

FIGHT RACISM!

FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

Anti-imperialist paper of the Revolutionary Communist Group

Issue No 42 September 1984 Price 20p



MINERS STRIKE

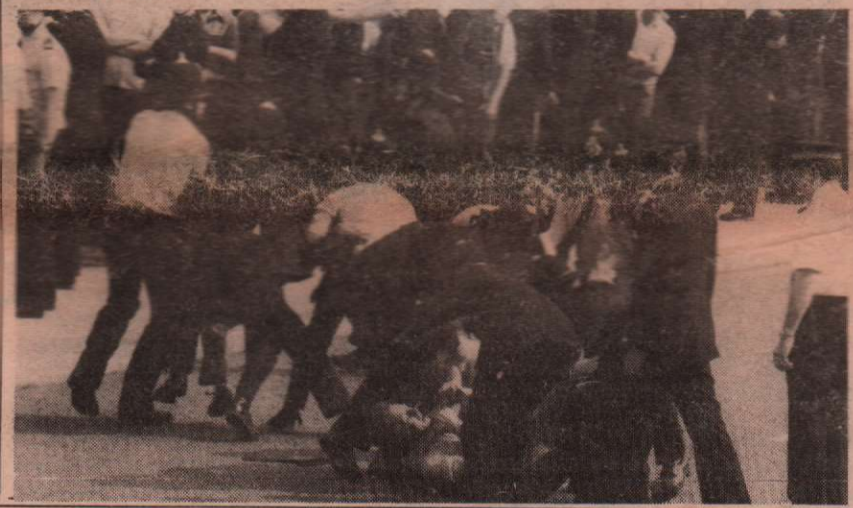
New lessons New allies

After six months of the miners strike panic is gripping the leaders of the Labour and trade union movement. These staunch upholders of the old order are terrified that their carefully built institutions, based on years of treacherous compromise with the ruling class, could be blown apart if the miners strike continues outside their control. For the irreconcilable divisions in the NUM and mining communities, between the striking miners and the scabs, are now mirrored throughout the labour and trade union movement as workers are necessarily forced to take sides. The threat of public exposure of these divisions at the annual Trades Union Congress and Labour Party conferences in September and October has only increased the determination of the labour movement leaders to bring Arthur Scargill and the striking miners to heel.

From the beginning, in order to defend their strike, the miners have had to go way beyond the legal, constitutional and traditional methods of trade union struggle. Mass picketing, occupations and sit-ins, barricades, bricks and petrol bombs, sabotage and hit squads have been the miners response to the state violence and repression launched against their strike. Inevitably the miners, forced to fight in this way against the British imperialist machinery of terror, are identifying their struggle with that of the oppressed who have already taken on the same enemy. For the first time in decades a section of politically conscious workers are identifying their struggle with the revolutionary struggle of the Irish people for freedom. Little wonder that the same Labour and trade union leaders who have fully backed British terror in Ireland and who have ignored the British state's brutal and racist attack on black people, should now be determined to get the miners strike under their deadly control.

NO MORE BLOODY SUNDAYS

On 12 August 1984 the RUC launched a terrible and savage attack on the anti-internment march in Belfast. They surrounded the peaceful rally at the end of the march with Saracen armoured cars, armed British soldiers and hundreds of armed RUC men. Then as Martin Galvin, the banned Noraid speaker appeared, the RUC attacked, driving their seven ton Saracens into the crowd, clubbing and beating people and firing plastic bullets directly at people as they took cover or ran. For twenty minutes they continued to beat, chase and fire at people. One young man, Sean Downes, was killed and dozens more injured. Supporters of FRFI and the ISM were on the march and witnessed the RUC attack.



TUC - THE KISS OF JUDAS

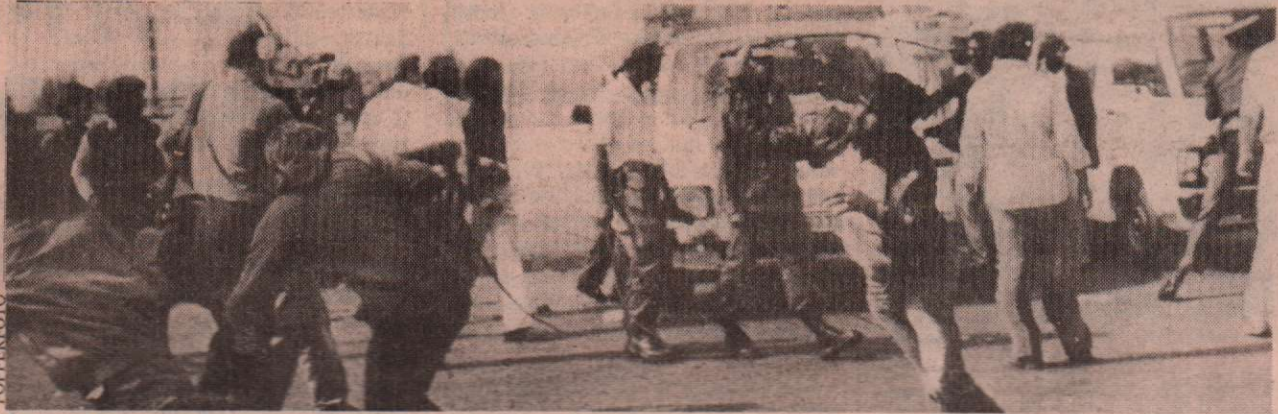
The weeks prior to the TUC conference have been marked by unusually hectic activity from trade union leaders devoted to a single end: that of ensuring that Scargill and the NUM do not make a direct appeal to trade unionists over the heads of their leaders. For such an appeal would expose the deep divisions in the conference. The media has faithfully recorded the anxiety and fears of trade union leaders like Murray, Bassett, Duffy, Chapple and Sirs. Talk of the conference 'splitting', of it being 'hijacked' by the miners, of 'chaotic scenes' and even of 'mass violence' from miners inside and outside the conference hall in Brighton, have been used to pressurise the NUM to water down its demands on the TUC. With the prospect of 20,000 miners lobbying the conference Len Murray even took the unprecedented step of meeting with the Chief Constable of Sussex to discuss police tactics - such as whether to use police dogs.

The miners demands were for simple trade union solidarity: a 10p a week levy from all trade unionists, the declaration that no one should cross a miners picket line and a ban on the movement of scab coal. These demands, though simple, pose an obvious threat to the unity of a conference whose leaders and members have shown themselves to be deeply divided over support for the miners cause. The threat of total isolation of the NUM, coming from both 'left' and 'right' trade union leaders, has led to NUM leaders accepting a compromise series of demands. The 10p levy has been

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BLOODY SUNDAY '84
Eyewitness reports and photos
pages 12,13 and 16

BOYCOTT VICTORY



Nationwide resistance in South Africa to elections fraud

The United Democratic Front (UDF) has scored a significant political victory over PW Botha's racist apartheid regime. In the past year, the UDF has succeeded in mobilising hundreds of thousands of people in opposition to Botha's phoney constitutional 'reforms', whereby 'Coloured' and Indian people have been granted the vote to elect 'Coloured' and Indian members of a new three-chamber segregated parliament, with the 'White' chamber in total control. The Black majority, 22 million people, continue meanwhile to be denied the vote. The extremely low turn-out in the elections held on 22 and 28 August was in recognition that the new constitution serves no other function than to further entrench apartheid.

Indian chambers were marked by increased brutal repression as well as intensified militancy from the oppressed. Revolutionary black youth have been in the forefront of the struggle. Thousands of black students in schools and universities throughout South Africa have been boycotting their classes for months on end. Their peaceful protest has been met with brute force by the fascist police who have used plastic bullets, teargas, sjamboks, whips and dogs and against them. In the past few weeks at least two black youth have been murdered by plastic bullets. Mass rallies of the UDF, attended by thousands of people, in the run up to the elections were often viciously attacked

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The RUC committed cold-blooded murder. And for once their crimes were televised and witnessed by millions of people. Some of the press reported the scenes accurately, perhaps because this time journalists were themselves violently attacked by RUC men. The savagery of the RUC and their blatant disregard for their own rules concerning the use of plastic bullets surprised the journalists present. It did not surprise the Irish people who have seen 15 people, including seven children, murdered by these lethal weapons.

The guilt for the 12 August bloodbath does not rest with the RUC alone. They had been ordered by James Prior and the Tory government to prevent Galvin from speaking at all costs. The British government banned Galvin in order to prevent his condemnation of British rule in Ireland being heard by people in Britain and the USA. And to enforce this unjust and undemocratic ban required murder. The 12 August events prove once again that the enforcement of British rule in Ireland is possible only by terror and murder.

The British government took rapid action to counteract the blaze of publicity which followed 12 August. James Prior, shortly to retire from his post as Northern Ireland Secretary, returned from his farm to engage in public breast-

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The 'Coloured' Labour Party of Rev Allan Hendrickse was elected on a 30% poll, by only 18% of the 1.5 million eligible voters. In several constituencies in the Cape peninsula the poll was less than 5%. One Labour Party candidate

'won' his seat with 118 votes, in a 4.14% poll, and he now secures a £25,000 a year job plus perks. The Indian elections saw an even lower turn-out of no more than 15% of eligible voters. The elections to the 'Coloured' and

THE PAVEMENT IS OURS!
Victory outside South African embassy centre pages

dropped and replaced by 'a concerted campaign to raise money...'. While trade unionists will be asked not to cross NUM official pickets or use scab coal or fuels, the implementation of this now requires 'detailed discussions with the General Council and agreement with unions who would be directly concerned'. These concessions to reactionary sections of the trade union movement will not advance the miners position even if they may serve to temporarily paper over the cracks at the conference. On the eve of conference right-wing trade union leaders are already making it clear that they will take their opposition to the deal into the conference hall. The divisions in the trade union movement are all too real and cannot be papered over, as the second dock strike within two months has shown.

The first dock strike called at the beginning of July, after coal had been unloaded for the British Steel Corporation (BSC) at Immingham by non-registered dock labour, soon ended on 23 July after a compromise formula had been agreed and as a result of pressures from dockers in non-registered ports, especially Dover. The second dock strike called after BSC's decision to unload coal from the *Ostia* in Hunterston, again using non-registered dock labour, has demonstrated the deep divisions among dockers in the TGWU. While all twelve dock labour scheme ports in Scotland are on strike and most of those in England and Wales, crucial ports like Dover and Felixstowe are working. The voting at Dover was only 6 out of 488 in favour of a strike. And at Felixstowe where the average wage of 1,532 employees last year was £13,507, only 5 out of 900 supported a strike. A scab branch secretary in Great Yarmouth stated a widely held position of those dockers still working.

'We have helped the miners in the past with money but we draw a line at this. The talk about scab labour is just an excuse. This is a political strike. We shall work and we shall cross picket lines if we have to.'

Despite the fact that a victory for the miners would be an enormous step forward for the whole working class, the steel workers, power workers and many dockers have chosen to put their narrow sectional interests before those of the working class as a whole. Concessions to such reactionary trade unionists will hold back the future development of a real fighting trade union movement.

STATE VIOLENCE VS WORKERS VIOLENCE

With the breakdown of the last round of talks between the NCB and the miners on 17 July, the NCB has devoted its energies to creating a 'back-to-work' movement in an effort to break the strike. Enormous police operations have been mounted to get scabs through picket lines. 1,000 police were used to get 2 scabs into Gascoigne Wood, Yorkshire, on 17 August. It took five days for police to get one scab, Paul Wilkinson, through barricades and mass pickets into Easington Colliery, Durham on 24 August, and then only by sneaking him in through a back door. Miners responded by throwing bricks, smashing 71 windows of the Easington NCB offices and overturning cars. Police mount round-the-clock guards on scabs' homes and protect meetings organised by scab leaders, such as Chris Butcher (alias Silver Birch) whose activities have been magnified out of all proportion by the NCB and media. In reality the back-to-work movement in solid strike areas was, according to the NCB itself, on 20 August only 160 miners out of 110,000 (0.15 per cent). Even this figure is disputed by the NUM who suggest that the NCB is so desperate to make its case that it is 'counting the pit cat and the fleas'. The NCB has also tried to add to the pressure on striking miners by closing pit faces which they claim are in a dangerous condition and sacking some miners convicted of picketing offences.

Far from undermining the strike, these measures and the police-protected

'back-to-work' movement have strengthened the determination of the striking miners. Mass picketing has been stepped up in all areas and miners are finding new forms of resistance to combat the increased violence and intimidation of the police.

Riot police were used for the first time in Nottinghamshire in Warsop on 13 August. Miners and their cars were attacked by police using batons, police cars were driven into miners cars. Brute force was used to drive pickets out of Warsop three hours before the shift even began. On that day alone, in a small area, police turned back 800 cars in Derbyshire and 600 cars with 3,000 pickets in Notts. On 15 August Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, was sealed off by 1,000 police who also closed four miles of the A18. Police have launched violent attacks in the Armthorpe area, Yorkshire. One young miner Adrian Simpson was put in intensive care in Doncaster Hospital as a result of injuries sustained whilst in police custody. His injuries included a broken jaw, lost teeth, injured arm, broken knuckles and injuries to the back of the head. This is in the same area where on 22 August police sealed off the area and halted bus services. Police in riot gear charged through

Transport depot near Mansfield in which nine vehicles were set alight and six completely destroyed. On 5 August - a raid on a transport depot at South Normanton near Mansfield was claimed by an anonymous caller to Radio Nottingham saying he was from the South Nottinghamshire hit squad. He said the raid was part of a campaign against NCB property and the homes of working miners - especially members of the Notts Working Miners Committee. On 7 August - 200 pickets attacked an NCB transport depot and caused £4,000 of damage in 3 minutes, smashing the windows of 15 lorries and a coach. The same night 60 men attacked the Doncaster NCBHQ, 500 men attacked Silverhill Colliery, Notts, damaging 18 working miners' cars and smashing all office windows. 1,000 men at Harworth pit smashed windows and attacked cars - 59 were arrested and charged with 'unlawful assembly and threatening behaviour'. Nine police were injured, three seriously. Next day mounted police were used at Harworth and a further 95 were arrested. On 12 August five NCB coaches being fitted with grilles at an engineering works in Notts were totally gutted by fire.

On 15 August Welsh and Notts min-

what the position of Mr Scargill is in this very highly organised orchestration'.

MacGregor received support from the extreme right-wing trade union leader Frank Chapple for his view that there was a conspiracy to create violence in the miners strike. He stopped short of stating that Scargill should be prosecuted but felt it necessary to state that Scargill was a 'raging egomaniac' and a 'big-headed loud-mouthed bigot'. So much for trade union solidarity.

The attack on workers violence has not been confined to right wing trade union leaders and capitalist hatchet men. Labour Party leader Kinnock was eager to disassociate himself from acts of workers violence, describing them as 'horrific' and 'playing Maggie's game'. 'Violence' he said, 'is no part of British trade unionism'. This is simply a lie. As an historical fact the most militant period of the British working class movement was the time of the Chartist movement in the 1840s. Workers defended themselves against police violence with staves and firearms, they attacked police stations and burned down the houses of those who administered the Poor Law. Similar working class violence was used to defend trade unionism before the First

the Six Counties of Ireland and against black people in racist South Africa, they had yet:

'to draw the political conclusion that to defend themselves they must stand in solidarity with these struggles against the British imperialist state' (FRFI 40)

Only three months later miners and some of their leaders are now arguing exactly this point. Speaking at a demonstration for British withdrawal from Ireland, Malcolm Pitt President of Kent NUM, stated on 18 August:

'The people of Ireland and the British miners and the British working class are locked in struggle with the same enemy but on different fronts...'

And we have to be honest. As a Labour Movement we often turned our backs, but now we are experiencing the same tactics and we have learnt the lesson, we will remember, and we will stand with all oppressed people against this sort of harassment in the future.'

Speaking at an Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee meeting protesting against the murder of Sean Downes by the RUC on Bloody Sunday 12 August in Belfast, a Fife miner said



MINERS STRIKE

NEW LESSONS, NEW ALLIES



JOHN HARRIS/IFL

the village chasing pickets. Local women opened doors to let pickets into safety and police broke down doors and dragged pickets out and beat them. An 84 year old woman was injured. The press were refused entry to the area.

The number of arrests is well over 6,000 and is rising rapidly. One miner has already been sentenced to 9 months in gaol. More can be expected as special mobile highly-paid magistrates have been urgently drafted into mining areas. Over 2,000 miners have been injured. It is in response to this level of state violence and police support for the scabs that the striking miners have stepped up their fightback meeting state violence with workers violence.

The most striking aspect has been the development of the surprise raids by hit squads of miners doing extensive damage to NCB property and transport. Attacks have included the following: 29 July - an arson attack on the E&J Meeks

occupied the offices of Price Waterhouse in Birmingham. They are the accountants empowered by the High Court to seize Welsh NUM funds after the NUM had refused to pay a £50,000 fine for contempt of court for picketing scab lorries which were delivering coal to the Port Talbot steel works. More recently South Wales miners have taken direct action to block coal supplies to Welsh steel works. On 30 August they seized a transporter bridge and used it to prevent ships passing up the River Usk, Newport. 80 miners simultaneously occupied a BSC jetty at Port Talbot and climbed onto cranes being used to unload coal. When police surrounded the area the miners pelted them with stones and scaffolding poles. Whilst the ruling class and the media have raised a furore about strikers' violence they take a different attitude to violence by scabs. On 6 July a scab fired a shot gun out of his house at strikers. The police said this was the right thing to do. Whilst he was not charged, the pickets were.

Scargill has been taunted and beseeched by the media to condemn the miners violence, but time after time he has refused. Calling the pickets 'magnificent' and saying he took a 'class stand' he said he was not willing, in any circumstances 'to condemn the brave men and women whose only crime is fighting for the right to work'. He received a standing ovation for this from miners' wives at a rally on 11 August. So frustrated is MacGregor at Scargill's principled stand that he suggested on 21 August that Scargill was involved in an 'orchestrated conspiracy'.

'If you have people creating riots somebody has got to be behind that. I believe that in due course the justice of this country should take cognisance of what has been going on. I see evidence of an orchestrated conspiracy... the authorities should examine

imperialist war. That Kinnock condemns workers violence is not surprising. He is the leader of a party which has directed state violence against oppressed peoples throughout the world and against black people in Britain.

While Kinnock covers up his attack on workers violence by saying they are playing into the hands of Prime Minister Thatcher, the Socialist Workers Party covers up its attack on miners hit squads by saying 'such raids can give trade union officials an excuse not to deliver solidarity' (*Socialist Worker* 11 August 1984). In a disgusting attack on miners resistance through hit squads to attempts by the police, the NCB and scabs to break the strike, they say:

'we are... opposed to individuals or groups using violence as a substitute for mass struggle. That's why we oppose planting bombs, assassinating politicians and criticise some of the miners 'hit squads'' (*Socialist Worker* 25 August 1984)

Terrified of the revolutionary violence of the oppressed, *Socialist Worker* goes to absurd lengths to tell us that we should only support violence when large numbers are involved. What an unreal world the writers of *Socialist Worker* live in. How else do they think that miners, denied the right to picket and travel, placed on curfew, besieged by police, are to fight back? Nor are these actions divorced from the mass struggle as *Socialist Worker* tries to argue - they obviously complement it.

MINERS RESISTANCE - NEW LESSONS, NEW ALLIES

Three months into the miners strike FRFI argued that whilst miners were drawing comparisons between the police operation against the miners and that against the nationalist minority in

of his experience at Orgreave:

'It is these such forces the Irish people have fought against for fifteen years and now the miners are faced with similar attacks. When this dispute is won the Irish people must not be left to fight alone.'

Inevitably in such a determined and courageous struggle like that of the miners, former friends are exposed as treacherous enemies as divisions in the working class continue to widen. However, this process is a necessary one. It is laying the basis for rebuilding the working class movement as a fighting force. As old alliances are destroyed by the struggle so are new and more reliable ones formed. It is this aspect of the miners strike that paves the way for the future - the recognition that British workers have a common interest in uniting with the oppressed everywhere to destroy the common enemy: British imperialism. Real allies of the miners are to be found among the nationalist people fighting for freedom in Ireland, among the black masses fighting against the British-backed apartheid state in South Africa, and among black people fighting the racist British state here in Britain. These developments show that some British trade unionists are at last breaking with the imperialist traditions that have dominated the British Labour and trade union movement since its foundation.

Victory to the miners!
Olivia Adamson, David Reed,
Maxine Williams

Stop Press

The compromise motion drawn up for the TUC Conference on 3 September was passed overwhelmingly. The cracks were temporarily papered over. The heat was temporarily turned down. There were no riots outside the Conference Hall or battles on the Congress floor. Only 4-5,000 gathered outside. Half-an-hour before the debate began new talks between the NCB and NUM were announced. The scabs led by Eric Hammond (EEPTU) made an ineffective appearance, were booed - they continue to scab. The AUEW could now 'support' the miners as they have been drawn back into the TUC fold. Meanwhile, the pickets and the arrests go on - 36 on 3 September in Kent alone. The much heralded 'back-to-work' movement of the 3 September failed to materialise and miner's pickets threw petrol bombs at Kiverton Park Colliery in South Yorkshire as masses of police enabled a few scabs to get to work.

South African - British miners

One struggle against imperialism

The miners in Britain and black South African miners are fighting the same enemy - a system which cares only for profit and nothing for those who produce that profit. Anger at their pay and conditions of work amongst 690,000 black African mineworkers and the growing strength of the (South African) National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has led to recent strikes and the possibility of a national strike in racist South Africa. Such a strike would both challenge the heart of South Africa's economy and illustrate for all to see the shared interests of South African and British workers against a common enemy: British imperialism.

Pay and conditions of work

South African black mineworkers are in general confined to single sex hostels, first designed by the British, walking from these compounds to work. They work a six day week of 10 hour shifts, which is often extended to 13 hours due to the considerable time it takes to travel from the compound to the pit face.

Average wages for underground workers are £35 per week - approximately one fifth of white miners wages. The lowest paid get only £15 per week. At least 800 miners are killed every year and 18,000 seriously injured. This does not include the thousands who die prematurely from occupational diseases such as silicosis and tuberculosis (TB). A survey in the Transkei bantustan in 1976 showed that 25% of migrant mineworkers had TB. Furthermore a Commission reporting to the racist parliament in 1982 declared that 'the incidence of occupational diseases connected with the mines was expected to rise'. In one recent incident alone at Anglo-American's Western Deep mine 74 miners died. As *Workers Unity*, the paper of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) points out, it is not appropriate to describe such events as accidents when the chief safety engineer of the company says that 'production is more important than safety'. There is only one inspector employed in South Africa to inspect the conditions of all 690,000 workers!

Miners organise

Such barbaric exploitation can only be guaranteed through the use of armed force. Whilst miners in Britain are beginning to experience the heavy arm of the state, for South African miners it is a way of life. During the last great period of strikes, 1973-1976, 178 black strikers were killed by state forces. In spite of this, black miners have continually organised and reorganised.

Trade unions which were long banned for black workers are now legal in certain conditions. The decision to legalise those unions registered with the state was a result of the growing militancy of the miners and an attempt to buy off a more privileged section of the workers. The evidence of the past 2 years points to their failure in this. Those unions which were established and started recruiting with the encouragement of the employers, have shown little success in terms of membership, and, predictably, no fight. The NUM on the other hand, which is leading the opposition to the Chamber of Mines current pay offer of 14% (it is demanding 25%) has grown massively in the same period. Whilst it claimed a membership of 18,000 in March 1983, today it is estimated at 70,000. Its first conference in December 1982 rejected registration, affiliation to union confederations which included white racist unions, rejected the Chamber of Mines conditions for recognition

and agreed to oppose all forms of job reservation and unfair labour practices aimed at dividing workers.

Evidence of the growing organisation of the miners is both the strike in 1982 of 30,000 miners and more recently strikes in late June and early July of this year. In one strike in Vryheid in Natal one miner was murdered and 6 seriously injured by white vigilantes encouraged by police who had been using tear gas against the strikers to keep them out of white areas.

The British connection

This repression of the workers means super profits for those who invest in apartheid South Africa. In 1980 50% of the assets of the 7 largest South African mining houses were owned by British and US imperialism. As Arthur Scargill has pointed out during the current strike, South Africa is the only country in the world to produce cheaper deep-mined coal than Britain.

It is during the strike that workers here have begun to see the direct importance to their lives of Britain's exploitation abroad in such countries as South Africa. Whilst Britain used to produce some 400 million tonnes of coal per year, today it produces 121m tonnes. In the last 12 years alone production has decreased by 17% as more and more reliance is placed on oil, nuclear power and imported coal. In the same period South Africa has increased its production by 153%:

Production of steam coal in million tonnes

	1970	1982	% change
Britain	145	121	- 17
South Africa	55	139	+ 153

This enormous change has nothing to do with reserves of coal available - estimates of British reserves have increased during this period whilst some South African mines are as deep as 12,000 feet - but is due to profitability. Indeed, in this lunatic capitalist world, South Africa is the only country to produce coal at a profit.

The exports of coal and other minerals to Western nations are vital to racist South Africa's economy. They export 80% of all their minerals: mining accounts for over 70% of their export earnings. Coal itself is playing a gradually more important part in this - during the period 1977-1982 South African exports of coal more than doubled.

In this context, it is worth noting that a recent study by the government's Policy Studies Institute advocated for 'reasons of security and anti monopolistic nature' that British coal should steadily be replaced by foreign coal with imports being increased to 30m tonnes per year (currently 4m tonnes). Already new coastal facilities for handling imports are being constructed and some are being used by scabs against the miners strike.

Trade and investment by British imperialism in South Africa is being used as a weapon to attack British workers. British workers have a direct interest in supporting the call for the complete economic and political isolation of the apartheid regime. When Kent miners dumped South African coal on the steps of the South African Embassy in protest at the visit of Botha, South African Prime Minister, in June they showed their unity of interests with the black workers of South Africa. Though this act was only small, its significance was great.

British miners/South African miners

One struggle - one fight!

Chris Fraser

continued from page 1

BOYCOTT VICTORY

by apartheid police thugs. Many meetings were banned altogether. The boycott campaign, however, gained more and more support. The homes of Indian and 'Coloured' candidates, vile stooges of the apartheid regime, were petrol-bombed and there were a number of bomb attacks, injuring 9 policemen.

In pre-dawn raids, a day before the 'Coloured' elections, the police rounded up over 40 leading members of the UDF, including Archie Gumede (UDF co-President) Patrick Lekota (UDF publicity secretary) and leaders of the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congress, affiliated to the UDF. Most are being held under the notorious Internal Security Act, which permits indefinite detention without trial. Hundreds more demonstrators were also arrested during the course of the day. On polling day itself, 80% of 'Coloured' schoolchildren stayed at home, and in just one

bombs were hurled at the police.

Officials of the contesting Indian parties showed their hatred for the people they claim to represent by assisting the police in beating people up.

The militancy has not been confined to Indian and 'Coloured' people. In Potchefstroom in the Transvaal and in Soweto black school students took to the streets, stoning school buildings and overturning and setting vehicles alight. On 30 August South African police murdered a black youth and injured two others when they opened fire on a crowd which had surrounded three white policemen near Germiston.

The spectacle of the fraudulent elections and the brutality of the police against the people who are protesting against them, can only have been an embarrassment to the apartheid regime and their imperialist backers. It is certain that the whole package of constitutional reforms was inspired by imperialism to pave the way for open support for the apartheid regime. Now, all the imperialists can hope for is that the militancy will subside so that the news media can concentrate on their elected stooges. Britain indicated this by its refusal to support a UN Security Council resolution condemning the elections, saying that it 'was too early to pass judgement on the new constitution'.

It is not too early for the Black, Indian and 'Coloured' people of South Africa. They have passed their verdict on Botha's fraud, and show every sign of continuing their militant protest. A cross-section of the population have united to fight this latest con-trick under the leadership of the UDF - the first time this has been possible in an 'over-ground' movement since the 1950s.

Ruby Khan

STOP PRESS

As we go to press youth in the townships to the south of Johannesburg continue to show their contempt and anger at the rent rises, education standards and the new constitution. On 3 September, the day the new constitution was officially introduced, uprisings were continuing in Sharpeville and surrounding townships. Police have killed 14 people and many are injured. The Deputy Mayor and a councillor from Sharpeville are reported to have been killed by the people for their part in the introduction of rent rises and their collaboration with the regime. In Johannesburg a bomb exploded outside the offices of the Department of Internal Affairs, causing substantial damage.

BRITISH SANCTIONS BUSTING CONTINUES

In a censored report given to the so-called South African Parliament last month, Advocate General P van de Walt revealed the rich pickings to be made by oil companies who break the UN trade embargo with South Africa. \$200 million over the market price was paid to Shell in the form of premiums on the barrel price of oil over a period of years. Shell, a British/Dutch owned company, has also flagrantly breached destination restrictions imposed by OPEC countries by shipping oil directly from the Gulf to Durban. The Shell/BP refinery there supplies 40% of South Africa's oil requirements. This is just the tip of the sanctions busting iceberg. The North Sea Oil Corporation is also implicated in this exposure of sanctions busting.

Malcolm

spy trial

South African terror exposed

Roland Hunter, Patricia Hanekom and Derek Hanekom stand trial for high treason in South Africa on 3 September. The evidence of Roland Hunter will be heard in camera because it threatens to expose the apartheid regime's destabilising activities against the frontline states. In fact, South Africa's military aggression is on trial.

Roland Hunter began compulsory military service in 1982. He was deployed as clerk to the Chief of Staff Military Intelligence in Pretoria. Here he found that South Africa was secretly supporting rebel troops and destabilisation espionage against Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. He dealt with documents giving proof that the South African Defence Force (sic) Directorate of Special Tasks (DST) trained, paid and equipped the MNR (counter-revolutionaries in Mozambique). His work in SADF included the provision of transport and food supplies to these units. He also found that the South Africans kidnapped 14-year-old girls in Mozambique and provided them with the 'entertainment' of the counter-revolutionaries in their training camps in South Africa.

It is alleged that once Roland had shared his knowledge with his friends, Patricia and Derek Hanekom, arrange-

which forced Mozambique to the negotiating table. The Hunter/Hanekom trial threatens to expose them. Three young people are on trial for treason because they would not participate in the cover-up. They need your support.

What you can do: write to:

PW Botha, Prime Minister, Union Building, Pretoria, South Africa, protesting against this trial and demanding that South Africa explains its relationship with rebel movements in neighbouring countries.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Office, Whitehall, London, demanding that Britain publicly intervenes for the release of the 3, or at least their trial in open court.

To the prisoners: Patricia Hanekom, Pretoria, Female Prison P. Bag X45, Pretoria 0001; Roland Hunter/Derek Hanekom, Pretoria Security Prison, P. Bag X45, Pretoria 0001. Use postcards and include your own name and address.

Leaflets and background information are available from Friends of Hanekoms and Hunter BM Box 1572, London WC1N 3XX.

Andy Goddard, Jules and Mark

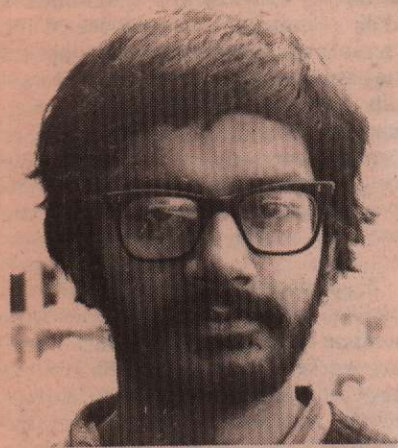


Stooge Rev Allan Hendrickse

incident 5,000 youth marching to a mass rally at the University of Western Cape were baton-charged by the police. All polling stations were under guard by armed security police.

On 28 August, the day of the Indian elections, there were further battles with the police outside polling stations throughout the country. In Lenasia, an Indian township near Johannesburg, a large crowd of demonstrators stood outside the polling station holding placards and shouting 'sell-outs' at the few people who went in to vote. Riot police then charged the crowd, firing teargas and plastic bullets, and whipping everyone in sight, including shoppers. Journalists were attacked and their cameras smashed. A minibus load of students were surrounded by police, dragged out of the van, severely whipped and clubbed. The crowd regrouped and rocks, stones and petrol

Fight Racism



support
Viraj
Mendis
defence
campaign

The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (VMDC) fighting for the right of Viraj to stay in this country is winning much support. Viraj is married and has lived in Britain for 11 years. As an FRFI supporter he has consistently struggled for oppressed people and has worked in the Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee. In May his passport was confiscated by the police and now he is under threat of deportation. This is an attack both on the rights of black people and the rights of anti-imperialist activists.

Since its launch on 24 June the VMDC has set about taking Viraj's case to the people. We have regular fortnightly street meetings on Market St/Piccadilly - the busiest shopping street in Manchester. There we have faced continual police harassment. The campaign is fighting this by taking the case to Manchester City Council which supports the Defence Campaign. By continuing to hold the street meetings the Defence Campaign is defending the rights of all progressive organisations to use the City Centre. Now over 4,000 people have signed the petition in support of Viraj. This shows that people in Manchester are not willing to sit back and accept these attacks on black people by the state. Furthermore, the City Council has placed advertisements in the 'Guardian' and the 'Manchester Evening News' in support of Viraj and 3 other people in Manchester under threat of deportation: Esther Ankeli, Manjit Kaur and Kamal Kumar. The position of all 3 is serious and any support sent to FRFI or the VMDC will be passed on immediately. In the last month the campaign has held a public meeting on 26 July at which both NUM and Anwar Ditta spoke. On 7 August the Bradford support group also held a public meeting. On 4 August the VMDC sent a contingent on a demonstration in Birmingham called by the 'Campaign against Criminalisation and Deportation of black youth'.

In the last month we have won the support of Andrew Faulds, Ted Lead-

bitter, Dennis Skinner, Bob Clay, Bob Parry, Ron Brown, Dave Nellist, Tony Lloyd, Kevin Barren, Jeremy Corbyn, Stuart Holland (all MPs), Alec Faulkner (MEP), Glensy Kinnoch, Betty Heathfield, Manchester Labour Party and many councillors, trade unions, student unions and other organisations.

Viraj is well known for being opposed to the right wing regime in Sri Lanka and if forced to return there (where he was born) he would face certain persecution. He has written articles opposing the massacre of Tamil people and is currently writing a pamphlet on Sri Lanka to be produced by the VMDC.

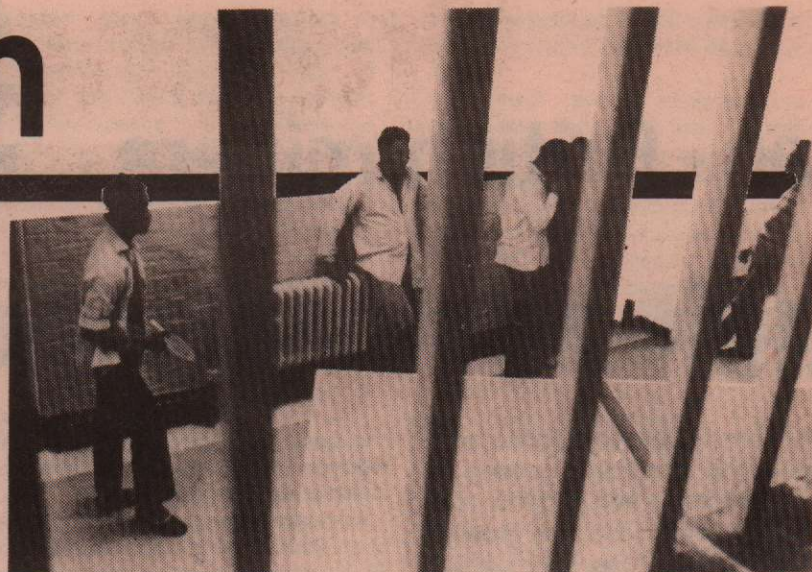
Finally the VMDC is planning a major film/public meeting/social evening at 7.30pm on 28 September at St Wilfreds social centre, Hulme.

Please send messages of support, urgently needed donations, requests for the campaign's bulletin to VMDC c/o Box 38, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch M3 4BN (tel 061 273 5947)

Anwar

STOP PRESS

The DHSS have stopped Viraj and Linda's benefit. A spokesperson for the DHSS said 'As you know there has been a lot of publicity about your case and questions have been raised about your right to claim benefit'. According to the DHSS, until Viraj produces his passport and proves that he has a right to stay here he will not receive any benefit.



CARLOS GUARINA

No detentions! No deportations!

While using its police, courts and prisons against the striking miners, the British state has simultaneously escalated repression against black people during the last 6 months. The very same police, courts and prisons enforcing anti-working class laws and attacking miners, are being used to enforce the racist immigration laws against black people. Deportations of black people now average 50 a week, raids on their homes and workplaces are daily occurrences.

At Ashford Remand Centre in Kent there are over 100 special cells for so-called 'illegal' immigrants. These cells are always full. In 1982 1,000 people were held, some for as long as 18 months, with no right of appeal. Conditions are unbearable, 70 men share 2 pedestal lavatories per landing and a recreation room intended for four. Each cell houses three prisoners. The racist prison wardens have refused to allow these people to attend educational classes with other prisoners saying that it would be a waste of time and public money. On the weekend of 7/8 July detainees mounted a hunger strike to protest at these intolerable conditions. The Home Office response was merely to transfer three prisoners to Pentonville Prison.

Deportations continue at an ever increasing rate. On 1 August the Home Office deported Caroline Ricketts to Jamaica, after holding her in Holloway Prison for 7 months. Two weeks before she was allowed out for one day to marry Derek Ricketts who has the right to reside in Britain. David Waddington still maintained that he could find 'no reason to justify revoking the deportation against her'. Seeing the chance to deport two people at once the Home Office offered Derek a one way ticket to accompany his wife to Jamaica. He refused and was then not allowed to see

his wife before her removal. Mrs Marinder Kaur of Slough has been ordered to leave. She came to Britain from India 8 years ago; she has a 10 month old son and is expecting her second child soon. The Shahid Syed Ali Defence Campaign has been set up to fight the threatened deportation of Shahid and his family to Pakistan. The Home Secretary has refused to allow Shahid's application to become a naturalised British citizen despite the fact that Shahid has worked for British Gas since 1979 and his wife has a heart condition that needs constant medical attention of a type not readily available in Pakistan. On Saturday 4 August over 500 people joined a march in Birmingham protesting against the threatened deportation of Karamjit Singh, an Asian youth who has lived in Britain for 20 years but was arrested and sentenced to 2½ years imprisonment in the aftermath of the 1981 uprisings. On completion of his sentence Karamjit received a call from immigration officers telling him he was to be deported.

These are merely a few of the fifty or more deportations which occur every week. This figure does not include those who are forced to 'voluntarily' leave the country. Home Office collaboration with the DHSS leads to individuals being refused benefit so that they are starved out of the country before they can challenge the Home Office decisions about their status. A recent report by the Leicester Child Poverty Action Group highlights the problems of discrimination experienced by black claimants who are regularly asked to present their passports to DHSS officers before benefit is paid. Black people are often refused benefit and claimants are frightened from claiming in case their terms of entry or residence are affected. Many black claimants exist for months on virtually no income while the DHSS and Home Office check details of their immigration status.

A recent report from a Turkish community organisation in London describes police raids at workplaces, clothing factories, restaurants and houses where the community is concentrated. In factories the police are often accompanied by immigration officers and inland revenue officers. Everybody is made to prove their identity by showing passports and giving their address. The Latin American community has complained of similar police harassment. Raids often result in mass arrests, many imprisonments and families broken up. Prolonged police questioning is frequent, usually without the presence of interpreters leading to wrong evidence being taken down and used to incriminate in the courts.

**No Deportations
Smash All Immigration Laws!**

Sarah Moore

Home Office allows 17 year old to die

Ashwani Kumar, the 17 year old son of the resident priest in the Hindu Centre in London requires a life-saving operation to his heart. The NHS have said that he does not qualify for free treatment because of his residency status and fees have been estimated at £9,000. The hospital will not allow surgery to take place until a deposit of at least £3,000 has been paid. (Anybody who wishes to help raise this money please send donations to Ashwani Kumar (Life Saving Operation) Fund, c/o Brent Hindu Samaj, 7 Rose Glen, Kingsbury, London NW9). The Immigration and Nationality department of the Home Office has an annual budget of £45 million but is prepared to let a 17 year old youth die for the sake of £9,000.

Miebaka Brown

Miebaka Brown is a Nigerian citizen living in Hulme, Manchester, and is currently on an HND business course at Bolton Institute of Higher Education. Miebaka gave birth to a daughter, Ibietele, in October 1982 and so she was unable to start her course until September 1983. It was hoped that her husband would be able to rejoin her in 1983 to do an MSc but was refused permission as on an earlier visit he overstayed by a few days and in this mix up Miebaka forgot to renew her visa. Now Miebaka is under threat of deportation, despite the fact that she intends to stay for only one year and then return to Nigeria with her children. Now Miebaka's only hope is to appeal, yet this is useless to her as she will have to leave the country before the appeal is heard, which could take up to 5 months.

Miebaka Brown's campaign is supported by the National Union of Students and can be contacted through Manchester Area National Union of Students, 178 Waterloo Place, Oxford Rd, Manchester 13 (tel 061 273 5947)

Anwar

Police smash up Esme Baker's flat

On 16 April 1982 Esme Baker was arrested by the Walthamstow police after going to the aid of her 17 year old son Emile who was being beaten up by Instant Response Unit (IRU) officers. She was bundled into a van and racially and sexually abused. She was charged with assault and obstruction but cleared. She then made a formal complaint in spite of fears that reprisals would be made against Emile. Now 2 years later Esme has been proved right. In March this year the officer who abused Esme in the van turned up at her new address looking for a fictitious person. On 5 May a gang of 5 thugs armed with pick axes and knives smashed up the flat. Esme called the police who did not arrive for 1½ hours. Meanwhile Emile had gone to the police station to report the attack; he took with him a knife one of the attackers had dropped. On the way to the station he was stopped by IRU officers, 3 of whom were the same who had arrested and assaulted him in April 1982.

Racist attacks

Racist attacks on black people, especially in East London, have reached an alarming level. One Bangladeshi victim in Tower Hamlets said 'the intimidation of black families has met with police inaction a conspiracy as can be seen from their refusal to arrest racists even when they are identified. Yet they are willing to arrest victims... all this is in marked contrast to the immediate and urgent measures which the Home Secretary announced in the House of Commons in response to what he saw as intimidation of non-striking miners'. The police prefer to ignore attacks on black people. A nine year old Bengali boy was attacked in the Limehouse area of East London; he was surrounded by a gang of white youths aged 11 to 13 riding BMX bikes and slashing twice on the arm with a serrated kitchen knife, one wound almost severing an artery. When a nine year old Asian boy from Islington was beaten up by youth wearing NF stickers the police said there was 'an indication of National Front involvement in the attack' but have as yet failed to fully investigate this crime.

Edinburgh fascists beaten off

Fascist-Loyalist attempts to drive socialist and Irish solidarity activists out of Edinburgh's city centre have for the moment been defeated. Over the past 3 months gangs of fascists organised by well known members of Edinburgh's Orange Lodge have assaulted members and supporters of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Edinburgh ISC, Young Communist League, Socialist Workers Party and the Revolutionary Communist Party. These attacks by drunken thugs commenced after afternoon pub closing times and escalated from tearing up newspapers, chasing off small groups of sellers and petitioners to a serious physical attack in June. Then, FRFI and EISC members were viciously attacked, one comrade sustaining a broken nose. The fascists were determined to take over the city centre to peddle their reactionary fascist views. On 4 August they started selling 'Combat', the mouthpiece of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a savage Loyalist organisation responsible for the murder of scores of Irish nationalists. They applaud George Seawright who has called for Belfast council to obtain incinerators to burn Catholics.

The city centre has long been an area for democratic activity by the left and FRFI was not prepared to let the fascists take over. In a leaflet issued on 8 August, Edinburgh FRFI stated:

'We call for these thugs to be dissuaded and deterred from their activities and attacks. It is now necessary to re-

establish the East End as an area for democratic activity, and make it a no-go area for fascists.'

If we fail to make a stand now we open the door to further attacks and restrictions on all progressive activity. To do nothing is to allow everything!

In an open letter addressed to all social-

ist, anti-imperialist and progressive organisations, FRFI proposed Saturday 18 August for a major mobilisation in the City Centre. It invited all organisations to bring along their newspapers, petitions and leaflets to prove to the fascists that their attempts to take over the City Centre would be fought. The call received a tremendous response. However, the SWP and RCP, whose members themselves had been chased off by fascists refused to support the mobilisation. Nevertheless, over 30 sellers turned up on 18 August. The mobilisation became a rally. The fascists, who had their scouts there, decided retreat was their only course! FRFI, YCL, CP, EISC and AAM supporters had reestablished the city centre as an area of democratic activity.

Edinburgh FRFI has no illusions about this victory. The fascists will no doubt attempt to return in greater numbers and greater forces. But a broad united force has been established which will respond to future attacks. It is hoped on the next occasion all organisations will learn the lesson of united action.

Edinburgh FRFI

Prisoners Fightback

Wandsworth - the boot, the body belt and the liquid cosh

In FRFI 37 we exposed the reign of terror in Wandsworth prison when a number of prisoners were beaten up in the segregation unit in January this year. Since then it has become clear that the January beatings were not isolated incidents. Between 10 January and 26 July this year at least 21 prisoners were assaulted on at least 16 different occasions. This is only the violence we know about. Wandsworth prison authorities, however, have not confined themselves to physical assaults. Prisoners have been subjected to long periods in body belts, long periods in strong box cells (often without clothing), forcible injections, denial of witnesses at Governor's adjudications, denial of medical treatment when needed and a high level of drugging. The catalogue of crimes against prisoners in Wandsworth is vast and growing. A regime based on systematic cruelty and brutality has been deliberately established at Wandsworth as an instrument of fear against any prisoner who resists the inhuman British prison system.

What follows are only a few examples of what is being done to prisoners in Wandsworth. Patrick Adams arrived in Wandsworth on 30 April to begin a 3 year sentence. On 3 May he was brought before Governor Guinan charged with refusing to obey an order and abusive language. He was immediately intimidated by prison officers - 4 stood in front of him and 7 immediately behind. One boasted about how they had got away with the murder of Barry Prosser. Guinan watched this without comment. Patrick refused to plead. He was found guilty. He was taken to a punishment cell where he was kicked and punched

Prisoners assaulted

Patrick Adams
Keith James
Charlie Dignan
Rifat Mehmet
James Forrester
Alan Moffat
? Reid
Daniel Grimes
J Ryan
Ricky Lewis
Jimmy Lewis
Lee Okay
Clive Cumberbatch
Jimmy McCaig
Cirus Noor
John Cumberland
John Seabourne
Garfield Parnell
Charlie McGhee
Clinton Reed
Stephen Davies

Dates of assault

January: 10, 11, 12, 13, 21
February: 11
March: 23
April: 4, 13, 20, 24
May: 3, 8
July: 4, 8, 26

day was stopped. One of the prison officers said 'We can't let his visitors see him like this.' On the way back from this visit that never took place, he was attacked again. He was thrown face down on the floor of the strong box cell. He was kicked in the head repeatedly while another prison officer stamped on his arm. He was also put in a body belt - a thick leather belt with handcuffs attached.

Keith James, a black prisoner, has been beaten up at least 7 times on the following dates: 11 February, 23 March, 4 April, 13 April, 8 May and 26 July. Apart from the 'routine' kicking and punching he was strangled until semi-conscious (11 February); beaten with batons (23 March); put in a body belt (11 February and 23 March); and

by 5 prison officers. Not surprisingly he called them 'fascist bastards'. For this he was again brought before Guinan on 4 May. He refused to take part in the adjudication demanding instead action against the officers who had beaten him up. He was found guilty. By now, after just 4 days in Wandsworth Patrick had received one beating, 13 days loss of remission, 14 days loss of 'privileges', 7 days loss of earnings and 3 days solitary confinement. Within 9 weeks he lost 44 days remission on a succession of trumped up charges.

Rifat Mehmet, a black prisoner, was beaten up on 12 January and again on 23 March. His 'offence' on 12 January was to report that he had seen prison officers beating up a prisoner. He was punched and kicked for this. A visit that

Liquid cosh league

Use of behaviour-modifying drugs in male prisons with population over 1,000.

Prison	Population	Number of doses	Doses per head
Wandsworth	1,376	165,903	121
Wormwood Scrubs	1,081	118,113	109
Manchester	1,478	115,723	78
Birmingham	1,039	66,909	64
Leeds	1,144	62,453	55
Pentonville	1,115	56,038	50
Liverpool	1,409	57,976	41

put in the strong box for up to 26 hours (11 February, 23 March, 4 April and 8 May).

Clive Cumberbatch, a black prisoner and victim of a police frame up (see FRFI 38), was beaten up during a visit in

full view of his wife Marian and their two year old daughter. On 8 July Marian visited Clive. It was a closed visit in a cubicle with re-inforced glass separating them. After a few minutes, prison officers came to speak to Clive. Marian did not hear what was said. Then she watched appalled as Clive was hit on the head with a baton and a mob of prison officers descended on him beating him up. During this violent assault his head was forced through a window. Clive was also assaulted on 10 January.

Cirus Noor, also black and involved in the Colin Roach campaign before he was imprisoned, was beaten up and forcibly given Modecate - a powerful behaviour-modifying drug - on 24 April. In March he had also been assaulted and thrown in a strip cell for three days for protesting against the regime (see FRFI 39).

Jimmy McCaig, a Scottish prisoner who took part in the Parkhurst prison hostage incident in January 1983 (see FRFI 40), was in Wandsworth segregation unit from 10 January to 30 April. During this time he was repeatedly beaten up. He was repeatedly put in a body belt and/or in the strong box. He was often held naked in the strong box. Once he was kept in a body belt for two days. He was twice forcibly injected. He has described one incident. 8 or 9 prison officers dragged him to the strong box, tore his clothes away from his body and injected him in the backside. After 10-15 minutes he felt sleepy and 'mellow'. He passed out. When he came to, his mouth was dry, he was sore and felt a physical wreck. He thinks he was unconscious for about 14 hours.

NO RIGHTS FOR YOUTH

As part of the state's attack on prisoners' rights, the Home Office is to extend its 'short, sharp, shock' regimes in youth detention centres. At present the regime operates in 4 out of 18 centres. 'Short, sharp, shock' is described as 'hard work', 'square bashing', 'parades and inspections' with everything done at 'quick tempo'. Initially prisoners are only allowed limited association and few 'privileges'. In short it is a quasi-military regime in which young prisoners are denied basic rights unless they 'earn' them - ie submit to the regime. 'Privileges' such as having a radio or receiving newspapers have to be 'earned'. In May this year the minimum sentence for a stay in a detention centre was reduced from three months to three weeks. This measure combined with the extension

of the 'short, sharp, shock' regime will ensure that more and more youth are subjected to this regime.

The Home Office first introduced its 'experiment' in 1980 supposedly to reduce reconviction rates. Their own statistics have proved that it does nothing of the sort. The true purpose of this regime is to deal with the growing number of young people who will rebel against a system that offers them only poverty, unemployment, homelessness and ever-increasing police harassment. The extension of this 'experiment' is the answer of the ruling class to the 'short, sharp, shock' they received at the hands of black and white youth in the risings of 1981.

Nigel Doyle

At least 7 of the 21 prisoners known to have been attacked are black. There is also an, as yet, unidentified black prisoner who was assaulted on 4 July. Three years ago black prisoners at Wandsworth exposed racist abuse and assaults by a group of union jack badge-wearing prison officers. Nothing has changed since.

Death in Wandsworth

In January 1982 Terry Smerdon was found dead in his cell covered in bruises. The prison claimed that he had been throwing himself about the cell. He had choked to death on inhaled vomit. The prison never explained how this could happen if, as they claimed, he was being checked every 15 minutes. Two prisoners in neighbouring cells were not called to give evidence at the inquest on the grounds that they were 'mentally disturbed'. The jury returned an open verdict.

In November 1983 Ian Methven died in his cell. He had acute bronchitis but had been treated for flu. The inquest jury returned a verdict of death by natural causes aggravated by lack of care - clearly pointing the finger at the Wandsworth regime.

The regime at Wandsworth is neither new nor accidental. Wandsworth has long been engaged in violent and criminal assaults on prisoners. It has long been notorious for its systematic racism. This regime is deliberate. It is designed to give prisoners a 'taste' of just how vile and cruel British prisons can be in order to intimidate them into submission. It is also held as a threat over the heads of prisoners in other prisons. The responsibility for all this terror lies not just with the highly-paid thugs who run Wandsworth but also with the Home Office. For it is the Home Office which has created this regime and which protects it with a wall of silence. FRFI unreservedly condemns the brutal regime in Wandsworth. We also applaud the courage and self-sacrifice of those prisoners who have risked further punishment in order to expose the truth about Wandsworth.

Terry O'Halloran

PAROLE: A RIGGED SYSTEM

FRFI has received a letter from a prisoner, William Tonks, which exposes one of the ways in which the parole system is rigged against prisoners. Following Leon Brittan's announcement of new restrictions on parole (see FRFI 34) Bill Tonks was ghosted out of Wakefield to Durham for 28 days solitary confinement under the notorious 10/74 rule.

In Durham he was informed by a probation officer that he was not being recommended for parole because, as a quote from the report to the parole board put it 'Tonks is involved in left wing politics within prison, he is a subversive in that he is an organiser of prison protest action. He has also threatened the lives of several members of prison staff at Wakefield.' This last remark is an outright lie.

Since then all Bill Tonks' efforts to obtain a sight of his prison records, in order to establish that this claim is a lie, have proved unavailing. Yet, despite these alleged (fictitious) threats against Wakefield prison officers, Bill has been

sent back to Wakefield. Nor is this the only lie on his prison record. The police report on his prison record contains a reference to a firearms charge against him which was dropped at his trial. Yet this charge remains on his prison record as though he was convicted of it. Again, his efforts to have this lie removed from his record have failed.

It was only by chance that Bill Tonks found out about these lies. How many prisoners are being lied about in prison records? Bill Tonks' case also exposes the reality of the parole system. If you are 'left wing' or take part in 'prison protest action' you will not get parole. In short, if you fight for your rights you will be denied parole and have lies inserted in your prison record to ensure that you have no chance of parole. Parole is simply a rigged system designed to control prisoners by offering them the carrot of early release if they conform and submit to the prison system.

Terry O'Halloran

FRFI banned in Parkhurst

The prison regime inside Parkhurst has put a clamp on mail from the ISM and FRFI to the Irish POWs there. This news was received in a letter from Irish Republican POW John McCluskey on 6 August. A week later John wrote that ISM letters had been released but that FRFI was still denied to the POWs. This is vindictive censorship! The Governor and his cronies are worried about the increased circulation of anti-imperialist mail at the same time they don't mind rags like The Sun and the Mirror (printed cosh!).

We will fight this and call on our readers and supporters to do the same. Write protesting to the Governor, HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.

PETERHEAD SUPPORT PICKET

FRFI received this letter from a relative of Peter Wardlaw, one of the prisoners on protest in Peterhead Prison.

FRFI had called the picket on Friday 27 July. It was supported by the Scottish Republican Socialist Party, Manchester and Edinburgh ISCs and GIFAC, to publicise and protest at the continuing violence and repression of the Scottish Prison regime and to show our support for the courage of the protesting prisoners. The letter shows how even one act of solidarity can produce immediate results.

On behalf of Peter Wardlaw and fellow inmates at Peterhead our family would like to express our sincere thanks for all the hard work that was put in to make

the picket possible. And for the solidarity that was shown especially under the atrocious weather conditions.

The picket can be seen at this early stage as a minor victory, by the fact that on the following day when we visited Peter we were not kept waiting. And, indeed, Peter was brought a couple of minutes earlier than the other prisoners. Also the visit ended at the normal time, whereas recent visits have been shortened by about 10 minutes.

Although we forgot to ask Peter about the handcuffs, whilst he was crossing the yard, when leaving we noticed his hands were free. He waved to us. Once again many thanks. Sally (sister of Peter Wardlaw)

FRFI FOR PRISONERS

42,000 men, women and youth are held in British prisons in squalid conditions, denied all basic rights and subjected to physical and psychological assault. Any prisoner who resists is threatened with constant transfer, solitary confinement, assault and murder.

Since 1979 FRFI has reported on the violence and repression against prisoners. We have also publicised prisoners' resistance. Since the Albany protest in May last year we have devoted a page of every issue to the prisoners' fightback. No other newspaper provides such coverage.

FRFI is sent free to 85 prisoners at present. We also provide books, pamphlets and other necessities to prisoners. We do this as part of our solidarity with prisoners. This work COSTS MONEY. Sending FRFI alone costs around £350 per year. To maintain this vital political service WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR MONEY. Regular monthly donations help to guarantee this work. SEND US WHAT-EVER YOU CAN AFFORD. MAKE A MONTHLY PLEDGE to our Prisoners' Fightback Fund. ACT NOW. SUPPORT PRISONERS' RESISTANCE.

Donations, cheques/POs (payable to Larkin Publications) should be sent to: FRFI, BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX



● 'A totally false conception of today's policing' is given to children in story books, complains chief constable Ian Oliver of Central Scotland Police. The unconvincing stereotype from the Collins children's dictionary might bear him out:

'what is the policeman doing? He is holding up his hand to stop the motor cars. He will let the old woman cross the street in safety. Policemen take care of us. They see that everybody keeps the law. They take bad men to prison.'

Totally false, yes, but chief constable Oliver is more concerned with PCs Plod, Goon, Fatso and Booby: 'grotesque' caricatures of our oh-so-loveable bobbies presented as always in uniform, grossly overweight, with huge booted feet and an IQ on a par with the village idiot.

Main target for chief constable Oliver's wrath is well known denigrator of police, Enid Blyton. Her PC Theophilus Goon of the Famous Five stories 'is a real revelation of the lengths to which the police can stoop... He is ready to plant evidence to frame a suspect; sweats a confession from a mentally retarded boy in one story... and is presented as an evil authority figure and one of some power, evilly and stupidly exercised'. Totally false? PC Plod of Toytown 'laughed till he fell out of his chair and rolled onto the floor' when he heard that one.

● After six months on strike miners are becoming adept at recognising the peculiarities and habits (rarely nice) of particular police forces. For example pickets are now always careful to keep one eye on their wallets when faced in a melee by the Metropolitan Police: the London boys have become notorious for their skill at dipping stealthy hands into miner's pockets - an easy way to supplement those overtime payments...

● Rising crime rates are infiltrating the highest circles of government. Chancellor Nigel Lawson has had his wallet nicked from inside number 11 Downing Street. Police say it can only have been an inside job... tax cuts have been delayed.

● All police in Hampshire have been issued with a new manual quaintly entitled 'Beatcraft'. One simple example of the racist ignorance of the police hierarchy as follows: 'you may find that some groups become quickly excited and may tend towards loudness of voice or be very evasive when questioned...'

● The bloodthirsty sports of the owning classes have their advantages when the end result is the slaughter of each other. Viscount Whitelaw momentarily swapped sides last Saturday as he 'slipped' and blasted top industrialist Sir Joseph Nickerson with bird shot. Sir Joseph was unfortunately 'satisfactory' after a short spell in Darlington Memorial Hospital. Lord Whitelaw has recanted and is now fully restored to the ruling classes without suffering the embarrassment of a trial.

● A detective in Clapham has been suspended from duty suspected of running an illegal betting shop. Ten to one he gets away with it...

LEEDS: STOP THE CITY

On Thursday 9 August, 300 youth took part in a Stop The City demonstration in Leeds to protest against the arms race, the exploitation of the Third World and the abuse of animals. By the end of the day, 102 people had been arrested, including three Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! supporters. The Stop The City Defence Campaign (STCDC) has now been formed to fight for the dropping of all charges.

Members of Bradford FRFI and Leeds Park Lane College Anti-Apartheid Group held a picket outside NEXT clothes to draw attention to British imperialist involvement in Southern Africa. After facing continual police harassment, RCG supporters John and Sonny, and John from Park Lane were arrested for obstruction, followed by Sandra, Cindy, Rose and Ashton. All were violently thrown into the police van and told they would be taken straight to the hospital. A black shopper who protested at the police's brutal behaviour was grabbed, beaten in the police van, beaten at the police station and then charged with assaulting a policewoman. One FRFI supporter was assaulted five times by the police. All were charged with using threatening behaviour and abusive language 'likely to cause a breach of the peace'.

Police vans were driven recklessly and at high speed through the streets of Leeds, causing shoppers to scatter. Anyone who looked like a punk was liable to be stopped and searched, even if they were not involved. Groups of young people were harassed and split up, and numerous people were wrongfully and forcibly arrested. Several people were detained for simply holding cameras. A sixteen year old black youth was arrested for throwing a white carnation into the road, another for whistling.

In the police cells, the disgusting treatment of the protesters continued. Those arrested were denied all their legal rights and were illegally photographed. They were left for up to 24 hours in dirty blood-caked cells habited by cockroaches. Because people were denied access to toilet facilities, they were forced to urinate in their cells. A group of women protesting about their treatment were told by a PC 'Shut up or I'll come in and fucking rape you.' One woman suffered six epileptic fits.

The unity and solidarity of all those arrested has now continued with the formation of the Stop The City Defence Campaign on 21 August. We are organising a legal and political defence for those arrested and are supporting Councillor Bryan North's call for an independent public inquiry. We are determined to fight for the democratic right to engage in peaceful political activity on the streets of Leeds.

Send donations, messages of support to STCDC, Box 9, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds. John Stephenson

GAYS FIGHT OPPRESSION

200 imported books, along with personal possessions and shop records, are still being detained following the Customs raid on Gay's The Word bookshop in April. Customs are also refusing to give clearance to £9000 worth of books from America. In early July Customs seized a consignment of gay books from America headed for an alternative bookshop in S London. Later that month the campaign of censorship continued when 30 police raided the gay publishing company Milivres Ltd, seizing 5,000 magazines. The National Council for Civil Liberties has now taken over the campaign to defend Gay's The Word. Its Chairman has said that the recent raids are 'part of a concerted campaign to deprive the gay community of the right to their own literature'.

Since the Home Office issued guidelines forbidding the use of agents provocateurs to entrap gays, their use has actually increased. The NCCL reports that in a six week period there were more than 200 cases of importuning, 'indecent assault' and 'gross indecency' where no 'victim' was involved. One man spent over three days in custody charged with 'gross indecency with a man unknown' after police insisted on checking the character of his bail surety - the MP Jeremy Corbyn.

The Annual Report of the Gay London Police Monitoring Group provides ample evidence of anti-gay policing. One gay man received a black eye and a fractured skull when eight straight men started

OLYMPICS REAGAN STYLE

'A new patriotism has swept our land' announced President Reagan just before the start of the Olympics, setting the tone for the celebration of US might to come. The Olympic spirit is meant to be one of peace and international friendship, but all that stuff was quickly forgotten as we got down to the real business of cheering on Uncle Sam and making money. The opening ceremony kicked off with an hour-long, Hollywood style celebration of US history. We were then going to be treated to a bald headed eagle, the US national symbol, flying over the ceremony. But the bird, appropriately named 'bomber', died a few days beforehand from stress and wing disease. Seemingly President Reagan wanted to reiterate his patriotic message in his speech to the opening ceremony, but was dissuaded by Olympic officials. The last leader to do so was that past champion of 'a new patriotism' Adolf Hitler, at the Munich games in 1936.

Once the games started the jingoistic circus got into full swing. The crowd, 75% of whom were Southern Californians, shouted booing chants at foreign competitors and the TV coverage in the US constantly referred to the games as a battle between us (the US) and them (everybody else). Carl Lewis, who as an 'amateur' athlete in the United States earns \$1 million a year, always seemed to have a huge stars and stripes flag handy whenever he won a race, but the detailed marketing plans worked out years in advance by top US athletes managers are based on identifying their athletes as patriotic symbols, so maybe we shouldn't be surprised. Patriotism and profiteering went hand in hand at these games of greed.

There were some losers, though. Instead of the expected 2m tourists only some 250,000 turned up, making local businessmen very unhappy indeed - one major hotel had 30% of its rooms empty, compared with 9% usually, and an enterprising businessman who tried selling parking spaces at a hundred dollars each had to reduce his price to five dollars with still no takers.

Another loser was South Africa's Zola Budd, running under her British flag of convenience, who came seventh in the 3,000 metres - the 'hottest property involved in athletics' turned out to be just a second rate runner given a fanfare of publicity by apartheid's backers.

Then of course there was the violence, inevitable in a society as sick as Reagan's America. Shortly before the games started a gunman shot dead 21 people in a MacDonald's restaurant in San Diego, and in Los Angeles itself a driver deliberately drove onto a crowded pavement killing a 15 year old girl and injuring 54 others. Oblivious to the daily violence created by the society they protect, where in some Los Angeles neighbourhoods there are an average of 30 murders a week, the FBI claimed that the real danger came from 'Soviet agents' - 'they may try to generate some kind of incident so that they can say "we told you so"'. In the event an incident was generated, when a bomb was found on a bus used by the Turkish team, but there were no Soviet agents involved - it was a Los Angeles policeman who planted the bomb so he could impress his superiors by his bravery in snatching it off.

The Soviet led boycott of this imperialist circus turned out to be entirely justified. Athletic success was turned into cash, international sport turned into US propaganda, all to help keep Reagan and his fellow gangsters in the Whitehouse for a few more years. But the games' razzmatazz must have looked pretty sick to the people who live in the black and Hispanic districts near the Coliseum where teenage unemployment is well over 50%, and to the millions of other people in Reagan's America who suffer poverty, racism and oppression. When a mission in Los Angeles was offered 200 free dinner jackets to make the city's tramps look more respectable during the games the offer was firmly turned down - not everyone wants to be part of Reagan's hypocritical 'new patriotism'.

Colin Thom

BRITAIN IN STRASBOURG

Britain - under both Tory and Labour governments - has won itself the dubious honour of being top of the league of member states found guilty of breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1965, when British imperialism first granted the right of individual petition to its citizens (it had previously denied this right on the grounds that the 'colonies might exploit it'), 80 cases against British governments have been declared admissible by the European Commission on Human Rights. This is twice as many as Britain's nearest rivals among member states. In 1982 800 provisional files were opened against Britain - this is many more than any other of the 21 member states.

The same story is told by results at the European Court of Human Rights. The Court has ruled against member states on 43 occasions. 11 (25%) of these judgements were against British governments - again more than any other member state. The issues involved covered: 'inhuman treatment' of internees in the Six Counties (the European Commission called it torture); denial of basic rights to prisoners; discrimination against homosexuals; the attempt to suppress the exposure of the Thalidomide affair; discrimination against British wives of foreign husbands; and illegal phone-tapping. These facts neatly summarise the reality of British imperialist 'democracy': lying and spying, anti-Irish, anti-prisoner, anti-gay and anti-women.

Terry O'Halloran

PARA-MILITARY POLITICAL POLICE

More and more people are now realising that this is what the Metropolitan Police Force are - and this is how they started out. They were founded by Robert Peel in 1829. Son of one of the richest men in England, Peel was Secretary for Ireland from 1812 to 1818, and such a staunch supporter of loyalism that nationalists nicknamed him 'Orange Peel'. In 1814 he introduced the Peace Preservation Act, which instituted the Royal Irish Constabulary, for use against the nationalist people. Like so many other imperialist strategists with experience of repression in the colonies, of whom Kenneth Newman is but the latest example, he drew on this experience when considering how to repress popular movements in this country.

In 1826 the first great crisis of capitalism occurred, and workers responded angrily, breaking up machinery and occupying town centres. The right to vote was extremely limited, being confined to a section of the ruling classes. Peel knew where to turn for advice on how to smash the rising movement for democracy. In May 1829, he wrote to his friend Gregory, the Under-Secretary for Ireland: 'It has occurred to me that if there were a military man conversant in the details of the police system in Ireland, he might possibly be usefully employed here.' So when his parliamentary bill, known as the 'Metropolitan Police Improvement Bill' became law (in June 1829), the first two (joint) commissioners were Rowan a Colonel, son of an Ulster landowner, and Mayne, the son of an Irish judge! The organisation of the force was based on the army, in particular on the experience that Rowan had gained in fighting against the armies of revolutionary France. The ranks of superintendent and inspector were almost exclusively filled by former warrant officers and NCOs. They were soon in action: the next year there was a pitched battle at Hyde Park Corner with demonstrators calling for the right to vote; and on 9 November, a similar demonstration was baton-charged in the Strand by 'F' Division. They also upheld the fine British tradition of drunken policemen. Within two years, out of a total strength of just over 4000, 1600 had been dismissed for drunkenness.

As the democratic movement gathered strength throughout Britain, led by the Chartists, the Mets were frequently sent outside London to demonstrate their brutality. But they did not always have things their own way - a Chartist crowd gave them a severe beating at the Bull Ring in Birmingham in July 1839. The chartists themselves desired 'to have no Police whatsoever until the working classes had a voice in the making of the laws of the land'. Like the Chartists, I am sure our readers could think of a 'Metropolitan Police Improvement Bill' - their abolition!

Patrick Newman

MORE LIES ON THE BELGRANO AFFAIR

The action of an, as yet, unknown civil servant in leaking secret documents has revealed yet more details of government lying on the *Belgrano* affair and the Falklands/Malvinas war. The documents were leaked to Tam Dalyell MP who has persistently exposed government lies on the affair.

- 1 The government claimed to be using 'minimum force' throughout the war. In fact a nuclear-armed *Polaris* submarine was sent to Ascension Island for a nuclear attack on Argentina 'if need be'. The proposed target was Cordoba in northern Argentina.
- 2 The government has repeatedly claimed that the *Belgrano* was heading towards the Total Exclusion Zone (TEZ) when it was sunk on 2 May killing 368 Argentine sailors. In fact the government's own records show that the *Belgrano* reversed course and started sailing away from the TEZ at 9am, 11 hours before it was attacked.
- 3 The government claimed that it only attacked Argentine ships if they were a

threat to the task force. The leaked documents show that on 30 April the War Cabinet authorised an attack on the aircraft carrier *Veinticino de Mayo* wherever it could be located. On 2 May the War Cabinet decided to authorise attacks on any Argentine ships anywhere.

Throughout the period 30 April to 2 May, Thatcher was pretending to negotiate via the US Secretary of State Haig. Their secret decisions show that in fact they were planning all out war - including nuclear attack - against Argentina. The leaked documents have also exposed Ministry of Defence advice to Ministers on how to lie to the Commons Select Committee investigating the *Belgrano* affair.

Thatcher and Co have not given up trying to cover up their foul deeds in the Falklands/Malvinas war. Civil servant Clive Ponting has been charged under the Official Secrets Act allegedly for leaking the documents outlined above. Clive Ponting was brought to court on 18 August - the 73rd anniversary of the passing of the Official Secrets Act in 1911. Despite all their desperate manoeuvres, the truth about British imperialist warmongering and bloodlust in the South Atlantic continues to emerge.

Terry O'Halloran/Steve Palmer

attacking customers in a gay pub in S London. The man went outside, where there were two police vans and three police cars, and asked the police to intervene. One policeman said, 'What do you expect? You're a queer in a queer's pub,' and told him to 'fuck off' or he'd be arrested for being 'drunk and disorderly'.

David Jackson

PLASTIC BULLETS

At a recent meeting of Lothian and Borders Police Board, a debate was held on the possible use of plastic bullets. The chairman of the Board, Councillor Tony Lestor, made it clear that he would have no hesitation in authorising the use of plastic bullets against striking miners in the Lothian region.

The Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders police denied that plastic bullets are stocked in the region, but it is known that plastic bullets and other forms of repressive apparatus do lie in waiting all over the

country, ready to be used in the case of an 'emergency'. At least 15 police forces in England and Wales are known to have stocks of plastic bullets amounting to a total of 20,000 rounds. The forces known to possess these lethal anti-civilian weapons are: Avon and Somerset, Essex, Humber-side, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire.

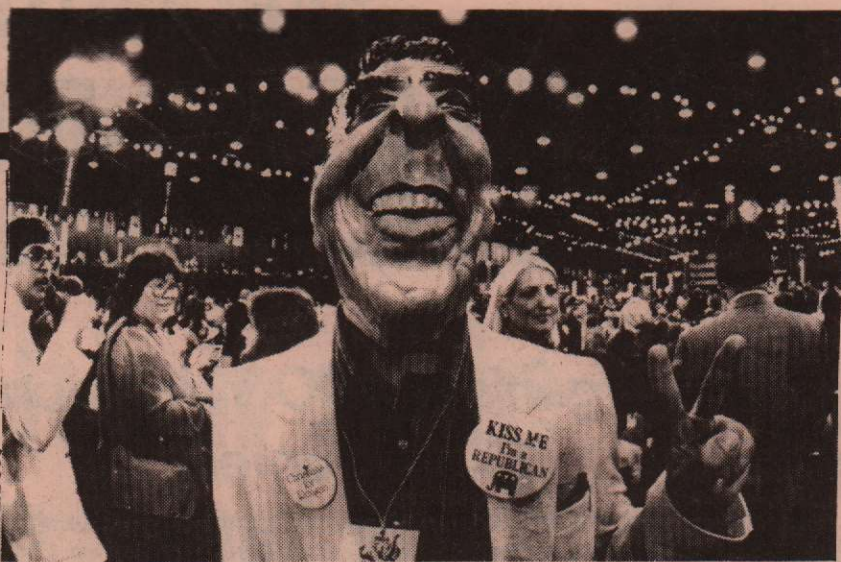
Councillor Lestor wound up the debate by stating 'I would have no hesitation in advocating the use of plastic bullet and just a little whiff of CS gas. It may be in the near future that plastic bullets will have to be used to save lives.'

Plastic bullets, already used by the murderous forces in the Six Counties of Ireland to kill 15 people, including Sean Downes, shot at the anti-interment rally a few weeks ago, are ready to be used by the state against the miners and any other section of the British working class which refuses to lie down and accept the assault on their jobs, communities and democratic rights.

Gareth J

On becoming President, Reagan made the intentions of US imperialism plain, 'We are not going to lose a country to communism on our watch'. This August he boasted 'Since January 20 1981, not one inch of soil has fallen to the communists'. Since Reagan's inauguration as President the US government has multiplied its aid to the El Salvador fascist regime twenty seven fold to produce over 50,000 deaths in that country. It has shot down two Libyan jets in Libyan airspace; supported the British attack on the Malvinas; funded and organised the Israeli invasion of Lebanon; waded on the massacre of Palestinians; shelled and bombed Lebanese towns and villages by sea and by air; equipped and flown mercenary troops into Chad; engineered the South Korean 007 airliner provocation; mined Nicaraguan harbours, fired on Nicaraguan boats and assembled a 15,000 strong counter-revolutionary force to attack the country; trained and financed Afghan bandits and butchers; buttressed apartheid in Namibia and South Africa; described the Soviet Union as 'the focus of evil in the modern world' and stationed new missiles on forward European bases ready for a preemptive strike; and invaded and occupied Grenada. These are just some of the crimes of US imperialism whose mention elicited the chant 'Four more years'. Every reference to Grenada threw the convention into howls of ecstasy!

As Reagan's government has achieved record military budgets, so it has struck out at the working class of the USA. Social Security benefits have been taxed for the first time; spending on health care, education and welfare programmes has been slashed. Six million more US citizens have been pushed below the poverty level during Reagan's office. In the three years Reagan has been in office, real income of the poorest



'Four more years, four more years', was the chant of the Dallas Republican Convention as speaker upon speaker threatened **communism, the welfare system, threatened the poor, the black and Hispanic, the godless and women, threatened the future. US capitalists are pouring millions of dollars into Republican Party coffers for the re-election of Reagan to the US Presidency. They are well pleased with his record and are confident that he will provide the figurehead as preparations are made for further assaults upon the US working class, the oppressed nations, the Soviet Union and other socialist states.**

REAGAN

Four more years ?

fifth of the population has fallen from \$6,913 to \$6,391 a year (7.6%), while income of the top fifth of the population has increased from \$37,618 to \$40,880 (8.7%). His government has fought to give tax exemption status to private schools which practice social discrimination; overturned a court ruling which gave black people some protection against dismissal at work; opposed the Equal Rights Amendment for women;

Reagan has attacked women's right to abortion; and more than quartered the provision for environmental protection. This is just a fraction of what evoked the chant 'Four more years'.

These crimes Reagan commits in the name of god and the family, and, in the style of aging film stars, he seals them with a yielding smile and a loving kiss from Nancy. All performed beneath the adoring eyes of the US ruling class, and

those so steeped in Hollywood that they know the script, and nothing else, by heart.

Any capitalist ruling class revels in barbarity overseas, plunder at home and the destruction of people's rights. But, only if they can get away with it. Reagan looks set to achieve a substantial victory. As Thatcher played upon chauvinism over the Malvinas exercise, so Reagan nourished himself upon Grenada. However, it is the rapid and artificial recovery of the US economy which has bolstered Reagan's standing with the electorate. A series of huge budget deficits soaring to \$200 billion, reaching \$16.4bn for July alone, have reduced the official unemployment rate to 7% and temporarily accelerated economic growth. When combined with a rise in middle-class incomes, engineered through tax changes at the expense of the very poor, the Reagan government has laid the basis for sufficient support.

Above all else, it is the lack of vigorous

opposition to Reagan's policy crimes which has strengthened his hand, and injected the US ruling class with an excitement for 'Four more years'. A handful of people picketed the convention. The attacks upon Lebanon and Nicaragua and invasion of Grenada have restored US ruling class confidence in their military might. No significant anti-imperialist movement has developed in the USA; this has allowed the US imperialists to recuperate from Vietnam, Watergate and Iran. Encouraging though the European opposition to cruise and Pershing missiles has been, it has not proved adequate to prevent the European and US ruling classes strengthening their alliance against the socialist countries. There has been a crucial failure in the international anti-imperialist movement, most strikingly in the imperialist heartlands to prevent the invasion of Grenada and the isolation of Nicaragua.

Reagan once called for the invasion of North Vietnam, 'We shall declare war on North Vietnam. We could pave the whole country and put parking stripes on it and still be home by Christmas.' These are the dreams that were celebrated in Dallas. That is why the mouthpiece of the British ruling class *The Times* saw in Reagan's performance 'the opportunity for Presidential greatness'. Mark Twain demanded that the stars and stripes be redesigned with stars replaced with skull and crossbones and the stripes painted in black! If we do not want to see that flag hauled up above a globe full of corpses we must build an anti-imperialist movement that binds the poor and oppressed, the socialist nations, and the working class of the imperialist heartlands into a single force that can crush the figurehead and the ship of state of imperialism into splinters.

Trevor Rayne

GRENADA UNDER HEAVY MANNERS

The destruction of the Grenadian revolution was a severe blow for all the Caribbean's oppressed peoples. Reaction was strengthened. Imperialism grew confident in its armed might.

While the US ruling class salivates over the corpse of the Grenadian revolution it is busily militarising the entire region: preparing the Caribbean masses for its appetite. During exercise Ocean Venture 84, 30,000 US troops simulated a blockade of Cuba, practised re-runs of the Grenada invasion, and intensified the counter-revolutionary war against Nicaragua. Bilateral pacts legitimating an invasion force have been pressed upon 26 Caribbean and Central American governments. US Green Beret training programmes are underway on Antigua, Dominica, St Vincents, St Lucia, and Barbados. Jamaican soldiers now drill at US bases in Puerto Rico and at the US Army Ranger School; the Rangers led the Grenadian invasion. These island units rotate in and out of Grenada, forming the 450 member 'Caribbean Peace Keeping Force' which complements the US occupation force. Meanwhile a 500 strong stooge Grenadian police outfit is being trained, financed and equipped by British police in Barbados.

Grenada's show trial

Imperialism intends to reinforce its assault upon the Caribbean with the trial, scheduled for the October assizes, of 19 former New Jewel Movement (NJM) members for the murder of Maurice Bishop and the many others killed on 19 October 1983. With the help of confessions extracted under torture and the skills of Scotland Yard officers in concocting 'evidence', this trial would legitimise the invasion and occupation of Grenada. Former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard said in a letter smuggled out of gaol, 'We are faced with a straight political trial orchestrated and conducted by the US Govern-

ment... There is not the slightest possibility of a fair trial under the foreign military occupation of the country.' Fellow prisoner General Hudson Austin stated, 'We are treated like prisoners who are already sentenced, condemned and sent to the gallows'.

Daily, the radio run by US Marine Psychological Operations Unit, spews out venom against the accused, and agents work to keep the people in a mood of confusion and revenge, urging them to clamour for an early execution. This can succeed because the organs of mass participatory democracy, where the people could discuss and direct everything concerning their lives, enjoyed during the revolution, have been smashed. The US and Caribbean occupation force ceaselessly patrols the island in helicopters and jeeps, rounds up the population for interrogation, terrorises possible defence witnesses, constantly surveys and restricts the movements of opposition groupings like the Maurice Bishop and October 19 1983 Martyr's Foundation, attempts to close down the opposition *Indies Times* newspaper and even bans calypsos from this year's carnival for fear of subversion!

The purpose of the trial is to intensify the anti-communist campaign in order to try and further isolate anti-imperialists in Grenada and in the whole region. The trial will become a focus to try to intimidate and confuse all those not terrorised by the invasion. The Yankee imperialists are determined to try to build the fences around their backyard and crush all signs of independence.

As a result of the horrific events of 19 October, the question of participation in the trial is an issue of fierce debate amongst opponents of the US occupation. George Louison of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM)

argues that Coard's punishment is top priority. Fennis Augustine (ex-High Commissioner in London) however, points out the dangers of participating in a US-sponsored show trial aimed at discrediting amongst others, some who actually led the 13 March Revolution in 1979. The hand that holds Coard, Austin and their fellow political prisoners, whatever their errors or crimes, is the hand that toys with the Grenadian people and now threatens to choke the life out of the Caribbean masses.

Electoral fraud

To add a further veneer of legitimacy to its brutal occupation, US imperialism is proposing an election for Grenada, supposedly to be held by the end of the year. As in El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and Jamaica the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) will win. For his own gratification the slaves are to be allowed to vote for the master, no matter what puppet guise or party dress he presents himself in. Maurice Bishop once observed that the Westminster-type elections meant 'five seconds participation every five years'. The exact date on which these five seconds will be on offer is still not clear. The press officer at the Grenada High Commission told FRFI 'perhaps October, November or December'. What is absolutely certain is that these elections will be neither free nor fair. With the support of US dollars a myriad of paper political parties have been formed. Ex-dictator Eric Gairy is once again stalking the byways of power.

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! supports all those struggling to rebuild the mass organisations in Grenada, the youth who taunt and have fought the invaders, and the progressive movement in the Caribbean as it prepares for further battles. Imperialism Out of Grenada!

Trevor Rayne
John Strawson

operating from Honduras, continues its terror campaign. So far the contras have murdered over 3,000 people - proportionally 7 times as many US soldiers killed in Vietnam. \$300m damage has been done to economic installations and agriculture and 100,000 peasants have been displaced. Education, electrification, waterworks, housing and health programmes have been slowed up and standards of living are suffering. The counter-revolutionaries, nevertheless, have suffered a severe blow. Their ARDE led front in southern Nicaragua collapsed and ARDE is reduced to starving and impotent bandits hiding in the mountains.

EVERYTHING FOR THE WAR FRONT

On 4 November, the Nicaraguan people are due to vote in the first general and presidential elections in their history. The workers and peasants of Nicaragua are preparing once more to confirm, this time through the ballot box, adherence to their revolution. The country's main bourgeois parties organised in the 'Democratic Co-ordinating Committee' (CDN) after years of clamouring for elections, are now boycotting them.

Under the leadership of the Sandinistas, the Nicaraguan masses have radically improved their conditions of life. 1½m acres of land have been distributed to poor peasants and consumption of basic goods has risen by 10%. Illiteracy, 53% in the Somoza era, has been virtually eliminated. Health care, once the privilege of the rich bourgeoisie, is now free for the masses. Political power to defend and advance the revolution rests in mass organisations such as the Sandinista Defence Committees (CDS) whose 500,000 members work with the Peoples Militias through which the masses are armed.

The counter-revolution has tried to sabotage the elections. CIA led and financed contras have attacked electoral registration centres and public transport. Nevertheless over 80% of the people have already registered and in the northern areas worst affected by counter-revolutionary terrorism 90% have registered. The CDN in a brazen and impudent move 'demanded' as a condition of its participation that the Sandinistas 'negotiate' with the contras. This demand was unceremoniously dismissed:

'...we have said all along that the only dialogue we will hold with the assassins of our people is in the mountains with guns in our hands.'

The Sandinista government has nevertheless made every possible effort to incorporate the bourgeois forces into the election process - both to expose their lack of popular support and to deny Reagan the pretext, of 'unrepresentative elections', to further escalate US military aggression.

The election will take place in the midst of a state of war. The counter-revolutionary CIA organised FDN,

To support counter-revolution, imperialism has harnessed the spiritual authority of the Vatican. The Pope has forced four revolutionary priests on pain of excommunication, to leave the government after the elections. Revolutionary Catholics, however, committed to the cause of the people have joined the revolution because the revolution has improved the conditions of the masses. This fact the masses will prove to the Vatican on election day.

While successful elections will undermine a pretext for direct US military intervention against Nicaragua, they will not lift the military, economic and political encirclement to which the Nicaraguan revolution is being subjected. In Honduras and off Nicaragua's shores thousands of US troops and armaments capable of reducing Nicaragua to rubble are assembled for a US invasion. The people of Nicaragua, in the midst of their election campaign, are being prepared for war under the slogan 'Everything for the War Front! Everything for the Combatants!' They have no illusions that US imperialism will respect the election results.

Eddie Abrahams

THE PAVEMENT

Campaign Diary

- 7 June Commander Howlett of Cannon Row Police imposes a permanent ban on pickets on the pavement outside the embassy.
- 8 June 26 demonstrators arrested for picketing on the pavement.
- 10 June The South African Embassy Picket Campaign 1984, is formed to win back the right to picket the embassy and protect those arrested.
- 15 June 29 demonstrators charged with 'wilfully obstructing the police in the course of their duty to "preserve the peace and dignity" of the embassy'.
- 22 June 21 demonstrators arrested and charged.
- 26 June Magistrate imposes bail conditions.
- 29 June 15 picketers arrested and charged
- 4 July Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, replies to a question from Eric Deakins MP on pickets of South Africa House: 'I can confirm that representations have been made at official level from the South African Embassy. The content of these or of any replies is confidential'.
- 5 July A judge in chambers turns down the appeal to remove bail conditions.
- 6 July 19 picketers arrested and charged. Kayode and Venti are arrested outside Albany Street police station.
- 10 July Bail conditions are placed on five more picketers.
- 13 July 27 picketers arrested, including Corrie McClean for the 5th time.
- 14 July Bow Street magistrate sends Corrie to prison for breach of bail conditions.
- 16 July Ollie, Anthony, Eddie and Peter sent to prison for breach of bail conditions. The Campaign receives the AAM Executive's statement asking AAM 'members and sympathisers not to participate in this campaign'.
- 18 July 300 attend campaign rally chaired by David Reed of FRFI. Speeches from David Kitson, the PLO, FRFI, WRP, Greenham Women, Dawes Hill Peace Camp, Young Liberals, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Chris Smith MP, Kings Cross women's centre, City AA.
- 20/21 July 24 hour picket. Stuart Holland MP, Tony Banks MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, and 5 Councillors are amongst the 24 arrested, bringing the total to 161 arrests, 135 charges.
- 23 July Test case trial of Richard Roques opens at Bow Street Magistrates Court. The 5 prisoners are released on unconditional bail
- 1 August Chief Magistrate at Bow Street rules that Richard Roques was not 'impairing the dignity' of the embassy by demonstrating on the pavement. As soon as the verdict is announced over 100 people march to Trafalgar Square to picket on our pavement. **VICTORY! THE PAVEMENT IS OURS!**
- 2 August Commander Howlett tells Carol Brickley, chair of the Campaign, that 'in the light of the magistrate's decision, we can offer no objection to the situation which existed prior to 26 May'. She tells him that his conduct, and that of his officers, will have to improve.
- 3/4 August 250 strong victory 24 Hour Picket addressed by David Kitson, Ian Mikardo MP, Richard Balfe MEP, Philip Sutcliffe Kent NUM, and many others. Over 180 police are stationed round the embassy in a display of 'normal' policing. The picket is continually filmed by the police.
- 17 August **ALL THE CHARGES ARE DROPPED**
- 19 August The South African Embassy Picket Campaign agrees to continue the campaign with the aim of **CLOSING DOWN THE RACIST EMBASSY.**
- 30 August Trial of Venti & Kayode adjourned to November.

Our organisation, Our democracy Our pavement

When chief magistrate David Hopkin threw out police attempts to ban demonstrations on the pavement outside the embassy on 1 August, a surge of excitement went through the public gallery in Bow Street court. The two months of carefully organised political activity had led to defeat for the police, the wishes of the apartheid embassy, and the faint-hearts who said we could never win. Within half an hour of the victory a column of over 100 campaign supporters had marshalled themselves on the very spot where 161 arrests had been made and publicly demanded the liberation of South Africa and Namibia from the slavery of apartheid. To the chagrin of both the police and embassy officials, Trafalgar Square once again rang with the chants 'Release Nelson Mandela! Release all South African political prisoners!'

A rare combination of determination and democracy has been the key to success. The South African Embassy Picket Campaign is organised on a completely democratic basis so that members can put their point of view. In order to win active support, the Campaign organised work on the streets especially amongst the youth. Meetings have been regularly held on the streets of Brixton, Holloway, Dalston and Wood Green, informing working class people about the issues at stake. Through these events 10,000 signatures were gained to a petition protesting against the police ban and the arrests.

As a consequence, the pickets of the embassy have grown over the weeks to about 250 when still in exile in Duncannon Street. The pickets have come to be very significant events in themselves. Rejecting the funereal atmosphere of the silent vigil, they have become both a militant form of protest and a school of political education. Chairpersons are elected to conduct the proceedings. Speakers are encouraged to make contributions. And very powerful speeches have been made from a very wide variety of organisations, including from the miners, Greenham Common women, Sinn Fein, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, Young Liberals, various Labour Party branches and councils.



Picketing outside Southwark Police Station

ROBERT LATHAM, Camden Councillor: 'The only way to defend a demo'

South London Women's Hospital Occupation, Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign and Noraid amongst others.

The determination to fight collaboration with apartheid and to defend democratic rights through direct action has become a tremendously unifying force. The weekly confrontations with the police, posed starkly the question 'Which side are you on?', and as a result drew forces towards the Campaign from every level of the Labour and progressive movement.

The question of the right to demonstrate against apartheid was debated in Camden Council and by the Labour Group of Westminster. Campaign material was circulated in Islington and Hackney Councils as well as the GLC. Many leading figures in the London labour movement came forward to support the campaign: Ken Livingstone, Richard Balfe MEP, Peter Hain, John McDonnell (GLC), Dave Wetzel (GLC), Valerie Wise (GLC) Harry Cohen MP, Hilda Kean (leader of Hackney Council) amongst others.

During the 24 hour picket of 20-21 July, MPs Stuart Holland, Tony Banks, Jeremy Corbyn, and Camden councillors Robert Latham, Jenny Wilmott, Gill Green, John Wakenham, together with Westminster councillor, Bill McElroy, were amongst those arrested. After these arrests the Campaign began to hit the headlines and news of it reached as far as Finland and the Soviet

TONY BANKS MP

'I was absolutely disgusted to see... condemning this campaign, the anything in this capitalist society... action, not through negotiating... police.'

women were victims of circumstance - scapegoats. They recognised this. Many see the hypocrisy institutionalised in our society and the need for changes that would fundamentally alter their unfortunate circumstances. The idea that people were organising outside to do this they found heartening.

Support from the outside and solidarity inside allowed us to appreciate the amusing aspect of the burdensome and oppressive petty bureaucracy of prison life. Pete was given a pair of prison trousers so large that to use both arms to carry his dinner tray upstairs would have left him very embarrassed. It took a veritable campaign of form filling, reminders, questions, visits to the landing office, before getting a pair that didn't fall down.

We had no illusion about our condition. Being remand prisoners with a powerful organisation behind us, we did not experience the vicious brutality which is the fate of most prisoners. When we were released on Monday 23 July, it was to the welcome of 150 picketers at Bow Street Magistrates Court. Back on the outside we continued our fight until victory.

Eddie



Pickets of 300 people were held every Friday in Duncannon Street

LORD GIFFORD QC Press Conference 1 August

'As a lawyer, I know that is only through mass public campaigns such as these that just decisions can be brought about in the court'

Five gaoled for for fighting apartheid

During July, five supporters of the South African Embassy Picket Campaign were sent to gaol for a week. Corrie was gaoled on Saturday 14 July, Peter, Anthony, Ollie and Eddie were sent down on Monday 16 July. In the dock, all five refused to accept bail conditions prohibiting them from picketing the South African embassy.

The imprisonments sparked off indignation and protest. The state had used the police and the courts to try and ban the pickets, and having failed to intimidate us, was now resorting to imprisoning protesters. If those masterminding the police campaign had calculated that the gaolings would dampen determination, they were badly wrong. During the week, the Campaign redoubled its efforts - intensive mobilising, street meetings, persistent lobbying of Parliament, the tremendous success of the July Rally and the 24 hour picket. The news of the campaign hit the media, it was on radio, in the newspapers and thousands of people were made aware of the police attack on anti-apartheid activists and democratic rights.

The Campaign organised our defence and welfare with swift efficiency. A petition demanding our release was immediately produced. We were visited every day with supplies of food, books, clothing and tobacco. Messages of support arrived from all over the country. Pickets were put on Holloway Prison, where Corrie and Ollie were held, and on Wormwood Scrubs detaining the men.

This organisation had a tremendous influence on the other prisoners. Recording his experience, Anthony wrote:

'On Thursday evening (19 July), shortly after being locked up for the night, the familiar sounds of the campaign's regular pickets reached our cell in C-Wing... Pete and I climbed onto our beds, squeezed up against the small barred windows and began to join the singing and chanting... after some time, the rastafarian above began to cry out. This sparked off a release of pent-up emotion all through the landing, resulting in a chorus of deafening noise.'

Impressed by the Campaign's organisation, many prisoners, especially black prisoners expressed their solidarity and signed the petition. The common bond uniting all prisoners - opposition to the prison system and hostility to the police, created conditions for political discussions exposing the reality of British 'democracy'. Corrie states:

'What hit me most was that all these

Court verdict supports our stand on democratic rights

At Bow Street Magistrates Court on 1 August, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, David Hopkin, ruled that the protestors on the pavement outside the South African embassy were not breaking the law, and that, therefore, the police had exceeded their powers in banning all demonstrations on the pavement and arresting the picketers. This verdict put an end to Police Commander George Howlett's 18-month-long campaign to appease the terrorist embassy.

A packed public gallery heard the 1½ day test case against Richard Roques, charged alongside 135 others, with wilfully obstructing the police in the course of their duty. The action was brought under the Vienna Convention (Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964) in order to prevent a 'breach of the dignity of the embassy'.

The tactic of the police prosecution could best be described as 'sling enough mud, and some of it will stick'. So, we witnessed the arresting officers, Points and Haake, giving completely contradictory evidence as they attempted to show that the picketers were blocking the pavement and that the raised fists were an 'aggressive' gesture rather than a salute:

'Counsel for the Prosecution: And can you describe to the court the demonstrators' actions outside South Africa House?

PC Points: There were 10 to 15 people, in single file, singing and chanting. They were holding banners; some on sticks between two people. No one in particular stood out.

PC Haake: There were 15 to 20 people, two to three deep on the pavement. They were holding posters up to their chests. They were singing and chanting in an aggressive manner, one man appeared to be leading them.

Counsel for the Prosecution: And what was their attitude towards the embassy?

PC Points: I don't think they liked it sir.'

PC Haake might get top marks for enthusiasm for his duty (collaboration with apartheid) but he should have thought about collaborating with PC Points to get his lies straight. Unfortunately for the police, and fortunately for the Truth, the defence had a video film of the picket, backed up by witnesses, which showed an orderly and peaceful protest.

Commander Howlett of Cannon Row gave the most interesting and

revealing evidence of all. He acknowledged that, when he assumed his present post as Commander in January 1983, he had noted in the files several letters from the South African embassy complaining about pickets on the pavement outside their premises. With customary attention to duty (collaboration with apartheid) Cdr Howlett decided that all pickets were in breach of the Vienna Convention and should be banned. He did, of course have the slight problem that such pickets had taken place for the last 32 years on the same spot. Never daunted, George Howlett began his campaign by imposing restrictions: no sitting down; no standing outside the embassy doors etc. Throughout he was guided by his own philosophy that there is no 'right' to demonstrate, it is only a 'privilege'. The prospects for his campaign improved (he thought) considerably when PW Botha's visit was announced. Now was his chance. The ban was implemented and the arrests began.

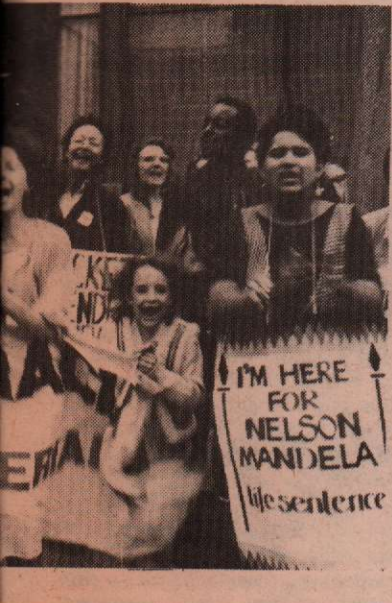
Chief magistrate Hopkin, however, did not agree. He confirmed the common law right to demonstrate and noted that all previous Commanders of 'A' Division had differed in practice from Mr Howlett by acknowledging the pickets as lawful. Commander Howlett was not in court to hear magistrate Hopkin deliver his verdict of not guilty which demolished the police prosecution's chances of appeal (as well as, some would say, Commander Howlett's chances of promotion), but over 100 picketers were. We marched straight down to the embassy to show the South Africans and the police that their latest attempts to interfere with democratic rights in Britain had failed miserably. Since then, Commander Howlett has asked (some would say, begged) for a return to the situation before 26 May. All the charges have been dropped and the police have decided against appeal. We, on the other hand, are pursuing our complaints against the police for their actions.

Carol Brickley

Picket Campaign 1984

THE PAVEMENT IS OURS!

Which side are you on?



PAUL MATTISON

All victories worth winning are won in the face of determined opposition. The South African Embassy Picket Campaign succeeded in the face of the efforts of the police – Commander Howlett and his subordinates at a local level, backed up by the Commissioner of Police Sir Kenneth Newman and the Tory government, anxious to legitimise apartheid during and after PW Botha's visit to Britain. But the British state and its police were not the only forces ranged against us. The Campaign also had to face attack from opportunists who wanted to give up and compromise before the fight had even begun. When the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) Executive issued its statement attacking the campaign, it became clear that what is at stake is the possibility of building a movement in Britain which can act in solidarity with the people of South Africa and Namibia against imperialist collaboration with apartheid.

Wherever you look in Britain – wherever a political fight is being waged – to defend trade unions, to keep jobs, to defend hospitals and services, to defend democratic rights, or to fight for peace – there are clear divisions between those who want to win the fight and those whose main interest is to sabotage and compromise in order to defend their own separate interests rather than the interests of the whole working class.

The miners strike today, is the best example of this. The miners are divided between those who have been bought-off by the NCB, and those whose jobs and communities are threatened. The dockers are divided between those who back the miners and those who have caved in. The Trade Union Congress is divided between those who will fight and those who, protecting their own status and power as trade union leaders, have sold their own members down the river. Neil Kinnock is most anxious to distance both himself and the Labour Party from violence on the miners picket line – claiming that direct action will not bring down the Tories, only a general election can do this. He is protecting his own career as leader of a party which, when in power, might have to confront strikers and would have no compunction about sending in the police and army. All these forces would prefer to make concessions to the NCB, to Mrs Thatcher, to the capitalist class and its state, rather than stand with the striking miners and Arthur Scargill. The striking miners have learnt the lesson. They know that they have to fight not only the Thatcher government, the NCB and the police, but also the scabs, dressed in whatever disguise, who have joined the opposition.

The South African Embassy Picket Campaign has learnt this lesson also. The opportunists of the AAM Executive showed their true colours when they issued their statement – just at the time when 5 picketers went to prison – condemning the Picket Campaign and called on its members and supporters not to take part.

'The AAM EC does not support their approach, believes that it damages the prospects of achieving a removal of the ban, and therefore asks its members and supporters not to participate in this campaign.'

The AAM Executive were standing reality on its head. The decisive victory of the Campaign they attacked conclusively proved them wrong. Are they now going to admit this? Are they now going to apologise for their divisive actions? Or are they going to continue with their sectarian attack on those who fought the ban and won back everybody's right to picket outside the South African Embassy?

Those who supported the Picket Campaign knew that a real victory would necessarily mean a defeat for the British state and its collaboration with apartheid. Such a victory had to be won

publicly and had to involve a wide section of British people. That victory would then be worth winning. The AAM Executive wanted to win by the back door in a way which would not involve confrontation with the British state and its police. If this were not possible then they would rather not win. They would far rather concede to the police ban than stand with the Campaign which was publicly confronting the unlawful action of the police.

At every point, just like Neil Kinnock on the miners, they did everything within their power to distance themselves from the Campaign. They even admitted as much to the police. Part of Commander Howlett's evidence to the court consisted of the following:

'I met, at my request, in my office, Mr Mike Terry and Miss Cate Clark of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. I explained the change in police policy and the reasons for it to them. A note of the meeting has been kept by the police. Mr Terry expressed their opposition to the change and indicated that steps to alter that policy would be taken and that his organisation intended that those steps should be legal as his movement did not seek confrontation.'

The police were clearly acting beyond their powers and had sought confrontation over this issue. Yet Mike Terry *above all* wanted to make the distinction between the AAM's and the Campaign's response to the ban. Mike Terry might be politically naive, Commander Howlett and the police certainly are not. The police attempted to make maximum use of the division between the AAM Executive and the picketers. Howlett called Campaign representatives to a further meeting, after the first arrests, to advise us that 'other organisations' were seeking to change the ban through 'political pressure' rather than direct action, and to advise us to do the same.

In spite of the fact that the police had made it perfectly clear that they were not willing to back down, the AAM Executive continued with its ostrich-like view that talks with the police would end the ban. Labour MPs Bob Hughes and Frank Dobson met with Assistant Commissioner to no avail and yet not once did they acknowledge the futility of their tactics. Cate Clark even informed the *Guardian* (see FRFI 41) that the ban had nothing to do with Botha's visit. Her folly was exposed when questions in the House of Commons revealed that complaints had been received from the embassy, and when Howlett's statement of evidence revealed his primary concern to appease the South Africans. Instead of seeing the ban as the latest interference by the embassy in British political affairs, and as part of a campaign against anti-apartheid protestors, the AAM Executive in practice rushed into the attack on the Campaign and joined the side of the British state, its police, and the South African Embassy itself.

Britain out of Apartheid Apartheid out of Britain

At its annual general meeting two years ago the Anti-Apartheid Movement passed an emergency resolution calling for the closure of the South African embassy. There is now an even greater urgency for a public campaign that will put effect to the AAM's decision. The South Embassy Picket Campaign has launched a campaign to do precisely this.

South Africa House is much more than a blatant symbol of racism in the middle of London, disgusting as that is. The embassy is the centre of operations which tie apartheid to British imperialism.

Arms Smuggling Four South African businessmen awaiting trial for arms smuggling in Coventry are now in South Africa, each of them on £25,000 bail paid by an embassy official. The embassy's stamp was on the invoices for armaments found in the possession of another convicted arms smuggler, Leonard Hammond.

Dirty tricks In March 1982 a 10lb bomb was planted in the ANC's London office. Subsequent break-ins at the offices of ANC, SWAPO and PAC in London led to the imprisonment of two British crooks, Peter Caselton and Edward Aspinall. Mr Ben van der Klashorst, first secretary at the embassy, suddenly returned to South Africa. Due to the 'diplomatic protection' accorded to embassy staff, two more South African agents – Warrant Officer Joseph Klue and security Police Officer Major Craig Williamson – escaped prosecution. Castleton served only 13 months of his 4 year sentence. In January this year he was met out of prison by a chauffeur driven black Mercedes with diplomatic plates.

Counter-revolution Johannes Kemp, previously the first secretary at the embassy and a senior officer in NIS (National Intelligence Service, formerly BOSS) attended a meeting in London on 15 April 1982 to plan the overthrow of the People's Republic of Angola. South African agents also plotted in London for the invasion of the Seychelles and the overthrow of its government.

Surveillance Embassy official, Klue, was named by *Time Out* magazine as having paid for information on supporters of the Southern African liberation movements. The embassy organises filming of British anti-apartheid protestors for broadcast on South African television.

Propaganda The embassy finances apartheid adverts in the British press. It provides 'information packs' and briefings to schools. It promotes visits to South Africa and Namibia for MPs. The embassy has written a five page propaganda sheet to all Camden councillors trying to persuade them that they should not rename a street in Camden after Nelson Mandela and inviting them to informal discussions. Quite rightly the Labour councillors, four of whom were arrested outside the embassy during the Picket Campaign, have refused to consider this offer.

The existence of South Africa House legitimises the existence of racism in Britain also. It is no wonder that the same police who rush to defend fascist apartheid, daily brutalise black people

South Africa House has been tolerated far too long by Labour and Tory governments alike. We should take a leaf out of New Zealand's book and start a campaign to close down the nest of spies once and for all.

Andy Goddard

RICHARD BALFE MEP Picket 3 August

'The City of London Anti-Apartheid Group has added a whole new dimension to anti-apartheid work, and they have put the Anti-Apartheid Movement back into the public eye.'

The Pavement is Ours! David Kitson addresses the victory picket



The AAM Executive should open its eyes to the political changes reaped by imperialism since the Nkomati Accord. The new so-called 'constitutional reforms' and Botha's visit to Britain are a conscious move by imperialism to legitimise apartheid, whilst not changing it at all, so that imperialist governments can openly support and protect the apartheid regime. If the AAM Executive continues to assume that constitutional pressure can force Mrs Thatcher, and all she represents, to make a stand against apartheid, then they will rapidly become irrelevant to any political fight against apartheid in Britain. If they are unwilling to challenge British collaboration with apartheid in a way which really hurts, then they cannot possibly claim to act in solidarity with the South African people.

There can be no compromise with imperialism in the fight against apartheid and in the defence of democratic rights. It is no accident that Sir Kenneth Newman was centrally involved in the ban on pickets outside the embassy. The attempt to turn the fight against apartheid into a crime is the first step in a well-rehearsed strategy that Newman put into practice in Ireland. There, the Emergency Powers Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, institutionalised torture and rigged non-jury courts were used to criminalise the just struggle of the Irish people for freedom. It is no accident therefore that the Prevention of Terrorism Act has now been extended to cover all those who support so-called terrorists (in

reality freedom fighters) the world over. Sir Kenneth Newman knows what he is doing on behalf of imperialism. The AAM should know that its cowardly response to the extension of the PTA (see FRFI 35), and its attempted sabotage of the Picket Campaign give more power to Newman and those he represents. If the AAM Executive think they can protect themselves from the PTA by making concessions to the police and the state, they should think again. If the AAM Executive think they can defend the liberation struggle in South Africa without defending democratic rights in Britain, they should think again.

The 100+ arrested outside the embassy during this campaign are justifiably angry at the AAM Executive's connivance against them. They are justifiably curious that such a battle and such a victory had to take place without the support of the AAM leadership. They have every right to question whether a leadership which has failed to defend them now, in a short-lived and relatively small battle, could ever defend them in the future.

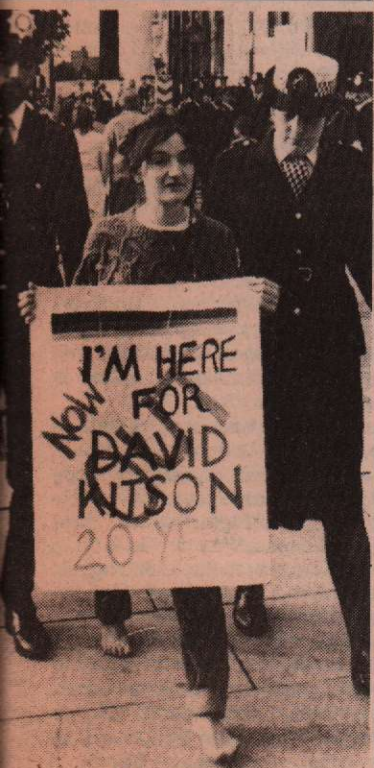
What is at stake is the future of a movement which can act in solidarity with the liberation forces in South Africa and against imperialist collaboration with apartheid. Unless the AAM takes a determined anti-imperialist stand it will increase the burden not only on the fighting people of South Africa and Namibia, but also on the oppressed people in Britain.

democratic right is to exercise it.

...ion.
FRFI was centrally involved in the campaign's work. An FRFI comrade chaired the Campaign meetings, FRFI comrades were arrested and one was imprisoned. Helping to formulate tactics, FRFI supporters stressed the importance of disciplined political organisation to oppose the organised force of the British state. A weekly FRFI bulletin drew out political lessons from the struggle and highlighted the connection between the struggle against British collaboration with apartheid and the campaign's defence of democratic rights.
The importance of active solidarity was really brought home during a speech by David Kitson to the rally held mid-July. Recently released 7 months from serving a 20 year gaol sentence in South Africa, he said he wanted to emphasise that pickets are an effective form of protest. Graphically demonstrating this point, he said 'When Vorster went to gaol, John Vorster [then Minister of Justice] said "no political prisoner would get remission". And Vorster is dead and we are alive!' He continued, 'we are alive because people throughout the world in general, and in particular, kept pressing for the release of political prisoners in South Africa – and in particular one of these pressures was right at the point of maximum pain for the South Africans – the picket outside South Africa House.'

John Strawson

...the AAM press release
...only way we shall achieve
...is through action, direct
...with the metropolitan



...ie is arrested for 5th time

Reviews

DON'T SHOUT 'SCAB' SHOUT 'SCAPEGOAT'

The Miners' Next Step, RCP pamphlet by Frank Richards. Junius Publications 1984, pp52, 50p

It is fitting that a review in the *Financial Times*, no less should have said of this pamphlet:

'In a well-argued pamphlet entitled the *Miners' Next Step*... they rip into the NUM's left leadership for collaboration in the Plan for Coal and take a relatively mild view of the working miners because they are merely following the logic of their leaders collaborationism.'

As the FT reviewer says, it is common for those on the left to attack trade union leaders:

'... but rarely from the same side of the barricades as the entire establishment.'

The RCP has however done precisely this. It has campaigned throughout the strike for a national ballot. In doing so it has joined the entire ruling class and opposed the wishes of the striking miners. This pamphlet explains how the RCP arrives at such an absurd position. Its method is simple - at all costs ignore reality.

The miners strike has, more than any other trade union struggle, demonstrated the fundamental realities of working class struggle in this period. First the deep split in the working class movement with Notts miners scabbing, steel workers unloading scab coal and the reluctance of many other sections to aid the miners. Secondly, it has shown the ruthlessness with which the ruling class will resort to its classic methods for dealing with working class opposition - police brutality, rigged courts and a vast apparatus of lies and brute force with which the rich sustain their power. The question of ruling class force is apparently of little interest to the RCP, since their pamphlet barely men-

tions the sustained attack which the striking miners have suffered. Instead it concentrates on what it calls 'disunity' but does so in order to deny that a fundamental division exists in the working class. For the RCP the Notts scabs are not scabs at all they are... 'scapegoats'.

Why are the majority of Notts miners working? Most striking miners explain it quite simply - greed. This simple explanation is not good enough for the RCP, who, being middle class do not know that people are moved to fight or not to fight by very material considerations. For the RCP:

'There is no correlation between militancy and wage levels'.

Indeed the pamphlet rejects the fact that sections of the Notts miners are relatively privileged in comparison to miners in other regions where many more pits are threatened. Relying on a set of figures which show that in two areas of Yorkshire, miners earn higher bonuses than in Notts the RCP triumphantly proclaims that this:

'...explodes the myth of the labour aristocrats of Nottinghamshire'.

So why are they working?

'The Notts miners believe that the future of the mining industry can be better safeguarded through industrial peace rather than through strikes. The only (!) difference between Nottinghamshire and the other regions is that as a result of its peculiar experience collaboration and sectionalism are more entrenched...'

So that's the only difference! Most of us thought the difference was that the scab Notts miners are on the side of the ruling class whilst the strikers are on the side of the working class. Piling absurdity on absurdity the RCP continues:

'In Nottinghamshire many miners look for solutions through cooperation with

the Coal Board. In Scotland miners have learned that their future depends on fighting the Coal Board. Unfortunately both wings of the movement are politically tied to the Coal Board.'

Now we understand! It's not which side of the barricades you are on but what is in your head that counts. Hence the RCP's belief that the NUM's decision not to have a ballot was a

'...refusal to campaign to win the arguments for strike action among the miners.'

Since no material causes underlie the decision of the Notts men to scab (or the steel workers to betray the miners) it is all a question of changing people's minds by rational argument. This is indeed the tea-party theory of class struggle. It reminds me of those British leftists who argue that the Six Counties loyalists can be rendered progressive by socialist agitation.

The rest of the pamphlet is the stock British left denunciation of the NUM leadership, in this case for sowing illusions in The Plan for Coal. Since Scargill's leadership of the strike has up to now been impressive, the RCP simply lies. Whilst the ruling class and the Labour Party leadership denounce the miners for using 'unBritish' and 'untypical' methods, the RCP says the NUM leadership is 'running a routine trade union dispute'. 6000 arrests? 2 killed? Workers in gaol? Routine?

It is hard for idealists such as Frank Richards to realise that the lessons learnt by the miners as they have fought scabs, police and ruling class intimidation matter a hundred times more today than their views on the Plan for Coal. But I was forgetting a fundamental principle of middle class socialist politics: no workers can learn lessons without the intervention of arrogant British Trotskyists. Can't you just picture the scene on the picket lines in Nottinghamshire, 'Now lads, don't shout scab, shout scapegoat...'

Maxine Williams

The enemy in our midst : part two

Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1983. HMSO, 1984, pp 159, £9.45

In August 1983 we reported on Kenneth Newman's first annual Metropolitan Police report (see FRFI 31). We noted the major components of Newman's policing strategy: re-organisation of the police to make it a more effective intelligence gathering force; centralisation and computerisation of information from a range of 'low grade sources'; development of intelligence and surveillance units; creation of a network of 'community liaison' bodies both to provide information and to create co-operation between police and 'community leaders'; strengthening of police power to attack should the elaborate network of information, intelligence and surveillance, and 'community liaison' fail to contain resistance to poverty, unemployment and racism. Newman's report for 1983 shows how he has relentlessly pursued this strategy, first perfected during his period as Chief Constable of the RUC.

The re-organisation of the Metropolitan Police into 24 districts creating district plans collated into four area plans which are finally centralised into one overall plan for the whole Metropolitan Police area, is now complete. Accompanied by computerisation - the Computer Liaison Unit linking the Police National Computer and the Swansea Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre is now operational - this re-organisation provides for a massive network of intelligence instantly available. Added to this will be the Command and Control computer system which will be operational sometime this year. By accumulating vast amounts of 'low grade' intelligence, Newman is able, to use his own expression, to 'target' specific areas and deploy police resources in those areas. Not surprisingly the areas he mentions in the Report are Brixton, Notting Hill, Finsbury Park, Hackney, Kilburn, Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham - all areas of widespread poverty and with high black populations.

Last year's Report revealed the establishment of a pilot intelligence and surveillance unit in South London. This year's Report reveals that all four Metropolitan Police areas now have these units. Newman describes their function as to 'focus efforts upon targeted persons' and notes that their operation has led to 1000 arrests. They work in conjunction with Special Patrol Group (SPG) units on 'covert detective operations'. To process the information from these units 50 micro-computers have been set up in local stations and a 'Forcewide crime reports information system (CRIS)'.

Community spying

Alongside the internal police re-organisation and computerisation goes Newman's elaborate and extensive community spying operations. There are now 69 neighbourhood watch schemes operating

with 223 to come; 19 borough-based 'consultative committees' with 6 to come; 18 'crime prevention units'; and also extensive links with 'community agencies'. This network not only provides the 'low grade' intelligence for Newman's computers, it also creates links between the police and 'moderate community leaders' to isolate and control the real threat: the poor, the unemployed and, above all, black youth. Newman is perfectly frank about his mobilisation of black opportunist leaders in support of the police:

'I am sure that solutions lie in the sharing of perceptions not only with [social agencies] but, more vitally, with those who have managed to gain the trust of the black teenager.' (emphasis added)

Newman understands the role of 'consultative committees' very well, even if various erstwhile champions of civil liberties appear not to.

Nothing escapes Newman's community spying. He calls in the Report for:

'... police liaison with education and health authorities, social and probation services, transport operators, Members of Parliament, church leaders, residents' associations, playgroups, youth and sporting clubs and an almost countless variety of voluntary organisations.'

Newman is also conscious of the fact that the true purpose of all this liaison and consultation must be well disguised:

'...we must not allow professional boundaries to become blurred to a point where a healthy pluralist society is lost in a community perception of amorphous "authority".'

When spying fails

Behind the computers and the consultation stand the District Support Units and Special Patrol Group to deal 'robustly when necessary' with 'serious disorder on the streets' Newman has increased training in 'riot control' and guns. In 1983 there were 24,168 single day attendances at riot shield training courses - an 11% increase over 1982; there were 17,748 single day attendances at District Support Unit training courses - a 23% increase over 1982; and 4,753 officers were authorised to use firearms - a 6% increase over 1982. These figures compare with an overall increase in police personnel of just under 2%. Therefore an ever greater proportion of the police is being trained and equipped to put down resistance on the streets.

The deployment of this massive and growing force is clearly revealed in the figures for policing demonstrations. 1,895 police were deployed on 22 January 1983 to attack the Colin Roach demonstration; yet 1,485 were enough to police the massive crowds watching the London Marathon on 17 April 1983. In 4 weeks in November 1983 6,893 (25%) of the Metropolitan Police were deployed at Greenham!

Newman is without doubt, the enemy in our midst.

Terry O'Halloran

Night Witches

Night Witches, Bruce Myles, Panther, 1983, pp272, £1.95

Most books about war published in this country are a glorification of violence in the service of imperialism, are permeated with a spirit of racism and chauvinism, and riddled with historical falsification. *Night Witches* is an exception. It is the story of the squadrons of women pilots who fought in the Red Airforce to defend the Soviet Union against the fascists in what is known in the USSR as the Great Patriotic War of 1941-5.

The 1917 revolution created new opportunities for the youth. Many teenage girls, daughters of workers and peasants, were, on the outbreak of war, members of the *Osoaviakhim* - state sponsored paramilitary flying clubs. Some were instructors. Thousands of them volunteered to fight for their country when the fascists attacked in 1941. Three entire Airforce regiments were established, composed entirely of women - pilots, navigators, mechanics, armourers - everyone women. This book tells of their selection, training and operations. However, this is much more than a simple military history, and also the experience of these women, as people, and as devotees of the Soviet Union against the male chauvinists of the West, and how they were treated, and how they defended women like themselves. It is a dogfight into the heart of the matter.

line over Stalingrad, becoming an Ace. Lily became known as the White Rose of Stalingrad - white roses were stencilled along the nose of her aircraft for every fascist killed - and terrified the Nazi pilots, who could frequently be heard by ground monitors calling 'Achtung Litvak!' to one another when her Yak-9 was in the sky.

The book conveys the special comradeship which sprang up amongst these women, and also describes the intense friendship and partnerships which sprang up with male pilots. The deep and trusting quality of these relationships was born out of the struggle they were waging. Everyone was acutely conscious that everyone's life and future, their own, their friends, their families, depended on performing their tasks with the utmost courage and dedication.

This is not a story of a handful of heroines. It is impossible to describe the activities of these women without evoking the heroism and the self-sacrifice of the whole Soviet people - civilian as well as military - who all co-operated to defeat the fascist aggressors, and this struggle is present throughout the book. The dimensions of the struggle are evident from a few facts - the much-vaunted Battle of Britain lasted just ten weeks, while Litvak and her comrades fought in the skies over Stalingrad for more than ten months.

Despite the general honesty of the author's account, his bourgeois standpoint is revealed in his evasion of two questions. Why was it only the Soviet Union that took such an initiative? And what was it that gave these women such inspiration and dedication?

The answer to the first question is that

the Soviet Union is a socialist country where the struggle for women's liberation is further advanced than it can ever hope to reach in an imperialist country; that the war was fought to defeat imperialism and that it was therefore natural that all citizens, without regard to race or sex, should be drawn into the struggle to defend socialism. Contrast this with Britain, where CG Grey, editor of *The Aeroplane* wrote 'The menace is the woman who thinks that she ought to be flying a high-speed bomber when she really has not the intelligence to scrub the floor of a hospital properly', and the women were only allowed to ferry aircraft (see *Guardian* June 5 1984).

The answer to the second question lies in the leading role the Communist Party plays in the socialist military forces. Instead of relying for motivation upon racism, chauvinism, egoism and the cult of violence for its own sake, a socialist army is motivated by political dedication: the justice of their cause, the collective nature of the struggle, and the liberating nature of their tasks. Every Soviet regiment had political commissars dedicated to inspiring and educating the troops. At the same time many of the women pilots were members of the *Komsomol* - the Young Communist League. Unfortunately, this aspect is scarcely touched upon in the book.

Despite these weaknesses, the book is an exciting, inspiring moving and educational book which should be read by anyone who supports the fight for freedom from imperialist oppression and discrimination.

Steve Palmer

IN DEPTH IDIOCY

Reagan for Beginners, David Smith and Melinda Gebbies. Writers and Readers, 1984, pp 191, £2.95

An in-depth analysis of an idiot. This illustrated guide to the career of the comedian become President, cowboy actor turned Commander-in-Chief, the athlete, wood-chopper and crusader that is Ronald Reagan is destined to grace radical loos throughout the land. Peruse awhile, and marvel at how Ronnie goes to Washington, and the ingenuous pals who go with him. Startle, at the ice-cool with which nations are struck down and people disappear as though they were never there. Puzzle, for a glimpse of the truth of a trail full of lies, and wonder at the

fantasy world conjured up around you. But watch out for the seatgrinding finale as Commander Reagan does battle with the hemispheres from his ranch deep in outer-space.

Seriously though and, in the words of the hero, 'from the bottom of my heart', whatever your disposition, at £2.95 a copy I recommend you to use your money wisely and subscribe to *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* instead. We promise to bring you so much more of the astonishing pile of excrement that is the legacy of the American Dream come true in the story of the 'Huck Finn - Tom Sawyer' home town boy turned mass murderer who made it to the White House. Otherwise, for an expert opinion on this figurehead of US imperialism ask the poor people of El Salvador, Lebanon and Detroit City. Trevor Rayne

in brief

SRI LANKA TAMILS TERRORISED

August 1984 has seen the rapid escalation of the genocidal attacks on the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan regime. The Sri Lankan navy bombarded the Tamil populated Valuettiturai coast. The army went



on the rampage in the coastal town of Mannar burning down homes, leaving over 3,000 Tamils without homes and Tamil plantation workers were arrested and brutalised during a wave of strikes. Women have been tortured and humiliated, accused of being the wives of rebels. The regime has set up a new fascist armed force of 4,000 men trained by Mossad (Israel's secret service) and former British SAS men. The police have opened fire on anti-Israeli demonstrators injuring and killing scores of people.

The security forces cold bloodedly murdered 19 Tamil revolutionary political prisoners by blowing up the prison while the prisoners were still inside. Hundreds of Tamils have been killed by army terror. The Catholic Bishop of Mannar Rt Rev Thomas Sundanayam was moved to say 'it is like an army of invasion flattening everything in its path'.

President of the Sri Lankan regime J R Jayawardene has recently been to Israel to cement more completely the link between the Zionist butchers of the Palestinian people and the butchers of the Tamil people. The Sri Lankan regime already a much favoured client of Western imperialism has made a deal with the US for fuelling facilities for the US navy in Trincomalee - the first step towards an American base. While in the mountains around Kandy 300 Sri Lankan soldiers are being equipped and trained using the latest techniques like simulated guerrilla warfare by British instructors, who came in from Oman. Jayawardene openly states that he would accept help 'from the devil himself'.

As the state terror against the Tamil

people increases most of the Tamil people are rejecting the vacillating middle class Tamil politicians and are openly defending the Tamil Tigers who are engaged in an armed struggle to defend the people and for a separate state, Tamil Eelam, in the north and east of the island.

The 'leader' of the middle class Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) while verbally criticising the racist brutality of the armed forces for 'harassing, mutilating, murdering' Tamils in the north and torturing children while their property was being 'pilfered, plundered and destroyed' then insists 'we have no options but to struggle by all non-violent means to liberate our people from oppression! So, recently, when seven TULF leaders began a Gandhian hunger strike against the genocidal attack on the Tamil people, hundreds of militant youth showed their contempt when they bought them packed lunches and asked them what the TULF has ever done to defend the Tamil people.

The Tamil Tigers however have proved to the people that they can

launch daring counter attacks against the repressive forces. In August 50 to 60 strong units have attacked police stations and banks and totally destroyed them. The Tamil Tigers are not only the revolutionary vanguard of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka but some Sinhala progressives are beginning to see that they are giving a lead to all the oppressed in Sri Lanka - further and very

importantly the 55 million Tamil people in Southern India look to the Tiger movement for political leadership.

So when President Jayawardene says that the Tigers have '...turned Sri Lanka into the Northern Ireland of the Indian Ocean' he expresses the fears of ruling circles not only in Sri Lanka but India as well.

Viraj Mendis

SOUTH LEBANON

DEATH SQUADS

The election to the Israeli parliament of Rabbi Meir Kahane evoked 'shock' in the British bourgeois press. Kahane, an avowed racist, demands the expulsion of all Palestinians from Israel and the occupied territories. The Zionist Justice Ministry is planning a 'law' against racism. This is official hypocrisy attempting to cover up official racism and reaction. Kahane is the frank and loud voice of the Zionist state's actions.

Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, over 100,000 Palestinians have been forced to leave. Palestinians are systematically discriminated against in economic life, in health, education and welfare. 70% of the most fertile land has been confiscated and passed over to Zionists. Palestinians are denied the right to drill for water and to open up new industries. Democratically elected Palestinian councils have been banned. Palestinians are being impoverished, forcing many to leave and others to work as cheap labour in Israel, with no social security rights and wages far below those of Jewish workers. Resistance from the Palestinians is met by army guns and civilian Zionist terror squads.

The 'liberal' British press casting an accusing finger at Kahane is only white-washing official Zionist fascism and oppression. In occupied South Lebanon Zionism is exposing its true face. Every occupying force facing an undefeated resistance movement resorts to bloody terror against the civilian population. Zionism is no exception. Shin Beth, Israeli security service, is now using death squads. On 14 July one such squad bundled Murshid Nahhas into their Mercedes, took him 200 yards away from his shop and murdered him in a hail of bullets. In the past month and a half 7 others have fallen victim to the Shin Beth. These methods, pioneered by Britain, designed to sow terror and demoralisation, are no different from

those used by the SAS in the Six Counties of northern Ireland or the death squads in El Salvador or Guatemala (who are trained by the Israelis).

Working alongside Shin Beth and 17,000 Israeli soldiers is the Israeli puppet South Lebanon Army composed of fascist Phalangists. They are, in the words of David Hirst of the *Guardian* the 'respectable facade to an underworld of thugs, misfits and racketeers.' From the gutters of society, the official Zionist establishment is arming traitors, renegades, fortune hunters and criminals. These gangs extorting money from refugees, raising protection money, kidnapping and murdering resisters to Israeli occupation are increasingly the instruments of Zionist rule.

These methods have not defeated the popular and armed movement of the Lebanese National Resistance Front, whose attacks on Zionists and their stooges are daily events.

For the Lebanese and Palestinian people subjected to Zionist rule, the Israeli elections of 23 July had no significance. It is of little interest to them whether the racists of Shimon Peres's Labour Party or those of Likud, or both combined form a government. None of these Zionist parties recognise the PLO, none is willing to withdraw from the occupied territories and both are determined to crush Lebanese and Palestinian resistance to Zionism and imperialism.

Eddie Abrahams

● Chile

As the Chilean working class and popular movement prepares for massive demonstrations on 4/5 September, fascist dictator Pinochet has promised to wage 'a war to the death against communism'. In an effort to disorganise preparations, Pinochet unsuccessfully tried to deport 3 leaders, including the General Secretary, of the Popular Democratic Movement. Meanwhile, in August, the regime's police have conducted an assassination campaign against working class activists. In Concepcion, one person was murdered while distributing leaflets. Another two were shot dead trying to evade a police raid of a working class district. In Santiago, two members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (MRPF) which has carried out a number of military operations in the country, were shot dead. Other activists have been murdered in Valdivia and Los Angeles.

The murder of rank and file activists and the attempts to ban leading members of the democratic movement will not halt the renewed fighting spirit of the Chilean masses, who are prepared to sacrifice their lives to rid themselves of 11 years of fascist rule.

Nigel Doyle

● 'Socialists collaborate against ETA'

With the extradition to Spain of Basque political exiles, the Spanish and French 'socialist' governments have increased their collaboration to undermine the Basque liberation struggle. In August, 8 Basque exiles lost cases in French courts and now face extradition. Since January 1984, 20 Basques have been expelled to South America and 10 prohibited from living in the French Basque region. Some have even been kidnapped and transported to French Martinique in the West Indies. Resistance to this collaboration is growing. On 26 August Basque youth fought police armed with plastic bullets and tear gas for 5 hours with petrol bombs and rocks. Earlier, 2 Citroen showrooms were blown up in San Sebastian in increasing attacks on French businesses. The French consulate in Gijon has also been attacked.

Recent Spanish government offers to negotiate with Basque nationalists have been denounced and condemned by ETA. They will continue the armed struggle for as long as the 'socialists' of France and Spain deny the Basque people their right to self-determination.

Nigel Doyle

Mitterrand - Marchais gate-keepers for racism

As soon as the results of the European elections had been counted by the Ministry of the Interior, the writing was on the wall for the French Communist Party. With its worst proportion of the popular vote since 1928, it had ended up only 54,000 votes ahead of the fascist National Front, both received just over 11%. In a matter of days, President Mitterrand had sacked Pierre Mauroy, Prime Minister for the past three years, and appointed right-wing Socialist Laurent Fabius in his place. The CP quit the government so bringing to an end its two-decade-old strategy of a 'Union of the Left' government.

The dramatic fall in the vote for the parties of the left, from 54% in June 1981 to 35% this year did not signal the recovery of the former right-wing governing parties. In fact it was the occasion for the National Front to begin its rise from the sewers of French political life. The NF now has ten members of the European Parliament, and outside the Spanish state must be seen as Europe's most powerful fascist party.

The rise to electoral prominence of the National Front is not mainly due to its own efforts. Rather the Front has merely called the racist vote generated by the Socialist and Communist parties who together and separately have run disgusting racist campaigns against immigrant workers. Both parties have singled out immigrant workers, mostly from France's ex-colonies in Africa, as scapegoats for the chronic crisis of French capitalism. Following a vicious austerity programme resulting in falling

real wages, massive cutbacks in public expenditure and in rising unemployment, the SP-CP government has attempted to divert workers attention from confronting these policies by playing the racist card. While the working class as a whole bears the brunt of the austerity measures, the most oppressed sections, black and immigrant workers, are even more penalised by being under threat of 'repatriation'.

The National Front is led by Jean Marie Le Pen, an ex-paratrooper during the French war against the Vietnamese, and later against the Algerian liberation struggle. In Algeria, Le Pen is well known to have been involved in the torture of political detainees. He received his political training at the hands of Pierre Poujade, a disciple of the 1930's fascist leader Doriot, and supporter of the collaborationist Vichy regime during the second world war. During the 1960s Le Pen was associated with the right wing terrorist group, OAS ('Secret Army Organisation') which was responsible for many bombing outrages and assassination attempts.

Le Pen poses as a supporter of the 'little man', but in fact is a millionaire who lives in a luxury mansion in fashionable Saint Cloud. He undoubtedly has illusions of grandeur and sees himself on the road to the presidency. More likely, with their new found strength, his party will be used as the shock troops against black and immigrant workers in order to further divide and weaken the working class.

John Strawson

PHILIPPINES

DICTATORSHIP IN CRISIS

The US-backed dictatorship of President Marcos in the Philippines teeters from crisis to crisis. The economy verges on the brink of total collapse, while the rising tide of working class, student and popular protest against the regime has not been dampened by an escalation of repression. On 21 August, following several weeks of street protests and rallies, around 1m Filipinos braved armed soldiers, riot police and barbed wire barricades to hold a massive demonstration in Manila commemorating the Marcos-organised assassination of Benigno Aquino. The advance of the revolutionary democratic movement has been underpinned by the impressive successes of the armed wing of the Philippines Communist Party, the New People's Army (NPA).

To counter the NPA, Marcos has unleashed a desperate and bloody counter-insurgency campaign. In the Cordillera region, tribal villages have been bombed and strafed. The military has committed acts of rape and arson, while death squads have murdered suspected members and sympathisers of the NPA. However, as a Filipino lawyer recently remarked:

'... the more military you put in an area, the more abuses there will be, and the more abuses there are, the more the NPA is able to recruit.'

In the cities of Manila, Davao and Quezon demonstrations of up to 20,000

youth have been attacked by riot police. Over 30 students disappeared after a demonstration outside the presidential palace. On another occasion, 200 riot police fired into a picket line outside a Manila clothing factory, leaving at least 7 killed and 27 wounded. In June Marcos dispatched some 760 so-called 'secret Marshalls' into Manila. These death squads murdered over 45 people.

US imperialism has investments totaling \$2bn in the Philippines, as well as important bases such as Clark air base and Subic Bay Naval station which protect US strategic interests in the Indian Ocean. This imperialist control of the Philippines economy is driving millions

of Filipinos into the direst poverty. A recent report showed that 70% of Philippine families lived below the poverty line and that more than half ate less than the minimum nutritional requirements. It is estimated that in the coming months 500,000 workers will be laid off. The Philippines debt to 483 foreign banks now approaches \$30bn - a burden which the IMF and US bankers will ensure is shouldered by the poor.

The US recently granted \$1bn credit and a \$200m 'bridge loan' for fear of what might happen in the Philippines. A New York Democrat said:

'The Philippines is heading straight toward a political and economic disaster. This is another Vietnam waiting to happen'.

The New People's Army are making steady gains in the Philippines countryside. Since 1980 its armed strength has doubled - it now has 20,000 full-time and part-time guerrillas who are fighting in 45 guerrilla fronts in 53 of the 73 provinces of the Philippines. An NPA political officer said the NPA 'has come to the stage where it cannot be wiped out any more. The chances for revolution are bright.'

Bill Hughes



DEREK SPEIRS/REPORT

ISM delegation to Ireland

On the weekend of 11-12 August the Irish Solidarity Movement (ISM) took a 55 strong delegation to Belfast. Delegates from ISCs in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Bradford and Leeds, including FRFI supporters as well as 2 Yorkshire miners, went to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial: it was also the 15th anniversary of the introduction of British troops into the Six Counties. For two days we saw how the nationalist people live and what they are fighting against. The events of Sunday 12 August when Sean Downes was murdered by plastic bullet during the savage attack on the anti-internment march showed to use the true face of British rule in Ireland.

We received our first taste of occupied Ireland before we had even left the shores of Britain. When we queued to board the ferry at Stranraer a plain clothes policeman handed out cards for people to fill in stating who they were, where they were going etc. This mass intelligence gathering is done under the PTA.

Once in Belfast we were taken up the Falls Road and the Whiterock Road by black taxis - community transport for the people. For those of us who had never been to the Six Counties what we

BLOODY SUNDAY

The march assembled at Dunville Park. The streets echoed to the sound of bands, 12 in all, blasting out Republican songs. Delegations from NORAI, ISM, TOM and Red Action joined Republicans from the North and South. Thousands of people lined the Falls Road. As the march set off four RUC landrovers pulled off ahead. RUC men and British soldiers blocked every side-street entrance off the Falls, a helicopter hovered overhead. Despite the heavy police and army presence the mood of the march was jubilant, everyone suspected that Martin Galvin, the NORAI representative, banned from entering the Six Counties, would speak at the rally. Everyone was looking forward to embarrassing the 'Brits'. As the march reached Andersonstown Sinn Fein Headquarters at Connolly House it became clear that the authorities were planning something serious. RUC fired plastic bullets at some youth on the roof of the shopping centre who threw stones. Peace soon returned and everyone sat down in the road, banners and stewards surrounding them. There was a speaker from TOM and a message

BLOODY SUNDAY '84

continued from page 1

beating. The ban on Galvin was 'a bad mistake' for which he took 'full responsibility'. The British media were full of sickening praise for Prior's 'courage' and 'candour'. But as Thatcher and Co well know, Prior is the cheapest possible scapegoat. His statements served to take

ualty figures (a complete underestimate as people do not go to hospital fearing arrest there) are 1 dead and 20 injured - from 18 plastic bullets?

- RUC 'attacked and obstructed'. All witnesses report, including the press, the entirely peaceful nature of the rally at which those present were seated when the attack began. The RUC did not come under attack

ism continues unabated. The SDLP accused Sinn Fein of engineering a confrontation by allowing Galvin to appear. They blame the oppressed for defying Britain's tyranny! The British Labour Party, surpassed them all. Clive Soley's immediate response was:

'It may well be that the Home Secretary made a mistake in banning Martin Galvin... this put the security forces in an impossible situation.'

Not a word of condemnation of the RUC, not a word of sympathy for the victims. Soley's sympathy was reserved for the RUC. Kinnock, now famed for his attacks on violence by striking miners, said that the RUC's behaviour was

'...a radical departure from their normal practice in similar circumstances'.

That is a lie worthy of Hermon. He should tell it to the nationalist people forced to live under continuous attack from the thuggish RUC. He went on to voice his major concern which was that the attack:

'Gave propaganda material to those in Northern Ireland and elsewhere who support and sponsor violence in pursuit of their political aims'.

'I saw a guy moving towards the coppers. And this one RUC faced him from about three or four yards and just shot him straight in the chest. I would guess that was the one who died because no one could survive being shot at that distance. Then this RUC bloke came up with his truncheon, saying "Now fuck off". It was like a pheasant beating. They have beaters to knock the pheasants out of the bushes and then they shoot them. The RUC were knocking people off the pavement and as soon as someone would get up you could hear plastic bullets.'

Chris, Manchester

from missiles but fired at a passive crowd, using plastic bullets at a distance of a few feet, a range at which they are known to be lethal.

Yet Hermon, this liar, will remain Chief Constable of the Six Counties. A man is murdered and scores are injured but no police officer or politician will face even the mildest of penalties. Thatcher has already brushed aside the call for an inquiry with casual contempt. Just as Bloody Sunday 1972 was whitewashed, so, with even more ease has Bloody Sun-

'One woman was pushing her little baby in a push chair. She pushed it straight at the RUC screaming "Why don't you finish it off?"'

Annie, London

day 1984 been covered up.

Those who bear the greatest blame for allowing this to take place are the politicians of the Twenty Six Counties, the Six Counties and above all the British Labour Party. It is they who ensured that the Tory government was placed under no pressure following these events. The Twenty Six Counties government expressed 'serious concern', as a sop to public opinion in the South. But their collaboration with British imper-

How typical of the imperialist Labour Party to oppose repression lest it leads to the victims fighting back and gaining support. Kinnock cares not a fig for the right of the Irish people to live free from the British state's violence in pursuit of its political aims, namely the domination of Ireland.

Bloody Sunday 1984 must not be allowed to be forgotten by those who are responsible for it. The best monument to all the victims of British imperialism in Ireland will be the defeat of British rule in Ireland. Our task is to build a strong solidarity movement in Britain to hasten the day.

**Victory to the Irish People!
Troops Out Now!
Ban Plastic Bullets!**

Maxine Williams

the heat off the Tories and the RUC.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC adopted different tactics. Faced with journalists who had personally witnessed the carnage, he simply told and re-told The Big Lie. The RUC operation had been based, he said, on the principle of 'speed using minimum force'. Reports of large numbers of plastic bullets being used were 'inaccurate' as was the report of bystanders being fired on. 12 plastic bullets were fired in the air, 1 at the door of Connolly House and a further 18 at a group of people throwing missiles, according to Hermon. Sean Downes was 'clearly identified' as a rioter. All these are blatant lies.

- Speed using minimum force - the attack lasted 20 minutes and included RUC men firing from a rooftop on people lying on the ground, pursuing groups of people over a hundred yards away and firing on them, ordering people to stand up and then firing at them.
- 31 plastic bullets. All witnesses report continuous firing of plastic bullets and the casualties suffered belie Hermon's figure. Official cas-

'Back at Connolly House Sean Downes was surrounded by people. He was definitely dead then and the RUC were sharing a joke in the back of one of the landrovers.'

'We lay on the ground then I looked up. My head must have been about six inches off the ground, a plastic bullet came and just grazed the top of my head. I remember the smell of gunpowder and the fact that my hair just came out in a sizeable handful.'

Malcolm

'I was lying flat on my stomach when I was hit on the side of my head by a plastic bullet. I went dizzy and soon realised that I couldn't speak. Someone phoned an ambulance for me. But then an Irish man told me not to get in the ambulance as I would get arrested at the hospital.'

Gareth

people, only the ones that are in uniform occupying their country. In the many discussions we had people asked about the uprisings in 1981, about the miners strike; the people we met held in high regard all those who fought for their rights in Britain - this was shown most clearly in the 'Victory to the Miners' banner hung up near Connolly House on 12 August. Even in the midst of their own war they ally themselves with all those fighting against the common enemy - British imperialism.

from the prisoners. Gerry Adams spoke next and welcomed Martin Galvin to the platform. Immediately the RUC stormed into the seated crowd with plastic bullet guns firing and their seven ton armoured cars crushing everything and everyone in their path as they tried to capture Martin Galvin.

They fired plastic bullets at point blank range at peaceful demonstrators. They mercilessly beat people with batons. RUC officers ordered people lying



'... there was this feeling of warmth and genuine happiness to know that people were working in an anti-imperialist way in Britain, and that the work was supported by a growing number of black people. Literally all the children thought Ronnie and I were from Brixton, and wanted to know about the riots.'

Ken, London



'As I looked back I saw them batoning the press, grabbing TV cameras. We heard the plastic bullets going off and every one ducked, lying on the ground as they went inches over our heads. A woman next to me was screaming at them "Bastards! Bastards! Stop It!" and I had to drag her onto the ground or she would have been shot. They were firing at children, anyone who moved. We kept our heads down and covered, but I looked up briefly over to Connolly House and saw the RUC, 3 or 4 of them, firing at people in the garden at about 3 feet range. Then the landrovers started coming onto the pavement, with the RUC up front again with their batons hitting people lying on the ground and shouting "Get up you fucking bastards!" and as the crowd moved to get away they started firing plastics at our backs.'

Colin, Scotland

PROTESTS IN BRITAIN

Protest actions have been organised by ISCs in London, Dundee, Edinburgh, Manchester and Leeds. In London over 75 people attended a meeting in Conway Hall. Speeches were given by Terry O'Halloran (journalist), Jeremy Corbyn MP, Mick and Dennis - Yorkshire miners who went with the ISM Delegation to Belfast, Pat Reynolds of the IBRG, Pauline Sellars of the ISM and Ronnie, a black supporter of FRFI, also an eye-witness. A TOM speaker was invited but did not attend. In Edinburgh 40 people attended the meeting and heard four eye-witness accounts including one from a victim of a plastic bullet on 12 August. A striking miner from Fife also spoke.

The London meeting unanimously agreed to write protest letters to the British government, also calling for the banning of plastic bullets. In Edinburgh it was unanimously agreed that a letter be written to the Lothian Region's Police Committee condemning the Chairman's call for plastic bullets to be used against the miners. A picket calling for the banning of plastic bullets in Ireland and Britain was called for outside the Army Recruitment Office. This was attended by 30 people with ten new people on it. In London many organisations, including the ISM, supported a Troops Out Movement picket of Downing Street on 15 August. The ISM also held a lunch-time picket in Whitehall on 24 August.

The presence of striking miners at the Irish Solidarity meetings in London and Edinburgh added enormously to their political scope. They drew the links between their struggle and that of the Irish people. The miners strike is drawing new allies to the cause of Irish liberation. It seemed appropriate that the name of Jim Larkin, leader of the Dublin workers in 1913, should keep cropping up during the meeting in London. As David Reed pointed out, hadn't the TUC betrayed the Dublin workers in 1913 and were they not trying to do the same to the miners today? The enemies of the Irish people are also the enemies of British workers' struggle.

Below we reprint parts of the striking miners' speeches.

Speech by Mick, Yorkshire miner

As soon as I stepped off the boat in Belfast I could identify with people. Where we live it's bad housing - where they live it's bad housing; where we live if you're not fortunate enough to have a job in the pits there's no job for you - where they live everyone's on the dole. Where we live in Fitzwilliam on 9 May we suffered an attack by the police when 100 officers came into our village. They were after arresting one lad and they sent 100 police, 50 in full



'Everyone lay down, even though they were lying down the RUC were shooting right at them. I saw one guy hit by a plastic bullet which took half his face off. I remember a wee lassie over from me, about 9 or 10 screaming hysterically.'

Ariel, Scotland

riot gear. So I could identify with the Irish people straight away. At night soldiers are constantly walking up and down and so are the RUC. One thing that impressed me about people in Ireland was how they show common cause with the miners. They had a big banner just to the right of the Sinn Fein headquarters and it said 'Victory to the Miners'. They were all walking round with Coal not Dole stickers on. They really did make common cause with us. I just wish that people over here would show the same common cause with them. (Applause)

The reaction of the miners I've spoken to about what happened in Belfast is that a lot of them unequivocally condemn what happened. I think that is a good omen. All the lads are saying when are they going to start using plastic bullets on us, we'll be next for them. They are starting to see now that we've got a common enemy. A lot of it is because we've been on strike for six months and we've been attacked by the media who

ves. I was unashamed to admit as were many other miners present that the sight of those police with riot gear, dogs and horses frightened me. A force the Irish people meet on the streets regularly. Here it was, a reality, on a miners picket line.

The scenes which followed will remain in my memory for the rest of my life. The police horses were being galloped into people - young and old, scything them down. When fallen the pickets were trampled on in a style reminiscent of the pre-revolutionary cossacks of old Russia, only the sabres were missing. Instead they were using truncheons to rain down on unprotected heads. On foot there were psychopathic snatch squads who kicked, elbowed and truncheoned men and women, young or old, in ruthlessly bloody attacks. The blue uniforms had splashes of dark patches obviously blood. Then there was of course the notorious riot squad used regularly to harass, injure

'As soon as Martin Galvin was introduced the RUC rushed in, batoning people, firing plastic bullets at close range and terrifying old women, men and kids. These are by far the worst acts of intimidation I have ever seen perpetrated against a section of people and I can only say that it was a miracle that there was only one person murdered.'

Dennis, Yorkshire miner

make us out to be troublemakers while the police are made out to be 'peacekeepers'. So lads are saying 'If they're lying like hell about the miners they must also be lying like hell about Irish people'. Pickets are starting to ask questions about what's going on in the Six Counties.

Again to draw a comparison. The march in Belfast was an anti-internment march. We miners have had 6,000 arrests now, it's not like internment but it's leading up to that situation. They can just pull you off the streets now and keep you locked up. A kid from our village has just done 14 days in Gartree. We've had 2,000 lads beaten up, it's nowhere near as bad as Northern Ireland but it's gradually getting that way. Look at what happened at Orgreave - you had mounted madmen running as fast as they could into our pickets.

The conclusion I've drawn after just spending 2 short days in Belfast is that we've got exactly the same enemy as the Irish people have been fighting for centuries. I know we're going to win our struggle and after seeing the determination and incredible bravery of the Irish people I'm damn sure they are going to win theirs.

Speech by Fife miner

I would like to say a few words on the scenes I witnessed at Orgreave. First of all I would like to stress the fact that this was a highly planned operation by the police... There were three types of animals present. The police dogs, the police horses, and the police themself.



'We across the water are just starting to suffer similar treatment the Irish have received for years. Our "crime" is fighting for jobs, the Irish people's "crime" is fighting for freedom. Surely any normal thinking human being must condemn the murder of Sean Downes by the RUC. The miners are fighting the same enemy as the Irish people. I wish them luck in their struggle and I know that one day victory will be theirs.'

Mick, Yorkshire miner

BLOODY SUNDAY '84

on the ground to disperse saying 'Fuck Off' and then shot at anyone who got up to get away. They fired down side roads and at houses where people were sheltering. A number of ISM comrades saw an RUC officer on a rooftop directing the murderous assault by walkie-talkie. Before the attack began he was seen laying out plastic bullets in a row along the rooftop. An ISM comrade saw Sean Downes, 22 years old, shot at point

was hit by a ricochet whilst lying flat on the ground. He has since spent 2 nights in hospital and has a bruise on his brain and continuing difficulty in speaking. We made our way back to Springhill. The nationalist people however remained firm, as one man said, 'After 15 years the Brits have failed to begin to beat us. What bloody chance have they got now? NONE!'

We send our thanks to the people of

'All of a sudden it calmed a little bit and people got up and started running. I was running past the shops and they started firing at us. They were hitting the corrugated iron on the shop windows - in front of me, behind me, above me. When we got round the corner there was a soldier there and he was clouting people.'

Paul, 9 years old, Manchester

blank range in the chest. This was no police riot - but a controlled and pre-meditated savage attack on a peaceful demonstration.

There was no riot outside Connolly House. Only murder by the British state. Stones and one petrol bomb were thrown twenty minutes after the initial RUC assault. However that night the youth made it clear to the RUC and Army exactly whom and what they have to answer to after such a massacre - as the youth built barricades and stoned the police.

Scores of people were injured and we witnessed terrible injuries, many inflicted on children, by the RUC. Two of our delegation were hit in the head with plastic bullets. One, a Scottish comrade,

Springhill for their warm hospitality, and to the Sinn Fein stewards whose calmness and authority in the face of naked state terror saved many more deaths and serious injuries. We also extend our sympathy to Sean Downes' family. We salute the courage and continued resistance of the Irish people in their just struggle against British imperialism and for their right to rule their own country - their victory will be our victory.

**No More Bloody Sundays!
Ban Plastic Bullets!
Victory to the Irish People!
Troops Out Now!**

Chas Millington

JIM REILLY In memoriam

Jim Reilly, Luton Sinn Fein and Home Counties Organiser for Sinn Fein (Britain), died on Friday 26 September 1980. Right up to the moment of his death Jim Reilly continued his lifelong struggle as a revolutionary Republican to free Ireland from British rule. For this he earned the hatred of British imperialism which hounded him to his death and framed his close comrade Gerry Mac Lochlainn, now free after almost 3 years in gaol.

The Revolutionary Communist Group and Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! salute the courage and dedication of comrade Jim Reilly whose death was a great loss both to the Republican movement and the British working class. His memory lives on amongst all anti-imperialists fighting today for Irish freedom.

ROUNDUP

● Legal Aid Success

In May 1981 Bill Bolloten and Gordon Teal were arrested for selling FRFI door to door in Leeds. They went through the Magistrates court, Crown court, Divisional court and Crown court again to finally establish their innocence. Even though innocent Gordon was ordered by the Law Society, on pain of being taken to court again, to pay £309.50 in legal aid contributions as a result of the Divisional court appearance. Much to the embarrassment of the Law Society, Gordon took his protest to Radio 4, *Daily Mirror*, *New Society* and Yorkshire TV. Finally, in July 1984 Gordon got the £309.50 paid by West Yorkshire Metropolitan Council. This was sweet success but it took over three years and a hard fight to get it. The result of the complaint taken out against the police in May 1981 arrived at the same time as the money. Not surprisingly the investigation into the complaint found in favour of the police - after all it is only the police investigating the police.

GT, Leeds

● Anwar Ditta and Bold NUM speak at first Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign public meeting

The VMDC successfully held its first public meeting in Manchester on 26 July. 60 people attended the rally in the Basement Theatre to hear speeches from Anwar Ditta and Bold NUM.

Anwar Ditta opened the meeting with a rousing attack on racism in Britain. She showed through examples of her own life how for black people racism extends to every area of life. Anwar won a long fight against the racist immigration laws to have her children join her in this country - now her children face the daily harassment of being black in Britain from constant requests for passports to racist abuse from fascist youth.

The speaker from Bold NUM recounted the miners' experience of the police in Lancashire throughout the strike - both the attacks by police on pickets and the pickets' successful defence (not so

often reported in the media). The meeting took a collection of £20 for the miners and the VMDC agreed to collect food at each campaign meeting. We heard speeches from other defence campaigns in Manchester; Esther Ankell, Manjit Kaur and Kamal Kumar. The messages of solidarity showed the breadth of support the VMDC has already achieved.

Liz

● Women fightback against apartheid

With the state getting more open about its support for South Africa, we decided to step up our protests against apartheid. 'Women Against Apartheid' in Leeds decided to occupy Barclays bank to protest against South Africa's apartheid regime and its occupation of Namibia.

Five women entered the Merion centre branch and leafleted customers and workers. Other women leafleted and held placards outside. Since the bank was not taking our protest seriously we ripped up all their thick glossy leaflets encouraging people to bank with the fascist Barclays, and destroyed the display boards and fittings. Ignoring the manager, we caused chaos for about half an hour before leaving that bank and going on to the next one.

Within a minute we were in occupation - all the doors locked and the staff hiding in the back while we destroyed everything we could lay our hands on and stuck notices in the window. A large crowd gathered outside and the women leafletting found most people interested in our protest. One pig arrived after half an hour - his fellow fascists all on picket duty in Notts - and stood amongst three inches of debris on the floor asking us to leave. Barclays though did not want us arrested since they couldn't afford the publicity. Finally, we left and walked out to a big crowd and brilliant atmosphere.

In the last three weeks we've heard women have been painting Barclays banks and constantly super-gluing the cash point machines - showing Barclays that as long as they profit from apartheid, women will not leave them alone.

If anyone wants more information about 'Women Against Apartheid' write c/o Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds 2.

● Apartheid mayor visits Westminster

On 31 August, a 60 strong picket organised by Nalgo Voluntary Organisations Branch was held outside Westminster City Hall in protest at the official visit by Mayor of Johannesburg, Eddy Magid, to the Mayor of Westminster, John Bull (a true Brit). Shocked at this action by Westminster City Council Nalgo Equal Opportunities Officer said,

'In Anti-Racist Year we regard it as gross provocation of black and white working class people in Westminster to engage in drinking sessions with the emissaries of apartheid.'

Around the picket South African plain clothes security men together with their racist pals the British police were out in force. As the Major of Johannesburg was incognito he managed to slip by the picket unnoticed. This incensed us further, so a group of about 20 of us, including 4 Westminster Labour councillors, decided to seek him out in the building. When we reached the Lord Mayor's floor we were met by 5 evil looking security men who tried to block our way. Councillor Vince Allen simply pushed one of them to one side and we all marched down the corridor to the Lord Mayor's room. We banged on the door, and making as much noise as possible chanted slogans and sang freedom songs. Councillor Bill McElroy ended our protest by giving a speech through the doors for the benefit of the mayors, expressing his disgust at the visit on behalf of all the people in Westminster, especially black people. He said that the beautiful freedom songs would continue to be sung outside that ugliest of all buildings in London, South Africa House, on Friday night from 5.30-7.30pm. Would they dare to visit that nest of spies we would give them a reception they would never forget. **BRITISH COLLABORATION WITH APARTHEID OUT!**
Ruby and Salmah

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

September 1 - 7

■ LONDON

Public Meeting: **Tell Them What It's Like** Eyewitness accounts of Bloody Sunday 1984 + Video. Wednesday 5 September Caxton House, St John's Way, N19 (nearest tube: Archway). 7.30pm. Called by North London Irish Solidarity Committee

■ MANCHESTER

Public Meeting: **Ban Plastic Bullets! Troops Out Now!** Speakers include witnesses to murder of Sean Downes. Friday 7 September Longsight Library, Stockport Road, 7pm. Called by Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee

September 8 - 14

■ LONDON

Demonstration Chile: **One More Push For Freedom** Tuesday 11 September. Assemble Portland Place W1 near Oxford Circus tube 1pm. Rally Red Lion Square WC2, 2.30pm. Called by Chile Solidarity Campaign

September 15 - 21

■ BRADFORD

Street Rally **Stop the deportation of Viraj Mendis!** Saturday 15 September outside Provincial House, Bradford City Centre, 1pm-3pm. Called by Viraj Mendis Support Committee

■ MANCHESTER

Irish Night Live Music. Food. Saturday 15 September Black Lion Hotel, Chapel St, Salford. Admission £1. Called by Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee

■ LONDON

Picket of the media **Stop Strip Searches in Armagh Gaol! Victory to the Armagh Women Now!** Monday 17 September, picket the BBC 12-2pm, BBC, Portland Place, W1, near Oxford Circus tube. Monday 1 October picket of Thames TV 12-2pm, Thames TV Studios, 306 Euston Road, NW1, near Warren St tube. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

September 22 - 28

■ BRADFORD

Public Meeting: **Here to Stay! Here to Fight! Stop the Deportation of Viraj Mendis!** Thursday 27 September Room 3, Bradford Central Library, 7.30pm

■ LONDON

Stop the City! Why should Profit rule our lives? Protests all over the City, especially around the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England. Details from Paul: 01 677 2183; Dave 01 808 8442. Thursday 27 September 8am-6pm. Stop the City!, Box STC, Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1

■ LONDON

Public Meeting: **No More Bloody Sundays! Meeting to launch the publication of the Irish Solidarity Movement Pamphlet on the events of Bloody Sunday 12 August 1984.** Thursday 27 September 7.30pm Room 7, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London SW2 (nearest tube: Brixton). Admission 30p. Called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee

■ MANCHESTER

Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign Social Disco, music. Friday 28 September St Wilfreds, Hulme. Admission £1. Called by Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign

September 29 - October 5

■ SOUTH LONDON

Street Meeting: **Belfast-Brixton-Orgreave! One Struggle, One Fight!** All London Irish Solidarity Committees Street Meeting to mobilise support for the Irish Solidarity Movement October Weekend. Saturday 29 September. Meet outside the Prince of Wales pub, corner of Goldharbour Lane, Brixton, London SW2 (nearest tube: Brixton). 11-3pm. Called by London Irish Solidarity Committees

■ NORTH LONDON

Breakout Social! Commemorate the heroic H-Block breakout last year. Entertainments and refreshments. Saturday 29 September. Caxton House, St John's Way, London N19. Admission £2 waged, £1 unwaged. Called by North London Irish Solidarity Committee

■ ISLE OF WIGHT

Prison Picket in support of Irish POWs Sunday 30 September. For details of Coach tickets, contact ISM. Called by Sinn Fein-Britain

October 6 - 12

■ MANCHESTER

Day School: films, Irish history, workshops, discussion. Saturday 6 October, Mandela Building, Manchester Polytechnic, Oxford Road. Called by Manchester Polytechnic Troops Out Society, sponsored by Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee and Socialist Federation, by writing to ISM, BM Box 1320, London WC1N 3XX. LOP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.

■ LEICESTER

Prison Picket of Leicester Prison in support of Irish POWs Sunday 7 October. Tickets £3.50 - contact Irish Solidarity Movement. Called by Sinn Fein-Britain

October 13 - 19

■ MANCHESTER

Transport to London for **Irish Solidarity Movement Demo/Conference**. Leaves All Saints, Cavendish St, Saturday 13 October at 7.30am

Defence campaigns

■ LEEDS

Stop the City Defence Campaign meetings every Tuesday, Trades Hall, Saville Mount, Leeds 7, 7.30pm. Called by STCDC

■ MANCHESTER

Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (VMDC) now meets weekly in Committee Room No 2 of Manchester Town Hall at 7.30pm on Sundays. Details from VMDC c/o Box 38, 434 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN

Irish Solidarity Movement

The Irish Solidarity Movement has affiliated bodies in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Southampton, North, South and East London. The ISM can be contacted by writing to ISM, BM Box 1320, London WC1N 3XX

■ SOUTH LONDON

meets fortnightly on Thursdays. Next meeting Thursday 13 September at St Matthews Meeting Place, Brixton Hill, London SW2 7.30pm (nearest tube: Brixton) Further details from SLISC, BM 1320, London WC1N 3XX

■ NORTH LONDON

meets fortnightly on Wednesdays. Next meeting Wednesday 19 September at Caxton House, St John's Way, London N19 (nearest tube: Archway) 7.30pm. Further details from NLIS, BM 1320, London WC1N 3XX

FRFI supporters groups

■ EDINBURGH

FRFI holds fortnightly meetings where discussion and organisation of our activities takes place. Get involved! Mondays 17 September and 1 October, Drummond High, Bottom Broughton St, 7pm. Admission 20p

■ LISTEN!

'Leeds Alternative Talking Newspaper' for blind, partially sighted and print impaired people. A monthly selection of news/articles etc selected by an editorial group of blind and partially sighted people - selections from 'alternative/leftwing' community papers etc, particularly relevant to people in the Leeds/Yorkshire area. Subscriptions: £3pa (concessions for low/unwaged). Subs and contributions to paper to: Leeds ATNC, Box ATN, c/o LOP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. Alternative Talking Newspapers Collective are holding their AGM on 'Alternative Strategies to accessing information' on Saturday 15 September 2pm-6pm at The Handen Community Centre, Ossulston St, London NW1. Details can be obtained from Kirsten Hearn or Neil Harvey (01-318 2002); or from Gary Atherton (01-249 1261)

Public discussion meetings on The Revolutionary Road to Communism in Britain: Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist Group

- The challenge to British Imperialism: Ireland
- The challenge to British Imperialism: South Africa
- The revolutionary struggle of black people in Britain
- The British state's assault on democratic rights
- The split in the working class movement in Britain
- Building a Communist Party in Britain today

LONDON
7 Tuesday 11 September 7.30pm
8 Tuesday 25 September 7.30pm
All at Freemason's Arms, 81/82 Long Acre, London WC2 (Nearest tube Covent Garden) Admission 50p waged 25p unwaged

MANCHESTER
10 Tuesday 18 September 7.30pm
11 Tuesday 2 October 7.30pm
12 Tuesday 16 October 7.30pm
All at Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, 642 Stockport Road, Longsight Manchester 13

LEEDS
8 Friday 5 October 7.30pm
Trades Hall, Saville Mount, Leeds 7

EDINBURGH
8 Thursday 6 September 7pm
Riddles Court, High St, Admission 20p

SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY PICKET CAMPAIGN

Public Meeting

CLOSE DOWN THE RACIST EMBASSY 7.30pm Tuesday 9 October
The Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, WC1 (nearest tube: Kings Cross)

CAMPAIGN MEETINGS
7.30pm Sunday 9 September
7.30pm Sunday 30 September
Both at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square WC1 (nearest tube: Holborn)

CITY OF LONDON ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP

Pickets of South Africa House, Trafalgar Square WC2
(nearest tube: Charing Cross)
5.30-7.30pm every Friday

7 September Malesela Benjamin Moloise Must Not Hang!
14 September Victory to South Africa and Namibian Miners! (Camden Councillors attending)

21 September **No Arms Trade with Apartheid!**
28 September Release Roland Hunte and Trish and Derek Hanekom! Defend the Frontline States!
5 October **Boycott South African Goods!** Material collection day - bring your contributions to the picket

Anti-imperialist week

Organised by Newham Asian Association

■ ANTI-IMPERIALIST RALLY

Wednesday 10 October, 7.30pm East Ham Town Hall, East Ham. Speakers: **Palestine Liberation Organisation, Sinn Fein, Tamil-Eelam, El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, Pan-African Congress, Black Consciousness Movement, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!**

■ POETRY OF RESISTANCE

Thursday 11 October, 7.30pm. Benjamin Zephaniah, Mahmood Jamal, H.O. Nazareth, Maria Tolly, Pitika Ntuli, other poets. East Ham Town Hall

■ BLACK WRITERS FORUM

Friday 12 October, 7.30pm Ngugi, Farouk Dhondy, Palestinian poet, Dilip Hiro Stratford School, Upton Lane, E7

■ ANTI-IMPERIALIST EXHIBITION

Saturday 20 October 2pm-6pm Stratford School, Upton Lane, E7

■ ASIAN CULTURAL EVENING

Stratford School, Upton Lane, E7, 7.30pm

■ READING SERVICES FOR BLIND READERS

Do you or anyone you know want our literature recorded or in Braille? We have found out about a reading service which will provide a recording of FRFI monthly and/or Braille or books. The Revolutionary Road to Communism: Britain: Manifesto of the RCG and Ireland: the key to the British revolution by David Reed. They will also provide recordings of any other left literature you want. For more information write to us: FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

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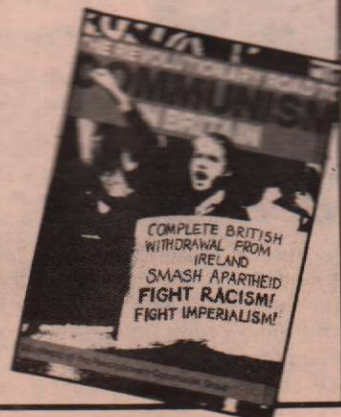
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Sean Mac Stiofain

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Irish Times



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Please note our address is, FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX. SEND US YOUR LETTERS. We welcome letters from readers but please keep them as short as you can.

Letters

The real fascists in Ireland . . .

Dear FRFI,
May I comment on the letter of WS (London) July/August. Ireland was partitioned by a British threat of total and terrible war, if the majority 78% who voted for a free united independent country, in 1918, did not accept partition. The Six County nationalist part of the overall majority in the country were forced to accept an artificial statelet, the boundary drawn on a sectarian head count. Unionists could have partitioned the country by their own power, but the might of England did it for them. The same Unionists in 1912 offered their allegiance to Germany or any country with a stable government. There were no takers. A sectarian right-wing Unionist government ruled for 50 years, with all the attendant evils, problems. In August 1969, when the RUC, the B Specials and Unionist mobs launched an anti-Catholic pogrom on virtually defenceless Catholic working-class districts, the Provisional IRA arose from the ashes. If they had been in existence before, there would have been no large scale attacks by the government forces. Such attacks ceased when the Provos began operating. The troubles today are the logical consequences of Partition, 50 years of Protestant rule. Six County nationalists admire Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko, Che Guevara, and freedom fighters in every country. Just as we support, admire our own fighters, martyrs, those who died on hungerstrike, and our 1,000 Catholic dead. Men, women and children, murdered by police, soldiers, Loyalist gunmen simply because they are Irish Catholics, nationalists. Finally may I say Victory to the Irish Socialist Republican freedom fighters, Victory to the miners, Victory to everyone in the world opposed to injustice, oppression.
Yours sincerely
P O'Connor
Belfast

Two-faced trots muddy the waters . . .

Dear FRFI,
I often read the pages of the rest of the left press and I recently read the following in Spartacist No 60; a paper which claims to defend the Soviet Union but: 'Unlike the Cold War "socialists", we Trotskyists unconditionally defend the degenerated/deformed workers states against imperialism and counterrevolution, recognising that what is needed to oust the scab-herding Stalinist bureaucracies is proletarian political revolution.'
About as clear as a muddy river in torrential rain!
Yours in ruptures
D Evans

Too many initials . . .

Dear FRFI
I bought your paper for the first time in April of this year and thought it was good with one exception. That is, the use of initials for different organisations. When I read the paper for the first time I was totally confused by the time I'd reached page 4. I know that a number of other people feel the same way.
However, I now sell the paper and I'm sure that people who buy it for the first time will not understand the meanings of some of the initials and therefore will not understand some of the paper and I think you would agree, understanding the paper is very important.
I therefore urge you to either replace initials with full names of organisations or to list exactly what the initials mean somewhere in the paper.
Omo
Edinburgh

Incorrect coverage . . .

Dear FRFI
I feel I must take issue after reading WS of London's letter condemning the IRA as a bunch of neo fascist morons and her/his mistaken belief that Irish people north and south want the Six Counties to remain part of the UK. In 1918 Sinn Fein polled 75% of votes in Ireland as a whole country as it was not partitioned in order to satisfy Loyalists until 1922.
It is true that British people on the whole do not know the entire story of why the IRA plant bombs, shoot troops and RUC men etc. I learned myself from discussing with a member of Sinn Fein and paying a visit to the Six Counties on a delegation. The only neo fascist morons I encountered were the people who arrested me under the PTA at Larne and subjected me to half an hour of verbal abuse, intimidation and harassment. They were not members of the IRA as far as I could make out. Also what would WS call a person who said of Irish Catholics 'they are Fenian scum and the taxpayer's money would be better spent on incinerating them all'? George Seawright is not a member of the IRA either.
I would advise WS to do as I have done, especially to pay a visit to the Six Counties and see what life is like for the people she describes as neo-fascist morons.
In sisterhood
Ruth Jellings
Herts

Dear FRFI,
In issue 41 of FRFI mistakes were made in the 'Ireland' section which need correction. Firstly, FRFI stated that the Southampton 5 August mobilising committee, consisting of Southampton ISC and LCI, organised the 11 July public meeting. However, this is untrue since the LCI refused to help mobilise for the 5 August demonstration and hence took no part in the organisation of the public meeting. Secondly, we consider that FRFI incorrectly covered the Wormwood Scrubs picket of 8 July. All it said was: 'London and Southampton ISC's also attended Sinn Fein's picket of Wormwood Scrubs on 8 July'. Again this is incorrect since there was no Southampton ISC banner at the picket. However the Proletarian banner was present at the picket, representing 9 Proletarian comrades (some of whom are also in ISC's but were not at the picket in this capacity) making up nearly a third of the whole picket. We find it difficult to understand how FRFI can give such a sparse coverage of a picket where Proletarian, South London ISC (both affiliates of the ISM), IFM and Bristol TOM were invited to address the prisoners of war.
Yours fraternally,
Simon Walsh on behalf of
Proletarian and Southampton ISC

NF parade racism in Derry . . .

Dear Editor,
For the third time in just over a year the National Front (NF) have held a major event in Northern Ireland. In June 1983 they held a rally in Coleraine Town Hall, Co Derry, courtesy of the local loyalist Council. This was followed by a march and rally to the centre of Belfast on 4 September, which was addressed by Martin Webster. Republican marchers have frequently been attacked by the RUC when they try to march into the city centre.
June this year saw the NF march and hold another rally in Coleraine. They carried loyalist flags, pictures of Ian Paisley, banners saying 'Hang IRA murderers', and scores of the Butcher's aprons (the British flag). They chanted their usual racist abuse.

When some reporters did manage to get in to the Town Hall to cover the rally, they were assaulted and attempts made to seize their note books, before they were thrown out.
The speeches overheard congratulated the NF on having the Sinn Fein Bloody Sunday Commemoration March banned in January in Sheffield. (The local Labour Council first imposed the ban only to be followed by the Home Secretary.) The NF also praised the Parachute Regiment for 'rightly' murdering 14 people on Derry's Bloody Sunday (1972).
A small counter demonstration was met with some public hostility, though as the NF arrived at the Town Hall they were greeted with applause from some of the onlookers. The local police the RUC, made no attempt to have these events banned: nor was any attempt made to prevent Webster with his followers from entering Northern Ireland. Yet democratically elected Sinn Fein representatives Danny Morrison and Martin McGuinness, are banned from entering Britain.
Sinn Fein wants a new Ireland with justice and peace for all guaranteed, regardless of class or religion or politics. The NF and

their loyalist friends preach fascist doctrines, based upon murder, terror and fear.
Yet British politicians consistently tell us that Northern Ireland is as British as Yorkshire (with the miners now fighting the police, that statement is very true), or as British as East Finchley, Thatcher's constituency. With Leon Brittan (Home Secretary) allowing the NF freedom of movement, it's no surprise that fascist attacks are on the increase. When in Belfast they use their time to learn new methods of terror from the loyalist UDA, and UVF, such as more deadly firebomb attacks and use of guns, which they use with often deadly accuracy against the black community.
The NF and loyalism must be fought on every occasion that they raise their ugly heads, if we are to defend what few democratic rights we have left.
SM
London

Frankland - a concentration camp

Dear FRFI
I am presently being held at Frankland serving a sentence of life imprisonment. I am a Cat 'A' prisoner. Since my arrival at this prison I've been under great strain due to constant harassment; I spent 10 days in the hole only for complaining about the food which at this prison is barely eatable and altogether, four months for similar complaints.
At this prison we are allowed only three hours on the playing fields (which would be the pride and joy of any public school) where more than double this amount of time the screws use it.
The gym has almost become a social club for the screws as we are rarely in it.
If no work is available we are confined to cells (alone) for up to 20 hours with only 1/2 an hour exercise in the open air, 1/2 an hour less than is our statutory right.
My wages here have been sliced in half which makes

canteen day, normally something to look forward to, a dread!
Frankland is not a prison but a control unit designed to intimidate prisoners. I must point out that it was the British imperialists during the boer war who started the concentration camps and Frankland is in modern terms like a concentration camp . . .
Fight Racism
Fight Imperialism
David Oren
Frankland Control Unit

attitude have been successfully covered up by his union executive colleagues.
Just because I and another black student decided to complain against being charged 20p to play pool and then another 20p for chalk we were threatened with being banned. To add to this deputy president called for the police and attempted to make a citizen arrest on two innocent black students.
It seems that the people who are supposed to defend the rights of working class find it all too easy to hand black people over to the police.
Later a campaign was set up to get the charges of assault dropped. This was successful. But the students union tried everything to hinder the students protest. It seems to me the students union not only does not defend the rights of students, but acts as a barrier for the students to express their political views.
DOWN WITH BRITISH IMPERIALISM AND ITS PUPPETS WHO CLAIM TO DEFEND WORKING CLASS RIGHTS.
Yours faithfully
Daniel Issuchar

Union covers up racism . . .

Dear FRFI
After hearing various complaints of trade union misrepresentation and racism I have now become a victim of this. On June 8 I was handed over to our ever popular racist police by the deputy president of Park Lane college Leeds.
This deputy is well known for his racist attitude towards black people, but protests against his

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Cries from the H Blocks . . .

Dear people at 'Fight Racism' I have recently come to realize the extent of brutality the Irish people receive at the hands of British government. I have learnt much from Bobby Sands writing and moved enough to write a 'poem' which I would like to

share with others through the paper. I hope you can print it 'Cries from the H Blocks, Remember Bobby Sands' (enclosed).
Strength to you in your work on the paper
L Heather

Cries From the H Blocks, Remember Bobby Sands

Little white maggots crawling around
Bobby Sands lay dying in their cells;
Freezing cold, many long freezing cold nights
Damp mattress, nowhere warm to rest his soul.

Such courage had he refusing to forsake his beliefs
and Brothers close by, he knew he was right.
Dark shadows tortured him at night
Echoing voices down the corridor taunting him of
The beatings to come,
Flaming red skin burning and sore,
Beaten and punched and kicked and scrubbed

Victims of war
'Not dead yet? - then GIVE THEM SOME MORE'
Little white maggots sticking to skin, crawling all over
Bobby Sands was left to die in the H Block HMS Prison.
Little white maggots stick in my mind
A loathing I have for such kind of horrors untold
Disguised in uniform, licensed to kill
And they DO.

Listen to lonely anguish cries from the H-Blocks
to learn the truth.
Look into the eyes of the wardens soured with hate
Belt heavy with keys to tortuous cells.

(L Heather, 4 July after reading 'Writings of Bobby Sands')

HANDS OFF IRELAND

IRISH SOLIDARITY WEEKEND

Demonstration

13 October

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

Assemble 1pm Bidborough Street
London WC1 (Tube: Kings Cross)

Conference

Belfast, Brixton, Orgreave - An
Injury to One is an Injury to All
14 October

Caxton House, St John's Way, London
N19 (Tube: Archway) at 9.30am
Speakers from Ireland and Britain
including John McCluskey Irish POW
(due to be released shortly before the
conference), David Reed Author
Ireland - Key to the British Revolution,
Malcolm Pitt President of Kent NUM,
in personal capacity, Mrs Elizabeth
Hill, mother of Irish POW, Paul Hill.
Films, workshops. Admission £2.50 (£2
in advance) waged, £1 (75p in advance)
unwaged.

Sponsors include: Malcolm Pitt (President,
Kent NUM, in personal capacity); Richard
Balfe, MEP, Christine Crawley, MEP; Dafydd
Elis Thomas, MP; Robert Latham,
Camden Council; Govan Shamrock
Republican Flute Band; Lambeth IBRG;
Asian Collective of East London; Manchester
Area NUS, Janice Turner (Chairperson,
Young Liberals); Revolutionary Communist
Group; Revolutionary Communist League;
Red Action; Proletarian; Socialist
Federation/Red Action, Manchester;
Breakout! Collective; Stoke Newington and
Hackney Defence Campaign.

Support is growing fast for the Irish
Solidarity Weekend and the line up of
speakers is extremely impressive with John
McCluskey, Irish POW; Malcolm Pitt,
President of Kent NUM; David Reed, author
of *Ireland - the Key to the British
Revolution*; and Mrs Elizabeth Hill, mother of
Irish POW Paul Hill.

After the events in Belfast on 12 August
there can be no doubting the urgency of
building solidarity with the Irish struggle.
Support these events! Write to the ISM for
publicity material, get your organisation to
sponsor the weekend. There is transport
available from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee,
Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool and
elsewhere. Write for details to: ISM, BM Box
1320, London WC1N 3XX.

Armagh brutality

Since November 1982
Republican women POWs in
Armagh prison have been
subjected to brutal, humiliating
strip searches, every time they
leave or enter the prison.

Jacqueline Moore, a remand prisoner,
who has kept her 2 month old daughter
Dominique in prison with her is suffer-
ing intensified harassment from the
authorities. When moving from one
part of the prison to another the baby
and the pram are searched. She is only
allowed a limited number of nappies a
day regardless of the needs of the baby.
Toys for the baby are also restricted,
some soft toys were recently confiscated
by the governor who said there were
'too many'. The ground floor 'nursery
cell' has had to be fumigated twice to
kill slugs and cockroaches. Medicine for
the baby's colic takes at least one day to
process. Jacqueline's mother Anna who
is also on remand is not allowed to help
her daughter look after the baby. Visit-
ors from Republican and concerned
organisations have been barred from
seeing them, and the governor, Thomas
Murtagh, has threatened to remove the
baby from the prison if publicity about
Jacqueline's conditions does not stop.

In spite of this harassment Jacqueline
continues to fight this barbarity and has
vowed to keep her baby with her.

Dale Evans



DEREK SPEIRS REPORT



'As I was standing holding the South London ISC banner (at the rally) I could see two RUC - one with a plastic bullet gun, the other with a walkie-talkie - and one Brit with an SLR rifle climb up onto the roof of the low shops on the left and lie down pointing their guns at the crowd below. The RUC man with the walkie-talkie took a dozen plastic bullets out of a black bag and laid them out on the ledge beside the RUC man with the plastic gun... As Galvin appeared on the stage the RUC officer on the roof spoke into the radio and immediately the RUC landrovers behind me revved up their engines and the RUC on the ground batoned their way forward through the lines of stewards.'

Frank, South London

BLOODY SUNDAY BELFAST 12 AUGUST

Seconds after Martin Galvin (left photo) appeared at the anti-internment rally in Belfast the RUC launched its murderous attack. Inside we print eye-witness accounts from FRFI supporters and others who were present in Belfast with the ISM delegation. Many saw the RUC officer (right photo) on the roof directing the attack.

RUC cover-up exposed

On Wednesday 15 August Armagh and Craigavon coroner Gerard Curran publicly resigned. He was due to preside over the inquests into the RUC murder of unarmed INLA volunteers Roddy Carroll and Seamus Grew. Explaining his decision, Curran told the court:

'Within the last few days I have been engaged in the review of police files in these cases. Certain grave irregularities are documented recorded on these files. Consequently, I am not prepared to preside at inquests in these cases.'

Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll were coldbloodedly shot dead by the RUC on 12 December 1982 in a 'shoot-to-kill' operation. The car the two men were in was riddled with bullets. Both men were unarmed. At the time the RUC claimed that they had driven through a roadblock. Later RUC constable John Robinson was charged with the murder of Seamus Grew.

Robinson came to trial in April this year. He revealed that the original RUC

statements were lies concocted to conceal the existence of a 24 person undercover squad of RUC and British Army personnel. Robinson was a member of the squad. He also revealed that on the night of the murder he and others had illegally crossed into the Twenty Six Counties on undercover work. Forensic evidence showed that Robinson had shot Seamus Grew from 3 feet. Both men were unarmed. Despite this and despite Robinson's own admission of

the RUC cover-up, he was acquitted.

The 'grave irregularities' which Curran referred to are undoubtedly the evidence, held in police files, of the cover-up and also of the failure of the Director of Public Prosecutions to use this evidence to secure a conviction against Robinson. The trial was a fiction to fool people into thinking that 'justice' was being done. No doubt the same was intended for the inquests. However, this has been exposed by Curran who, it seems, proved unwilling to preside over a fiction to suit the needs of British imperialism. The Curran affair simply confirms the use of 'shoot-to-kill' tactics and the lengths to which the British ruling class will go to cover up its use of these tactics.

Terry Marlowe

3,000 demonstrate

On 18 August 3000 people marched for British withdrawal from Ireland. The 12 August events had swelled the numbers attending this march which was organised by a very wide range of organisations, including Sinn Fein, IRSP, ISM, TOM, IBRG, LCI, Young Liberals - only the sectarian IFM refused to take part in the Mobilising Committee.

The 200-strong Irish Solidarity Movement contingent was led by a black banner demanding 'No More Bloody Sundays!' A one minute protest was held in Trafalgar Square against the continuing ban on Irish marches there. One arrest took place there and earlier a young ISC supporter was also arrested for holding leaflets in Hyde Park.

The rally ended with Malcolm Pitt, leader of the Kent miners. He said, 'Like 1913 with Jim Larkin, in 1984 the miners will light a fiery cross against the people who exploit... I believe that the national liberation of Ireland and the struggle of the miners is indissoluble'. Loud cheers greeted his words and his solidarity.

On Sunday 5 August a 160-strong ISM contingent took part in the Sinn Fein Britain anti-internment march in Sheffield. 600 people marched in support of Irish POWs in English jails.
Pauline Sellars

IRA ATTACKS

In the last month IRA volunteers have mounted successful attacks on related elements of British imperialist rule in Ireland: the security forces; the judicial system; and the informer network.

From 6 to 26 August 1 RUC officer and 1 UDR soldier were killed, at least 2 other RUC officers were seriously injured and many others were injured in a series of bombing and shooting attacks. The RUC officer died in a 1,000lb culvert bomb explosion in Mid-Ulster on 11 August. The UDR soldier was shot dead on Sunday 26 August. An RUC barracks at Portlone was riddled with bullets in a sub-machine gun attack. The judicial apparatus was attacked when Strabane courthouse was extensively damaged in a bomb attack on 31 July. 6 days earlier, on 25 July, a blow was struck against the informer system when informer and agent provocateur Brian McNally was executed. In a statement the IRA pointed out that McNally had been offered £25 a week and a holiday in Spain to betray his former comrades.

A second RUC officer died on Sunday 12 August when his life machine was switched off. The RUC Sergeant had been injured 10 months previously in the bomb attack on the Ulster Polytechnic. The timing of his death was a cynical attempt to divert attention from the murder of Sean Downes earlier that day.
Frank Coughlan

Shannon extradited



AN/PRIOR/REPUBLICAN NEWS

Shortly after 8.30pm on 31 July, Seamus Shannon became the second Republican to be handed over to the murdering RUC, by the (Royal Irish) Gardai and Irish troops at Killeen border post. Some sixty demonstrators and a Dundalk Republican band were violently removed as they tried to stop the extradition. One man was hit by a landrover as it drove at high speed into the Six Counties.

At 2pm Shannon had been taken from Portlaoise prison to a convoy of three army landrovers, three squad cars and a police van. As he was escorted from his cell Republican prisoners banged on their cell doors and began shouting to protest at this despicable act. Before he was handed over to the RUC Shannon

insisted on a full medical examination. The RUC claim he was involved in the execution of arch Loyalist bigot Sir Norman Stronge and his son James in January 1981. Both made no secret of their hatred for the nationalist cause. Dominic McGlinchey was extradited on St Patrick's day (17 March). A date

has now been set for a preliminary hearing of his case - 27 September. This is over six months after his extradition. The announcement of this date only came after expressions of growing public concern in the Twenty Six Counties where many people have been demanding that McGlinchey be handed back if the RUC have insufficient evidence against him.

Whilst the Dublin government mildly protests about RUC murders such as 12 August, it continues to hand over Republicans to be dealt with by British imperialist 'justice'.

Justifying this latest act of treachery (which is on a par with Vichy France collaboration with the Nazis in the 1940's) Dublin's Chief Justice O'Higgins (a political appointment by Fine Gael) stated that it was up to the courts to decide what was a political offence and what was not. Also that the IRA 'had adjured normal political activity in favour of violence and terrorism'. What about the RUC and the Brits?

Commenting on Shannon's extradition Sinn Fein said it confirms:

'... the abandonment of any claim to the independence or sovereignty of the Free State government'

Cathal