

CLASS STRUGGLE

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HANDS OFF GRENADA



Shortly before dawn on October 25, 2,000 Marines invaded Grenada. One of the two greatest military powers in the world, with a population of 233 million, sent a task force of 11 warships, including an aircraft carrier bearing 70 warplanes, helicopter gunships and troop carriers to conquer a country of 110,000 people, with no navy or air force, and armed forces consisting of 1,000 regular troops and a people's militia of 20,000.

At a press conference straight after the invasion, Reagan claimed that the US had been 'invited' to invade by members of the Organisation of East Caribbean States, Jamaica and Barbados. This may or may not be technically true, but what is beyond a shadow of doubt is that the ruling cliques of all the Caribbean states involved are so tied to the US that the latter would only have to prompt them to issue an invitation and they'd do so. And anyway, what right do any states have to ask a great power to invade one of their neighbours?

REAGAN LIAR

Reagan went on to claim that there were three reasons for the invasion:

- "To protect innocent lives", including up to 1,000 Americans;
- "to forestall further chaos";
- "to assist in the restoration of conditions of law and order and of governmental institutions to ... Grenada, where a brutal group of leftist thugs violently seized power."

Reagan lied. There was no danger to the Americans in Grenada. Dr Charles Modica, Chancellor of St George's Medical College, where many of the Americans were students, stated in New York on the day of the invasion:

"I think that the President's information is very wrong because some of the Americans started to go out yesterday... I think the orderly evacuation of the island could have been maintained throughout the week."

The chaos caused by the US invasion exceeded any possible "chaos" that might have occurred because of the military coup which had just taken place.

Long before the military coup, the US had accused Grenada's government of carrying out mass arrests, torturing people and of consisting of extreme left-wingers. It is the height of hypocrisy for Reagan to speak as though he regretted the murder of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and others, and to

suggest that he only wanted to overthrow the government of Grenada after the military coup.

LONG PREPARATION

In fact, ever since the March 13th, 1979 Revolution overthrew the reactionary Gairy regime, the US has sought to destabilise Grenada. It has sponsored oppositionist groups, operating in the USA or Barbados. Immediately after the 1979 Revolution, the US began encouraging Barbados, with its "reliable" government and relative proximity to Grenada, to act as a regional policeman, and sponsored a strengthening of its coastguard defence force. The US carried out repeated military and naval manoeuvres in the area. This included "Operation Ocean Venture '81" which was an exercise involving a practice assault on a small hostile island called "Amber". Grenada knew full well at the time against whom this was really directed.

to Grenada was not that it leaned towards Cuba and the Soviet Union, but that a revolution had taken place which had led to considerable progress for the Grenadian people, at imperialism's expense. The US feared that the people of other small Caribbean islands might follow Grenada's example, over throw their rulers (rulers like Simmonds of St Kitts-Nevis, whose party opposed independence for years until shortly before the islands became "independent", or Eugenia Charles, sometimes known as "Dominica's Mrs Thatcher", who stood in silence next to Reagan while he offered his justification of the invasion to an unbelieving world) and take the path of independent national development.

Grenada's achievements in the four and a half years since the Revolution have been impressive. It depended on tourism and the export of cocoa,

Protest in Britain

LONDON

When news of the invasion of Grenada first came out, people gathered in protest at the US embassy. By late afternoon on October 25, there was a crowd of 400 people and pickets stayed until late in the evening. On the following nights, there were other large pickets.

On Monday October 31st an angry march took place from West London to the US embassy, going via the East Caribbean and Barbados High Commission.

BIRMINGHAM

On Tuesday 25th, a spontaneous rally took place in the city centre supported by about 150 people, including organisations for solidarity with Central America.

On Saturday 29th, a picket was organised in Soho Road, Handsworth by the Pan African

Congress Movement, Pakistan Workers Association (Britain) and Birmingham Youth Movement. 40-50 people handed out leaflets demanding 'US Out of Grenada' to passers-by in the crowded streets at the centre of Birmingham's black community.

MANCHESTER

Around 300 people marched in Manchester on Wednesday 26th October. The march was organised by 'No Intervention in Central America and Caribbean' campaign. Speakers included people from Grenada and Nicaragua and representatives of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Messages of solidarity from Palestine Solidarity Committee and Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee were warmly welcomed.

Over the weekend of 29th/30th protests also took place in Scotland.

For all the British government's self-righteousness about the invasion, it did co-operate with the US in trying to weaken Grenada. In 1979, when Hurricane Allen devastated the islands of the East Caribbean, the US and Britain excluded Grenada from their aid programme. While other EEC states carried on aid projects, Britain stopped giving aid to the Bishop government.

FORWARD EVER ...

The main reason for the hostility of the Reagan government

nutmeg and bananas for most of its income, and thus was highly vulnerable to fluctuations in prices on the imperialist markets. After the Revolution, the people's government headed by Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement set out to develop a more self-reliant economy and, simultaneously, to raise the people's living standards.

In agriculture, the government tried to increase production of crops for home consumption so as to meet the needs of the people and cut the food import.



THE INVASION

bill. Shortly before the coup, it announced the expansion of the farmers' training school to accommodate 150 students.

In the economy overall, Grenada achieved a growth of 15% from March 1979 to the end of 1982, including a 5.5% growth in 1982 itself, and it reduced unemployment to a quarter of its pre-revolution levels.

Before 1979, the last time a new secondary school had been opened was in 1885; six had been opened by this October, and 40% of Grenadian children were at school. All health care was free.

THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The US seized on the building of a new international airport, saying it was beyond Grenada's needs and would be a Soviet/Cuban base. But when the project was started, Prime Minister Bishop outlined just how it would serve Grenada:

"It is the one project with the prospect of uniting all of our people and bringing benefits to all of our people. It will bring jobs to many more of our people. If you consider the area of tourism alone, we will have to build more hotels, more shopping complexes, more duty-free facilities, more apartments, more boutiques." He said that it would also benefit farmers, fishermen, taxi-drivers and local businessmen.

While Grenada did have a large amount of aid from Cuba and the Soviet Union, it did aim to avoid being tied to any country, however friendly, by maintaining a diversity of aid sources. The EEC (except Britain), UN and Canada have all given aid in one form or another. In September, Grenada accepted a \$40 million loan from the IMF.

The government was also trying to build up institutions of popular power. A constitutional commission was appointed this summer, and among its instructions was a statement that the new constitution should reflect the concept of popular democracy, and should also deal with public accountability, including the people's right to recall unsatisfactory officials - a democratic right unavailable to the people of the "great democracies" of the USA and Britain!

The coup carried out by a pro-Soviet group in the army and the New Jewel Movement (see separate article) was used by the US as an immediate excuse to do what it wanted to do - to invade. Imperialism is concerned only with its own interests.

Despite the divisions among the people caused by the murder of Bishop by the so-called "leftists", the Grenadian people have been putting up a stiff resistance to the invasion. The US called in 4,000 reinforcements and used tanks and helicopter gunships against Grenadian forces for three days before their last position was taken, and even then, guerrilla war continued. Particularly heavy fighting continued in central Grenada and in the island of Carriacou, a stronghold of the New Jewel Movement.

Cuban workers at the airport as well as military advisers also resisted the US invasion heroically, taking heavy casualties before being overwhelmed by the superior numbers and firepower of the invaders.

The US has played up the Cuban presence, partly to "justify" the invasion, and partly to explain the fierce resistance it encountered in an operation which was supposed to be over in a morning. In fact, the great majority of Cubans present were civilian workers on aid projects, especially the airport. Reagan's announcement of the discovery of a vast Cuban arsenal there cannot be taken seriously; the Grenadians were bound to need some stores for themselves, not Cubans, in the face of the US threat. Any "vast arsenals" can only be an American creation.

CONSEQUENCES

At the present time, the US government is probably satisfied that it has achieved its goals, even if the price was higher than expected. It has a puppet government lined up to take over Grenada; moreover, after uttering threats against Nicaragua, the El Salvadorean fighters and other liberation movements, it has finally occupied another Third World country, thus trying to ensure that others will believe that the US carries out its threats.

cont. on p.6.



Patrick Kelly, released after informer Patrick McGurk retracted his statement incriminating Kelly and six others. See p.8.

4 Million March for Peace



Contributed.

On Saturday October 22nd, an estimated 400,000 people from all parts of Britain marched in London to oppose the deployment of US Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe. Over the same weekend, a million people took part in peace marches in West Germany, half of them in the capital, Bonn. Altogether about two million marched in western Europe.

The size of the support for the march in London showed that for all the propaganda of the government, and the stunts of Thatcher-clone Lady Olga Maitland, the peace movement continues to have a wide appeal

hardly surprising in the face of the threat of nuclear destruction. In fact, the counter-demonstrations which took place were utterly dwarfed by the CND march, their participants being outnumbered about 2,000 to 1.

Supporters of various Third World liberation movements went along on the march, but though they shared in the revulsion of the other demonstrators at nuclear war, they had a rather different outlook to most on the threat of war.

For many Third World peoples (as for the Irish people) war is already a reality. They have fought or are fighting

for national freedom and social justice; if they didn't, imperialism would go on inflicting misery and ruin on them. In such circumstances, pacifism is not an option.

Peace activists in Britain ignore the liberation movements and their opinions at their own peril. Paradoxical as it may seem, it is precisely such armed movements which are doing most for world peace. For while imperialism exists, there will be war; in trying to defend their system of exploitation and to seize markets and raw materials from each other, the imperialist powers inevitably turn to violence, as the USSR has in Afghanistan, the US in Grenada, and Britain in Ireland. The liberation movements, by undermining the whole imperialist order, are simultaneously reducing the threat of war, for they are destroying it at its roots.

It is therefore important that revolutionary activists in the peace movement seek not to align it with any particular party, but with the anti-imperialist forces in the world, and that they show to others that the peace movement can only fully deserve the term if it embraces solidarity with the revolutionary forces which are central to turning the dream of peace and disarmament into a reality.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!

Two campaigns organised by women in Leeds over the last few months have raised important questions for women, and progressive people in general.

One campaign was fought to defend Helena Conningham, convicted in Leeds Crown Court of "carrying an offensive weapon" and facing six months in jail. Helena carried a knife in self-defence. She has suffered three attacks in the last year, one of them a rape.

After pointing out the number of women who suffer attack or rape, Helena said: "The judge in the case, Recorder Beard, suggested that women fearing attack should stay at home - and that as far as he could see I had not made any defence at all."

Women Against Violence Against Women organised a picket, supported by over 150 women, on the day when sentence was passed. Because of the support she got, Helena received a fine instead of the prison sentence.

The other campaign is to defend Connie O'Donovan. Seven months ago Connie went voluntarily to Millgarth police station, Leeds, knowing that the police wanted to question her in

connection with an arson attack on a porn cinema in the city.

She spent seven days in custody and was charged with conspiracy on two counts. Some of her family and close friends have also been arrested, interrogated, threatened, or told to return for further questioning.

After her release from custody she had to sign on at the police station, first every day, then twice a week, then once a week. In the first 13 days of signing, she was "interviewed" 11 times; the police call these 'chats' but Connie has complained through her solicitor, of police harassment.

In spite of all this, the police could not produce any evidence against her for a committal until the beginning of October. Connie had to appear at magistrates court in March, April, June and August.

When the committal hearing was finally held in October, about 70 women demonstrated outside the court, demanding 'Drop the Charges!' and protesting 'Connie is Innocent!'. Connie was still sent for trial at Leeds Crown Court and a strong campaign will have to be built to ensure a victory in court.

Chinese Journals

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Dear Editor,

In contrast to the media-hype of 'Red Moles' at British Leyland Cowley, which provided a peg for "left-wreckers" scare, "fascist moles" in the Tory party was lost in the hypocritical cant on the ex-Secretary of State for Industry and Trade's marital infidelity.

The Young Conservatives acknowledged that the fragmentation of the fascist right means that for the individual fascists "there is nowhere else" but the Tory party. For as one "mole" explained:

"We are not altering one iota of our basic ideology. Far from it. The new strategy represents a change of style."

That fascists have stood as candidates at both national and local election comes as no surprise. The stormy Tory party conference debate, calling for an end to further immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan, repeal of the 'Race Relations' laws and for an increase in financial provisions for voluntary repatriation, was substantial public demonstration of sympathy for entrenched racist views.

Initially selected by popular ballot of conference representatives, the arguments against the motion stressed patronising pragmatism and cynical calculation - dangers of losing "ethnic votes" and increasing public expenditure - and the Home Office Minister celebrating success in cutting immigration numbers!

The Young Conservatives' draft report concludes "that extremist and racist forces are at work inside the Conservative party." Yes - right up to cabinet level as they oversee racist immigration rules, racist policing and racist treatment from state agencies. If media coverage was given to "exposing" the racist nature of the British state, regardless of the political label of the administration, that would be news!

A Corby reader.



The British AMAC Corporation recently unveiled their new "riot control" vehicle which can give an electric shock to anyone touching it.

The Amax-1 also has 16 grenade launchers, 18 gun ports, a high pressure water cannon that can spray dye, searchlights, an infra-red camera for night photography and windscreen wiper brushes dispensing a chemical to remove paint or other materials thrown at it.

The vehicle can carry ten men plus its crew of two. It has a chemical toilet (no jokes please), armour protection, bullet-proof tyres, a grid on the front for sweeping away street barricades, and can be made airtight and watertight.

Mr Paul Latham, AMAC's marketing director, said at the unveiling: "It is not an aggressive vehicle essentially." (!!!) This will no doubt be of great reassurance to the people of Pakistan, India, Indonesia and other Third World countries where the vehicle is being marketed.

An apprentice technician at Westlands, Yeovil, told a "Class Struggle" correspondent that when he asked permission for members of his family to visit the factory, there was no problem for his father and brother. But special permission from a Works' Director had to be obtained for his mother and sister. He was told: "Women are not, normally, allowed to visit the factory, for security reasons." !!

One of the more insidious myths of the ruling class is the "neutrality" of the state, as if it took no sides. However, the true relationship between government and industry is more appropriately reflected in the programme whereby the civil service swap senior personnel with leading companies. Among the 200 companies involved in the pilot scheme are Mercury, Schroder Wagg, Goldman Sachs in New York, Bicc, Balfour Beatty, British Leyland, Thompson Group, United Biscuits, Ocean Incheape and British Aerospace. Thus a senior secretary, Roger Holmes, from the newly-merged Department of Trade and Industry, is now company secretary at the telecommunications group Mercury, having already served three and a half years with Sir Michael Edwardes, Mercury's Chairman, at British Leyland. Patrick Hodgson, from merchant bankers, Schroder Wagg, at his position within the Department of Trade and Industry, is reportedly fighting for an increase in state support for companies in overseas markets. These developments are in line with the department's new permanent Secretary, Sir Brian Hayes' objective to be "more supportive of industry's aims". When has there been any other aim?

New Tory party chairman, John Gummer is another benefactor of government hypocrisy. While we endure the cliches of 'tightening belts' and greater productivity, Mr Gummer has received a 19% pay rise, with no extra duties, as the taxpayer finances his party appointment. His workload had diminished since becoming Party chairman but with his promotion from Under-Secretary to Minister of State, Gummer remains at the Department of Employment doing exactly the same job as before but being paid £5,000 a year more for it.

Ostensibly promotion is due to extra 'cabinet' responsibilities in ensuring liaison between government and party. That Gummer is splitting his work in the ministry with that at Tory HQ at Smith Square means that he is publicly subsidised, solving the internal Tory problems on a ministerial pay of £19,410 plus parliamentary allowance of £11,000. Like many of his parliamentary colleagues, being paid as MPs but finding time to be company directors, journalists and, above all, TV performers!

Two men have now lodged an official complaint that the Birmingham police tortured them in order to get them to confess to serious crimes that they did not commit. Both Harry Treadaway (serving a 15 year jail sentence) and Keith Twitchell (serving 20 years), have described how plastic bags were held tightly over their heads until they lost consciousness... under threat of a repeat performance, they signed false confessions. Two other men have had similar treatment but decided not to complain officially. An 'internal investigation' is taking place!

Government agencies are good at collecting facts and figures even better at ignoring them. The Department of Employment's recent survey found the average expenditure of a couple with two children, deducting rent or mortgage costs, in 1981 was £124.70.... and yet the same government supplementary benefit scale would allow only £49.20 to cover all similar costs to the same family. By the end of last year 7 million people were being supported by supplementary benefit (40% of these unemployed) including 2 million children - one out of seven in the country.

Figures published in 'An Economic Profile of Britain 1983' from Lloyds Bank, show that by 1981 living standards here were 92% of average for the European Community. The West Germans and French were 20% and 25% better off than us. Living standards here were roughly the same as in Japan and way below those in the US and Scandinavian countries.

The salaries of British managers rose at more than twice the inflation rate in the year to July, although the rate of increase seems to be coming down slowly. The figures emerged from the annual executive salary survey conducted by Inbucon, the management consultants. The average executive salary is now £17,305, an increase of 9.4%.

Average salaries for some of the managerial grades include: £31,177 for managing directors; £22,141 for directors and £20,377 for company secretaries.

In addition to this most executives get fringe benefits such as free medical insurance (so they don't have to worry about the cuts in the NHS) and a company car (so they are not affected by increased bus fares).

Ordinary backbench MP's may feel they are not too well paid after reading those figures; they only get £15,308 although for many of them that is only a part of their annual income.

HERE TO STAY! HERE TO FIGHT!

★ As we go to press, there is good news from Manchester.

We have heard that Parveen Khan and her husband have both won the right to live in Britain. Mrs Khan has fought hard for over two years to win her right, and has had the active support of the Asian Youth Movement and Pakistan Workers Association as well as others active in her defence campaign.

★ "The police will be asked to arrange his removal to India as soon as possible." That is the message Mr Waddington, Minister of State for Immigration gave about Vinod Chauhan at the end of October.

Vinod Chauhan came to Britain in 1978 and married here. He had applied for settlement, but his marriage broke down. Using this as an excuse his application was refused with the Home Office making vague and unsubstantial allegations that his was purely a "marriage of convenience". Yet in his final appeal the adjudicator had to recognise in the end that it was not a "marriage of convenience". He then proceeded to reject Vinod's appeal anyway saying that he had no roots in Britain. In fact, he has lived and worked in Ashton-under-Lyme for five years, has many friends, and some of his family in the area.

An active local campaign in his defence has collected 3,000 signatures on a petition supporting him, and has therefore won the support of the controlling group on the local council, his local MP, and the local Euro-MP.

Reverend Paul Weller, Chairman of the Vinod Chauhan Defence Campaign, on hearing of Waddington's latest action, drew attention to the words of Pastor Martin Niemoller, who was imprisoned by the Nazis: "They came for the Jews and I did not speak out - because

I was not a Jew, They came for the Communists and I did not speak out - because I was not a Communist, They came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak - because I was not a Trade Unionist, Then they came for me: And there was no-one left to speak out for me."

The campaign has pledged to continue the work and is planning ways of mobilising more mass support for Vinod Chauhan.

after serving with the British Army in West Germany since 1975. When Mr Butt applied for permanent residence in Britain, he was turned down; despite the fact that he has every right to settle here even under the racist rules that exist!

When Mr Butt challenged the Home Office decision in 1981 the Adjudicator said that it was his task to consider whether or not the marriage was entered into genuinely. His conclusion



In September, Kwame Ture, formerly Stokely Carmichael, spoke to black people in many cities in England. In the 1960's, Stokely Carmichael was a leading figure in the black liberation movement in the USA. He is now based in Africa and belongs to the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, whose aims he summed up as: "The objective of our party is Pan Africanism which is the total liberation and unification of Africa under scientific socialism."

His message to black people was: "Our people are disorganised. Every African who truly wants to do something for this people must belong to an organisation fighting for our people. Our brothers and sisters in Britain must come now to move from a higher level of spontaneous activity to one of rational organisation, to one of scientific organisation, to one of permanent organisation."

In their latest leaflet, they say: "Campaigns up and down the country have shown that when ordinary people decide to challenge racism and injustice, victories can be won."

Meanwhile another Ashton family is also under attack. Mrs Naseem Butt was born in Newcastle. In 1979 she met and married Ghazanfar Ali Butt, who was on holiday in Britain,

was that he was "convinced that there is a genuine relationship existing between the appellant and his wife". But, as a leaflet by the Naseem Butt campaign says: "He still refused the appeal on the basis of Home Office allegations which were not supported by substantial evidence."

Finally in January 1981, Mr Butt went to Pakistan to re-apply for entry from there.

For two years, Mrs Butt and their daughter Farzana have been separated from him while the immigration authorities practiced their usual delaying tactics. Officials in Islamabad have said that the matter is being considered in Britain, while officials here have said it is being dealt with in Islamabad. Now the Home Office has shocked the family by telling them that the application has been refused!

Under immigration law the Home Office does not have to prove a case. It can make unsubstantiated allegations and the family has to prove its innocence.

The racism and sexism of the law is reflected in the attitudes of the officials, to whom it is near impossible to prove anything.

Naseem Butt knows that the only thing that will unite her, and Farzana, with her husband is a campaign based on active local support.

Vinod Chauhan and Naseem Butt are vigorously supporting each other and exposing the laws and officials of racist Britain.

Both campaigns can be contacted: c/o 18 Firs Avenue, Ashton-Under-Lyme, Lancashire.

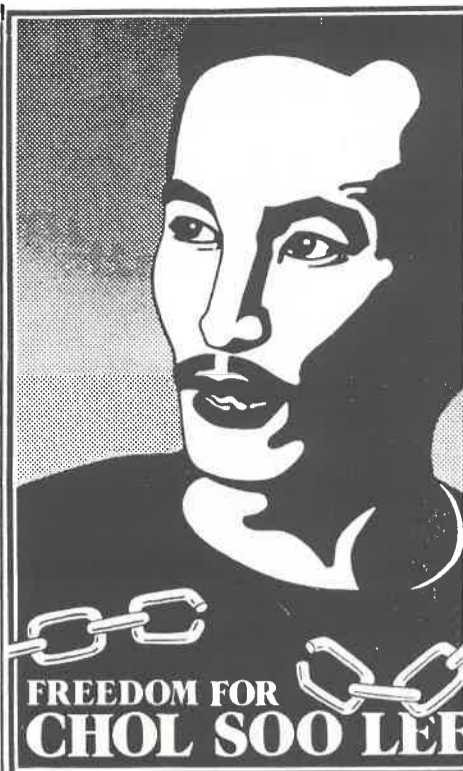
Josie Thomas from Huddersfield, is happy that she finally has a date when her appeal against deportation will be heard: Friday November 11, in Leeds. "I feel more settled in myself," she said. "The first appeal, I couldn't find words to answer their questions. So many difficult questions. But this time, I'm prepared ... I just want to live with my children in this country and I know that this time, I'm going to come out on top."

It is now over four years since Josie came back from Grenada, where she had been looking after her sick mother, and was told that she no longer had any right to live in this country. (For details see October 'Class Struggle'). It has been a long time and the tension affects the whole family. Also all this time Josie has been separated from her youngest son who remained in Grenada with her mother.

Josie was speaking at a meeting in Leeds together with Halimat Babamba who has now won her right to stay, and Esther Ankeli who is still fighting a campaign based in Manchester. Speakers at the meeting pointed out that the immigration laws attack all black people but particularly women. Women from London reported on the campaign to defend Malika Benkhelefa and spoke of how the immigration laws force women to put up with domestic violence because of the threat of deportation if they leave their husbands. Women are not treated as human beings in their own right, but their status is dependent on their husband's. Women also pointed to the need for black and white women to unite and for white women to understand that it is in their own interests to defend black women, so that together we are stronger to fight all forms of oppression.

In particular the Josephine Thomas Support Committee is calling on people to show their support for Josie by coming to the appeal hearing on November 11. We need a mass turnout to show that Josie is here to stay!

Demonstrate outside the Immigration Appeal Court, Tranquillity, Cross Gates, Leeds 15, (near Arndale Centre).



usa:

from 'Unity' paper of League of Revolutionary Struggle.

San Francisco: One of the Asian movement's longest and best-known struggles came to an end on August 25, when Chol Soo Lee walked out of a Stockton court, a free man for the first time in a decade. In 1973 Chol Soo was wrongly found guilty of the murder of Yip Yee Tak. On appeal, this conviction was overturned but in the meantime, he had been charged with another murder.

In return for pleading guilty to a charge of second-degree murder for the death of Needham, a neo-Nazi prisoner who attacked Chol Soo at Deuel Vocational Institute in 1979, Chol Soo was granted complete freedom without probation or parole. In addition, Judge K.Peter Sayers ordered the Immigration and Naturalization Service not to deport Chol Soo. This settlement is viewed as a huge victory, one brought about through sacrifice, hard work and the power of an organized mass movement.....

At a press conference following the hearing, Chol Soo Lee maintained his innocence of murder, stating that Needham's death was a case of self-defence.....

Ranko Yamada of the San Francisco Bay Area Committee to Free Chol Soo Lee, commented: "Justice has not been served: it has been won after ten years of bitter and tortuous struggle.".....

The case of Chol Soo Lee reveals once more the ugly nature of national oppression which is a part of this capitalist society. The facts of the case are clear. Chol Soo was framed by the San Francisco Police Department. As had happened to many other poor, oppressed nationalities, Chol Soo was selected as the fall guy in the aftermath of a wave of Chinatown gang killings.

But neither the police nor the courts counted on the outrage and fierce desire for justice and equality among Asian and Korean people who took up Chol Soo's cause. Over the past years, thousands of people from New York to Hawa'i to Korea - students, professionals, working people, elderly - have poured out their time, money, hearts and souls to fight for justice.

For the first time in ten years, Chol Soo Lee, 31 years old, has the opportunity to start a new life. His story of resistance and the mass movement organised to free him will be an inspiration to all freedom-loving people.

★

NEWHAM 8

8 ASIAN YOUTHS AGED 15-21 ARRESTED FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY FROM RACIAL ATTACKS HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO ASSAULT PERSONS UNKNOWN.



Black Community on Trial NATIONAL PICKET

Thurs. 10th Nov. at 9.00am

Snaresbrook Crown Courts

(Opp. Snaresbrook Underground, Central Line, 75 Hollybush Hill, Snaresbrook, London E11)

SUPPORT DAILY PICKETS OF COURT AS LONG AS TRIAL LASTS.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

Independent Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe gets a poor press in Britain. The capitalist press reflects the hatred of its masters for an independent African state that won its independence by armed struggle - while the "left" press, though themselves incapable of organising a piss-up in a brewery, is only too ready with advice and criticism.

At independence, Zimbabwe faced many problems. The disruption of war meant, in human terms alone, that 28,000 people had been killed, a quarter of a million had fled to neighbouring states, and another million were displaced within the country.

The Lancaster House Agreement, by bringing the liberation war to an earlier close, saved thousands of lives. But this victory was, necessarily, incomplete, and left ZANU with the problems of an unreformed colonialist army which had to be transformed with great care, a divided Zimbabwean people, and self-seeking opportunists in the ZAPU camp with their forces still in being.

The terms of the agreement have tied the hands of the government on some important questions - for example, the agreement ruled out the forcible acquisition of land.

SOUTH AFRICAN SABOTAGE

South Africa uses every means at its disposal to disrupt the life of the neighbouring state it hates and fears.

* Because of Zimbabwe's landlocked position, South Africa is in a strong position to sabotage it economically. They temporarily withdrew 27 locomotives at the height of

Zimbabwe's harvesting season in 1981, and cut off oil supplies at a time when the oil pipeline through Mozambique to Zimbabwe had been sabotaged by the South African-backed National Resistance Movement (MNR) in Mozambique, and the oil installations at Beira (Mozambique) had been blown up by South African military forces. As a result, January fuel consumption was cut by 75%. Petrol was usually only available one day a week, tourists stranded, black parents could not get their children to school on time and the crisis cost the Zimbabwean government at least \$2 million in lost revenue earnings.

South African political and military actions against Zimbabwe have so far been covert:

* Shortly before independence, a large number of former Muzorewa auxiliaries and black soldiers serving in the Rhodesian army (1,300 according to western intelligence) were transported to three military camps in the Northern Transvaal (South Africa) in and around Phalaborwa. Comrade Mugabe estimates 5,000-6,000, which includes roughly 1,000 former ZIPRA guerrillas (the armed wing of Nkomo's ZAPU party) were taken to a camp of their own after the discovery of the secret arms caches early in 1982.

* At the trials of a number of former white Rhodesians, evidence was given showing that they had been in touch with South African security agencies seeking support, and that they acted as intermediaries between ZIPRA commanders and these agencies.

The economic heritage of imp-

erialist rule is that the "commanding heights" of the economy are foreign-owned: some 70% of the mining, industry, transportation and banking. Also in agriculture, small-scale traditional farming is up against highly productive and highly exploitative modern agriculture in the hands of 5,500 white commercial farmers who earn most foreign exchange, produce the bulk of the country's food and are the biggest employers.

Zimbabwe faces the general problems that any newly-independent state must confront in building its economy in the particularly difficult situation of a general world-wide depression, during which the imperialist powers intensify their efforts to shift the burden of the world-wide crisis onto the backs of the oppressed nations, already groaning from exploitation.

Two years of drought, the worst in living memory, have brought food shortages to Zimbabwe, famine to other parts of southern Africa.

Despite these difficulties, Zimbabwe has made much progress. In its first year, the economy grew at a rate of 14%: this leap was partly due to taking in the slack in the economy after the war ended. The second year's rate was slower at 8% - but economists of imperialist countries reckon 2% is good. In 1981, before the drought started, agricultural production doubled.

EDUCATION

The number of primary school children enrolled has doubled since 1979, and in secondary school it has increased sevenfold. In January 1982 there

was a second increase in the minimum wage - up 65% for farm and domestic workers and 23% for others. The civil service is now 60% black and all key cabinet posts are held by Africans.

LAND

Before independence, black farmers had to scratch a living on the crowded tribal trust lands - the least productive land - allotted to them by the white racist regime. Now black farmers are resettling on commercial farmland that was abandoned during the war - but there is a problem of land shortage. As said earlier, the Lancaster House Agreement rules out forcible land acquisition. In spite of this, 300,000 formerly landless peasants are now squatting on land owned by others.

CO-OPERATIVES

The energetic and growing co-operative movement is playing an important part in the struggle for development. Early co-ops faced closure by the Smith regime - as happened to Nyafaru, a standard-bearer of the movement, when Moven Mahachi, now Minister of Lands, helped smuggle Comrades Mugabe and Tekere into Mozambique in 1975. Today there is a national organisation which groups more than 70 co-ops, the Zimbabwe Producer and Marketing Co-operative Organisation - and the Ministry of Lands is also in the process of setting up its own co-operative federation. The co-ops have a vital role in showing by example the improved efficiency of collective production, in preference to the individual small holdings. They are also experimenting in new kinds of living, based on the collective

life lived by the liberation fighters during the war.

One such co-op is Mukuzensele, where war-wounded ex-combatants were given a 3,000 acre piece of land. An advance party of 20 initially cleared a 10-acre field. By the end of March 1983, 240 comrades were living in 12 spacious dormitories. They hope soon to be joined by their families, in raising crops, vegetables and poultry. Wounded in the liberation war, they refuse to let disablement hold them back in the struggle for Zimbabwe's development.

Other former guerrilla fighters have formed a printing co-op in Harare. "This is another war we are fighting," says Leoth Mahlangu, co-op artist and designer. "It is a war fought on the economic front, against the English capitalist system, against the banks which are prejudiced against co-operatives, against the big printers and suppliers who don't want us to succeed."

Members are selected on the basis of three factors: skills needed by the co-op, political consciousness and determination. Priority is given to former guerrillas of the liberation war, especially the disabled, former political prisoners and workers with a history of participation in the liberation struggle. "Commercial printing for industry and commerce is still our bread and butter", explained the co-op administrator. "But we do work for other co-ops and community projects at a big discount and hope that gradually our people will see the power of the press and use it to spread the necessary ideas and information and mobilise the people for development."

(End of first part: to be continued.)

PHILIPPINES

Smash Dictatorship!

The assassination of Benigno Aquino at the end of August was intended to remove a potential rival to the Marcos family's rule. Members of the Marcos group feared that the US might sponsor Aquino as a safe "clean" presidential alternative to the succession of Imelda Marcos to her ailing and discredited husband's presidency, and so they arranged Aquino's murder. The result of this action has been a sharp increase in the activity of opposition forces, which have become both broader and more militant.

At the September 21st demonstration to mark the 11th anniversary of the introduction of martial law, there were over 500 priests and seminarians at the 300,000 strong rally. Anti-Marcos rallies in Manila's commercial areas have even been joined by business executives.

Four days after Aquino's death, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) issued a statement which concluded:

"The former senator and we had our differences over how to bring about the downfall of the Marcos fascist regime. We acknowledge that. But our objectives ... to end the hated regime ran parallel to each other. In many ways, his efforts and ours complemented one another as we fought a common enemy."

The Party and the entire Filipino people recognise Aquino's immense contributions to the struggle against the regime.

"His example and sacrifice leave all of us with one concrete lesson: that all forces struggling against the Marcos fascist regime must unite, persist in all forms of struggle against it, bring about its downfall at the earliest possible time, and attain the Filipino people's national and social liberation."

The CPP is now the leading opposition force in the Philippines. It participates in the National Democratic Front (NDF), along with organisations of workers, farmers and religious figures, and leads the New People's Army (NPA). The NDF has supporters throughout the Philippines, and the NPA operates in 56 of the Philippines' 71 provinces.

The NPA is a true people's army with a high level of political consciousness, equality between men and women fighters, no privileges whatsoever to set officers apart from the rank and file and with very deep ties with the masses wherever it operates. Once a NPA unit has established itself in a new area, the government is unable to displace it, whether by military means, or by trying to buy off the people. For example, sometimes villagers who have never had proper medical services suddenly find that the government starts providing them once the NPA has already started doing so; they always recognise that this is only due to the NPA's presence. Now the NPA's strength is such that it can operate in groups of 100-200 fighters.

The strength of the people's movement in the Philippines



made President Reagan announce the cancellation of his planned visit there on October 3rd. There is increasing anxiety in the US ruling class about the situation in the

Philippines, where the US has military bases (Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base), as well as extensive investments. It is already being referred to as "the next El Salvador".

But if the US dares to invade the Philippines, it will certainly find the Philippine people, the Marxist-Leninist party, the NDF and the NPA more than a match for it.

FRETILIN Fights On

Since mid-August, Indonesian government forces have been making an all-out effort to wipe out the forces of the Front for the Liberation of East Timor (Fretilin). 20,000 troops, supported by aircraft (possibly including British-supplied HS Hawks), helicopters and tanks have been thrown against Fretilin-held areas, where there are 6,800 people under arms.

East Timor was formerly a Portuguese colony. Hardly had it gained its independence under popular leadership than, in 1975, it was invaded by Indonesian forces. Some 200,000 people were killed by the invaders and in late 1978, Fretilin suffered two blows

in quick succession, when a section of its leadership surrendered, and its President, Nicolau Lobato, died fighting after being caught in an ambush.

However, the East Timorese reorganised and rebuilt their forces under a Revolutionary Council of National Resistance, headed by Gusmao Xanana. The Indonesian attempt to smash Fretilin by a policy of "strategic settlements" and making forcibly conscripted East Timorese fight their own country-people failed, and in March of this year, the Indonesian authorities opened negotiations with Fretilin. These came to nothing when Indonesia broke the terms of the ceasefire agreement arranged with Fretilin by failing to

publicise the ceasefire internationally.

At the start of the latest Indonesian attack, Indonesian Armed Forces' head, General Benuz Mundani, said: "We are going to hit them without mercy. If this call (i.e. to surrender) goes unheeded, the government will use its armed forces and all its arsenal to clean up the remnants of Fretilin rebels." He announced his determination to wipe out Fretilin by October 1st, but in this, he has failed. Though cut off from external arms supplies and most forms of aid, since 1975, Fretilin fights on. Its experience shows that a people who rely on their own strength and resourcefulness and dare to fight can withstand imperialist-backed aggressors with all their sophisticated weaponry.



MAURICE BISHOP

Counter-revolution in Grenada

The following extracts from a leaflet issued by the Alliance of The Black Parents Movement, The Black Youth Movement and the Race Today Collective on 21 October 1983, make it clear that pro-Soviet elements were responsible for the coup in Grenada on 19 October and the subversion of the New Jewel Movement. (Jewel stands for Joint Endeavour for Welfare, Education and Liberation.) Next month we will publish a longer article on this aspect of the situation in Grenada.

"....On that day the Bernard Coard regime in Grenada liquidated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman, Housing Minister Norris Bain, Education Minister Jacqueline Creft, Trade Union leader Vincent Noel and political activist Fitzroy Bain. They are all dead, lined up against a wall and shot. Numbers of people killed range in reports from 10 to 25. Numbers of people injured are reported to be between 40 and 200"

"The drama began to unfold on Wednesday October 12th when a new regime took power and placed Maurice Bishop under house-arrest. Unknown to Grenadians and even to members of the ruling party, the organisation which seized power is called the Organisation for Revolutionary Education and Liberation (OREL). This clandestine group was organised as far back as the mid-1970's by Bernard Coard and his wife, Jamaican born Phyllis Coard. They gathered around them a small band of activists drawn

from the New Jewel Movement (NJM). The aim of this group was the seizure of power from the Gairy regime and the organisation of a state based on the model of the Soviet Union.

"This group, in conjunction with radical members of the NJM, carried out a revolutionary seizure of power from the corrupt and brutal Gairy regime in March 1979. The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) was not therefore a homogeneous whole but has been, in fact, an uneasy alliance between the radicals of the NJM and the activists of OREL. In the course of establishing the new government, OREL activists were placed in key positions in the Peoples' Revolutionary Army (PRA), the police and the militia.

"As the revolutionary process developed over the last 4 years, the internal conflicts between these two factions sharpened. On the one hand there were the NJM radicals - Maurice Bishop, Kenrick Radix and Unison Whiteman who had consistently taken the mass movement forward in battle against Gairy. These emerged as the popular leaders of the revolution. Then we had, on the other hand, the OREL activists, bent on implementing a Soviet model of government on the Grenadian people..."

The leaflet describes the popular strikes and demonstrations by students, teachers and workers to free Bishop. At this point, an OREL strike force within the army, moved in and took over.

GRENADA (Cont. from front page)

But the US will not finish paying the price for the invasion for a long time. After four and a half years of freedom and economic and social progress, the Grenadian people will not accept being reduced to the conditions they faced under Gairy, and they will be supported by tens of thousands of Grenadians abroad, including in Britain. The Caribbean leaders who supported the invasion and sent soldiers to participate in the 300 man Caribbean force accompanying the US marines will be marked men and women for their people from now on.

"INTERNATIONAL DELINQUENT"

Around the world, the US has been strongly condemned. In South and Central America, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela have condemned the invasion. Nicaragua re-

ferred to the US as an "international delinquent" and its leaders warned that the CIA was planning attacks against Nicaragua. Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega told Nicaraguan demonstrators: "We must have our rifles ready to shoot."

Socialist China issued statements denouncing the US: "The US armed invasion is a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter. We hereby express our strong condemnation and call for an immediate withdrawal."

The imperialists throw their weight around, but the times when they could get away with whatever they want, are over; the peoples of the Third World will not let themselves be trampled underfoot. Every time the imperialists try to impose their will on the Third World countries, they have to pay a high price, and it will go on rising, as more and more

Women of Afghanistan

The following article is a translation of one carried in 'Solidaire' the paper of the PTB (Belgian Party of Labour) on 2.3.83.

AFGHAN WOMEN

Farida Ahmadi was one of the principal witnesses at a people's tribunal held in Belgium to judge the actions of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

She was cruelly tortured in the Chad prisons (the Afghan equivalent of the Soviet Secret Service - the KGB). When Farida talks about her organisation, the Association of Revolutionary Women of Afghanistan, you no longer see any trace of the torture that she suffered for four months. You only see determination and the will to struggle. The women of Afghanistan have "only their courage" she often declares. To see her you cannot but believe it.

EMANCIPATION OF AFGHAN WOMEN

Farida said: "From the beginning of the bombing of the villages it was above all the women who suffered. The war has driven the men to the front, into hiding or into Pakistan in order to avoid compulsory military service in the Russian-backed government Army. And for the first time in their lives, for the first time in the history of Afghanistan, women bear the whole responsibility for daily life. In towns and in villages, it is they who must earn the daily bread to ensure the survival of the household."

"In this situation the women

are becoming aware of their role and of their political and social rights. It is the war itself which provides the impetus for them to take on new tasks. That is why we women struggle firstly against the Soviet aggressors for national independence and we often take part in armed struggle. How can a nation of slaves ever create a democracy? How can women emancipate themselves when their men are slaves? It is in the struggle against the Russian occupiers that we women play an important political role. The women themselves fully realise this. They are obliged to respect that.

"But we know what happened in Algeria! Those courageous women who made so many sacrifices in the war of liberation were dismissed as soon as victory was achieved. Our Association has drawn lessons from this."

EDUCATION THROUGH TAPE CASSETTES AND MILITANT ACTIVITY

"We are educating the Afghan women in a spirit of struggle in order that the struggle for women's emancipation continues even when the Russians have gone. We never lose sight of the fact that the two struggles for national liberation and women's liberation go hand in hand. The objective situation of the war helps us in this work. In the towns our organisation distributes underground material calling upon the women to participate in demonstrations and other anti-Soviet activities. In the villages the women cannot read, so we use tape cassettes. We record simple political education

courses based upon practical issues of how to recognise undercover KGB agents, how to transport arms and munitions etc. and how to carry out first aid. The cassettes are left with the women for several weeks. They listen to them several times with their village friends.

Farida described other aspects of the position of Afghan women at the present time:

"Very often women are not members of traditional political parties and this is precisely why they play such an important role in the popular unity of the rank and file."

The Afghanistan Committee arranged a series of meetings between Farida and trade union militants notably in Liege. At Charleroi, Farida and Mohammed Daoud, a mullah fighting in the internal resistance, met Rolande Demeura - the principal union shop steward because he is fighting - from Concord Lighting. Rolande explained the strike and the occupation of the factory. Farida and Mohammed were greatly impressed. Their questions were extremely perceptive.

"How is it possible that the union officials haven't recognised your actions? The workers elected them? Why haven't other activities in solidarity been organised by other firms?" A complete programme of struggle. The brief and informal interview shattered the illusion of feudal and backward Afghanis so prevalent in this country. The Afghans understand capitalism and the power of the working class. A lesson in proletarian internationalism...

Xianggang is China's

"As a sovereign state with a part of its territory under foreign occupation, China is determined to recover its sovereignty, including administration, over Xianggang. This cannot be negotiated."

The position of the Chinese government on Xianggang has always been clear and has been strongly spelled out in response to totally unreasonable statements made by Thatcher recently, to American reporters in London.

Thatcher stated: "Britain cannot be accused of colonialism in any way". "Britain doesn't take a penny piece out of Hongkong." And "Had it (Xianggang) been an ordinary British colony she would have been independent years ago. She would have been another Singapore."

In a Xinhua commentary, printed in 'Beijing Review' No 42, a firm reply and warning is given. The commentary repeats the history of Britain's illegal

seizure of Chinese territory in the nineteenth century by armed force and the subsequent unequal treaties. "For over a century, the Chinese people, in the face of national humiliation, have never accepted the three unequal treaties imposed on China. In every way, these treaties are illegal and invalid."

The commentary points out that British imperialism has substantial and profitable investment in almost every sector of the Xianggang economy. Xianggang is vital to Britain since it is Britain's largest export market in the Far East. Not a penny piece indeed!

Because Xianggang is part of China, there can be absolutely no question of "independence" for one part of China from the rest of the country. The attempt to draw a parallel

between Xianggang and Singapore is a provocation to the thousand million Chinese people. "The Chinese people firmly oppose and strongly condemn any statements or actions to dismember a country or split a nation. It would be wise not to forget the waves of protest on China's territory, including Xianggang, following a speech in September last year maintaining that the three unequal treaties on Xianggang are "still valid".

As communists in Britain, we give our unconditional support to the Chinese government, party and people in their just struggle to recover their national territory, and firmly denounce the British government's attempt to go against the tide of history!

BRITAIN OUT OF XIANGGANG!

RED ALLIANCE WINS

The Norwegian local elections of 12th September marked a great success for the 'Red Alliance', an electoral alliance between the Workers Communist Party (AKP) and progressive independents. In comparison with the most recent parliamentary elections in 1981, the Red Alliance vote increased from 18,000 to 25,000 votes. Its number of seats on local councils has increased from 21 to 35.

Their greatest success was in Tromso, an industrial town in the north of the country, where they obtained 6% of the votes and four local councillors. In Oslo, the Red Alliance now has more support than the pro-Moscow 'Communist' Party.

In an interview with 'Solidaire' the newspaper of the Party of Labour of Belgium, a representative of the AKP made the following points:

"First of all we won our greatest successes where the party

has been able to establish a base and where it has attacked government policies openly and with concrete actions. Next, the quality of our campaign was far better than previously. Right at the beginning we organised a national conference to prepare our members for the elections. This resulted in a very active campaign marked by a number of good activities."

One of these activities was to picket the entrance to the Oslo stock exchange in protest against unemployment.

In the March issue of 'Class Struggle', we reported the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the AKP. At the time we said that the Party was just recovering from an internal crisis which had affected its work. This success - which has shaken the ruling Conservatives and Christian Democrats in Norway - is yet another sign that the AKP is a real force to be reckoned with.

FORWARD EVER!
BACKWARD NEVER!

IRISH SOLIDARITY ON THE STREET... IN THE CONFERENCE



Photo: Paul Mattson.

The need to build a United Irish Solidarity Movement was the theme of the conference held the following day. About 125 delegates voted to set up such a movement as well as to "continue work for united action on the three demands set out by the Albany POWs" (the slogans

of the demonstration). During the morning, Mrs Elizabeth Hill, the mother of Paul Hill, an Irish POW in an English gaol, spoke militantly and movingly, describing the oppression of British imperialism, and how her son was framed and imprisoned by the imperialist system.

In the afternoon, Helen O'Brien, sister of Irish POW John McCluskey, vigorously supported the Republican Movement and the armed struggle as well as the struggle of Irish Prisoners. The audience was visibly moved by both these speakers and rose to give them standing ovations.

RCL Statement to Conference

On behalf of the Revolutionary Communist League, I bring warm greetings to this meeting. As one of the sponsors of last year's November 20th Conference, the RCL supports the initiative of Building an Irish Solidarity Movement (BISM) in calling this conference with the aim of building a united Irish solidarity movement.

Over the past 10 months we have participated in the work of the Irish Solidarity committees alongside comrades from other organisations and individual comrades. We believe that the work of those committees throughout the country has confirmed the generally correct orientation and basis of the November 20th Conference. In particular we believe that the past year has shown in practice that it is not only desirable but possible now to build an Irish solidarity movement based on a thoroughgoing anti-imperialist stand and relying on the most oppressed sectors of people in Britain. It is these two cardinal factors which have distinguished the movement gathered here today from other sections of the Irish solidarity movement. It is these two factors above all which are the guarantee of our future growth and long-term success.

In speaking, we feel it important to reiterate these two points out of our concern for the future development of this movement, and fear that attempts may be made to dilute its aims. Inevitably this means injecting a note of controversy and struggle into a message of solidarity. We make no apologies for this. We agree with the platform that we desire unity, but that unity will only come through honest and above-board struggle. We feel it crucial that differences are stated openly now, and struggled over during the course of the day. In this respect let me say now that the RCL will be supporting the resolution put to this conference by the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee as it applies to the ISCs, even though we understand they will not be present. We take our standpoint on the Irish question as Communists and Internationalists. As we stated last November we see the struggle of the Irish people as part of a broad movement of the vast majority of the people of the world against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism. The Irish people, under its Republican leadership, are waging the same struggle - people's war - as the peoples of Palestine, southern Africa, Eritrea, El Salvador and Afghanistan. They are an advanced representative of the dominant trend in the Third World which is demanding independence.

It is precisely because the Irish people bring this internationally significant struggle to the heart of Western Europe, where they threaten the very existence of British imperialism, that their struggle has such a significance for us. It has been shown very eloquently that there is an

intimate link between the struggle to free Ireland from British domination and the development of revolutionary opportunities in Britain. All truly revolutionary movements and forces in Britain have identified unconditionally with the revolutionary national liberation struggle in Ireland. In saying this we do not - as some people - seek to subordinate the Irish revolution to the demands of the movement in Britain, or see the Irish struggle primarily as a means to mobilise the working class in Britain. We do believe that we must grasp the significance of the relationship between Ireland and Britain if we are to serve the cause both of Irish freedom and of the emancipation of the working class and oppressed people in Britain.

Never was this link more clearly demonstrated than in 1981 - a year which history will show to have been a turning point in the development of the revolutionary movement in Britain. The close identification which developed between the Republican Movement in Ireland and the dispossessed in Britain - in particular black youth - was a pointer to future developments. As the crisis deepens, we can expect this identification and unity between the people of no property - in Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales - to deepen until it is a mighty and irresistible swell.

The emergence of revolutionary forces in Britain and the rapid growth of the Republican Movement in Ireland were a warning to British imperialism, and an occasion for rejoicing and reorientation for all would-be revolutionaries in Britain.

It is based on this understanding of the world today and of the dynamics of the revolutionary movement in Britain and Ireland that the RCL has been proud to take its place in the ranks of the Irish Solidarity Committees. Such an analysis we believe points the way for the work of Irish solidarity and determines the forms of our struggle. Our work must be based on thoroughgoing anti-imperialism, and it must rely on the most oppressed, the natural allies of the Irish people.

In present circumstances, we think it necessary to reaffirm these two key points. Thoroughgoing anti-imperialism means opposition to all imperialism throughout the world, but in particular British imperialism. Inevitably it entails quite specific and unconditional support for the Irish people and their chosen leadership. Anything short of this is not only metaphysical; it is interference in the affairs of the Irish people. This we oppose. Reliance on the most oppressed is intimately bound up with this question of the leadership of the Irish people's struggle. The oppressed have no problems in identifying with the Republican Movement. If we are serious about uniting with and relying on them, then we

too should have no problems about supporting the Republican Movement. Only if we wish to turn our backs on the oppressed and unite with the thoroughly reactionary Labour Party, to get off the streets and enter the committee rooms, is the Republican Movement a 'problem'.

So comrades, we oppose any attempts to divert us from the two cardinal points on which this movement is based. We support a specific statement of solidarity with the Republican Movement, as proposed by GIFAC.

It may be that some comrades are disappointed because this movement has not grown faster. After the euphoria of last November this may be understandable. We say that we cannot expect rapid growth - to do so is to underestimate the enemy, the weight of imperialist ideology and the extent of the split in the working class movement in Britain. To believe that 'broadening' or 'diluting' our aims will be a solution for this slow growth is nothing but a delusion.

There has been a lot of talk about a broad movement. As anyone serious we are all in favour of a broad movement - the broadest possible movement of solidarity with the Irish people. But this must in our view, based on our analysis and experience, be rooted in a rock-solid core of anti-imperialism.

The principles on which we work cannot and must not be diluted. To do so would be to turn our backs on the Irish people and their chosen leadership. It would be to rely on pro-imperialist 'Labour Party' forces and their vacillating allies and to reject the true revolutionary forces in Britain. It would mean nothing less than the reconstitution of the worst elements of the Troops Out Movement (TOM) - an organisation of which we have some experience.

Comrades, we withdrew from sections of the TOM precisely because their stand on these questions was weak. We have remained in other sections because their stand was strong - in particular because they had 'no problems' about the Republican Movement. However we did not withdraw from the TOM in order to construct another one!

In conclusion we unite with the platform of this conference in their slogans:

VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE!

TROOPS OUT NOW!

RIGHT OF REPATRIATION FOR ALL POWS!

But we add:

UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT!

BUILD A UNITED IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT!

On October 1st, 400 people marched through London in solidarity with the Irish people. The demonstration, behind the slogans 'Complete British Withdrawal from Ireland!', 'Self-Determination for the Irish People!' and 'The Right of Repatriation for all POWs!' was well-organised, militant and enthusiastic. A number of people, seeing the

march, left the pavements and joined in. The main address at the rally after the march was given by Michael Holden, of the Connolly/Keegan Cumain, Sinn Fein. Other speakers included a spokesman from Glasgow Sinn Fein, a representative from the East London Asian Collective and Ace Kelly from the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign.

The Way Forward

During the conference the most important debate was around the question of solidarity with the chosen leadership of the Irish people - the Irish Republican Movement. The RCL statement to the conference (printed above) gives clear reasons why the RCL takes such a stand. The RCL believes that the Irish Solidarity Committees should unconditionally support the actually existing Republican Movement, and not just the 'Irish people' in abstract.

At the same time the RCL made it clear during the debate that it strongly supported the need to build a broader movement based on the slogans put forward by the Albany prisoners:

Complete British Withdrawal from Ireland!

Self-Determination for the Irish People!

The Right of Repatriation for All POWs!

There are many who support these slogans, but who do not have a thorough going anti-imperialist stand. The RCL has declared its willingness to work with all forces who support these slogans in a broad campaign. We do not intend to make any demands on those forces within such a broader campaign beyond these slogans, either in terms of the areas in which they struggle for support for the slogans. But we do recognise that such

a movement must have an anti-imperialist organisation within it with solid principles. The task of the ISCs within such a movement is to constantly raise the anti-imperialist consciousness of members of a broad movement, to prevent any collapse into opportunism and to ensure through their work that the solidarity campaign is carried through vigorously among the most oppressed. At a time then, when we seek to work with broader forces, it is vital to strengthen our own principled position, and to guard against liberalism in the conscious anti-imperialist organisation.

At the same time such a position demands that when the Republican Movement makes a call for any particular campaign, the ISCs fully support that call and do not go their own way.

This principled position of the RCL was voted down at the conference. In the next issue of 'Class Struggle' we will publish a more detailed argument of the RCL's position and reply to the arguments put by the platform and the Revolutionary Communist Group. Such a debate cannot be decided by a short session at the end of a conference, and the arguments over the way forward for the movement, will continue alongside the solidarity activities carried out by the movement.

Syria Attacks PLO

On Sunday, October 23, two massive bomb blasts in Beirut wrecked bases of the US and French "peace-keeping" forces, killing over 270 of them. This event has overshadowed the struggle that has been going on between Syria and the PLO. Capitalising on divisions in the Palestinian movement, Syria has been increasing pressure on the PLO since the beginning of summer. It has tried to use the "dissidents" in Al Fatah, the biggest organisation in the PLO, to overthrow Yasser Arafat's leadership and bring the PLO under its domination. The PLO established a committee to deal with the disagreements between the different forces in Fatah, but Syria is trying to sabotage its work. Finally,

during October, it intensified pressure on PLO forces around the north Lebanese city of Tripoli, and carried out bombardments of the Palestinian refugee camps of Nahr al Barid and Beddawi. The Palestinian forces there believe that an all-out assault could come at any moment, and are determined to fight back to preserve independence of the PLO. Yasser Arafat and other top PLO leaders are in the camps with their people, ready to face the same dangers with them.

The people in occupied Palestine are in no doubt as to where they stand on this struggle. They are unanimous in supporting Arafat and opposing Syria.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



SHOW TRIALS EXPOSED!

"I was supplied with photographs of people whom they wanted named, statements of what they termed 'terrorist acts'. I was given the whole run-down on it, the whole issue of what way I should put it across. In fact, the RUC did all the writing. They read it over to me, then I signed it."

With these words, Robert Lean exploded the myth of the 'supergrass'. A 'supergrass' is nothing more than someone who has been terrorised into perjury, and then paid off with large sums of money and a new identity.

Robert Lean shows that the 'evidence' produced by 'supergrasses' is nothing more than material written by the RUC and learnt parrot fashion.

Robert Lean was meant to be the RUC's biggest 'supergrass' to date. They claimed his evidence would destroy the IRA and Sinn Fein in Belfast. Instead the tables have turned.



Robert Lean at press conference.

Robert Lean's public retraction has destroyed what little credibility Britain's show trials in northern Ireland had. His public statements have shown that the large number of Republicans who have been imprisoned, usually for very long periods, solely on the testimony of a 'supergrass' in a non-jury Diplock court, have been railroaded into prison by the RUC.

The methods of the RUC were clearly exposed. They had

produced a statement by an earlier 'supergrass', William Skelly, implicating Robert Lean (Was that obtained by the same methods?) As the judges consider that such a statement would in itself be sufficient to convict an accused person, even though there is no corroborating evidence, the pressure on Robert Lean was intense. But let's hear it in his own words:

"I was in a bad way because I knew he (Skelly) had also mentioned my wife. The RUC told me he had and they were going to arrest and charge her. We have five children and I felt intimidated. They offered that if I turned informer they would supply me with the relevant information, the people they wanted to put away and all I would have to do would be agree to it."

And, as we know, he did. But he also had to see the people who had then been accused by him.

"I felt sick after seeing these people. I didn't think very much of myself, but I had to do it. They said if I didn't confront these people I would go to jail, so obviously I took what I thought was the easy way out."

Robert Lean said that the police were particularly keen to 'get'

The law should be used as just another weapon in the government arsenal and in this case become little more than a propaganda cover for the disposal of unwanted members of the public.

The activities of the legal services have to be tied into the war effort in as discreet a way as possible.

General Kitson, British Army.

Gerry Adams, MP, but said that he would not have confronted him. "I have a lot of respect for Gerry Adams, and also I didn't want to put unnecessary pressure on my family; he's

a very popular person in West Belfast."

He also destroyed another of the RUC fairy stories that 'supergrasses' are free agents. In order to get to a lawyer and retract he had to escape from police custody! In the past several families have complained that they were unable to see family members who were supposed to have become 'supergrasses', and had been prevented from doing so.

Having escaped his 'protectors' and retracted, there is nothing that the RUC can now do to Robert Lean, having already given, as part of his bribe, an immunity to prosecution.

The attempt to destroy the Republican Movement through show trials has been thoroughly exposed. Now the message much be driven home. British imperialist "law" in the north of Ireland is nothing but a tool in Britain's war. There isn't a shred of "justice" to it.

MORE DEFEATS FOR 'SUPERGRASS' SYSTEM

On Monday October 24th another show trial collapsed. Seven men facing trial on the basis of statements made about them by Patrick McGurk walked free out of the court after the prosecution admitted that they could produce no evidence.

McGurk had been held in a secret location for 21 months without access to family or friends. On Thursday night (October 20), he telephoned his family and told them that he was not a 'free agent', as the RUC claimed. He said he had refused to sign statements and would not testify in court. This was a double blow for the

RUC after Lean's escape the previous day.

Even so this 'free agent' was not released by the RUC until Wednesday the 26th. This was the day before they would have had to produce him in court after his family had finally obtained a writ of Habeas Corpus against the RUC.

Meanwhile the 'supergrass' system has been attacked as being a form of 'internment through remand'. Five of the defendants have been imprisoned for nearly two years and yet have had no evidence brought against them when finally brought to 'trial'.

Standing Up to Intimidation



Joe Bell with his daughter.

on Monday October 17, at 5a.m. He was told the names of three individuals the RUC said they wanted to 'get' and offered £50,000 if he would "turn supergrass". "Three names could get you that kind of money," one RUC detective told him.

Despite threats, including that he would be picked up every time he tried to collect his dole money and that the RUC "would make my life hell if I didn't collaborate", and that they would ensure he would be imprisoned again, (he was released last July after serving 3 years) he refused to be intimidated and was finally released the following Thursday.

In his final interrogation, he was told: "If we don't get you to break at the end of the day we'll just call your wife in to identify you on a slab."

Further bad publicity for RUC 'law-and-order' came from Joe Bell, a Cookstown Sinn Fein member. He was picked up under a three-day detention order

INVESTMENT IN OPPRESSION

The British state admits to spending more than £500 million on repression in the occupied six counties. The Northern Ireland Office 1983/4 budget estimates some £384 million on running the police and prison services. This money, partly absorbed in building new modern fortress police stations in Republican areas, reflects the strategy of using the fully-armed RUC in the front line of 'security operations'. The £143 million cost of the army is not included in this budget.

Other police expenditure (including grants to police complaints boards!) comes to the grand total of £72,000. The low cost of legal services, crown solicitors etc., at £3.75 million is acquired by the use of no-jury Diplock courts and perjured informers. That the expression of British law is its prisons is seen in the £12 million budgeted to cover the running costs of courts, compared to £61.92 million for the prison service.

Letter from Crumlin Road

Reprinted from 'Leeds Other Paper'.

At present, I am one of over 200 people currently being held in custody on Remand on the sole evidence of a "supergrass". Already over 50 people here have been convicted and imprisoned on the uncorroborated evidence of these Supergrasses.

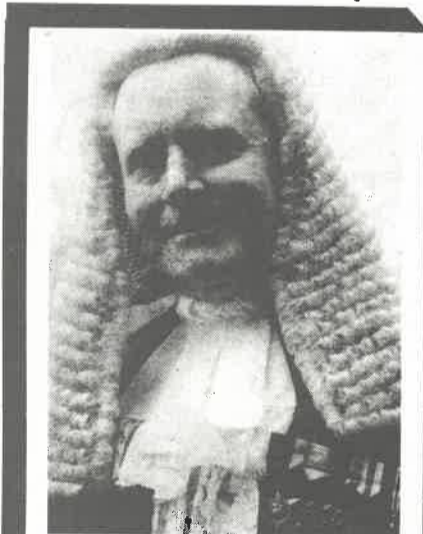
In each case this evidence was heard by a judge sitting alone, without the benefit of a jury to assess the evidence presented. That such evidence alone should be accepted to convict anyone is beyond the belief of most people. However, the methods by which such evidence is obtained is even more incredible.

During the last two years, the RUC have been using sophisticated methods, offering inducements, bribes and a wide range of "deals" in return for statements made against people named by the RUC. A suspect following his or her arrest is taken to Castlereagh interrogation Centre where they are held in clinical isolation for any thing up to seven days. During this time the suspect is repeatedly threatened that they will be charged with an offence unless they co-operate with the RUC. During this time the person is offered inducements to make statements against people the RUC name.

On three occasions I was offered £80,000 plus, if I would make a number of incriminating statements against people, some of whom are unknown to me. The RUC then told me that they could "Leak it" that I was a police informer, stating that they could have me shot!

The treatment which I experienced was not unique and has been used against many people. As a result the RUC have produced a number of what they call "Converted Terrorists", commonly known in the media as "Supergrasses". The truth of the matter is that these people are "converted" by the use of fear, the offer of large sums of money, immunity from prosecution and in some cases a massive reduction in any sentence.

It must be remembered that no jury sits in the court here. It is simply one judge. In a recent case of a former "Supergrass" Clifford McKeown, who had been given immunity for his part in a murder, retracted his evidence claiming it had been false. Following his retraction, McKeown stated to the local press that during his time with the RUC they had



Trying to put a brave face on it, Attorney-General Sir M. Havers (above) pathetically describing himself as "entirely satisfied" with the workings of the supergrass system. But despite recent victories, the supergrass trials continue. The struggle must be unremitting!

SEVEN JAILED IN SHOW TRIAL

Despite describing part of 'supergrass' McGrady's evidence as "contradictory, bizarre and in some respects incredible" Lord Chief Justice Lowry convicted seven defendants on his word. Three defendants had been acquitted - Lowry having described that part of the 'evidence' as "unsatisfactory and inconsistent". Yet having already shown the character of McGrady's evidence, Lowry was quite prepared to convict the seven on the basis of the same person's statements!

assured him that he would get the immunity promised as 'a decision to accept "Supergrass" evidence had been taken at a meeting representing the RUC, senior government officials and the judiciary.'

Those of us currently held on such evidence believe that the British government under Thatcher has given the RUC a free hand and that the judiciary here are willing participants in this conspiracy. It is interesting to note that methods perfected here in the past, have eventually been used in England. It is not surprising that I learn of a case in Birmingham where a 38-year old man, Harry Treadway, was sentenced to fifteen years in jail following what he alleges was torture. In this case his own statement of admission was supported by a statement from "an informer". Whilst there appears to be evidence to support torture claims, Mr Treadway was still convicted.

In the case of the Christopher Black trial there was no evidence against many of them, save that of Black. And it was heard by one judge sitting alone. It is abundantly clear from this that either two systems of law operate without having to answer to the normal processes of law.

I would ask those of you who read this, not to treat it as Republican propaganda. Everything I have said can be verified.

As one who makes no secret of my opposition to English interference in Irish affairs. I believe that one Nation that enslaves another can never itself be free. For those of you in England who are concerned about what goes on in your name in Ireland, this is an issue you cannot ignore. To do this is to turn your back and say you cannot see.

Yours in solidarity,
James Gerard Brown,
1343, A Wing Remand,
H.M. Prison,
Crumlin Road, Belfast.

Forthcoming events

11th & 12th November:
THE HOUR OF LIBERATION

Anti-imperialist films, music, exhibitions. Harehills Place, Harehills Road, Leeds 8.
For details write Box 1969, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW.

27th November in Manchester:
MANCHESTER MARTYRS MEMORIAL DEMONSTRATION