabotage the boycott.

He then stated that the best way to oppose apartheid was 'to fight the bosses at home'. By this he means that the masses in South Africa are unable to conduct and fight their own struggle, and the British working class will liberate THEM! This is the typical chauvinist and racist

position of the 57 Varieties of the British Trotskyist left.

Later the RCP said that there were no socialist countries in the world and no fascist countries - he said South Africa wasn't fascist! He can only identify a fascist country if they walk around in Blackshirts and whistle the Horst Wessel Lied!

The RCP are just a radical SWP who will eventually disappear up their own back passages!

Congratulations for producing a superb newspaper which tells you about the real struggles happening in the world and how to build support for those struggles.

Victory to the ANC and SWAPO!  
Yours in the struggle,  
JB  
Bradford

## FRFI is great!

Dear FRFI,  
I wish to state that I think your paper is great. The article on Vietnam in your August issue was particularly interesting how great the Vietnamese are fighting the French colonialists and then the US and then the Chinese aggressors. The articles on the brutal occupation of Northern Ireland by the British army which has no right in that country with its murder of innocent Catholic citizens. The article on the Pope was also I find interesting exposing the Vatican for what it is!!! Carry on with your great work!! I look forward to the next issue of FRFI.  
Fraternally  
AHH Knott

## FUND DRIVE

### SEPTEMBER: £527.58

Success again! We reached above the £500 we need to keep FRFI at 20 pence. This pushed the 1983 FRFI Fund Drive up to £4221.91 and the monthly average to £469. It is the result of hard work by FRFI supporters organising fundraising events and collecting in the streets. This money comes from people whose wage, social security, dole or pension goes a shorter way each week as the year goes by, but who know if FRFI continues to reach those who will lead the fightback they too will benefit.

Thanks to John Holloway for his £5 and the other individual supporters who contributed £21.37. The list of FRFI Supporter Groups is led this time by South London with £136.23 followed very closely by Edinburgh with £132.40; then come North London with £101.21, Liverpool £40.32, Manchester £33.80, Leeds £33, Bradford £16.44 and Dundee £7.81.

Let's keep this up, because FRFI defends the rights of the poor, the unemployed, the most oppressed. FRFI aims to involve more people in building an anti-imperialist movement. It can succeed only if its message reaches those who stand up for their rights and want to join the organised fightback against injustice and oppression. It can succeed only with your help. Act now by subsidising FRFI! Send us your donation or hand it in to your FRFI seller. Organise fundraising events - jumble sales, socials, collections.

We will publish all contributions in this column. If you want your name or your organisation mentioned alongside the donation please say so.

Make your donation payable to 'Larkin Publications' and return to: FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

I/we want to donate £\_\_\_\_\_ to the FRFI Fund.

Name/Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I do/do not want you to mention my name/organisation

## More distress for unemployed private tenants

Dear FRFI,  
I am an unemployed private tenant in the Borough of Camden. The Town Hall sends me a 3 month booklet of 6 fortnightly post-dated cheques. My rent has to be paid a month in advance.

Last month, my last cheque covered only two weeks' rent. When I rang up the Town Hall I was told that the cheques were ready but would not reach me until the 19th (a week later) as they could not be sorted out individually; all cheques to all claimants would be posted in one mail. This rigid bureaucratic arrangement meant that I had to borrow 2 weeks' rent money to pay on time. When I argued the case with the Housing Benefit Division, I was simply told: 'Why don't you explain this to your landlord?'

I then raised the question of the registration of 'fair' rents. I was concerned to learn that the Town Hall do not interfere to prevent excessive increases. They are not interested in helping private tenants to obtain a 'fair' registered rent. They say they will pay the increase. But what happens if the rent goes up by 50%? Would the tenant have to

leave her/his accommodation should she/he find a job with a salary not 'reasonable' enough to cover the newly registered rent? Well, I have been fighting the rent officer's assessment since June but still have to appear before a rent assessment committee in mid-October. In all, six months' hassle for a 2 year registration!

Four years ago, I thought the way out was to put my name down for a council flat; two years had elapsed when I enquired about my place on the list, explaining that I could no longer stand the landlord's regular harassment and the poor maintenance of the building. I was flatly told: 'You are not eligible for a council flat, you have suitable accommodation, but try the GLC.' The GLC gives three options. I visited two dilapidated flats, windows broken, etc., not fit for human occupation - and I called it a day...

It looks as if I shall have to put up with the landlord's harassment and keep up my fights with the rent officer and the bureaucrats of the Town Hall.

Yours in struggle,  
Colette Lévy  
NW3

## Keep up the good work

Dear FRFI  
Keep up your good work speaking out against Brit oppression in the Six Counties. The Brits have been getting very arrogant and confident lately because of their 'super-grass' policy which has resulted in the imprisonment of many Irish men and women. But the Great Escape at Long Kesh was a great blow to them. I salute the tremendous daring, and courage of the patriots who re-gained their freedom on Sunday. Hopefully they won't fall into the hands of the Brits again or the Free State quislings.

The Brits will never beat the Irish Nation into submission. We are winning. We are now in the final phase of the struggle which has lasted for 800 years. I look forward to the day when Ireland will be free, and united. Tíocfaidh ár lá - our day will come. Victory to the Irish People Victory to the Irish Republican Army  
JL  
Wembley

## BECOME A FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

If you are willing to help the work which FRFI is doing, become an FRFI supporter.

We need more people to sell FRFI and to involve others in the fightback. We need more people writing for FRFI about their local struggles and campaigns.

Fill in your name and address on the form below, and send £5. You will receive a supporter card, a year's subscription to FRFI and details of all our activities in your area and nationally. (Postal orders and cheques payable to Larkin Publications)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form to Larkin Publications BCM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX

# HANDS OFF IRELAND

## Informers

# RUC raid West Belfast

The early hours of Tuesday 6 September saw the dawn arrests of 15 West Belfast republicans by the RUC acting on the 'information' of Robert Lean. The RUC immediately launched a series of leaks to the media and British Army/RUC roadblocks dramatically increased in Republican areas in an attempt to intimidate and demoralise the people. Further arrests took place. Eventually 16 people, 14 men and 2 women were charged solely on the word of Robert Lean.

Lean has been granted immunity in respect of charges he faced arising from statements made by another informer William John Skelly. During the week following the emergence of Lean as an informer, the British Army maintained a heavy presence in West Belfast, raiding houses in Andersonstown and Ballymurphy, kicking down doors and attempting to intimidate nationalists.

### PICKET THE COURTS

The Resistance of the nationalist people was shown the following Monday 12 September when over 40 relatives and friends of men charged on the evidence of Kevin McGrady mounted a 2-hour picket outside Crumlin Road Court-house. Inside, informer Kevin McGrady started giving evidence at the resumed trial of 10 men who face 45 charges against them. McGrady, who is currently serving 3 life sentences, had a Road-to-Damascus type conversion at the hands of a right-wing religious sect in Holland and subsequently made a deal with the RUC who apparently offered the liberty of his brother, serving a life sentence for murder, and McGrady's own early release in return for turning informer.

This strategy received a setback on Wednesday 5 October when Lord Lowry, Northern Ireland's Chief Justice, was forced to dismiss 16 out of 45 charges against the 10 men. Two men, John Fitzpatrick and Anthony McIntyre, were cleared of membership of the IRA, and murder charges against



Brian Davidson, Peter McKierman and James Gibney were dropped. Lord Lowry was forced to admit that he found 'evidence to be unsatisfactory and inconsistent'. He also admitted that his comments must have a bearing on remaining counts where the Crown was relying solely on McGrady's evidence.

It is clear that the campaign against the use of informers is already beginning to crack this phase of British strategy against the resistance of the nationalist people. The campaign will continue in support of the 22 nationalists implicated by John Grimley. On 13 September they appeared in court facing 98 charges and a 50 strong picket was held in their support.

And no personal property of any prison officer was to be interfered with. During Monday and Tuesday four other escapees were recaptured in the Castlewellan area of County Down but the remaining 19 had still escaped security cordons and widespread searches by 8 October.

The neo-colonial Dublin government gave full support to the British security forces by mobilising 3 Army battalions and the Gardaí Special Task Force to carry out house raids and roadblocks on the southern side of the border. Republican sources in Belfast reported that 17 of the 19 men still free had reached the Free State by 5 October and that arrangements were being made to get them out of the country. As shown in the case of Gerry Tuite (1980) and the Crumlin Road escapees (1981) the Free State, loyal to its master British imperialism, will not hesitate to jail any of the escapees it can catch.

While the British were humiliated by 19 IRA Volunteers really 'on the run' the nationalist people of the Six Counties celebrated the daring great escape of their people's army as a victory to support the growing campaign against the informer and show trial strategy outside Long Kesh/Armagh. No amount of repression, or super-grasses, will break the resistance of the Irish people.

Frank Coughlan

### RUC BRAINWASHING

Another man, Patrick McGurk, who according to the RUC agreed to testify against 9 men, 5 of whom have been on remand for 19 months, has not been in contact with his family since he himself was arrested in February 1982. The trial

washed him enough yet!

In the case of RUC paid informer Raymond Gilmour whose father Patrick Gilmour was released by the IRA on Monday 26 September, the IRA issued the following statement:

'It is obvious that his son, Raymond, has been brainwashed beyond compassion for the heart-break and broken homes he is causing in Derry on behalf of the British. It is also obvious that while we could use the arrest of Mr Gilmour as pressure on his son, there was no way we could ultimately hold him responsible for the actions of Raymond.'

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein elected representative for Derry, in response to the release of Patrick Gilmour said:

'All Britain's previous attempts to destroy Irish resistance have failed. A mass movement to end show trials and paid perjurers must be mobilised immediately.'

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! echoes that demand and urges all communists, anti-imperialists and democrats to join together in condemning the corrupt use of informers in the Six Counties.

Pauline Sellars

of the 9 has been repeatedly postponed giving rise to fears from McGurk's family that something has happened to him at the hands of the RUC, or, in the words of his sister, 'they have not brain-

## Abortion Referendum

# CARNIVAL OF REACTION

On Wednesday 7 September, after months of anti-abortion hysteria and at a cost of more than 1 million pounds, the people of the 26 Counties went to the polls to vote on an amendment to the constitution relating to abortion. Abortion is illegal in the Free State and this amendment not only confirms this illegality but also acknowledges 'the right to life of the unborn'. Only 53.67% of the population turned out - 1 million people did not vote. With a 2 to 1 vote in favour of the amendment the measure was passed with the support of little more than 1/3 of the electorate.

The pro and anti amendment arguments had dominated the press and media during the run-up to the referendum in an effort to divert the people's attention from the rising unemployment, poverty and soaring prices which are threatening the economic stability of the Free State government. The day before the vote, the *Irish Times*, whilst devoting 2 1/2 pages to the referendum debate gave only half a column to the latest unemployment figures of 193,929, a staggering 20.67% rise in 12 months.

### FREE STATE HYPOCRISY

Whilst 'protecting' the right to life of the unborn, the 26 County government and its allies ignore the lack of rights of working class women. It is virtually impossible for working class women to obtain contraceptives or family planning advice. The few Family Planning

Clinics that do exist face closure as a result of the amendment. Gardaí visited one of the two Well Woman Centres in Dublin the day before the vote threatening prosecution for the sale of condoms. There is no divorce, although it is possible to obtain an annulment from the pope if you have money and influence. Working class women face the stigma of being classified as a 'deserted wife' with a meagre state allowance, and 1 in 7 children of these women will be taken into Health Board care. When faced with an unwanted pregnancy women are forced to either bring that child up in poverty or, if they can somehow afford it, become one of the estimated 20,000 who travel to Britain every year for an abortion. As Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein president said, politically the referendum 'would do nothing to deal with all the pressures that force women to have abortions.'

### ARMAGH STRIP SEARCHES

Strip searching of women prisoners in Armagh gaol is continuing. This barbaric practice - 'standard practice' the Governor calls it - is used to humiliate and degrade the prisoners by forcing them to stand naked in front of the screws. When women have refused to be searched they have been set upon by both male and female screws and their clothes are forcibly removed.



The prisoners in Armagh issued a statement in September which called the searches 'immoral, degrading and sordid'. It said, 'these weekly ordeals are having a profound and shattering effect on Republican remand prisoners who are bearing the brunt of this policy. They live in dread from one week to the next of the search procedure'.

FRFI urges all readers to take action by writing to those responsible and demanding the immediate cessation of this British terror tactic:

The Northern Ireland Office, London SW1.  
William Gray

## GREAT ESCAPE

continued from page 1

gate. A warder arriving for duty recognised one of the prisoners and blocked the main gate with his car. A hand to hand battle around the gate then took place with one warder being fatally stabbed and another shot in the leg.

With the gate open 38 IRA men made their dash for freedom in small groups. 15 escapees were recaptured by Sunday night and the RUC and warders exacted savage revenge by beatings. Local people witnessed four escapees who lay down in a field after shots were fired over their heads being beaten with batons by the RUC. Volunteer Harry Murray was shot in the leg by a British soldier while running from the gate. Scores of prisoners have been beaten. Captured escapees were forced to run a gauntlet. 17 were bitten by dogs. Personal property was strewn around and damaged. Some prisoners were stripped naked, dragged across gravel and beaten. In sharp contrast to this, the IRA Volunteers were under strict orders not to mistreat or humiliate prison officers. No prison officer was to be injured unless it was unavoidable.



The amendment debate has united the forces of reaction in the 26 Counties - state politicians, church hierarchy, right wing secret organisations (Knights of St Columbanus and Opus Dei), Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child and a neo-nazi group which has links with the National Front (UK). These organisations uphold 'the right to life of the unborn', yet ignore the misery of 'life' for the working class in the South and condone and support the murder and torture of Irish people in the North by the British Army and the RUC. The Nationalist people of the 6 Counties, faced with the brutality of the British State, have expressed amazement that the referendum could be the subject of so much political energy. Indeed, in one article, it was said that were it not for the referendum 'the *Irish Times* would have little else to write about'. That is, no excuse to divert attention from conditions of life in the South and the war of liberation in the North.

The abortion referendum has been nothing more than a cover-up, strengthening the forces of reaction in the Free State and creating an excuse to divert attention from the revolutionary struggle against British Imperialism.

Alexa Byrne  
Pauline Sellars