

CLASS STRUGGLE

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

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The Elections WHOEVER WINS, THE OPPRESSED LOSE

Democracy is a precious thing. That's why the British ruling class allow working and oppressed people so little of it. Every few years, we're given the chance to vote, but we're not allowed to vote for any real change. The British ruling class only believes in democracy for its own, not for those it oppresses; when the oppressed seek to express their feelings through the ballot box, they soon find their right to do so taken away. Thus, after Bobby Sands won the by-election in Fermanagh and South Tyrone with over 30,000 votes, the British Parliament took away the right of prisoners to stand in elections: in future elections, candidates will have to pay a deposit of £1,000 which is fine for the well-heeled Tories, and not too hard on Labour, Liberals or SDP, or the fascist parties, with their rich backers, but will effectively exclude from "the democratic process" independent working class or national minority candidates.

NO CHOICE

The choice we're offered in this election is really no choice at all. The major parties have real enough policy differences, but they assume one thing in common: that the system of exploitation and oppression known as British imperialism must go on.

Many on the left would throw their hands up in horror at this statement. They defend the Labour Party, and call on us to vote for it. Some say we should support it because of its pledges to leave the EEC and scrap Cruise missiles, to repeal the Nationality Act, etc. Others, wise to the growing scepticism of the working class towards Labour's promises, merely argue that Labour's the lesser of two evils. From the Revolutionary Communist League's point of view, we must agree with at least part of what the latter say: evil the Labour Party is: lesser, no!

None of the things the Labour Party has to say in this election mark it out as basically different in nature from the Conservative Party, Liberals or SDP; on the questions where British imperialism's interests are most at stake, Labour lines up with British imperialism and against the oppressed of the world.

No-one needs to take our word for this: just ask the candidates who come knocking at your door.

- Will you support the immediate withdrawal of all British troops from Ireland, and do you accept the right of the Irish people to decide their own future?

- Do you support the scrapping of all the Immigration Acts, whether brought in by Labour or Tory governments? Do you support the scrapping of the Nationality Act?

- Will you support the breaking of links with the racist states of South Africa and Israel?

- Do you support the liberation movements who are fighting for the freedom of Azania (South Africa) and Palestine?

- Do you oppose restrictions on trade union rights?

- Do you support the right of the unemployed to either have jobs now or an income equivalent to the average industrial wage?

ON YER BIKE

If any of the candidates can say "yes" to this modest list of questions, then by all means vote for that candidate. If not, then any sympathy they may express for the "plight of the Irish / black people / unemployed / etc." is pretty meaningless, and they should be sent on their way.

NEW HOPE FOR THE OPPRESSED?

Black people have seen governments come and go, and all have introduced and operated racist laws. Police harassment and racist violence has escalated, and no parliamentary party has done anything to counter that.

For nearly 15 years, a war of liberation has gone on in Ireland; Labour sent in the troops in 1969, and they've stayed there since. Labour brought in and operated the very "Prevention of Terrorism Act" which it now pledges to scrap. What have Irish people got to hope for from the parliamentary parties?

Unemployment began to climb under the last Labour government and reached over 3 million under the Tories. Savage cuts in education and the social services were made by the last Labour government, and have

been intensified under the Tories. The poorer sections of the working class can expect nothing good from the next government, whoever wins.

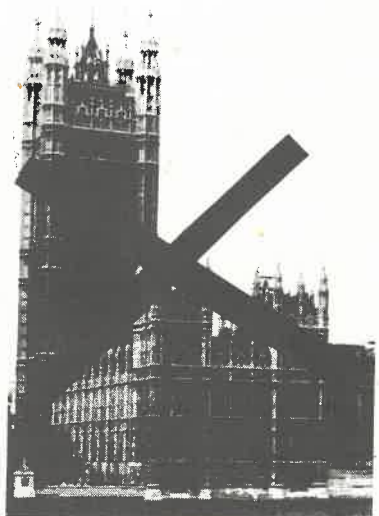
In 1916, the great Irish revolutionary James Connolly neatly summed up the attitude of the most oppressed towards the Labour Party. A friend was speaking to him just before the Easter Rising, and realised that he might soon be killed. "Tell me, Jim," she said. "Have you ever any hope of anything on the other side?"

Connolly replied: "The British Labour Party? Oh no, they won't lift a finger to help us." How little things have changed!

NOW, YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE

The real choice for the oppressed and exploited in Britain is not between the parliamentary robber bands, but between the imperialist order and the fight to smash that order. For large sections of the most oppressed, that choice has already been made, in favour of resistance, as shown by the 1981 uprisings and the emergence of a small but growing anti-imperialist movement in Britain. This is the choice for the rest of those who are oppressed by the British ruling class and its state: join the resistance trend. In the fight against British imperialism's attacks on our democratic rights and living standards, the people will forge their own democratic institutions and organs of power which will make the whole imperialist parliamentary system redundant.

JOIN THE FIGHTBACK!
NOT THE BACKTRACK!



COURAGEOUS PROTEST AT ALBANY



- 3) 4 visits per month;
- 4) A food and toiletries parcel each week;
- 5) Prisoners right to wear own clothing;
- 6) Earnings to be supplemented by private cash for use in prison canteens;
- 7) Three hours association every evening.

The Albany prisoners were also demanding the right of Irish Prisoners of War to serve their sentences in Ireland, and on the rooftop displayed placards denouncing the collusion between British imperialism and the Zionists.

MUFTI

The specific trigger for the Albany protest came when 14 men refused to work sewing mail bags and demanded to be allowed to work in the tailoring or wood-work shops. The new governor then docked between 60p and £1 from their already meagre earnings. This provoked a strike and 114 prisoners were fined for taking part in it.

As the protest continued the notorious MUFTI squad was brought in. MUFTI is the mis-named Minimum Use of Force for Tactical Intervention, notorious for its sadistic violence against defenceless prisoners. These thugs attacked the prisoners in B wing injuring at least five of them. At least one was seriously injured, requiring seven stitches to a scalp wound and eight for an injury to the right eye. The censorship that surrounds the prison system has prevented the full details from emerging.

continued page 7:

ALBANY PROTEST

On wednesday 25 May, seven prisoners at Albany top security prison on the Isle of Wight ended their courageous rooftop protest, which began on Friday 19 May, in a disciplined and peaceful manner.

DEMANDS

The rooftop protest grew out of the campaign being waged unitedly by prisoners in British top-security goals. This campaign is for parity with the treatment of prisoners in the north of Ireland, who have won a number of concessions as a result of the hungerstrikes. Concretely the prisoners have demanded:

- 1) 50% remission;
- 2) Prisoners to be told reasons for parole refusal;

PTA in Scotland

By the Chairman of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party.

before she was due to arrive there.

In the early hours of May 13th, Special Branch officers raided houses in Central Scotland. Five Scottish Republicans, three men and two women, were detained under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

These attacks have gravely embarrassed the security forces who seemed quite unable to guard even the most obvious targets, never mind capture the perpetrators.

Four people were later released without charge but one man, 20-year old David Dinsmore, was detained in total isolation for nearly four days.

Their response was simply to use their powers under the PTA to persecute innocent members of the Scottish national movement.

When members of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party (SRSP) carried out a picket of the police station where David was being held, two comrades were arrested for alleged 'breach of the peace'.

David Dinsmore, as National Secretary of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party, was an easy target for the Special Branch and David experienced detention, harassment and constant surveillance over a period of many months.

On the following day, Monday 16th May, another picket was mounted on Glasgow Sheriff Court when David appeared on charges of sending a letter bomb to Lord Mansfield, the Scottish Office Minister. Significantly, no evidence was offered against David but, nevertheless, he was remanded in custody where he still remains.

When the latest incident took place the police simply picked up David and charged him without the slightest evidence against him.

David Dinsmore has joined the ranks of Scotland's political prisoners. He needs the support of socialists and supporters of national liberation everywhere.

The background of this case is as follows: For many months an organisation known as the Scottish National Liberation Army (SNLA) has been carrying out attacks on Tory targets e.g. letter bombs sent to Tory HQ, to John Nott, to Margaret Thatcher. On the occasion of a visit by "Princess" Di to Glasgow, a letter bomb exploded in the City Chamber only hours

Please support him by sending messages of support and solidarity to:

David Dinsmore, (Political Prisoner), Longriggend Remand Unit, Greengairs, near Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

MARXISM ~ LENINISM AND THE JUCHE IDEA

"The Communists in each country must apply the general principles of Marxism-Leninism in conformity with the conditions of the times and the specific realities of their country and develop the revolutionary theory in keeping with new requirements of the developing revolution."

This was stated in a treatise by Kim Jong Il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which was published in "Kunroja" No.5, 1983, the politico-theoretical organ of the Party Central Committee, on the occasion of the 165th birthday of Karl Marx and his 100th death anniversary.

The treatise points out: "Marx's greatest contribution to mankind lies in the fact that he advanced Marxism, thereby providing the working class with a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon of liberation struggle."

It says: "Marxist doctrine has been inherited and applied by the Communists and revolutionary people of the world, and Marxism has developed constantly."

"Marxism-Leninism, the working class's revolutionary ideology

originated by Marx and developed by Lenin, gave a strong impetus to the revolutionary struggle of the international working class and the cause of the popular masses for liberation," it says.

Referring to the international situation, it says: "What is important for the present in completing the revolutionary cause of the working class pioneered by Marx is to turn against imperialism and gear up for global independence. So long as imperialism exists, domination and plunder will not cease, and as long as imperialist domination and plunder exist, there is bound to be the revolutionary struggle of the working class and the masses of people to oppose them."

"If imperialism is to be destroyed ultimately and the victory of the world revolution is to be won, the anti-imperialist, anti-US struggle should be intensified."

The treatise points out: "Communists should shape their policies independently in keeping with the specific realities of their own countries and solve all the problems arising in the revolution and construction on their own responsibility. Only then can they develop the

revolutionary struggle and construction work." "An important task today in opposing imperialism and building an independent new world is to strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement." "The most important task confronting the progressive mankind of the world at the present time is to check and foil the imperialist moves towards aggression and war and safeguard universal peace and security."

The treatise says: "Under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people will firmly unite with the socialist countries, the international working class, the non-aligned nations and all the progressive peoples the world over, actively struggle for the victory of the Korean revolution and the world revolution and creditably discharge their national and international duties."

On Korea's road of revolution, it says: "By authoring the Juche idea while hewing out the road of revolution through a creative application of Marxism-Leninism to the realities of our country, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung paved the way to developing our revolution independently."

"In a nutshell, the Juche idea means that the masters of the revolution and construction are the masses of people and that they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction."

It states: "If we are to maintain an independent stand, we must implement the principle of Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-support in the economy and self-reliant national defence."

It points out: "The socialist economic construction is an important revolutionary task for a working class party in power. The work of the ruling party should be aimed at efficient socialist economic construction, and success in party work, too, should be manifested in the success of socialist economic construction."

"In order to fully realise the revolutionary cause of the working class, the cause of socialism and communism, the people's government should be strengthened constantly."

The treatise says: "Upholding the banner of the Juche idea, our party will accelerate socialist construction and intensify the struggle for the independent reunification of the

country, thereby establishing national sovereignty on a countrywide scale and consummating the revolutionary cause of Juche in our country as soon as possible."

From Xinhua News Agency.

Conference in Korea

From July 2-6 an important conference will be held in Pyongyang, the capital city of the socialist Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Entitled "The World Conference of Journalists against Imperialism and for Friendship and Peace", it is being co-sponsored by the International Organisation of Journalists, the African Journalists Union, the Latin American Federation of Journalists, the Arab Journalists Union and the Korean Journalists Union. It is expected that some 300 foreign journalists and 500 Korean journalists will take part in the Conference. The organisers state that:

"The conference will discuss the tasks of the world journalists for friendship and peace against imperialism and the question of support and solidarity of the world journalists for the Korean people's cause of reunification."

'Stop this Child-Stealing'

Contributed.

The 'Welfare State' was supposed to help us from the cradle to the grave. For many people the reality of the Welfare State is a nightmare between the two. For parents whose children have been taken from them, and for many of the children taken, by our 'caring' Social Services, life becomes misery.

Anyone who saw 'Boys from the Blackstuff' will remember the way Yosser's kids were dragged from him. The 'respectable' 'soft' social workers dragged out the kids while four police beat the living daylight out of Yosser. The social worker is then shown turning round and calling the police 'bastards'. It was good drama and made a true point about the interrelation of the 'hard' side of the state, the police, and the 'soft' side, the Social Services.

Already many of the most oppressed in our society regard social security and Social Services as the enemy. Blacks, who are asked to show passports to claim benefit, in case they are 'illegal immigrants'; single women, harassed in case they are co-habiting; unemployed, harassed in case they won't work, or, in case they have a job on the side; all these groups of people quickly become aware of the links between the DHSS and Social Services and the role they both play. For single women, in particular, the threat from social workers is greatest, as even the pretence of caring for 'the family' is stripped away, and single women become 'baby factories' for the 'more stable' homes of their better-off 'sisters'.

This article deals with a few cases only of people who have come together to try and do something about this situation. The growing fightback of the parents and young people involved is gaining momentum and needs support.

The most controversial complaints against the Social Services are those by parents whose children have been unfairly removed. "I never believed it before it happened

to me" is a common reaction from the victims. More and more parents are complaining of lying and deception being used to take their children from them. There has been recent publicity of the use of a tear-off form for placing children in care for four weeks before then being attached to a form concerning long-term care.

Several councils, including Liverpool, have policies of all 'care' placements becoming long-term if possible with subsequent adoption of the child by the long-term foster parents. This is supposed to

ren 'voluntarily' put into care lies at the discretion of the social workers concerned.

CATHY McCOURT

Cathy McCourt's son, James, was not settling at school and she felt he needed a boarding school. The only suitable school was a private school and she could not afford the fees. The social worker said that if Cathy put James into 'care' 'voluntarily' the local authority would pay the fees. Cathy thought that not signing might result in a court order, as the social worker would have proof that Cathy did not care about

Social Services when she left her husband. Her baby, Peter, was about nine months old when he went to Alder Hey Children's Hospital with a bump on his head. This was the first and only injury that had caused him to go to hospital. Angela was accused of hitting the child. She was interrogated by the police. She is a nervous woman who cannot read or write. She signed her child into 'voluntary' care and a statement that she had hit the child before she left the police station. That was nearly five years ago. Two years ago, her access was stopped. Her family is taking the case to the Court of Human Rights in Europe.

Both these instances are single women, but there are working

risk of their family being ripped apart if they are careless enough to suffer stress, or become homeless.

THESE ARE OUR CHILDREN. SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD STEALING MUST STOP

To help parents whose children have been taken a group of parents have set up 'Parents with Kids in Care'. The group also welcomes parents who are fighting for access or other rights, for children already in care. There are contacts of the group in many parts of the country. Please contact us through the paper if you want more details.



PROVISIONAL AIMS OF 'PARENTS WITH KIDS IN CARE'

1. To support parents and give them hope.
2. To help parents understand their emotions and why they feel like they do once their child has been taken.
3. Pressure for change in the law to have the powers taken from the Social Services.
4. Pressure so that parents receive rights to:
 - a. legal aid
 - b. see case records
 - c. attend case conferences, and review.
 - d. reasonable access, even if it means supervised access.
5. In wardship cases for parents to hear about the case before it is heard, not after the proceedings have gone through.
6. To help children in care:
 - a. To help children in care so that they can have an independent person, not a social worker or foster parent, etc. when they are being abused in any way, or when they are not happy where they are placed.
 - b. To help children have a say in what happens to them.
7. Changes so that the judge in Court can have a chance to see the parent and child together, in order to form their own views.
8. To let every parent meet prospective foster parents, before placements, and to give parents a say as to where the child should be and its future.
9. We do not support parents who batter, murder or sexually abuse children.
10. Christmas, Easter, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, to organise protests and demonstrations so that people cannot forget what is going on and to get the law changed.

be a more stable background for the child to grow up in. Nationally, of all children going into care 'voluntarily' one half proceed into long-term care. Standard reasons for 'voluntarily' putting your child into care include sickness, homelessness, child not doing well at school. The local authority can get a court order if you batter, abuse or neglect your child, and in this situation you have greater rights, as you can go back to court for your child. The fate of child-

her son's education. So she signed. That was four years ago. James has been in five or six institutions since then. She can't name them all. Cathy has had problems with access including not seeing him between December 1980 and March 1982. She has moved from London to Liverpool, but they will not move him to a school nearer her, despite repeated requests.

ANGELA BLACKHAM

Angela Blackham went to the



Peter Johnson, father of Angela Blackham, is taking her case to the Court of Human Rights in Europe.

□ □ □

"I've objected about paying rates because I'm paying rates to destroy my daughter and my grandchildren. Now I may never see that child again."

□ □ □

"The only crime she committed was to leave her husband."

□ □ □

"What they reckon is the most dangerous part of anyone having a child taken off them is once they got to the Social Services and get their name on the register for help. That's your downfall."

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TUC and Labour Party

Saviours of British Imperialism

By an ASTMS Shop Steward.

Recent TUC documents and, particularly, the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee's 'Partners in Rebuilding Britain' lay out a strategy to shackle the trade union movement to the bosses' state in order to try and save British imperialism. It should not be seen as a series of reforms that don't go far enough. The whole strategy has little that is new, much that has been shown not to work in the past, hides the true nature of the imperialist crisis and is against the interests of the working class and national minority peoples in Britain.

THE IMPERIALIST CRISIS

The nature of the crisis is hidden by the TUC-Labour Party alliance. They blame the EEC and the multi-national companies. They are "bad" capitalism whereas the British economy is apparently potentially "good" capitalism. An analysis which has much in common with Ted Heath's "unacceptable face of capitalism" theory. It is very reactionary nationalism to imply that the British economy could develop better without the constraints of the EEC and if the multi-nationals could be controlled.

British imperialism is entwined in a deep all-round crisis of imperialism internationally. The origin of the crisis is a product of the nature of imperialism. Being the oldest imperialist power, Britain is hit very hard. The consequences of plundering and terrorising the peoples of the world for centuries have built up to throw the system into deep crisis.

The document talks about improving the British economy to benefit the whole population: they want to hide the true nature of Britain as a class society. Any policies that help resurrect the British (imperialist) economy can only be at the expense of the majority of the ordinary people and benefit the ruling imperialist class.

The state is portrayed as an independent institution that only needs the odd democratic repair. The reality is of

course that the state (army, police, courts etc.) is the main means the ruling class uses to maintain its system.

The document ignores the fact that the trend for growing state involvement in the economy is the main way in which imperialism tries to stabilise its system. Nationalisation is used to bail out individual bosses in unprofitable sectors of the economy. Nationalisation has nothing to do with socialism.

CLASS COLLABORATION AND CORPORATISM

The proposal for a National Economic Assessment and National and Regional Planning Councils is a policy for class collaboration and incorporating the trade union movement into the bosses' state. The document openly states on page 17: "Employers in turn will know that this will provide a framework for the steady development of competitive and profitable activities." The TUC, Labour Party and CBI are to sit down together to run British imperialism.

In individual work places the trade unions are to be enmeshed in joint worker-management consultations over the companies' interests. 50:50 management: worker representatives on management boards will destroy independent trade union activity. Workers' interests will be tied to the survival (profitability) of their work place and they will find themselves in competition with workers in rival firms. Trade union representatives and officers will become further divorced from the rank and file. Power will be further concentrated in representatives at national and regional levels.

Of course, these proposals are dressed up in 'left' sounding phrases about consultation, rights to information and involvement in decisions, but the reality is that the bosses will remain firmly in control and backed up by TUC and Labour Party bureaucrats. The state, nationalised industries, welfare state and private enterprise will be further entwined into a corporate "British Imperialism Ltd." in which the class struggle will be subordinated to the interests of British

imperialism.

INTERNATIONALISM

It is not surprising that there is nothing in the document about real international solidarity between the working and oppressed peoples and nations of the world against imperialism.

The record of the TUC's International Committee is weak on opposing imperialism and strong on funding and supporting CIA and Foreign Office meddlings in progressive movements throughout the world (see Thompson and Larson's 'Where Were You, Brother?' - an account of trade union imperialism published by War on Want.)

TUC-Labour Party support for the naked aggression of British imperialism against the Irish people and over the invasion of the Malvinas is well known.

120 Labour MPs are members of the 'Labour Friends of Israel'. This pro-Zionist organisation enjoys the support of so-called 'left-wingers', Tony Benn and Eric Heffer.

The document advocates import controls. They would mean urging workers in Britain to side with their bosses against workers in other countries.

Elsewhere in documents such as the TUC's 'The Battle For Jobs' (1983) there is support for the 'Brandt Report' which claims to be the way forward for the international redistribution of wealth in favour of the Third World countries. The reality is of course that this report was written by ex-members of the World Bank and leading spokesmen for imperialism who want to use it to try and keep the economies of the Third World countries tied to the western imperialist system by minor adjustments in the international economy. They want to head off the growing struggle of the Third World's peoples and nations against imperialism which is the source of their problem.

The Labour Party Manifesto is wrong about the danger of war. It is not this or that nuclear weapon that is the main danger

to the world's people. It is inherent in the imperialist system that rivalry between imperialist powers will lead to war. Only by destroying the imperialist system can we prevent war. Also it is wrong to oppose all wars. Oppressed people and nations have every right to resort to armed struggle to defeat imperialism, whether in Ireland, Afghanistan, Kampuchea or El Salvador. Those wars weaken imperialism and are a step towards real world peace.

The basic strategy of spending their way out of the crisis is really a rehash of the Keynesian economic policies which have been tried before and shown to be incapable of staving off an imperialist crisis. They will result in extensive borrowing by the government and over-spending (deficit budgeting). Deficit budgeting is the real cause of inflation.

Many of the planning ideas were tried by the last Labour government and shown to be easy to accommodate or sabotage by imperialism. Labour were able to reduce the trade union movement to narrow economic struggles and contain political struggles within the narrow confines of parliamentary politics (parliament is after all a minor cosmetic part of the state). It was that Labour government that unleashed the attack on the welfare state.

The proposed "Partners in Britain" is careful not to talk about a prices and incomes policy because that would be unacceptable to voters. It is obvious however that the National Economic Assessment will include an agreement on pay and prices. It is a social contract by another name!

Either the dominant section of the ruling class will embrace selected parts of the TUC-Labour Party agreement in order to save their system or if they think they don't need such policies they have the power to ignore or sabotage it. An imperialist class which has state power and centuries of experience of exploitation and oppression of the world's peoples, by naked military aggression if necessary, will not voluntarily give up its profit mad system.



Labour racist

Dear 'Class Struggle',

On Monday 9 May (the day the election was announced), I attended a Labour Students meeting at Kingston Polytechnic, Surrey. The guest speaker was Harriet Harman, MP. The all-white audience consisted mainly of sociologists or Social Science students, and numbered about 35.

She spoke mainly on the role of women in Britain today. Twenty minutes were spent on people's attitudes to women, and prejudice within the Labour Party towards women.

Well, so what, you may well ask. Her talk never mentioned black women, Asian women, working class white women, and she never raised the issue of the Armagh women political prisoners in Northern Ireland. These women are suffering forced strip searches in front of male prison warders, who often sexually abuse and harass them. It was a Labour Government which enforced these policies.

When I pointed these points out to her, she initially was stunned into silence, and then tried to wriggle out of the issues. When I tried to get her to raise a question in the House of Commons on the Armagh women, and give me a straight yes or no, the Chairperson (Phil Cole ex-President of the Students Union, and a Labour Party member) denied me further comeback at her. I would have expected those in the room to raise the same points with her, as all my original points are of fundamental importance. But alas no one did. So much for 'radical' Social Science students!

Harriet Harman thought she had wriggled out of the issues of Ireland and racism by accusing me of being "selective". However I got the last word in when she summed up the meeting, saying that we must vote the Tories out or else face five more years of this government, whereupon I shouted aloud for all to hear me "another five years of Labour Party apathy on Ireland", much to her disgust.

I then approached her and asked her to sign a South London Irish Solidarity Committee petition calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and the right of Irish people to self determination. She flatly refused, saying that SLISC "are involved with the Irish Republican Socialist Party". She refused to discuss the issue further. I then accused her of being a racist and an imperialist, for all to hear me. She went red (presumably with rage) and moved away from me.

So if you're black, Irish, Asian, working class and a woman you do not get a mention in a talk on the role of women by a female Labour Party MP. Hopefully in the near future the voters of Peckham will come to their senses and vote her out. So much for a former "radical" NCCL member, now a Labour MP.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Flynn.

- by making a donation to our election fund. Cheques payable to "Baba Bakhtaura Election Fund."

Campaign address:
Stop deportations of black people now, Elite Cinema, 114-116 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 21.

Stop Deportation of Black People

Baba Bakhtaura is under threat of deportation (see previous issues of 'Class Struggle'). The Home Office says that he has no right to live in this country. The Baba Bakhtaura Defence Committee have nominated him as a candidate in the General Election for the Ladywood Constituency, Birmingham. He is fighting on the ticket: "Stop deportations of black people, now!"

For more than 20 years, successive Tory and Labour governments have brought in, implemented and strengthened racist immigration laws - laws directed against people from the oppressed nations of the Third World, and used to repress and control national minority communities here. These laws go hand in hand with increasing racist repression by the police and government departments. All arms of the state report suspected 'illegal immigrants' to the Home Office, grounds for suspicion being that someone is black. Black people are having to carry their passports

around with them to prove that they are 'legal'.

As the operations of bourgeois democracy reach a pitch of frenzy with election fever, the major parties are going all out to get the "ethnic" vote. They have never represented the interests of black people, but suddenly black people have become important. Labour, Tory, Alliance etc. will make many promises to black people, but today, black people are still being thrown out of the country.

JUST LOOK AT THE RECORD OF THE MAJOR PARTIES

1962 - **TORIES** - Commonwealth Immigrants Act. Introduced immigration control, work vouchers and authorised deportation.

1965 - **LABOUR** - reduced the number of vouchers.

1968 - **LABOUR** - Commonwealth Immigrants Act. Only those whose parents or grandparents had been born or naturalised

in the UK (nearly all white people), had right of entry, even though they held British passports.

1971 - **TORIES** - Immigration Act. Introduced the concept of "patriality" based on the rules in the 1968 Act. Only patrials are allowed to live in the UK and enter freely. 'Illegal immigration' became a crime.

1972 - **TORIES** - Illegal Immigration Unit set up.

1977 - **LABOUR** - Green Paper on Nationality designed to bring citizenship in line with existing immigration restrictions. Throughout their period of office, they rigorously implemented the 1971 Act.

1980 - **TORIES** - Restricted right of entry for fiances of non-UK citizens. White Paper on Nationality.

1981 - **TORIES** - Nationality Act similar to the 1977 Green Paper. A new category of "British

citizenship" based on patriality was introduced.

1983 - **TORIES** - The inhabitants of the 'Falklands' exempted from the Nationality Act and given British citizenship.

Baba Bakhtaura is standing in the election in order to expose his plight, the plight of thousands of others in the same situation, and to show the people that even when the law closes its doors, the struggle still goes on. He is calling for the repeal of all racist immigration laws and for the immediate stopping of all deportations of black people. "Stop deportations of black people, now" is asking all black people and all progressive and anti-racist white people to support Baba Bakhtaura:

- by voting for Baba Bakhtaura.
- by helping in the campaign.
- by publicising the campaign around the country.

'They Shall Not Pass!'

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

On May 3, thirty five people were arrested defending their community from fascism and the forces of the British racist state. The 'occasion' was an 'election' meeting of the racist National Front, its members being shipped into South Tottenham for the event. Throughout the night's events it was the black youth, as has been shown throughout Britain, that were in the forefront of the struggle against fascism and the racist police of the British state.

The local Labour party sold out its own manifesto and agreed in an emergency meeting on April 27 to allow the National Front the use of the school by a vote of 14 to 10. Their stand on racism was not equal to the occasion, even when High Cross School has a large proportion of national minority pupils and the area has one of the highest concentrations of black people in the country. The abdication of the local Labour councillors from any position of leadership or even principle on the anti-fascist struggle shifted to duplicity when they tried to keep the meeting 'quiet'. Instead of mobilising the local people to come out and defend their community from the fascists, these labour 'socialists' tried to cover the whole thing up, for two weeks before the meeting. Only through a slip did word get out and local anti-racist anti-fascist forces learn of it, and they quickly called a demonstration under the slogan "They shall not pass."

Local people began to assemble before 5 p.m. and by 7.30 the crowd numbered around 600 to 800 spread across the street in front of the school. About three quarters of an hour before the fascists arrived, the police began to organise themselves bringing their transit vans into position. On the dashboard of one van the vile racism of the police was openly displayed. A small black doll wearing a Rastafarian style hat knitted in the colours of orange, green and gold sat in the window and was only removed after a photographer took a couple of pictures. This racist symbol summed up the attitude of the

police and shows clearly where they stand.

The police began to push people away from the front of the school that their mates, the NF, were to use. An open area, to one side of the school, having a high fence and only open to the road on one side was where they pushed most of the crowd so as to bottle them up. They partially failed as many people walked around the block so as to come out on the other side of the police line. Eventually at least one third of the crowd was back in front of the school and only partly faced by a line of police. The strong arm methods of the coppers caused increased resentment which eventually boiled over and some black youth responded in kind, some punches and stones were thrown and some arrests were made. There were also some outbreaks of fighting on Tottenham Hale Road. At this point the police used their own megaphone to announce that the NF were coming and this split many of the crowd away, as people thought it was messages from organisers of the demonstration. This relieved some of the pressure on the police at first but many of those who had left went on to Tottenham High Road which eventually meant that the police had a much larger area to cover.

Immediately before the NF arrived the forces were arranged so that the main body of the local people were kept away from the street and the entrance to the school with the other third spread out in front. The police covered the inside of this 'lazy L' only partially. Making use of the fence surrounding the school and pushing people into a cul-de-sac allowed the police to use only half the forces they would normally have needed for a crowd that size if people had not allowed themselves to become bottled up. This in turn released more police for 'controlling' the rest of the crowd and for escorting the NF into the building.

About 7.30 the call spread down the street "Here Comes the NF". Cries of "Nazi scum", "Death to the NF" could be heard as many of the crowd, again mostly the black youth, surged forward across the street and up

against the police line.

The police made several tactical errors as they brought the fascists along the road, ones that could have been exploited by the anti-racist anti-fascist forces. A long barrier fence runs along the side of the pavement to protect the children leaving school. The police marched the NF on the road so that they were sandwiched between the fence on one side and a line of police and their transit vans on the other. This left the road open and those who were there were able to cross the street right up to the line of police who were immediately next to the NF.



• Belfast? No, Tottenham, May 3.

As the people attacked, the fascists could neither turn nor stop and as the police pushed some people away they had to leave the NF clearly open. In addition as the crowd attacked, the police left the front of the school unprotected as they went to the rear to fight off the crowd there. The police line was broken in a few places and the NF were 'got at' in a fitting manner. An organised body of 5 to 10 people who could have read the ensuing action could have, with a bit of determination, done what the police feared most - stopped the forward progress of the march long enough for the weight of the crowd to be brought to bear. This could have brought the slogan "They shall not pass" to reality.

As it was several fascists were seen entering the school with bleeding heads and they were obviously terrified by their close call. Martin Webster, their fat Fuehrer was grey and

his jowls shook with fear as he covered his head. One eye witness described the police behaviour as brutal and when pushed back they were counter-attacked by the youth. The police at first refused entry to this 'public meeting' but eventually allowed the Labour councillors and a few people in and they successfully managed to disrupt the meeting.

Outside, tension rose sharply when the riot police arrived and this increased when people discovered that they were from the infamous Stoke Newington division where Colin Roach so recently met his death.

When the NF left, the police and more viciously experienced Instant Response Units, did not repeat their earlier mistakes. This time the fascists were marched up the pavement with the fence between them and the street and three to four lines of police, the front two lines heavily equipped riot police, which effectively prevented people rushing their lines and restricted them to the pavement. It should be noted that there is more likely to be 'useful' tactical errors when the local police, rather than the IRUs, are used. At this stage of the struggle the 'heavy mob' are still a backup rather than the first line of offence and while neither group is unbeatable it is more likely that the 'locals' can be more easily dealt with.

As the fascists were escorted out many black youth and some whites followed calling "Where's the master race now?" and "Chicken" in an attempt to taunt them into action. A few

hundred yards down the road the following anti-fascists were stopped as two or three transit vans full of riot police screeched up beside them and physically forced people to turn around. They had succeeded and people were walking back when the riot police launched a violent attack, using heavy boots and fists they kicked and punched anyone in reach as hard and as often as they could. The black youth responded quickly to this animal-like behaviour racing across the road where they counter-attacked with stones and bricks. They then scattered pursued by IRUs in the direction of Tottenham High Road about one mile away. There too trouble broke out as word spread of the police's attempt to terrorise the youth. The riot squad then started in on the High Road harassing blacks and pushing people around. Some windows were broken and it was not until after the police left that calm returned.

The response of the people of South Tottenham was excellent, vigorously defending their community from an invasion of fascist filth. The vanguard role in defending the community was played by the black youth backed up by white anti-racist forces. The role of the black youth was powerful as they attacked both the open fascists and the forces of the racist British state. The Labour Party played its usual disgusting role of compromising with fascism. Had the counter-demonstration been a bit better organised it is possible that the NF could have been prevented from holding their meeting thus giving the anti-fascists a complete victory. More militant and united action will probably mean less arrests. The NF did not look at all strong but the pursuit and destruction of them and their ilk must be remorseless and relentless.

For those 35 people who were arrested a defence campaign has been set up. Those who can offer or wish information and those who can help or send donations should contact: May 3rd Defence Campaign, c/o N5 Annex B, Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach Road, London N15 4RX.



On June 18th, the 22 Asian workers at Aire Valley Yarns Ltd. at Farsley between Leeds and Bradford will have been on strike for 13 weeks (see last month's 'Class Struggle' for the background). Throughout the whole of this period they will have maintained a 24-hour vigil outside the mill gate, despite both atrocious weather and heavy-handed treatment from the West Yorkshire Task Force. Many people have been down to the picket line to demonstrate their support and they are particularly welcome on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 p.m. onwards when the shift changes over. The next stage in their campaign - the right to form a trade union and tackle such basic issues as pay, compulsory overtime and health and safety - will be a mass demonstration on June 18th. Under the slogan 'No To Slave Labour' supporters are urged to assemble at 3 p.m. outside the mill in Coal Hill Lane, Farsley near Pudsey.

Crammed into the prisons last September there were 5,600 remand prisoners - people awaiting trial and "innocent until proved guilty" - and the average period of custody before trial is now 40 days. More than 100 prisoners had been waiting a year or longer for trial. Most were kept 23 hours out of 24 in their cells, sharing 2 or 3 to a cell. "Innocent until proved guilty" indeed!

British Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, is showing fear in every move - his pathetic visit to the Berlin Wall at Easter; his transparent smear campaign of the CND General Council; and his latest intervention to prevent debate of the nuclear issue at the Oxford Union. Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, has pulled out of an arranged debate with E.P. Thompson on May 27th and told the Union that he was warned off by Mr Heseltine "because Britain might be in

a pre-election period". Such wriggly squirming tactics are what we would expect in the face of the mass support for and direct action by sections of the peace movement.

Little snippets of news leak out as to how our ruling class plan to survive a nuclear attack (and how they plan to let the rest of us die). For example, the confidential Trent Regional Health Authority document states that in the event of a nuclear war the start of hostilities will be signalled by the banging of a gong! Or alternatively, presumably in areas where gongs are in short supply, by the blowing of a whistle. Three bangs or blasts in quick succession will signify imminent danger of fall-out, and BBC broadcasts will stress that we should stay put in our homes (while THEY, of course, are already in their shelters). Other preparations are taking place in Aylesbury where an early morning delivery at the main telephone exchange consisted of 288 large boxes of emergency rations - enough food to last 20 people 144 days. A press officer suggested that such supplies would be useful in dealing with a rail crash!... However an employee explained that the food was for the underground nuclear bunker. Direct telephone lines have been laid between the bunker and nearby

Chequers and the US European Command headquarters at Daws Hill, and the RAF strike command headquarters at Naphill.

Women in Aldershot are organising to demand an end to the harassment by soldiers that has turned the town into a "no-go" area for women. This follows the conviction of six members of the Parachute Regiment (including a number of "Falklands heroes") for rape and indecent assault on a young woman of fifteen. One of the women who are organising a petition, said: "At night Aldershot is a ghost town for the civilian population because women do not want to be propositioned. A woman driver can just be waiting at traffic lights and soldiers will try to get in the car." The petition is receiving a lot of support.

The Conference and Demonstration against the Tories' Police Bill, went ahead successfully despite disruptive efforts by the CRE and GLC opportunists who tried to make out that the march was cancelled due to the General Elections.

The Police Bill is NOT dead. It only lies dormant. As the resolution adopted at the May 15th conference says, in part:

"Had the Bill become Law, it would have meant a massive extension of police powers and

the legitimisation of the intolerable powers they already use in many parts of the country, aimed in particular against the black community. The Bill represented a huge threat to the democratic rights of the black community, women, gays, trade unions, mass campaigns like the CND, solidarity campaigns with liberation struggles throughout the world, and individual citizens.

"It is linked too with the other attacks on democratic rights in the recent past i.e. the anti-union laws, the nationality laws and the strengthening of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

"Despite the shelving of the Bill, various forces will continue in their attempts to strengthen police powers and erode democratic rights. The Campaign Against the Police Bill goes on. The issues are now more, not less, important.

"In order to ensure that no similar Police and Criminal Evidence Bill should ever reach the statute books, that definite steps are taken to curb police powers, to ensure police accountability, and to highlight the present struggles against policing in the black community, such as the Colin Roach and Newham 8 campaigns, the broadest possible unity of forces is necessary."

REMEMBERING COMRADE JOSHI

This year is the 4th anniversary of the death of Comrade Jagmohan Joshi. Time has not diminished the relevance of Comrade Joshi's contributions to communism, to the struggles of the Indian people and to the struggles of black people in Britain. In fact, as the communist movements in the imperialist countries are struggling to find the correct way forward, and black people are faced with increasing oppression, his contribution becomes even more relevant.

As General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association (GB), he led many struggles. There were many struggles in the Midlands foundries where Indian workers had to fight to get union representation, often in the face of opposition from racist trade unions and most of the white workers. There were many struggles in the community, including the rights of Sikhs to wear turbans, and against discrimination in public places, e.g. the refusal of many pubs to serve black people. The IWA has always supported and fought to maintain the culture of their own people. This is shown in such things as support for Punjabi schools and the promotion of cultural activities at all IWA events.

Joshi himself was a revolutionary poet, writing in Urdu under the pen-name of Asar Hoshiarpuri. His poetry, always carrying a strong political message, inspired many people. The following few words from one of his poems, sums up the spirit of the struggle:

"We are fighting for the light, and if I am sacrificed, it doesn't matter; for there will

be others who will see the dawn."

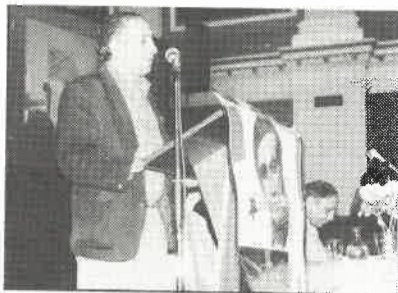
The IWA has always supported the struggles of the Indian people against imperialism, and was instrumental in setting up the Alliance Against the Fascist Dictatorship in India, when Mrs Gandhi declared a State of Emergency. The IWA also supported struggles against imperialism all over the world, and consistently opposed Indian expansionism.

The struggle has not only been for Indian people - the IWA has always fought for all black people. Joshi was involved in the Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination (CCARD). He always saw the need for black unity and black leadership, and was involved in the Black People's Alliance in the late '60s and was convenor of a committee of black organisations which called the demonstration against racism in 1976. His untimely death took place on a demonstration against racism.

Those of us who were in the Birmingham Communist Association (which merged with the RCLB in 1980), remember Joshi very well as a communist - as someone who inspired us. As the crisis of imperialism deepens, and we struggle to find a correct way forward in this decaying, parasitic, imperialist society, we find it even more imperative to keep alive the spirit of communism that Comrade Joshi epitomised.

Joshi's communism was quite clearly not of the Eurocentric type that has typified the white left for so many years. For

some of us, he was instrumental in opening our eyes to the realities of oppression in the Third World and the significance of the national liberation struggles. He did not see racism as a diversion from the class struggle - as something that will simply be resolved with the socialist revolution, but stressed the importance of black struggles.



Memorial meeting for Comrade Joshi organised by the IWA(GB).

Joshi was a Marxist-Leninist, a fighter against revisionism who took a firm stand against the two super-powers. He saw the need to build the communist movement in this country, and supported and encouraged the formation of the Birmingham Communist Association (BCA). He clearly saw the importance of the struggle against racism, and recognised the effects of racism and imperialism on the working class in this country:

"Racialism in white workers is class collaboration and fatal for the working class struggle." and "Loyalty to the British nation is loyalty to the class that controls it i.e. monopoly capitalism. The white worker must reject such loyalty.

Loyalty to Britain is loyalty to British imperialism. The white workers owe loyalty only to proletarian internationalism."

He argued very strongly against the idea that "black workers must not expect white workers to support them in their fight against special oppression, but must themselves support the economic struggles of white workers under white leadership as the best means of indirectly achieving their economic and political emancipation." He saw this as totally incorrect - like that other argument - "that workers and peasants in colonial and semi-colonial territories should wait patiently for the workers in the metropolitan countries to overthrow the imperialist power."

As the electioneering proceeds, and all the 'left' and its dog lines up behind the Labour Party, Comrade Joshi's views on social democracy come as a timely reminder:

"Social democracy was never an attack on imperialism, but a demand for its most efficient administration abroad, and a more equal division of the imperialist cake in Britain, i.e. social imperialism. This laid the basis for a succession of Labour governments yielding nothing to the Tories in their defence of the British Empire, whether it has meant the attempt to smash the liberation movement in Malaya by the Attlee government or the present tacit support for the Smith government in Zimbabwe."

Pentonville Prison. Paul Callaghan is in HMP Chelmsford, Essex."

A complaint has been lodged about Magistrate Johnstone with the Attorney General by the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign on the basis that he has ignored witnesses and defence evidence to give consistently heavy sentences. For example: Fred Chitolie was not in fact part of the March 12 demonstration. He was out shopping. He was convicted and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment.

The black community of Stoke Newington will continue to fight for the truth about the death of Colin Roach whatever obstacles are put in their way by the police, the courts or any other arm of the state. All progressive people must give their support to this just struggle!

Colin Roach: WE DEMAND THE TRUTH

The inquest into the death of Colin Roach, who died of shotgun wounds in the entrance of Stoke Newington police station on January 12, will now begin on Monday June 6, at Clerkenwell County Court.

The Roach Family Support Committee is still campaigning for a public inquiry into Colin's death. The Home Secretary has replied that the inquest will act as a public inquiry. But the Roach Family Support Committee and many of the local black community do not accept this and have spelled out their points in detail.

ASETA SIMMS

The fact that the Coroner presiding over the inquest, Mr Douglas Chambers, is the same man who presided over the inquest of Comrade Aseta Simms, who also died in Stoke Newington police station in 1971, highlights the objections. After this inquest, 'Black Voice', the paper of the Black Unity and Freedom Party published an article exposing the inquest and in particular the role of the Coroner who they charged with complicity in murder. After quoting from the evidence of the police doctor, who summed up: "I cannot say what was the cause of her death", the 'Black Voice' article continues:

"With this evidence given by a police doctor, the racist Coroner, Douglas Chambers in his hasty quest to cover up the murder of this black woman, took over both roles in the hearing of Coroner and jury: claiming that he had the right to do so under some unknown Home Office rules. He went and sat with the jury, returning a verdict of 'Death by Misadventure' meaning that this black woman murdered her own self."

DEMONSTRATION

Support continues to build up in spite of the police attempts to smash the campaign and terrorise its supporters. 500 people marched through Hackney

on May 14. Even though the police have been forced to change their tactics and were less aggressive, another two protesters were arrested bringing the then total to one hundred.

The campaign continues to build links with others fighting racism. At the rally following the march, one of the speakers was David Avondale, recently released on appeal having served two years inside for a crime he didn't commit. A member of the Roach Family Support Committee also spoke in Birmingham at a meeting called to demand freedom for Margaret Parchment, the white Rastafarian woman unjustly sent to prison for two years.

JAMES ROACH CLEARED

Meanwhile there have been almost daily court hearings of those arrested on marches and pickets. On Thursday May 26, James Roach, Colin's father, was cleared of obstructing the police on March 12, after four hours in court. The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign bulletin reports:

"PCs Garwood and Thomas read out their story about James Roach interfering with Garwood as they were carrying Cyrus Noor into the police coach. When shown photos of James Roach being taken from the Roach Family Support Committee truck to the police coach by six police, with no sign of Cyrus Noor or either Garwood or Thomas, the police story was discredited.

"James Roach testified that he had gone to the side of the lead truck to see what the police were doing to two women they had surrounded when he was grabbed and assaulted, punched in the face so that blood streamed down - before being taken off. His evidence was backed up by Pauline Roach and three other independent witnesses, including two photographers and their photographs."

Others have been found guilty, particularly those appearing

before one magistrate, Michael Johnstone. The Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign bulletin says:

"Six black youths have had prison sentences imposed on them for demanding the truth into the death of Colin Roach. As has been exposed by the recent prison protests, British prisons are nothing but hell holes designed to break all who 'step out of line'. One of the six, Delroy Thompson, is out on bail pending appeal against his conviction. He, along with Fred Chitolie, Mervile Bishop and Daniel Sylevester were incarcerated by the openly racist magistrate Michael Johnstone at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. These three, along with Cyrus Noor, are being held in

STOP THE DEPORTATIONS

ANWAR MAHOMED

Anwar Mahomed is a political exile from South Africa and has been detained for over a year in Strangeways Prison, Manchester. The Home Office has turned down his request for political asylum and intends to deport him to South Africa where he will face political persecution.

In 1974, Anwar was arrested and tortured in South Africa for distributing leaflets condemning a plan to demolish Indian houses in Johannesburg, to make way for a supermarket. After his release, he escaped to Mozambique, India and to Britain in 1979.

In 1981, he had financial problems and was sentenced to a prison term for signing cheques with no money in his bank account. But having served his sentence, he was detained as an "illegal immigrant" and spent 15 months inside. On May 4, he began a hunger and thirst strike in protest at his treatment and on May 9, Manchester Anti-Apartheid and other groups supporting his right to stay, held a picket outside Strangeways. He has now been

released "pending a further decision by the Home Office."

It is only mass support that won Anwar's release from prison and support is still needed to stop his deportation and expose this collaboration between the British and South African governments. As Anwar himself puts it: "Yesterday I was a captive of Apartheid at the hands of BOSS, today I am the 'Hostage for Apartheid' by orders of the British government."

Anwar Mahomed Defence Campaign, c/o Manchester Anti-Apartheid Movement, 300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS.

BLACK WOMEN FIGHT BACK

Afia Begum, who went into hiding to avoid deportation (see May 'Class Struggle'), was ordered by the Home Office to report to Heathrow Airport on May 21 for a flight to Dacca. However the Home Office has since suspended the deportation order and the campaign for her right to stay continues.

Meanwhile other black women are taking up the fight against deportation. Theresa Namuddu came here from Uganda after her

David Avondale-Free!

On May 12, David Avondale, a black welder from Greenford, Middlesex, won his appeal against a 13-year sentence for an armed robbery that he didn't commit. David had already served two years of the sentence.

In July 1981, a gas showroom in Southall was robbed of £4,000. Police chased men in a car but they got away. David has always said he was innocent and was playing snooker at the time of the robbery. But he was convicted on the evidence of two police officers who claimed to recognise him. In the Appeal Court, the judges found that the police had broken Home Office rules by looking at photos of David before the identity parade at which he was picked out!

A 'Free David Avondale Campaign' was set up by his wife, Josephine, friends and supporters including Southall Rights, to campaign for David's release. On May 3, a picket was held outside Southall police station and on the day of the appeal about 50 supporters attended the court.

Although David is now free, he and his family have suffered for two years. Their two-year old son hardly knows his father. The family's house has been attacked by racists. David said:

"There are many people in prison, especially blacks who complain of having been wrongly convicted Those serving short sentences end up giving up altogether and complete their sentences. I have been fortunate in that my solicitors, my wife and friends campaigned strongly for my release. If it wasn't for them, I would still be inside. It was an experience that I will never be able to put into words."

David showed his determination to campaign for others at the rally after the demonstration calling for an inquiry into Colin Roach's death. He said: "There is a need for people to get together and unite and fight the injustice and racism that is going on in this country."



Malika Benkhelefa and her daughter.

marriage broke up and her first son was taken away from her. Her second son, Richard, was born here but the Home Office has refused Theresa permission to continue living here.

Masudah Bari is a Pakistani woman who has been a student here since 1975. She has been told she cannot claim social security but must return to Pakistan to be supported by relatives there. Masudah denies that they can support her and is fighting for the right to stay.

Malika Benkhelefa, from Morocco, came here 7 years ago to join her husband who has since left the country and divorced her. In May 1978 she applied for a work permit but the Home Office did not reply until May 1982 when they started deportation proceedings against her. All three women are fighting campaigns:

Theresa Namuddu and Masudah Bari
134 Minet Avenue, London NW10,
Tel: 01-961-6549.

Malika Benkhelefa,
c/o 439 Harrow Road,
London W10.

Oppose British Murder!

The following is the election leaflet being distributed by the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee:

OPPOSE BRITISH MURDER AND TORTURE IN IRELAND - VOTE: 'VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!'

The past 4 years have witnessed a systematic and determined attack by the Government against the whole working class. However, undoubtedly the most vicious and barbaric act of the Tories was the murder of fellow MP Bobby Sands and his 9 comrades on hunger strike, in an unsuccessful attempt to try to portray the struggle for Irish freedom as a criminal struggle. This cold-blooded murder, by refusing to grant the prisoners' just demand for Political Status, is only part of the continual terror used by the British Government against the Irish people and represents the clearest example of the real nature of the Tory Party.

LABOUR PARTY: MURDERERS!

The Labour Party desperately tries to pose as a real alternative to the Tories. Yet the Irish issue shows clearly that the Labour Party is just as reactionary, just as murderous,

as the Tory Party. Indeed it was the Labour Party which, by removing Special Category (i.e. Political) Status from Irish Prisoners of War in 1976, began the torture in the H-Blocks which led to the hunger strike. It was the Labour Party which sent its representative, Don Concannon, to insult Bobby Sands MP on his death bed by telling him that the Labour Party did not support Irish freedom.

As an Irish nationalist and Republican freedom fighter, Bobby Sands knew the Labour Party's position only too well from past experience. It was the Labour Government which sent troops into the six counties in 1969 to suppress the struggle of the nationalist working class. Five years later, another Labour Government passed the anti-Irish and racist Prevention of Terrorism Act - introduced by the now SDP leader Roy Jenkins. In 1977 the same Government announced the expansion of the RUC, UDR and SAS. In the 10 months following this the SAS were responsible for at least 11 assassinations in the north of Ireland. The Labour Governments, just like the last Tory Government, have presided over a systematic terror

campaign against the Irish people.

The Labour Party in opposition are no better. Not only over the hunger strike but all along the line the Labour Party have sided with British imperialism against the Irish people. Even going so far as to support the banning of elected Sinn Fein representatives from visiting London - such is the Labour Party's respect for the democratic wishes of the Irish people.

There is no choice in this election for the working class, except a choice between different sets of murderers and torturers of the Irish people. And the attitude of the parties to the Irish question is not accidental but represents their real attitude to all working class and progressive struggles.

To support the Labour Party, or the SDP/Liberal Alliance, or the Tories in the election is to support the repression in Ireland. The Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee supports the fightback against all these pro-imperialist and anti-democratic parties.

We say: Don't Waste Your Vote! Vote: 'Victory To The Irish People!'

PTA Arrests

The Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee has issued the following statement on the Glasgow PTA arrests:

In a determined attempt to disrupt the Scottish Republican Socialist Party (SRSP), the Glasgow police launched two waves of PTA arrests during May. This attack followed weeks of harassment when supporters of the SRSP have been detained and questioned before being released without charges.

On Thursday 12th and Friday 13th of May, 5 people were picked up by the police under the PTA. 4 were released after only a few hours but David Dinsmore, National Secretary of the SRSP, was held for over 2 days and then remanded on trumped-up charges of parcel-bombing. The only 'evidence' to back up this charge is a claim by the Special Branch that they saw David posting a letter in one of the city's post boxes. The fact that this 'evidence' also applies to thousands of other

people in Glasgow seems to be irrelevant to Glasgow's police. The truth is, of course, that David is "guilty" - "guilty" of being a revolutionary, "guilty" of being a Republican Socialist and this is a "crime" which imperialism cannot forgive.

Following David's arrest, 3 more people were detained under the PTA on Tuesday 17 May: an Irish youth, a militant Scottish Nationalist and Donald Anderson, National Organiser of the SRSP. All 3 were held for 2½ days and questioned non-stop from first thing in the morning until last thing at night. The police tried, unsuccessfully, to gain information from Donald Anderson about the membership and views of the SRSP as well as about its connection with the Irish struggle. Clearly the prospect of revolutionary unity between Scottish and Irish Republicans terrifies imperialism.

The SRSP has a proud record of support for the Irish

revolution, has carried out principled work in support of Scottish political prisoners and has recently launched a militant campaign against Warrant Sales where the poorest members of society who get into debt have all their property compulsorily sold off by the Sheriff's Office. It is this combination of revolutionary Nationalism based on the 'people of no property' that is under attack by the police harassment of the SRSP.

**DEFEND THE SRSP!
DEFEND DAVID DINSMORE!
DROP THE CHARGES NOW!**

Send cards/letters to: David Dinsmore, (political prisoner), Longriggend Remand Unit, Greengairs, Nr. Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Rush messages of support and donations to: The Scottish Political Prisoners Aid Committee, Box 15, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow.

STOP THE WARRANT SALES

Warrant Sales are a barbarous anachronism and a legally constituted means by which small debtors - the poorest and least privileged members of society; the unemployed, pensioners, etc. - are deprived of even their most treasured possessions including the entire contents of their homes.

A Scottish National Alliance Against Warrant Sales has been formed and has been active since its formation several weeks ago. Premises of Sheriff Officers

have been occupied; Sheriff Officers have been obstructed while attempting to carry out Warrant Sales; our members - who are pledged to non-violence - have been beaten up and man-handled by both Police and Sheriff Officers; members have been arrested and detained in custody.

Despite all these activities, the media has all but ignored our campaign Is this because the media is controlled by Capitalists who have a vested

interest in the persecution of small debtors???

Our campaign is continuing and gaining momentum. Support us. Write to your MP and to your District and Regional Councillors. Give a donation to the Campaign. Join the Campaign.

Write to: SNAAWS, Box 15, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow.

STOP THE WARRANT SALES!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Unite to stop forced remittances imposed on Filipino workers.

London, Saturday 4 June.
10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd., W.C.1

Stop Halimat's Deportation! National Demonstration.

Leeds, Saturday 18 June.
Assemble: 1.30 p.m. City Square, Leeds; to end with Rally at Woodhouse Moor.

IRISH SOLIDARITY All-Scotland Weekend of Action

Edinburgh 18/19 June.

Saturday: Pickets, Petitioning, Rally: The Mound, Princes St., 11 a.m. Social in evening.
Sunday: Dayschool at Crosswinds Community Centre, Tollcross. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Speakers, Exhibition, Video, Workshop and Plenary.
Creche available on Sunday.
Social and Dayschool - Waged £2.50, Unwaged £1.50.
Dayschool Only - Waged £1.50, Unwaged 75p.

Organised by Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee.

**Release Nelson Mandela!
Release all South African Political Prisoners!
Save the ANC 6!**

24 Hour Picket.

London, Friday 24/ Saturday 25 June.
5.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m., Outside South Africa House, Trafalgar Square.

Organised by: City of London Anti-Apartheid Group.

May Day Victory

A major victory over the loyalist Trade Union Movement and the Glasgow police was scored by the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee (GIFAC) and other anti-imperialists on May 1st this year.

For the first time in years a militant and noisy Republican contingent took part in the Glasgow May Day demonstration. The GIFAC united on the march with the Irish Republican Socialist Party Glasgow Supporters Group, the Scottish Republican Socialist Party, Glasgow University Scottish Nationalists, Iranian anti-imperialists and, for part of the demonstration, the Clydeside Troops Out Movement. GIFAC brought along placards calling for a victory for Hunger Striker Nicky Kelly, and for an end to the disgusting treatment of the Armagh women POWs.

The GIFAC, using a megaphone, led slogans in commemoration of the 10 murdered Hunger Strikers and in support of Nicky Kelly. We exposed the Labour Party's murderous policy against the Irish people and called for a victory to Ireland's Freedom Fighters.

This enthusiastic and lively contingent stood in marked contrast to the rest of the demonstration which shuffled along in almost total silence. At the rally after the march, over 120 copies of the GIFAC's commemoration bulletin, 'Irish

POWs', were sold with copies of other anti-imperialist literature being on sale.

That this pro-Republican contingent could march at all was a great success for the GIFAC who have been campaigning for some years for the right of Irish Solidarity Groups to take part in the May Day march. Two years ago, a GIFAC supporter was arrested and our contingent removed from the march by the police. Last year we were again attacked by the police acting on the instructions of Trades Council leader Mr Walker. However the GIFAC have continually resisted these attacks and publicly campaigned for our right to march. This campaign was crowned with success this year when our right to demonstrate was not only unchallenged by the police/Trades Council, but also when a loyalist approached the police to have us removed, the police were forced to acknowledge our right to march. Once again we have shown that determined public campaigning work can defeat the police and other pro-imperialists and succeed in defending basic democratic rights.

VICTORY TO IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!

TROOPS OUT NOW!

Mike Henderson for GIFAC.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS - ILLEGAL

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

In response to the PTA arrests in Glasgow, the SRSP and the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee launched a campaign to win support for the immediate release of those detained under the PTA - the Protest Throttling Act. On Sunday 15 May, a picket was held outside Stewart Street police station where David Dinsmore, National Secretary of the SRSP, was being held. As well as the SRSP and GIFAC the picket was also supported by the RCG. After only 10 minutes the police began to harass the picket and arrested GIFAC member Michael Duffield for taking photographs of the picket. Taking photographs is now, it seems, a Breach of the Peace. Alexander Mathers (GIFAC) was also arrested for

protesting at Mike's arrest. Both were held overnight and charged, Mike's camera and film being stolen by the police as an exhibit. The two were able to speak with David Dinsmore while in custody. When asked what kind of Defence Campaign he wanted, David replied: "As noisy as possible - give 'em hell!" The GIFAC heartily agrees!

**DEFEND MICHAEL DUFFIELD!
DEFEND ALEXANDER MATHERS!
DROP THE CHARGES NOW!**

Messages of support and donations should be sent to: GIFAC, Box 27, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow, Scotland.

Protests should be rushed to: The Procurator Fiscal, Clyde Street, Glasgow, Scotland.

Victories in Kampuchea

On May 9, the High Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea issued a communique to mark the end of the 5th dry season of resistance to the Vietnamese invaders.

It stated that 16,600 Vietnamese soldiers had been killed or

wounded and reported the destruction of 6 enemy tanks and the capture of 244 enemy positions. The communique noted that the Vietnamese had very few reserves left, and that the initiative was increasingly passing to the Kampuchean forces.

Fraudulent 'Peace Agreement'

The "peace agreement" recently signed between the governments of Israel and Lebanon has been widely condemned in Lebanon. Massive nationalist meetings and demonstrations have taken place in all areas which are not under Israeli or Lebanese fascist control. Despite repression by the Lebanese army, there have also been widespread protests in West Beirut. All the leftist and nationalist organisations in Lebanon, as well as some influential figures on the Lebanese right, have condemned the agreement with Israel.

The agreement effectively legitimises Israeli occupation of South Lebanon by making its complete withdrawal conditional

on a withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces from the north. It means that Israel gives itself two options: to continue occupying most of the South on the pretext that Syrian and PLO forces are still present in the north or to attack those forces when it is ready to do so on the pretext of "helping to restore Lebanese sovereignty."

Meanwhile, resistance has sharply escalated in Israeli-occupied Lebanon in the past two months. Lebanese resistance forces mount four or five operations every day, and so many ambushes take place along the road between Sidon and Damour that Israeli soldiers now call it the "Ho Chi Minh Road."

RELEASE NICKY KELLY!

Nicky Kelly has been on hunger strike since May 1. He is serving a 12 year prison sentence for an offence which it is almost universally acknowledged he did not commit. The Release Nicky Kelly Committee gives the background to his case.



"In March 1976 the Cork to Dublin Mail train was robbed at Sallins, Co. Kildare for which 4 men were eventually charged, all were members of the newly formed Irish Republican Socialist Party, indeed its head office was raided and 40 plus members and supporters were arrested at the time. The men were firstly brought before the Dublin District Court, released and subsequently re-arrested and charged before the Special Criminal Court which has no jury.

"During the trial a number of very disturbing facts emerged. The only evidence against 3 of the 4 men were signed statements. The state presented no witnesses, or no forensic evidence. Medical reports by two doctors detailed extensive bruising, swelling and other injuries to all defendants. The 'Irish Times' published information that a "heavy gang" of detectives existed within the Gardaí and when several detectives were asked by the Court to show their notes of interrogation of the 4 men they were inexplicably lost.

"Amnesty International, the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and a number of international human rights organisations expressed great concern at the treatment of the defendants while in police custody and sent observers to the trial. All the above resulted in the Government of the day setting up a Judicial Inquiry under Judge Barra O'Briain to "investigate the treatment of persons in police custody" - its recommendations have never been fully implemented.

"Three men were eventually convicted and one was acquitted. While on bail and awaiting sentencing Nicky Kelly left the country as he had lost all faith in the judicial system and was suffering from severe mental strain. While he was in the US he was diagnosed as having a deep anxiety neurosis, he was admitted to the Belle Vue Mental Hospital, New York (the hospital report is available for those who wish to see it). In his absence Nicky Kelly was sentenced to 12 years penal servitude, his two co-defendants gave notice of appeal. At this time the Provisional IRA, in an unprecedented public statement claimed the robbery and said the three convicted men were completely innocent.

"The Appeal was heard in May 1980 and the two men were acquitted and released - in June 1980. Nicky Kelly returned home from the US to clear his name, he was arrested and sent to Portlaoise Prison. A protracted legal wrangle then began to allow him leave to appeal, this was eventually granted and in October 1982 the Supreme

Court rejected the appeal on a legal technicality. Nicky Kelly now has no more legal avenues open to him, the only option is for the Minister of Justice to release him under powers vested in him under article 13.6 of Bunreacht na hEireann."

Nicky Kelly sees his hunger strike as being the only means left to him to pursue his quest for elementary justice. He has stated that he would rather die than serve a 12 year prison sentence, when he is an innocent man. A close relation of Nicky Kelly was cited in the "Irish Times" of 23 May as saying that Nicky was suffering continual pain in his chest and stomach and had a tooth abscess.

"His complexion has become grey, his cheek bones are protruding noticeably and his head appears to have shrunk."

CAMPAIGN BUILDS

The campaign to save Nicky Kelly's life and to win his freedom is building up in Ireland and internationally. Daily pickets are held in Dublin and other events have included pickets of the home of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) and other events calculated to embarrass him. The Law Society of University College, Cork, has elected Nicky Kelly as their Honorary Vice President for the year.

Protests have been held in London, Glasgow, Leeds, and in Manchester daily pickets are being organised by the Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee. Other protests have been held in Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, the Hague, Washington DC, Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto and San Francisco. Pickets of the United Nations in New York have drawn support from many organisations including the American Indian Movement and the ANC of South Africa.

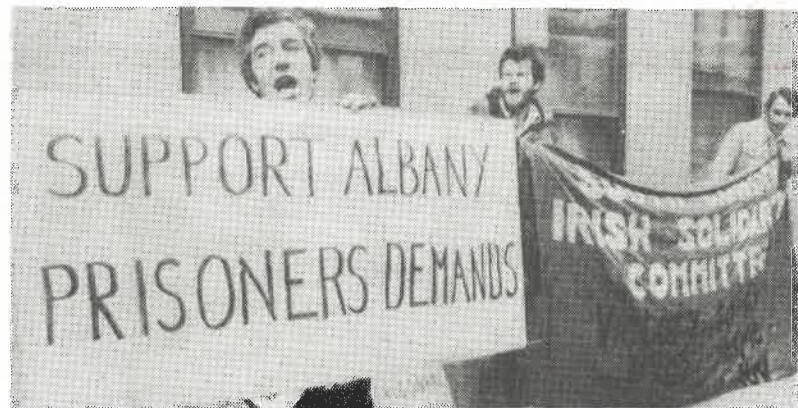
By the 'Stop the Strip Searches Campaign'.

The overall escalating of harassment of the women includes strip-searches, solitary confinement, withdrawal of privileges (visits, letters and packages) and victimisation of particular women. Far from the so-called peace-keeping role of the security forces, which includes prison officers, the strip-search policy is indicative of the systematic sexual abuse of women in war time.

The 'Stop the Strip Search Campaign' has been set up by women in London to call attention to the deteriorating conditions in Armagh and to put an immediate end to the strip searches. For more information contact the campaign - c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2.

ALBANY PROTEST

from front page



The Co-Ordinating Committee for Building an Irish Solidarity Movement organised two pickets of the Home Office on 24 and 26 May in solidarity with the Albany prisoners, and to demand that there be no retaliation. Despite police harassment, the pickets kept up non-stop slogan shouting and distributed hundreds of leaflets. The pickets were supported by ISCs, RCL, RCG, IFM and South London TOM.

In response to prison barbarism, the prisoners did a thorough job of wrecking two wings causing some £250,000 of damage. A television reporter allowed into the gaol said that he saw, "worse than the scenes of destruction I saw in Beirut". It was after the protest in B wing was smashed that 10 prisoners took their protest to the roof to draw attention to their struggle. Three came down on the Sunday. Of the seven who remained four were Volunteer Soldiers of the IRA: Stephen Blake, Paul Norney, Anthony Clarke and Eddie O'Neill, and one, Fahid Mihiyi was a revolutionary from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The prisoners on the roof had support from all the prisoners in the gaol, and for several days received food, cigarettes and newspapers from other prisoners until the top floor was eventually cleared and the prisoners moved either to new cells or to other prisons altogether.

With five revolutionary internationalist prisoners on the roof at Albany, the Home Office hurriedly decreed a five mile flying restriction around the prison! More ominously an SAS-type squad was prepared whilst public opinion was manipulated to accept the possible murder of the prisoners. As a Home Office spokesman said, "At this stage we don't want to do anything which could cause unnecessary injury or death." (Emphasis added.) An offer of mediation to end the protest by Owen Carron MP was rejected by Home Secretary Whitelaw which led the prisoners to display a banner reading, "Willie Whitelaw electioneers with prisoners' lives."

PRISON LEADERS

As in other protests the leading role of Irish POWs was clear for all to see. The "Sunday Times" commented, "Prison authorities regard IRA men as among their most politically aware, and therefore potentially dangerous, inmates." A conveniently timed Prison Officers Association conference

gave the opportunity for all sorts of lurid "explanations" of the influence of Irish prisoners. One Roy Richards, an Albany screw, said prison conditions allowed Irish POWs to, "spread their sick brand of anarchy to impressionable, drug-reliant prisoners who will do anything to pay off their debts which they owe for a drug habit fed to them by the IRA." Writing in "Newsline", Geoff Coggan of the prisoners rights organisation, PROP, answered this type of allegation, "Similar allegations have been made in the past to justify degrading strip-searching of visitors, including women and children, despite the total control which the authorities have over the prisoner after the visit. Searching of visitors is a blatant provocation with no logical justification whatsoever.

"Yet the prisons to which these allegations refer are precisely those gaols which head the list of those issuing, through the prison medical service, a whole battery of psychotropic drugs which are employed specifically as control measures." Indeed, the only drug pushers in the prisons are the quacks and torturers of the prison medical service.

The Albany Irish POWs have played a leading role not just in prison struggles, but also in building an anti-imperialist movement in Britain. Their analysis of the Irish solidarity movement in Britain, and their call to unite (see May "Class Struggle") is exerting a powerful influence. A meeting will be held in July to discuss plans for a united demonstration and a unity conference in the autumn. It is absolutely vital for every socialist, anti-imperialist and democrat in Britain to stand by these courageous fighters on the frontline and demand:

VICTORY TO THE ALBANY PRISONERS!

NO VICTIMISATION!

NO RETALIATION!

GRANT THE PRISONERS' DEMANDS!

Women Prisoners Harassed

After the dirty protest of 1980 and the hunger strikes of 1980 and 1981, women prisoners in Armagh Jail are now being subjected to strip-searching whenever entering or leaving the prison. The searches are performed by groups of female and male prison officers, sometimes as many as 10. Between 9 November 1982 and 1 March 1983, 772 strip searches have been carried out on 97 women; one woman was strip-searched 19 times in 11 days.

In Parliament, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Prior, defended the strip-searches on security grounds. In fact, a large proportion of the searches take place when women make appearances at the local court - a total of 30 minutes outside the prison.

All prisoners are subjected to the searches, regardless of age or physical condition. Women who have been searched include: a 43-year old mother of three; menstruating women who are required to remove their tampons or sanitary pads; adolescent women held in Armagh's young offenders' unit; a woman who was 5½ months pregnant; a 3-year old girl visiting a prisoner.

Searches are carried out in small, semi-open cubicles, as described by a prisoner:

"A curtain is fastened across the cubicle from about waist high to the floor. You are always in view of the prison staff who sometimes number as many as ten. When you are naked

your body from the waist up is visible to all the prison staff in the room ... you are told to turn completely round so as no part of your body is left unseen. Anyone with long hair is ordered to gather their hair up in their hands and hold it on top of their heads. This makes the entire sordid affair seem like a slave trade market."

Recently, three women were assaulted when they refused to strip naked. They were thrown to the ground, their arms and legs twisted behind them by the prison officers, sat upon and forcibly stripped.

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

It is now two years since the heroic hunger strike in the H-Blocks in the north of Ireland in which ten of Ireland's best sons gave their lives in the struggle to smash the criminalisation policy of British imperialism.

In the early days of May, their great sacrifice was commemorated in a number of events in Britain. On May Day itself, Sinn Fein (Britain) organised a march in Birmingham which was reported in last month's 'Class Struggle'. The following Thursday, May 5, the anniversary of the murder, by British imperialism, of Bobby Sands MP and O/C Republican P.O.W.s in the H-Blocks, a commemoration evening organised by Sinn Fein

(Britain) was held in the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The 500 people present were addressed by Caoimhin O Caolain of Sinn Fein's Ard Comhairle who stressed that while remembering and gaining strength from the sacrifice of the H-Block hunger strikers, we must remember that twelve Republican Prisoners of War have laid down their lives on hunger strike in the recent period of Ireland's struggle. To the names of the H-Block heroes must be added those of Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg who were murdered on hunger strike in gaols in England. The event was also addressed by Jim Curran of the Irish in Britain Representation Group, by Tom Devine, Mayor of Camden, and by GLC leader Ken Livingstone who rightly stated: "If there is one record of shame that the

Labour Party will never escape from, it is its record on Ireland."

At the Commemoration march on May 7th, initiated by the Troops Out Movement, Livingstone again raised Labour's rotten role in Ireland. He declared that: "Each candidate must be made to state clearly their position on British withdrawal from Ireland, and not allowed to evade the issue." The 1,300 strong march had earlier been attacked by the police who arrested three members of the militant women's contingent who were singing in solidarity with the Irish people's struggle. A line referring to a suitable repository for the Brits' rubber bullets apparently injured the dignity of the thugs in blue. In an earlier incident, Dave

Douglass, a Yorkshire area NUM official was arrested for 'insulting behaviour' when he responded with a two finger gesture to vitriolic, anti-Irish, racist abuse from a well-heeled 'lady'; she, of course was not challenged in any way by the police.

The rally at the end of the march was addressed, in addition to Ken Livingstone, by Kevin Colfer of Sinn Fein (Britain), Dave Douglass (swiftly bailed by the police on learning who they had lifted), Janice Turner of the National League of Young Liberals, Suzanne Bunting, widow of Ronnie Bunting, a Belfast IRSP leader slain by Loyalists two years ago, and by representatives of the Irish Republican Socialist Party and the Armagh Women's Group.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



SINN FEIN STANDS 14

The dynamic campaigning of Sinn Fein during the present election shows once again that the face of Irish politics has been irrevocably changed, and that a militant Republican presence in all areas of political, economic and social life is an established fact.

Sinn Fein is standing 14 candidates, out of a possible total of 17. They include all five local representatives elected in October. During this election, Sinn Fein faces formidable obstacles. As an article in "An Phoblacht / Republican News" put it, it is a case of "Sinn Fein versus the rest". Not only is there the incessant harassment of Sinn Fein candidates and election workers by the British Army and the RUC, but also determined opposition from all the bourgeois parties. In many areas, the Unionist parties are stand-

ing a single candidate, whilst the middle class and collaborationist SDLP has rejected all offers of talks with Sinn Fein, and is standing (to split the nationalist vote) in all 17 constituencies, the only party to do so. For its part the "Moderate Unionist", Alliance Party is urging a "tactical" vote: that is vote for anyone but Sinn Fein, and vote for whoever is most likely to keep Sinn Fein out.

Undaunted, the revolutionary organisation of the people of no property continues its campaign relying on the strength of the working class people. Father Denis Faul (no friend of the Republican Movement!) predicts that they will win four seats. With two weeks to go before polling the leading article in "An Phoblacht / Republican News" gave this assessment:

"With the close of nominations last Monday, a clearer picture of the task facing Sinn Fein in the North's Westminster election can be seen.

"The loyalist 'Stop Sinn Fein' pact has only emerged in three of the six majority nationalist constituencies, and, even where it has emerged, it is not an insurmountable obstacle.

"There are seats which are winnable by Sinn Fein in this election by means of maximum effort over the next two weeks, based on the solid groundwork which has been done in the constituencies, particularly since the October Assembly elections.

"And Sinn Fein has the youthful enthusiasm and energy to score the victories."

"Throughout the 14 constituencies in which Sinn Fein is

standing, however, there are major achievements to be gained, apart from those measurable in terms of seats won or lost.

"There is the maximisation of Sinn Fein's electoral support to increase the 35% of the nationalist vote so dramatically won in the party's entry onto the electoral stage last October.

"There is the creation of new support, and the solidifying of existing support which will extend Sinn Fein's organisational base throughout the North, for future progress.

"And there is the dramatic effect on Southern nationalist opinion which further Sinn Fein progress in the North can achieve.

"Sinn Fein can emerge from these elections with an even stronger

voice as representatives of the nationalist people, a voice which is already impossible to ignore.

"Because Sinn Fein's principled position is the one that is feared most, loyalists make pacts, the SDLP splutter slanders, the Catholic hierarchy harangues, the Coalition maintains its RTE ban, the media manipulates the news, and the crown forces step up their harassment activities.

"But Sinn Fein displays its impressive ability to resist all such assaults, to get on with its work and to make progress.

"And when it comes down to it, it is just that ability which makes Sinn Fein the only convincing leaders towards a free and united Ireland."

"Only Threat To British Ruling Junta"

On Sunday May 8, the Republican Movement in Belfast organised a massive, disciplined and dignified commemoration march and rally in honour of the ten H-Block hunger strike martyrs and the two hunger strikers who died in prisons in Britain. The main speech was given by Sinn Fein elected representative for Derry, Martin McGuinness, who in honouring the hunger strikers used the opportunity to present an analysis of how their sacrifice had changed the face of Irish politics and of the Republican Movement. He showed the importance of the revolutionary challenge to British imperialism posed by the Republican Movement, and related the Republican participation in the election to overall strategy and tactics. Because of the importance of the speech, we are reprinting extracts below:

"Frank Stagg and Michael Gaughan died in English prisons, alone, without a friendly face or a comforting word - at the mercy of English Screws. Despite their isolation they fought the British war machine to their dying breath.

"Only two short years ago the people of Ireland grieved the loss of 10 of their noblest sons who died in agony on hunger-strike in Long Kesh. Those four terrible months, from May to August, as we buried one by one our heroic comrades, were the most horrific, the most tragic and yet strangely the most inspiring days ever experienced in the history of Irish republicanism.

"Ten young republican Volunteers, men who have opposed in arms Britain's occupation of our country, were let die in agony by the intransigence of Margaret Thatcher and the moral cowardice and political bankruptcy of the Irish establishment. Throughout the world, people watched with horror and frustration as one by one the coffins emerged from Long Kesh.

"But today Bobby Sands and his comrades are powerful symbols of resistance for all those throughout the world who struggle against foreign domination and imperialist aggression. The name of Bobby Sands is as familiar to the



● Derry's Francis Hughes and Maguire/McBrearty bands, turned out in smart military-style uniforms, struck a responsive chord with the Belfast crowds

people of Palestine and El Salvador as it is to the people of Belfast and Derry.

"For the oppressed, exploited, downtrodden of this earth, Bobby Sands represents the unconquerable will for freedom which enables the weak to resist, and never stop resisting, the military, technological and economic might of their oppressors.

"Not only the ordinary people of Ireland but the Republican Movement itself has changed since the hunger-strike. The sufferings and deaths of our Volunteers are deeply imprinted in all our hearts and minds. Their deaths rekindled the spirit of freedom within our people and the full consequences of this rediscovered political consciousness are not yet realised. The reverberation from the hunger-strike still continues.

"The politicisation of our people can be seen everywhere. Look at your walls, look at our marches, listen to our people. Thousands and thousands of

people marched in silent mourning behind the hunger-strikers' Tricolour-draped coffins, and inside two years those marching feet have marched into polling booths and elected Irish republicans to be their representatives.

"Bobby Sands and his comrades were soldiers of the Irish republic. They engaged in guerrilla warfare against the British forces of occupation and that stark fact must not be forgotten. The war for national liberation is a legitimate war and Irish men and women have every right and every justification to fight back with whatever means are at their disposal to end British occupation and destroy the military, political, economic and cultural stranglehold England has upon our country.

"An examination of other revolutionary struggles proves that only through armed resistance, coupled with clear and principled political direction, can working class people achieve the right to participate in the

decisions that affect their destiny.

"There is a war going on in Ireland. Bobby Sands was still at war when he died. We can either support those who desire freedom or we can support those who wish to maintain oppression and injustice.

"That is the choice which faces the Irish people. The Republican Movement wants Irish freedom and will struggle until it is achieved. We pose the only real threat to the British ruling junta.

"Britain already has the Irish establishment, North and South, in its pocket. They know only too well that their survival, their privileges and their power are totally dependent on Britain destroying the Republican Movement. But we will not go away. Fourteen years on, the Republican Movement continues to defy British oppression, and we will defy it until their presence on this island is removed."

* * *

"People may say that the hunger-strike was a failure. Certainly the prisoners did not achieve all their demands, but the campaign was not just about five demands. It was to re-assert the right of Irish people to control their own lives and deny Britain's claim to rule."

* * *

"The Republican Movement is determined to end British rule in Ireland and substitute it with a just, peaceful and equitable socialist society geared to the particular needs and aspirations of the Irish people.

"We are aware of the immensity of our task.

"Against us are ranged all the forces of reaction, North and South. And, furthermore, Ireland, despite Britain's public posture, is not an unimportant little island riven by religious strife. Britain knows how important its control of Ireland is. The revolution here threatens the very base of British imperialism, the British state itself.

"America and its NATO allies hungrily look at Ireland as a

prime strategic area in the event of nuclear war - they are as interested in preventing our revolution as are the British.

"We will win this war despite the power of our enemy. The Republican Movement has fought an unremitting war for the past 13 years. We cannot be defeated. We have the people with us - our struggle is their struggle and their struggle is our struggle.

"It cannot be denied that in the past the Republican Movement has distanced itself from the social and economic realities faced by working people, but the deaths of our hunger-strikers have re-united the Movement and the people, and that unity, seen during the Assembly elections and shortly to be seen in the Westminster elections, will ensure that Britain can no longer ignore the demands of the people of Ireland.

"And on that day the reformist politicians and their cronies can either support our revolution or they can pack their bags and accompany the departing British imperial administration.

"Things will never be the same again in Ireland."

Birds of a Feather

"Gerry Fitt is a Brit" is a popular slogan amongst the youth of nationalist West Belfast, and with the forthcoming General Election, the people of the area have the chance to rid him from their political lives, and to elect Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein to represent the constituency. Obviously not everybody is happy at this prospect and the "Orange Standard", official journal of the Grand Orange Lodge in Ireland, called for unionists not to stand their own candidates and to vote for Fitt. The article states:

"With the very extensive movement of population in the past 12 years, the Official Unionist position has been seriously undermined and the battle is no longer between Unionism and Nationalism, but between Gerry Fitt's independent stance and Republicanism of the most extreme form."

The article goes on to "admire" the "phenomenal courage" of Gerry Fitt. They say you can judge a man by his friends.