

CLASS STRUGGLE

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

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20p



NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Saturday 12 March 1983

Assemble 1.00pm at Bidborough Street
(nearest rail and tube station Kings Cross/St Pancras)
Write for leaflets and posters to CC BISM,
BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX
Organised by 20 November 1982 Building an Irish
Solidarity Movement Conference.

BUILDING AN IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

Since the historic conference, Building an Irish Solidarity Movement, called on November 20th last year, by the North and South London Irish Solidarity Committees, work has been progressing vigorously in England and Scotland to build up a united and anti-imperialist Irish Solidarity Movement. To this end a Co-ordinating Committee has been set up. So far the following groups have affiliated to it: Dundee Irish Solidarity Committee, Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee, West London Irish Solidarity

Committee, East London Irish Solidarity Committee, North London Irish Solidarity Committee, Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee, Liverpool Irish Solidarity Committee, Tyneside Action Committee on Ireland, Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee, South London Irish Solidarity Committee, Bradford Irish Solidarity Committee, Bristol Troops Out Movement, the Revolutionary Communist Group and the Revolutionary Communist League. The Dundee, Manchester, West London, East London, Edinburgh

and Liverpool Committees have all been established since the Conference, and in several places new committees are expected to be established soon. The basis of affiliation to the Co-ordinating Committee is agreement with the basic slogan: "VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! TROOPS OUT NOW!"

COMING TASKS

The Committees conduct their main work on the streets, paying particular attention to going

lower and deeper to the most oppressed sections of the working class. So far this year the Committees have been working on two main tasks. Firstly, there has been work around the petition calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, which has already acquired over 25,000 signatures. The overwhelming bulk of these 25,000 signatures have been collected on the streets from working class people of many nationalities. This shows the degree of support that exists, particularly

amongst the oppressed sections of the working class, for the cause of Irish freedom.

The second task has been building for the national demonstration calling for "VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! TROOPS OUT NOW!" which will be held in London on March 12. With two weeks to go before the demonstration takes place, support is building up. An impressive range of sponsors have been gained nationally and internationally, including from Irish Prisoners of War. *cont. Back Page.*

USA FOUND GUILTY of Crimes against Black People

by James Holt.

"But what they do when they talk of objectivity is attempt to obscure the nature of the institutions themselves and the fact that these institutions cannot but be about maintaining that which gave it birth, that which enriches it, that which keeps the powerful powerful and the powerless powerless.

"For today, in the last two days, we have set about creating another institution, and this institution at this juncture does not have a permanent place to rest except in us." These were the words of Comrade Omali Yeshitela, Chairman of the African People's Socialist Party (APSP) in closing the World Tribunal to try the United States government for its crimes against black people, held in New York on November 13-14 last.

At this tribunal, a panel of International Judges unanimously pronounced the United States guilty of the crime of genocide, and guilty of breaking the following conventions in its treatment of black people: Charter of the United Nations, International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Bill of Human Rights.

The Tribunal also determined that African people in the US were entitled to receive reparations for labour stolen from them over the past 400 years, estimated at \$4,100 billion, as well as damages to be fixed later. Among other points was a unanimous decision that imprisoned black revolutionaries must be granted Prisoner of War status according to the Geneva Convention.



Job Mashiriki, Chairman of the Black Veterans for Social Justice, addressing the World Tribunal. Comrade Mashiriki pointed out: "our motto is, 'Blacks fight no-one else's wars no more.'...However, this motto doesn't exclude us from fighting our own war, I want to be clear on that, such as in Azania, Namibia, Mississippi, or New York."

The Tribunal was indeed a historic event, when black people were for the first time able to turn the tables on US imperialism and arraign it for its crimes. (One former prison resister remarked that this was the first time he had appeared before a judge when he wasn't on trial himself!) Detailed testimony was given to show how Africa had an advanced civilisation before Europeans destroyed it, and how the slave

trade laid the basis for the establishment of a world economy and for the accumulation of capital which underlay the industrialisation of Europe and later the USA. In this way, the African people lost their self determination, and in the USA today are subject to domestic colonialism.

Evidence was also presented about the cultural domination of black people, the strategy of destroying their knowledge and values, and creating the 'negro' out of Africans in an attempt to internalise their subjugated status.

Regarding the situation of black people today, much devastating evidence was produced: infant mortality rates are at least 36% higher for African people in the USA than for whites; nearly 40% of black people are unemployed, and in the case of youth in the urban areas the figure is nearly 90%; the prison population in New York is 80% African today, compared with 30% in 1956.

And all this in the face of international conventions (some of which the USA has refused to sign or ratify, precisely because of its guilt) which stipulate, among other things: the right to work (Universal

PRISON STRIKE

Prisoners in Britain's maximum security jails are reported to have called a national two-day prison strike for February 28 and March 1. The demands of the strike are the same as those of the last national prison strike of January 28 last year. They are:

1. Half remission;
2. Prisoners to be told the reasons for parole refusal;
3. 4 visits per month;
4. A food and toiletries parcel each week;
5. Own clothing;
6. Earnings to be supplemented by private cash for use in prison canteen;
7. Three hours association every evening.

Apart from the second demand regarding parole all these rights have been fought for and won by prisoners in the six counties of Ireland. This is a further example of how every victory in the struggle in Ireland creates the conditions for victories to be won in Britain.

To organise such a protest in the prisons involves surmounting tremendous odds, and undergoing enormous pressure. Everybody should support the struggle of the prisoners.

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FORWARD ALONG THE PATH OPENED UP BY KARL MARX!

Editorial

Karl Marx, who died 100 years ago this month, was the originator of the first scientific theory of revolution. He demonstrated that the clash of antagonistic forces under capitalism could not be resolved without violent revolutionary storms. And the truth of this stands out more sharply than ever today, with capitalism more and more embroiled in slump, unemployment and war; above all, the ever increasing oppression of the lowest stratum, the toilers of Asia, Africa and Latin America is leaving them no choice but to rise up and bring the whole edifice crashing to the ground.

UTOPIAN SOCIALISM

Before Marx, socialist theories were unable to go beyond utopian wishful thinking. In his time, the emergence of capitalism had created the proletariat, a class which had no privileges, no vested interests: hence Marx, as the first proletarian revolutionary leader, was able to draw together the finest traditions of thought existing hitherto, transcend the limitations and reticence of even the most revolutionary bourgeois thinkers, and lay bare the real essence of things.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM

Marx was a materialist, basing himself resolutely in the analysis of real forces existing in the world; at the same time, his method embodies dialectics which comprehends that people can make their history once they consciously understand the laws of the real world. He scientifically unravelled the basic importance of human labour, showing how all exploiting classes have lived by extracting from the working people a surplus, over and above the labour they perform to make up the needs of their consumption.

Under capitalism, part of this surplus is accumulated, is invested to produce more and more sophisticated means of production. This advance of industry and science, transcending the bounds of earlier modes of production, is potentially a source of liberation. But the capitalist system itself stops this potential being realised: under it, the accumulated, dead labour embodied in the means of production which capitalism monopolises, is alienated from the living labourers and dominates them. Increasingly, amid all this wealth and plenty the labourers tend to be driven into pauperisation, unable to purchase the goods they themselves create, while capitalism anarchically lurches from one crisis to another.

CLASSES

The groups of people who exploit and suffer exploitation within a particular mode of production constitute classes, and the struggle between these classes is history's main motive force. Presiding over all this is the state, a body whose crucial component is military power. However illogical and harmful capitalism will not crumble on its own. Marx shows how, when it comes down to it, the toilers as a class must gather other positive forces round them, meet military force with military force and smash the state power of the oppressors. Then a new society can be built, by and for the working masses.

Only through scientific socialism, i.e. Marxism, can the working masses assert themselves as a force acting for themselves. This is because Marxism comprehends the historical process as a whole, giving the oppressed a most clear and precise understanding of their

historical destiny, while at the same time the critical and concrete nature of Marxism is indispensable if we want to create a real revolution in the real world.

V.I. Lenin

A crucial figure in the development of Marxism is V.I. Lenin, who grasped with tremendous clarity in the early years of this century that the capitalist system had become a world, imperialist system, that the struggles of oppressed nations had become a most important embodiment of the class struggle on a world scale. This involved some changes from the situation Marx had described, but changes Marx himself would have been quick to understand, and welcome. The dialectical laws of history are such that the basic trends analysed by Marx could express themselves in radically new and contradictory forms. Under imperialism, accumulation is carried out on a world scale. Surplus value from the oppressed nations becomes embodied in the highly developed industry of the imperialist heartlands, while the toilers of the oppressed nations become the main victims of the trend to pauperisation.

Moreover, in his amazingly critical and farsighted analysis of the Irish question, Marx had already seized on truths about national oppression which still bypass the consciousness of most of the 'left' over a century later. He saw that Ireland was the crucial question for the British revolution, and the subsequent history of imperialism only confirms that in a more general way, the revolution in the oppressed nations, mainly the Third World, is the crucial factor affecting all the imperialist heartlands.

A LIFE OF STRUGGLE

Marx and his comrade in arms Frederick Engels lived a life of struggle and, in Engels' words they "fought harder all one's life long against the alleged socialists than against anyone else". These struggles were carried forward by Lenin, who pointed out that: "The dialectics of history is such that the theoretical victory of Marxism forces its enemies to disguise themselves as Marxists" Revisionism - the trend which seeks to revise away the living revolutionary essence of Marxism - has long tried to cover up the stark realities of class struggle and the state as an instrument of class tyranny, and today this trend exercises a tremendously pernicious influence. We must uphold the banner of Marxism against revisionism, but it cannot be fought simply by intoning sentences from Marx in the abstract, we have to use the principles of Marxism creatively to understand what is the matter with the left movement and what are the positive forces which can be built on.



WHITE CHAUVINISM

Lenin established his position in the teeth of bitter struggle against a white chauvinist Eurocentric trend in the socialist movement, but after his death his teachings were ossified and robbed of their vitality; in particular his brilliant insights into the rising up of the peoples of the East - so true to the revolutionary spirit of Marxism - got 'forgotten' about, and white chauvinist Eurocentrism returned to gnaw the international communist movement like a cancer. This pro-imperialist trend, like the bourgeoisie, views the oppressed nations as dependant, dependant on the 'revolutionary' process in the imperialist heartlands, worthy of a scanty footnote in manuals on political economy, waiting passively to be dragged, gradually, no doubt, into enlightenment by the 'advanced' labour movement. In Britain's specific case this trend has a particularly critical manifestation on the question of Ireland.

But in opposition to this pernicious revisionist trend, a great counter-offensive was mounted. Historically, this epoch-making movement surged up first of all in Asia, just as Lenin would have expected on the basis of his creative understanding of Marxism.

ASIAN COMMUNISM

The Asian communists like the Chinese, Koreans and the Vietnamese while under Comrade Ho Chi Minh's great leadership, struck back against the trend of capitulation to imperialism. They defended and developed Marxism as a living, creative tool of revolution and liberation of the oppressed, not only

one hand they practice imperialism under the guise of Marxism, on the other their pro-imperialist ideology hamstringed the effective fight against western imperialism.

The polarisation between the new emerging forces and Moscow is thus the result of a certain historical process, of acute struggle within the socialist movement reaching from Marx's time to the present, and certainly destined to stretch forward ahead in time as well.

THREE REVOLUTIONARY CURRENTS

If we are to make progress, those who want revolution in this country against the main enemy, British imperialism, will find themselves having to take sides. Undoubtedly, we must take our stand along with the oppressed nations which fulfill the leading role in revolution, world-wide. Concretely, we identify Asian Communism, Black Power and Irish Republicanism as the three great revolutionary currents we must learn from in breaking the stranglehold of pro-imperialist 'socialism'. It is blindness to imagine we can defeat revisionism simply by posing the issues in terms of class against class within the narrow confines of a particular imperialist country, to call for a redistribution within that country of accumulated wealth which was in fact plundered from the oppressed nations.

NEW EMERGING FORCES

In upholding the living essence of Marx against the pro-imperialist trend, we must be critical, materialist and concrete as Marx would have wished. We must seek out the new emerging forces in this country which stand for the independent self-assertion of their working class and national identity, in opposition to oppression and all forms of domination. These cannot be found in any textbook, but in real life, in the realities of an increasingly profound crisis in the world imperialist system which has brought about an increasingly sharp reflection of the third world vanguard forces within the imperialist heartlands themselves.

This is particularly so in Britain, historically the worst oppressor nation of them all. This trend can be seen in the history of bitter struggles of the oppressed nationalities, culminating in the uprisings of the last couple of years which also drew in their wake wider sections of the working class. The struggles of black and Irish people have rekindled a flame not seen in Britain for many years, of a kind of class struggle much closer to what Marx had in mind, that is active militant confrontation of the state.

As revolutionaries, we must integrate with the new emerging forces, share their life, learn from their struggles and adopt their standpoint as our own. From this standpoint we must painstakingly and systematically study Marx's work, absorb the living essence of his revolutionary and scientific principles and method, and use these to create a concrete strategy and tactics for revolution in this country. It can be done. We are determined to carry forward along the path opened up by Karl Marx.

for their own peoples but also for all oppressed nations and even for the working class in the imperialist countries where the strong pro-imperialist bias of the 'left' movement is precisely the condition for the working class's continued subjection.

Thus the scientific guiding ideology of the workers' movement is today most correctly referred to as Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. This reflects Comrade Mao Zedong's outstanding contributions, but even more is a recognition of a whole phenomenon of the resurgence of Marxism coming from the most oppressed areas of the world.

Following this initial impetus the banner was taken up not only in other parts of Asia, but in Africa and Latin America as well. Leaders of the liberation movement like Amilcar Cabral and Che Guevara, as well as theoreticians like Samir Amin, have carried forward the course of creative, revolutionary Marxism, and countered the dogmatic, pro-imperialist trend.

KREMLIN COUNTER-CURRENT

Today, while the healthy trend finds its storm-centre among the new emerging forces of the third world, the foul, noxious trend of imperialism masquerading as Marxism finds its most dire and loathsome expression in the corridors of the Kremlin. The Russian leaders attack western imperialism for one reason and one reason only - as rivals. They share the same basic assumptions and have worked out an all-round theory and practice of oppression and exploitation of the oppressed nations in eastern Europe and in whatever parts of the third world their feelers can reach to. On the

SOUTH AFRICA: PRISON EXPERIENCES

by Melville Fletcher

My first experience of prison was in October 1960 and from then until August 1966, I became acquainted with Durban Central Jail, three Johannesburg jails, The Fort and Marshal Square (later to be renamed John Vorster Square) and Pretoria Central, but without doubt, the most unpleasant of all the periods I spent in prison, were the two months in Pretoria Central as a 180-day detainee. What puts Pretoria Central in a class of its own are three factors: the warders are efficient and dedicated, they genuinely regard all leftists (and particularly white leftists) as part of a sinister Jewish-orchestrated plot to subvert Christianity and western civilisation, and thirdly (and I do not say this flippantly), the anti-septic atmosphere of the place. All other jails smelt of stale urine, disinfectant, boiled beans and body odour. Pretoria Central is chillingly odourless.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT COETZEE

The man who arrested me for the first time in October 1960, was, I think, specially selected for the task. He was an old acquaintance of mine, Detective-Sergeant Coetzee. In 1957 during the strike of the Indian textile workers at Consolidated Textile Mills in Durban, we nearly came to blows. This was a particularly important strike because of the political factors involved. The work force was half Indian and half Zulu. In terms of the existing industrial laws, Indians and whites were allowed to belong to registered trade unions and to legally go on strike, whereas African trade unions did not enjoy state recognition and striking, on their part, could lead to them being arrested and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. It was therefore decided that the Indians would go on strike and the Zulus would report for work and then go on a go-slow strike once inside. For a while this worked until an official from the 'Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act' arrived on the scene and assisted by a notorious boss' man, a Zulu named Waltham Seme (a chargehand employed by CTM) advised the Zulu workers to go home during the weekend and tell their friends and relatives to report for work at CTM as the Indian workers were 'trouble-makers' and would shortly all be dismissed. This meant that the strike was no longer merely a dispute over wages and both the Basutoland Congress Party (most of CTM's blankets were sold in what was the Basutoland) and the African National Congress, headed by Chief Albert Luthuli were called in. We eventually won the strike but only after both the ANC and BCP leaders threatened to boycott all CTM products. During this period, my fellow trade unionists and

I worked more or less round the clock, occasionally snatching a little sleep either on the floor or the counter of the union office. It was whilst taking food to strikers on the picket line that I first met Coetzee. He was being very abusive and I was tired and feeling very brittle, lost my temper and called him, amongst other things, an onbeskaavde vark (an uncivilised pig). We probably would have come to blows had not Coetzee's senior officer arrived on the scene and taken him away. It was then that something happened that was to have far-reaching repercussions and was to be of great value to me later when in prison. After Coetzee's departure those who had witnessed this incident started clapping and cheering, and to my amazement, those who joined in most heartily in the applause, were the white, uniformed policemen, who, since the strike, had been stationed outside the factory gate. In fact, one of them even slapped me affectionately on the shoulder and with a big grin said: "Man, I like your style." When I reported this incident to more experienced Congressites that evening I was told that the special branch were detested by the uniformed police and prison warders because of their arrogance and the fact that they considered themselves an elite. This was a contradiction that we were later able to turn to our advantage.

And three and a half years later, this same Det. Serg. Coetzee walked into my office one afternoon and said: "In case you don't remember me, I am the uncivilised pig, and this time I've got a warrant for your arrest." I was charged with having contravened the 'Masters and Servants Act' by allegedly inciting African workers to go on strike in 1958 in Port Elizabeth. I spent the night

in the local police cell and the following morning was driven to the 'Cage' attached to the magistrates court. As it was a Saturday morning, I could not appear before a magistrate until Monday, so I was taken from the Cage to Durban Central where I spent my first weekend in jail. On arrival, I was fingerprinted and handed over to the section 'screw' who took me into his cubby-hole of an office and told me that as this was the first time I had been in prison and that I was a 'politico' he was going to 'put me right'. What was of paramount importance for me to firmly grasp was the fact that He Was the Boss, and Never To Forget It. Secondly, that he had been told to keep me isolated from the other 'first offenders', by people who did not appreciate the all-important fact that He Was The Boss in his section (an obvious reference to the special branch) but he intended disregarding this instruction because nobody other than a senior officer in the Prison Service was going to tell him how to run his 'patch' and that in any event, they didn't have a spare cell for me; that I would be lodged in a cell along with about ten other 'first offenders' but that if I attempted to indoctrinate them I would 'r-r-rue the day'. And having 'put me right' I was locked up for the night.

LEARNING THE RULES

My cell-mates were all young fellows between 18 and 25 years. The first question they asked me was: "What did they grip you for?" When I told them I was being charged with incitement to strike, they seemed somewhat bemused. "So, you're not a real criminal, then?" said one of them who appeared to have been accepted by the others as a leader. After being closely questioned the 'leader' took me aside and more or less repeated what the section screw had said, but in friendly tones.



About the author

by Keith Anderson.

Over recent months, 'Class Struggle' has reported extensively on the non-stop picket of South Africa House led by the family of David Kitson and the City Branch of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. This campaign has a principled position of calling for the release of David Kitson and all South African political prisoners. However the main immediate demand (which the picket won) was for David Kitson to be moved from Pretoria Central to another prison.

This campaign has inspired Melville Fletcher to write some reflections on his own periods of imprisonment in South Africa, including "the most unpleasant of all the periods I spent in prison ... the two months in Pretoria Central".

'Class Struggle' is very happy to publish these reflections, which because of their length we are printing in two instalments. We are sure that they will be of great interest to readers, who will draw a number of important lessons from them.

Having begun reading "Soviet Weekly" (then called "Soviet War News") at the age of 11, Comrade Melville joined the Young Communist League of South Africa at the age of 16 in 1948. Since that time Comrade Melville Fletcher has devoted his life to the cause of the oppressed in South Africa and throughout the world. He became a member of the Congress of Democrats in 1955 and was a Durban delegate to the Kliptown meeting that adopted the Freedom Charter. Shortly after he became a member of the South African Communist Party (SACP). Until 1962 he was an organiser for the South African Textile Workers Industrial Union, and it was particularly in the course of this work organising amongst some of the most oppressed workers in South Africa that he suffered years of persecution, arrests, house arrests and bans that finally led him to apply for an exit visa, and for political asylum on landing in Britain in 1966.

Since arriving in Britain he has continued to play an active part in revolutionary political work.

At the time of the split in the international communist movement in the early 1960's, Comrade Melville together with some other comrades in the SACP took their stand with the revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of China, and made efforts to build a genuine Marxist-Leninist party.

Almost alone amongst progressive white South Africans, Comrade Melville speaks a number of African languages fluently, including Zulu and Xhosa.

As I was not a 'proper criminal' and this was the first time I had been 'gripped' he said he would 'put me right' and so, for the second time that day, I was 'put right'. I was told that the greatest offence I could commit was to be a 'nark' (informer); 'narks' ran the risk of being tripped on the stairs and kicked by all the others as they ran passed them. The second offence was to be a 'lone rooker' (to smoke secretly). "If you won't frat (fraternise) you're doomed." he concluded. As I was an awaiting trial prisoner, I was allowed to bring tobacco into jail. I smoked a pipe at the time and my tobacco pouch was full. I accordingly, shared my tobacco with them and from then on, was accepted.

The following Monday morning I was formally charged and allowed out on bail of £500 which fortunately was provided by my aunt. A week or two later, I was told that as the alleged offence had taken place in Port Elizabeth (several hundred miles from Durban) I would be tried with several others, in Port Elizabeth. This would have involved me in a great deal of expense, but fortunately 'Christian Action' rallied around and paid my travelling, and accommodation expense for which I shall always be very grateful. (They also paid for my defence fees.) The trial dragged on for a week but witnesses for the state gave such conflicting evidence that we were all found not guilty.

cont. Page 4.



Yes, people do still die of cold and hunger in this country. Thousands of pensioners are so frightened of running up bills they cannot pay that they risk their lives by keeping their heating too low. Many eat less than they need to stay healthy, so as to avoid getting into debt. In this way they lay themselves open to infection and hypothermia. In cold weather as many as 600 old people a day will die. If this isn't murder by the capitalist state, what is?

"Spreading the misery more equally": that is how the Regional Medical Officer described the draft financial proposals of the West Midlands Regional Health Authority. The Authority admits that it cannot maintain Health spending at the current level. Over the next 5 years there is to be a 1% cut in spending on health care every year. Individual hospitals will be hard pressed to maintain existing services. Should they want to bring in any new service they will have to cut an existing one to pay for it.

Cancer of the cervix kills 2,000 women a year in Britain. Government spending cuts mean that the national system which reminds women to go for follow-up screens every five years is to be scrapped. Early detection of this cancer saves the lives of hundreds of women every year. The national recall system is to be shut down on 1st April 1983 with the loss of 200 jobs. Although there are plans to replace the existing system with one based on GP's, the new system will not be ready by April and some people argue that it may take several years to set up. Meanwhile hundreds of women will die.

Many people are in psychogeriatric hospitals who should not be there. They are fit and well and have been for many years. Some were admitted during the second world war because they were unable to cope with life in wartime Britain. There are some whose only 'illness' was to get pregnant without being married.

Birmingham Housing Department has found yet another way of harassing council tenants who are on social security. All claimants of supplementary benefit now have their rent stopped automatically by the DHSS and sent to the landlord, but because the DHSS in Birmingham has been on strike since September 1982, the Housing Department isn't getting the rent. Neither are the tenants. The Housing Department is fully aware of the cause of the problem. However, tenants who have never been in arrears before have received letters threatening them with court action to enable the council to repossess their homes.

It comes as no surprise to Birmingham's social services workers who were on strike last October and November, to learn that the so-called 'efficiency review' recommends axing nearly 200 jobs and making savings of nearly £1.5 million. The strikers said at the time that cooperation with the review would mean a poorer service for the people of Birmingham. Why else would the council pay £85,000 for the review to be carried out? The local NALGO leadership, which at the time urged the strikers to accept the council's offer and go back to work (i.e. cooperate with the review), now says that it will oppose redundancies and defend services. Oh yes, like it did last November?

When they talk about the "spirit" of the law, remember what it is for those on the receiving end. Thus in spite of the repeal of 'Sus', 3 black youths were charged under the Criminal Attempts Bill 1981 for "attempting to steal property unknown from a male unknown". Likewise black youth are 50% less likely than whites to be referred to police juvenile bureaux, which can either take no further action or give a caution. Instead they are immediately charged and sent to court. The daily experience of the law is that its 'spirit' is racist.

RELEASE NELSON MANDELA!
RELEASE ALL SOUTH AFRICAN
POLITICAL PRISONERS!

City Group of the Anti-Apartheid Movement have called a 24 hour picket of South Africa House, Friday 18 March - Saturday 19 March, 5.30 pm - 5.30 pm. Each picketer will have a placard with the name of an imprisoned freedom fighter. So, hundreds of picketers are required! The very chains used to shackle South African political prisoners are made in Birmingham. Solidarity action in Britain CAN and DOES aid the liberation struggle in South Africa.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!
JOIN THE PICKET!
Further details from: 01-405-4498.

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Colin Roach:

"WE WANT JUSTICE"

'Class Struggle' correspondent

Colin Roach, who died of shot-gun wounds in Stoke Newington police station, was buried on February 18th. Over 300 people attended the funeral service and as the cavalcade of 70 cars drove to the church, local people lined the route in respect.

The Rev. Clive Young said that family and friends were still shocked at Colin's tragic death. He went on: "I see some who are angry and we need that right sort of anger at a time like this, which is determined to press for the truth..."

PUBLIC INQUIRY

At the centre of the campaign to find out how Colin died, is the Roach Family Support Committee. Their main demand is for an independent public inquiry. In an open letter to the Home Secretary, they spell out what is known of Colin's death on January 12, and go on: "It cannot have escaped your notice that since the tragic death of Colin there have been a number of protests and demonstrations regarding the nature of the involvement of the police in relation to the circumstances surrounding Colin's death. We would stress of course, that the circumstances surrounding Colin's death are wider than the fundamental and still inadequately answered questions of the why and how of his death."

The letter points out the suspicions and anger that Colin's death have caused and concludes with the demand for an independent inquiry: "In our view such an inquiry should be held in public and should have the sort of Black representation which has the trust and respect and confidence of the Roach Family Support Committee and the Black Community."

POLICE RACISM

In spite of growing support for the campaign, the demand for an inquiry has not been met. New facts that have come to light combined with people's bitter past experience of Stoke Newington police, have increased the anger:



* It is clear that the police were responsible for stories in the papers that Colin was 'mentally disturbed'. Family and friends do not believe he committed suicide as implied by police.

* Two young black people, Dolores Williams and Ian McNeill, have testified that the police threatened them when they were in the police station on an unrelated charge, saying: "We killed Colin Roach because he would not give us the evidence we wanted."

* The police got permission to release the post-mortem report to the press before the family saw it.

* Keith Scully, who drove Colin to the police station, has written a letter denying reports carried on the front page of

the 'Standard' saying that he thought Colin had killed himself. He had written the letter "because (the article) has falsely put words and lies into my mouth."

* The Hackney CRE has just published a report recording 45 cases the council has heard resulting from complaints made by black people about Stoke Newington police. Among its general conclusions are: "One prominent aspect of police attitude and practice is the frequent overt abusive and violent racism," and "This is followed by a readiness to assault and beat people without provocation."

* One more example dates back to 1972. Comrade Aseta Simms, a leading Marxist-Leninist and member of the Black Unity and Freedom Party, was found dead one hour after going into Stoke Newington police station. In this case a cover-up inquest was held, as with Paul Worrell, Franklin Lee and victims of the New Cross Massacre. It is past bitter experience of these inquests that has led to the demand for an inquiry.

"POLICE MURDER" "NO COVER UP"

It is against this background that the Roach Family Support Committee has been able to mobilise broad support from the black community, which is determined that there will be no cover up this time. Young black people demonstrated spontaneously outside the police station as the news of Colin's death spread. They carried placards and shouted slogans: "Police Murder. No Cover Up!"

Since then, the Roach Family

Support Committee has organised two broad demonstrations on 22 January and 12 February. The policing of these marches has been aggressive and up to the present 58 people have been arrested. The marchers shouted slogans demanding an inquiry and against the police: "What Dem Do? Murda! What We Want? Justice!" The campaign is organising pickets at all court hearings and is committed to a weekly Saturday picket of the police station.

BLACK COMMUNITY

The Roach Family Support Committee is made up of Colin's family and friends, local black people and organisations, particularly the Hackney Black People's Association and is firmly based in the black community. Black youth have shown their readiness to take to the streets with their anger and protest, by their spontaneous demonstrations immediately following Colin's death, and they have been joined by some local white youth. The organised marches have drawn broad support locally, mainly from the black community but including white anti-racists.

The strength of feeling in the black community is reflected in the black press. Papers like

'Caribbean Times', 'West Indian World' and 'The Voice' have all supported the demand for an independent inquiry and given the campaign front page coverage.

The campaign is also supported by other black people who have fought similar struggles. Mrs Nellie Knight spoke at one rally. She has only recently been cleared of charges brought against her by police after they had invaded her house and assaulted her and her children. Another speaker was the father of one of the young people killed in the New Cross Massacre who spoke of his struggle to find the truth about his son's death.

The spirit of resistance and determination of the oppressed communities to fight back, was well expressed by a speaker from the Newham 8 at a public meeting about Colin Roach. He said: "We want justice. Nothing else will satisfy us. And not in a racist court. Demonstrate, demonstrate and demonstrate again and build up nation-wide pressure. Build up a voice so powerful that it is heard in Africa and Asia where black people also suffer....It is time to act."

For details of pickets and marches, and other information contact:
RFSC,
50 Rectory Road,
London N16.



PRISON EXPERIENCES CONT.

BANNING ORDERS

On my return to Durban I was given my first banning order in terms of Act 44 of 1950, the Suppression of Communism Act, which prohibited me from attending meetings other than social ones. This inhibited me as a trade union organiser but left me with more time for administrative work. Early the following year I was given a further banning order confining me to the municipal district of Durban. It was shortly after this that I was again arrested, along with Billy Nair, secretary of the Durban branch of the South African Congress of Trade Unions. Again, the charge was incitement. It was alleged that we had incited a mob to burn someone's house down, and further, that I had contravened my banning order by attending a meeting for this very purpose. The truth of the matter was, that the chairman of the local branch of the textile union, a man called Chinnia, had been attacked by a gang of thugs, severely beaten and had all the

windows in his house broken. The police were nowhere to be seen when this incident took place. The following day, Chinnia asked for police protection only to be told that they did not deem it necessary. In the meantime, this same gang had threatened his wife with a return visit that night. I reported this matter to the local Congress leaders who called an emergency meeting and later dispatched about twenty young ANC volunteers, as well as an equal number from the South African Indian Youth Congress. We took up a position outside Chinnia's house that evening but within an hour, the special branch arrived with a contingent of uniformed police. The first house they entered was that of the gang leader who lived a few doors down. After having spent about an hour in consultation with him, they then surrounded Chinnia's house, took everyone's name and address and Billy Nair and I were charged with incitement and arrested. This time, bail was refused and

we spent three weeks in an awaiting trial cell, pending further enquiries. By now I had become well known to the convicts at Durban Central who gave me the nickname of Commie. Once again, due to state witnesses conflicting evidence, we were found not guilty. But a pattern was to emerge. Thereafter Congressites and other political and trade union activists were continually being arrested on the most ridiculous charges for which we would obviously be found not guilty, but on each occasion, the special branch would oppose bail, the case would be postponed for anywhere from a week to a month during which time our political activities would be curbed.

By 1964 it was obvious that we 'older hands' would be unable to continue our political and trade union work under these circumstances so I resigned my position as organiser of the textile union and made way for someone who was not so well-known. I then got a job as a pay clerk for a firm that employed a large Zulu staff; a job for which my knowledge of Zulu stood me in good stead. My employer was a member of the Progressive Party, and although he did not share my political views, detested colour discrimination. A fortnight after taking up this position, I received my third banning order in which I was forbidden to attend any meeting of more than two people; that is, myself and one other. (I had to get written permission from the Chief Magistrate of Durban to have Christmas dinner with my mother and father.) The banning order also confined me to my flat from 6 in the evening to 7 the following morning, on all weekends and public holidays, made it illegal

for me to enter any building containing a trade union office, printing press or where education was conducted. I was also forbidden to be quoted in any newspaper, and had to report to the police once a week.

PRISON ARISTOCRACY

Later the same year I was charged with having distributed leaflets urging people to observe a three day strike as a result of the Sharpeville Massacre four years earlier. I was found guilty and sentenced to seven months imprisonment, six months of which were suspended for three years. As I was a 'politico' I spent that month in a wing of Durban Central with convicts who were serving sentences of from nine to fifteen years. Most of them were hardened criminals who specialised in safe-breaking and embezzlement and I found them very interesting people to be with. They formed the prison aristocracy and commanded more authority than the 'screws' for the simple reason that the other convicts respected them. They practically ran the jails, doing all the work that the screws were either too lazy or too incompetent to do. I mentioned earlier the smell of boiled beans. Well, that is what we got for lunch every day....bean soup, a mug of black coffee and a hunk of bread.

Apart from the monotony of it, the month I spent in Durban Central was not that bad. I was lucky to have been in the same cell as the long-term convicts because one day a great big thug of a fellow started shouting abuse at me, calling me a 'fucking nigger lover' and threatening to beat me up, when he was interrupted by the others who said: "Leave the Commie alone....He's in with the big boys." And the thug at once

adopted a less belligerent attitude to me.

INFORMERS

The following year I was arrested in terms of the '90 Day Act' and confined in solitary in a police cell attached to Durban North police station.

It was obvious to me, from the rather clumsy manner in which I was questioned by the special branch, that several of my closest political colleagues had given evidence against me...that some had been police informers all along and that others had either been broken or successfully blackmailed.

After having served my stint, I was released and told that further investigations were being made against me.

PRETORIA CENTRAL

By now I had been given permission to live with my parents on the north coast of Natal, and although severely restricted was left in relative peace.

It had been decided by the Congress Alliance, that at the first opportunity I should get out of South Africa and apply for political asylum in England. I accordingly applied for an exit visa which was given after a long delay, during which time I was approached by the special branch and told that all my restrictions would be lifted if I would only 'cooperate'. I finally received my exit visa and with financial help from English friends who had lived in South Africa and later returned, I booked a seat with South African Airways, but two days before I was due to leave the special branch again arrested me under the '180 Day Act'. And that was when I got to know Pretoria Central.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

SOUTH AFRICAN 'JUSTICE'

by Melville Fletcher

Nelson Mandela, Raymond Mhlaba, Govan Mbeki, Wilton Mkwayi, to name only a few of South Africa's many freedom fighters, are serving life sentences, without any remission, for their role in the struggle against apartheid and imperialism.

They never killed anyone: neither did David Kitson...but for his role in the same struggle, he received 20 years imprisonment without remission.

On Friday 11th February, this year, two South African soldiers, from a special reconnaissance unit, were sentenced at the Supreme Court, Windhoek, Namibia, for murdering a Namibian in the battle zone on the Angolan border.

They were Sergeant Theunis Kruger, who was given 15 years, and David van den Heever, who got 5 years. They were both granted bail and leave to appeal.

Leeds Youth Attacked

By the Precinct 6 Defence Campaign

On Wednesday 16 February an Appeal Court in Leeds upheld a decision to imprison Les Haw and Mohan Pipal. Les and Mohan, the first two of the Precinct 6, were appealing against their conviction and sentencing last September on charges of 'threatening and abusive behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.' Their conviction and sentencing was upheld and Les Haw now faces 6 weeks in Armley Gaoi and Mohan Pipal 3 months in Gringley-on-the-Hill Detention Centre near Doncaster.

The Precinct 6 Defence Campaign said at the time of their conviction in September that Les Haw and Mohan Pipal were being victimised by the police and courts. The decision to uphold their conviction and sentencing shows the determination of the police and courts to make a political example of them. It also shows that black and anti-racist white youth cannot expect a fair trial in British courts.

Mohan and Les were arrested on 17 July. They were walking in a group of seven and were about to cross the Headrow when two policemen ordered them to split up. When the youth protested one black and one white youth were singled out, handcuffed and taken away in a police-van. Neither was cautioned or told why they were being arrested. The appeal was lost despite this and despite the fact that:

- at the appeal hearing police evidence was almost totally contradictory. The only witness in the case, who had not been available at the original trial, upheld Mohan and Les's correct version of events.

- in the original trial Mohan and Les were repeatedly asked political questions about their attitudes to the police and

their support for the paper 'Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!'

- such vicious and heavy sentences for such minor offences are unprecedented.

Les and Mohan are being made an example of because they were closely involved in organising a political campaign against fascist attacks and police harassment in Leeds city centre. The police have time and again shown their hostility to the Precinct Campaign. In a serious attack on democratic rights they have made a total of ten arrests of six supporters of the campaign. Supporters were arrested for leafletting, collecting petition signatures and selling 'Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!' The campaign has continued and has secured a total of six Not Guilty verdicts in the courts. In one trial however, three supporters were found Guilty of obstruction. It is for this reason that the Precinct 6 Defence Campaign is demanding the creation of a 'Free Speech Area' in Lands Lane Precinct/Dortmund Square.

The appeal Court ruling shows that basic democratic rights are under severe attack. The right to walk the streets free from police harassment; the right to organise political protest and in particular the right to Free Speech - all are being seriously undermined. The Precinct 6 Defence Campaign is continuing to campaign on the streets and elsewhere to defend these democratic rights. As part of this ongoing campaign a delegation is planned to the meeting of Leeds City Council on 9 March.

DEFEND THE PRECINCT 6!

DEFEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS!

Precinct 6 Defence Campaign, c/o LAP 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.

Sheffield March

'Class Struggle' correspondent

On Saturday February 12th, a noisy and militant demonstration marched through Sheffield. The demonstration was called by the Asian Youth Movement (Sheffield) to protest at increasing racist attacks in the area and to demand the right of national minority people to self defence.

A leaflet issued by the AYM explained: "1982 saw an increasing number of attacks on the black community in Sheffield. In response hundreds of people marched through the streets of Sheffield in August, protesting at the increase in racial violence and the insensitive police reaction. However the only police reaction was to organise heavier policing in the areas of Broomhall and Burngreave..."

The demonstration was also called to defend Ranjit Chakravorty who is threatened with deportation (see February 'Class Struggle'). Marchers shouted slogans of "Stop Ranjit's Deportation" and "Defend Ranjit's Right to Stay."

There have been many examples of racist attacks in the area. One group which has frequently suffered attack are Asian taxi-drivers. In one incident, a driver was attacked with a brick and lost an eye as a result. Another was nearly strangled. Another was attacked with a knife and had his cab driven away. When one driver decided to defend himself, he was arrested and fined by the court.

Another incident took place in a restaurant, the Shizan, and a campaign was fought to ensure that none of those attacked were in fact penalised in the courts. This resulted in two of the fifteen attackers being found guilty.

Another form of attack has been arson. One restaurant was burnt down last September and is still out of business now. Asian family homes have been attacked with smoke pellets and more dangerous materials.

Local national minority organisations are taking up these issues with the Housing Department. Another issue which has been taken up by the Asian Welfare Association has been the common police practice of detaining and questioning (and often beating up) black youth - both Asian and Caribbean.

The result of the attacks on national minority people in Sheffield and their growing resistance, was seen on the march on February 12th. It showed a unity between different organisations mainly based in the communities. It was supported by: Bangladesh Citizens' Committee, Asian Youth Movements from Manchester, Nottingham and Bradford; Asian Welfare Association; Khan and Kaur Families Campaign from Manchester; and various anti-racist groups, the local CRE and Trades Council; and sympathetic individuals including local skinheads.

NEW CROSS

The parents of the 13 black youth who died in the New Cross Massacre two years ago, are to take their case to the European Court of Human Rights. After two years of police investigation, a Coroner's inquest and a High Court Appeal, the police have failed to find out either the cause of the fire or the

murderer of the 13. The New Cross Massacre Action Committee have set up their own International Commission of Inquiry and are inviting representatives from the USA, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Britain. The team will come to London this summer and hold the hearings at County Hall.

SAS HUSH UP

A correspondent writes:

Books written about the land, air and sea battles in the Malvinas War have been churning off the presses lately, and devious 'excuses' plus distortions and plain lying are the normal content, especially where the more blatant British imperialist atrocities are concerned, e.g. the sinking of the Belgrano and the Paras' "no-prisoners" massacres of surrendered Argentine troops.

There is however one particular incident which has been conveniently 'forgotten' by all these historians "seekers after truth", all itching to tell the "full story". That is the SAS raid on the Argentine mainland air base of Rio Gallegos, about 20th May. Hardly surprising, because this raid would have involved British Intelligence (MI6) operatives in Argentina and Chile, working with the approval of Thatcher and her cabinet. The SAS is in fact used by the government for covert actions, (as the people of Ireland and Oman have bitterly experienced), and the SAS team responsible for the Rio Gallegos operation was probably mobilised even before 2nd April - the first day of the Argentine landings. This, of course, would give the lie to a central tenet of the "Franks" cover-up report: that Thatcher and her ministers were totally surprised by Argentine actions.

The 'London Gazette' showed that 14 experienced SAS officers were specially mobilised on 1st April. Among them were some who had been involved in previous 'delicate' operations, and when the medals are handed out for the Rio Gallegos raid no doubt some of their names will be there.

SAS TRAINING POLICE

A report in the Glasgow paper, 'Sunday Standard' has disclosed the existence of a 38-strong unit in the Strathclyde Constabulary charged with keeping watch on political dissidents, whose existence had previously been kept secret. The euphoric report in the right wing newspaper states: "Members of the support unit, all arms experts, some skilled in the use of long-range high velocity sniping rifles and gas grenades, have undergone intensive training with the SAS ... They work to assimilate the life-style of the people they are tracking All this is backed up by files at the force's Criminal Intelligence Unit, which details the movements, haunts and acquaintances of the many people suspected by the police."

A member of this Special Force was recently quoted as saying: "very few people outside the police realise we exist."

The revelation of the Unit's existence follows recent visits to Scotland by former Minister, Lord Jellicoe who has been responsible for drawing up further provisions for the fascist "Prevention of Terrorism Act". The 'Standard' article deals with the operation of the Unit in relation to the north of Ireland, but the proposed alterations to the Act would extend it to cover other areas of political activity as well. This illustrates once again the close link between the British and Irish revolutions and, in particular, the relationship of Ireland solidarity to the question of the defence of democratic rights.

DEPORTATION NOTEBOOK



Shehnaz Sheikh, from Reading ★ is continuing her fight to stay in this country. (see February 'Class Struggle')

Shehnaz was married in 1979 under both English and Muslim law. The Home Office claim that this was not a 'genuine' marriage because in Pakistan Shehnaz had used a fake marriage certificate to get out of the army there. She is demanding a judicial review of her case, but so far has been refused. It is up to her to prove her innocence - yet she has not even been given the chance to be heard!

Shehnaz has most of her family here and she says: "My whole life is in Reading. I can hardly bear to think of what lies ahead of me."

For more information, contact: Friends of Shehnaz Sheikh, Box 30, 17 Chatham Street, Reading.

Demonstration in support of Shehnaz in January.

Sarah Jabaar (see February ★ 'Class Struggle') has lost her appeal against the Home Office. Mrs Jabaar says that if she and her three sons, Donovan, Carlton and Errol, are deported back to South Africa "the boys will find it impossible to cope with the trauma of living as second class citizens." The Home Office adjudicator, however, when he turned down the appeal, said: "As far as the political aspects of the case were concerned, he did not consider that the non-white population of South Africa could all be said to be subject to persecution." The campaign to fight for Sarah's right to stay will continue. Mr Hanif Bhamjee, of the South Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement, said: "To send them back to apartheid would be a crime against humanity."

★ In Leeds, the campaign to defend Halimat Babamba and her two children, Hakeem and Mustafa, continues. Halimat is still waiting for her appeal to be heard. The campaign has organised a public meeting and benefit to mark International Women's Day, to be held on Saturday March 5th.

For more information, contact: Friends of Halimat Babamba, Box HB, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW.



Photo: 'Caribbean Times'

★ Reggie Yates who has been fighting deportation for two years, has finally won the right to stay. He heard from the Home Office recently that he will be allowed to remain in the UK on the basis that his wife is a British citizen.

MURDER OF A COMRADE

By an Irish correspondent

1983 opened with growing concern that the British army of Occupation, and 'its eyes and ears' - the RUC - was engaged on a 'shoot-on-suspicion' policy here in the six north eastern counties of Ireland. Events before the bells rang out the old year, have since followed a similar pattern, and it is clear that the new year will not be a happy one for our long-suffering populace whose fresh tears have been shed over the graveside of yet another young anti-imperialist.

Primate Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich joined the controversy, pointing out that two of those murdered by the Crown Forces in South Armagh had previously been threatened with death by Whitehall's supposed 'peace-keepers'. Even the leader of the middle-class SDLP, John Hume, felt the pressure sufficiently enough from the grassroots to speak out. No mean task for this party of collaboration which could not ignore the deep feelings of revulsion at the slaughter of unarmed civilians and opponents of imperialist policies in Ireland. Words of outrage were carefully avoided, as 'concern' for the 'rule of law' etc. etc. clearly betrayed

implications for the native Irish in the British-controlled Six Counties.

The comments of the Irish cardinal are worthy of mention at this time. He commented: "There is no doubt at all that one of those men killed went into a parochial house a few weeks earlier to say that he had been threatened with death by members of the security forces. There is no doubt that another one had been stopped at a road-block and threatened with death, and that a priest had been called to try and save him. When that happened - and there are other things which I do not wish to mention because they are confidential - one has to have suspicions. The only thing that will remove suspicions is full and detailed publication of evidence."

Speaking on the RTE Radio, the cardinal continued: "The unfortunate thing is that we have called, on many occasions in the past, for independent investigations of incidents of various kinds, and they have produced no results worth talking about. For that reason I did not, on this occasion, ask for an investigation, because I would not have much hope of anything coming out of it."

The background to the cardinal's statement involved the shooting dead of seven people, and the wounding of a few others. All this had occurred in the previous eight weeks. The usual rejections came from the usual channels. The British Army PR men at Lisburn, and the Chief Constable of the RUC. In a New Year's Eve interview on television the British PM, Maggie Thatcher, dismissed the claims as 'rubbish'. Deputy Secretary of State, Lord Gowrie said he would resign if the 'security forces' were operating a shoot on sight policy. Obviously, like the other warlords in Ireland, he has been gifted with a nelsonian eye when the affairs of Britain in Ireland appear on the political carpet. Such are conveniently swept under its threadbare pattern in the hope that the outside world will duly ignore the bloody policies pursued in England's Vietnam.

BRITISH LEFT

Yet the ghosts of our young men cry out from their freshly dug graves. They cry for the truth to be told. Their defiant voices point to the nature of their demise, which was not the result of old age, but rather the bullets of an occupying power, in the full bloom of their manhood. The sad reality however is that only a few left-wing papers hear the cries on the wind that blow across the Irish Sea. The British working class movements are to be left at the mercy of the capitalist controlled media that is more interested in pushing the sales of soap powder, than conveying the utter reality that is British-Occupied Ireland. Alas, therefore it must be said that some 'socialist' organisations and their publications regularly contribute to the designs of the bourgeoisie in clouding the real issues. Some such publications are more inclined to condemn the resistance of the oppressed, than the oppression of

the oppressors. While the British Army scabs on the working class in Britain, sections of the British 'Left' essentially scab on the Irish people's right to self-determination and socialism.

The double standards of the ruling elite came into sharpest focus immediately following the shooting and assault of Stephen Waldorf by the Metropolitan police, now headed by Newman, an expert in cover-up and misinformation. Under his control were such infamous 'interrogation centres' as Castlereagh, Strand Road and Gough barracks, all of which were exposed by the Bennett Report. For his pains for imperialism he was promoted to the Metropolitan police, no doubt because the capitalist class expect that his dubious talents may be necessary to curb the militancy of the British proletariat in times of economic depression. The fact that plastic bullets and CS gas, and other techniques of political control, are now available to police forces in Britain, shows that the ruling elite has re-exported more than Kenneth Newman. In the case of young Waldorf the policemen responsible were almost immediately suspended and an investigation set up. Such a practice is not the norm for we lesser mortals across the Irish Sea. Here the ruling class, via its uniformed agents, literally get away with murder.

The British working class will ignore at their peril what is happening just an hour's flight from Glasgow, Cardiff or Manchester. It was by mere chance that young Waldorf did not have his name listed in the death notices, alongside Seamus Grew, Roddy Carroll, Patrick Elliot, Michael Tighe, Eamonn (Bronco) Bradley, Gervais McKerr, Sean Burns and Eugene Toman. Like Waldorf, all were unarmed. Unlike Waldorf there will be no great fuss in the media and certainly no public inquiry. Herein are the double standards.

NEIL McMONAGLE

On Saturday February 5th, the latest victim of the British Army/RUC policy of 'shoot on suspicion' was laid to rest on Derry's Creggan Hill. His short life was marked by an outstanding dedication to the land of his birth and the class of his origin. For him the struggle for international socialism began and ended on the streets of his own city.

Comrade Neil McMonagle often showed a keen interest in what was happening in Latin America and the Middle East, and instinctively supported those fighters for national liberation and socialism, regardless of their creed or skin colour. He celebrated the victories of the downtrodden, because every victory abroad weakened imperialism on a global scale. His infrequent visits to the Connolly Bookshop in Derry, which was regularly raided by the Crown Forces, was always in search of some reading material, usually associated with revolutionary forces overseas. Often he took an interest in the solidarity movement in Britain, and acted as a representative of the Irish Republican Socialist Movement when socialist visitors came to the city. Above all he will be remembered by those who were honoured to have known him as a friend and comrade for his cheerful nature and ready smile, and a personality of optimism that was certainly the hallmark of a genuine revolutionary socialist. At a later date a more fitting tribute will be recorded when his dream of unity, peace and socialism has been achieved. One is reminded of a frequent saying of his: "They may kill the revolutionary, but never the revolution."

Neil was only 23 years old when his young life was snuffed out by British imperialism, on the night of Wednesday February 2nd near his home in the Shantallow district. His companion, 19 year old Liam Duffy was shot several times and is now critically ill under military guard at Musgrave Park Hospital, over ninety miles from his home. Neil's family, in the face of media suggestions to the contrary, remain adamant that the shooting was "premeditated cold blooded murder" and told pressmen of the death threats issued by the RUC against their brother after he was released from jail for insufficient evidence against him. The Derry Journal of February 4th, takes up the story: "Mrs Marion Robinson, the sister of the dead man, said that her brother had been babysitting in Mrs Helena Breslin's house at Leafair Park and had said that he was expecting Liam Duffy to call and keep him company. She said that Mr Duffy had obviously called with him as there were cups and plates left sitting in the house, suggesting that the two youths had been eating together in the house before the shooting had occurred. The McMonagle family said they believed the two youths were decoyed out of the



● INLA VOL NEIL McMONAGLE

house; they said that their brother must have been lured out of the house otherwise he would not have left the Breslin children, aged one and two years, unattended. It is still unclear how the two men came to leave the house and go to the area where the shooting occurred.

"There was unanimous belief among the residents of the area who talked with reporters that the shooting had been carried out by an undercover SAS squad and that neither of the two local men were armed. Tension in the area was high following the shooting, with local people angrily denouncing the fact the ambulance transporting the youths to hospital was delayed by the army for at least ten minutes.

"Local priest, Rev. Joseph Carolan, was one of the first at the scene and he administered the Last Rites. He said that the two young men were lying in a small field just off the grass verge, only about three feet from each other. He said that one victim was obviously shot dead while the other was moving his arms apparently shot in the stomach. He said that the ambulance taking the two youths to hospital was blocked by soldiers. "An altercation then took place between him and an army officer, which led to Fr. Carolan contacting an RUC inspector and the ambulance was then allowed to proceed."

INLA STATEMENT

In a statement issued to the same paper on February 7th, his comrades paid their own tribute to Neil's memory: "The Derry Brigade of the INLA deeply mourn the assassination of our comrade Neil McMonagle by the SAS on Wednesday. He was a fearless soldier who will not go forgotten. His powers of leadership and his untiring devotion in the cause of republican socialism made him a prime target for the emissaries of



A British helicopter shadows the funeral procession. (Photo: 'Derry Journal')

the SDLP's fear that further alienation of the nationalist populace might aid any anti-imperialists in any future electoral contest.

Both Hume and the Cardinal pointed to the fact that all the victims were unarmed, and the "minimum force was not used as laid down in the regulations of the 'security forces'." Their 'concern' would give the false impression that this was a new policy on the part of the Crown Forces, whereas the truth of the matter is to be found in the graveyards of the north since August 1969, and more blatantly on the headstones of those defenceless civilians who were shot dead because they dared to oppose internment without charge or trial on January 30th, 1972 on the streets of Derry. Political and summary execution has always been part and parcel of British policy in Ireland. The only difference this past few months is the fact that so many have been killed in such a short time, and that the British state has done little to conceal or explain away its barbaric attempts to subdue the nationalist spirit of resistance. The recent electoral gains by anti-imperialists seems to have enraged the British ruling elite who have sworn vengeance against that section of the population that insists that they leave Ireland to the Irish. The mask of imperialism has totally slipped from its ugly face, and the world to its horror may eventually come to realise the full



The funeral leaves St. Brigid's after Requiem Mass.

British imperialism, who in the end, took his young life."

Comrade McMonagle was given a republican and military funeral as is traditional for all revolutionary fighters who dedicated their lives for socialism. His remains were draped in the tricolour and starry plough flags and his beret and belt were placed on top of his coffin. As the procession neared the city cemetery a volley of shots echoed through the narrow ghetto streets of the Bogside - a last salute to a proletarian soldier of a proletarian army of liberation. Even in death the occupation forces could not ignore this revolutionary, indeed a non-intended tribute in its own

right. Three British army helicopters shadowed the funeral procession all the time as it made its way from the church to the city cemetery. It was the first time so many had been present at a Republican funeral. (The cost of this tribute from the British army is £1,000 for every hour a helicopter is in the air.) After two minutes of silence was observed, a comrade from the IRSP stepped forward to deliver a brief oration. He said that Neil had taken the path of resistance, to which he was committed for some years, and which ultimately cost him his life. He hit out at what he described as the hypocrisy of Church leaders who called

for a week of prayer for Judge Doyle but ignored the reality of the British presence in Ireland as shown by the murder of Neil McMonagle. Continuing he added: "Comrade Neil had known about the hardships of life under British rule and had always recognised the needs of the community and the necessity of armed struggle. Neil had married while on the run and had worked tirelessly for the working class of Derry without complaint." The speaker called on all those present to work towards building up a movement that would bring about a 32-county Socialist Republic. That, he said, would be a fitting tribute to the memory of Neil McMonagle.



Photo: 'Derry Journal'

A final salute from his comrades in the INLA for Volunteer Neil McMonagle.

Racist Attack on Irish Workers

A Bill currently with the House of Lords will, if it becomes law prevent Irish workers from taking part in the building of the Conwy Tunnel in north Wales, a £100 million project which is expected to take about four years to complete. The Conwy Tunnel (Supplementary Powers) Bill has already passed through the House of Commons where it attracted little attention. An amendment to the Bill proposed by Conservative MP Sir Anthony Meyer, was passed. This amendment states that contracts relating to the project "shall include such provisions as the Secretary of State (for Wales) considers appropriate for securing as far as practicable the maximum employment in carrying out these works of persons normally resident in the area formed by the counties of Gwynedd and Clwyd."

JOYS OF THE DOLE QUEUE

Whilst the amendment does not specifically mention Irish workers, Meyer leaves us in no doubt that this is precisely who he has in mind. He told the Commons:

"Even though the scheme will create many jobs, there is a

possibility that it will draw labour from outside, and not merely from England, because we are the receiving point for traffic from Ireland. The Irish are highly skilled in civil engineering and construction and there is every likelihood

that the scheme will suck in many Irish workmen.... I have nothing against Irish workmen, but, once the scheme is finished and they have discovered the joys of living in north Wales, they will remain there out of work, thus swelling the dole queues." What, one is tempted to ask, does a Tory MP know of the "joys" of the dole queue anywhere?

The Secretary of State for Wales was quick to welcome the Bill saying:

"I am extremely pleased that the House has given a favourable reception to the Bill and has consequently been able to deal with it in what must approach a near record time for a Bill of this type."

STOP PRESS: LABOUR MPs AWAKE!

When people in the Irish community heard of this racist Bill,

they raised sufficient protest to wake up 23 Labour MPs who had apparently dozed off, attacks on Irish workers being the kind of thing that traditionally sends the British labour movement to sleep. Now they have agreed to take up a campaign along with Britain's largest trade union, the Transport and General Workers Union who, it would seem, had also been unaware of the Bill. The TGWU has now described the Bill as "racist, discriminatory and illegal under the Race Relations Act" and have said that they will fight it in the courts if it becomes law.

The National Secretary of the union's construction group, George Henderson, said:

"If it was not for the Irish this country would never have been built.... The Irish built the roads and the bridges and we have worked in harmony with them for many decades."

However, the likes of Meyer may well be concerned about the revolutionary influence of the Irish on the British working class during this period of crisis.

Belfast Death Threats



Photo: 'Irish News'

Press conference in Belfast. (Photo: 'Irish News').

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

A West Belfast Press Conference, held on February 11, provided more proof that "shoot-to-kill" is a decided policy of the British occupation forces. Three members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, Liam Berkery, 23, John Boyd, 34, and Dermot Drain, 26, told of their experience of being held for a week at the Castlereagh interrogation and torture centre under section 12 of the Emergency Powers Act.

The three told how detectives said a "shoot-to-kill" policy was in operation because the

Catholic population could not be further alienated from the British. Police told them that they would be shot, because there were no charges that could be laid against them that would lead to imprisonment. Dermot Drain said:

"One particular policeman said he wanted to shoot me with his Ruger 357 pistol. He said I was going to get it the same way Ronnie Bunting and Miriam Daly got it It left me with the impression I was going to be shot dead."

Jimmy Browne, a member of the IRSP Ard Comhairle said that

what was particularly disturbing about the incident was that all three men were related and that the police had detailed knowledge of their movements. SAS troops had raided the home of Liam Berkery and John Boyd in October 1980, two days after Ronnie Bunting was shot and threatened their family.

"The use of in-depth interrogation is an attempt to wear down our people and make them move from home in face of our growing support. The "shoot-to-kill" policy is now being moved from Armagh, Lurgan and Derry to Belfast."

Shepherds Bush 3

By the West London Irish Solidarity Committee

five and a half hours, clear proof of the politically vindictive nature of the arrests.

The continual police attempts to disrupt and break up Irish solidarity work in Britain have begun against the West London Irish Solidarity Committee (WLISC), little more than two months after its formation. On Saturday afternoon, February 12th, three supporters of WLISC were petitioning and leafletting at Goldhawk Road, near Shepherds Bush market. At 3 p.m. PC F504 passed the three, catching sight of the petition, he returned and approached one supporter saying that they were causing an obstruction, and ordered them to stand by the shop fronts. He then passed on, and was seen using his radio. F Division have a special axe to grind because it was their horse officers among the mercenaries hit by the IRA at Hyde Park Corner last year. F504 kept the WLISC supporters under observation until after 15 minutes a van appeared. F504 then approached the petitioners and demanded their names and addresses, which they refused not being under arrest. They were then arrested. In Shepherds Bush police station they were separated, and denied the right to a telephone call for two hours. They were charged with obstruction of the highway and released only after

Their release was secured after Irish Solidarity Committees from as far away as Glasgow, along with several local councillors and four MPs had intervened. The three pleaded not guilty at court the following Monday and will appear on March 7th at Marylebone Magistrates Court. A picket will be held there at 10 a.m. Campaigning for the charges to be dropped is well advanced, and letters of protest should be sent to Commander Mitchell, at Hammersmith Police Station.

The Committee with the three charged, returned to the same spot the next week, the 19th, both morning and afternoon. Work continued as usual and Clive Soley MP, who has demanded a full report on the arrests from the police, came to observe the petitioning in the afternoon. This work was aided by new supporters who had attended the successful public meeting held on Friday evening, the 18th on building an Irish Solidarity Movement.

For further information and contributions, write to:

WLISC,
BM Box 4835,
London WC1N 3XX.

Tom Murray

On February 9 1983, the communist movement in Britain became the poorer when Comrade Tom Murray passed away at the age of 82. Comrade Tom volunteered to go to Spain in the British battalion of the International Brigades. He went as a member of the Labour Party, but joined the Communist Party of Spain whilst there. He became Political Commissar of the Machine Gun Battalion, and throughout his time in Spain earned enormous respect for his selflessness, risking his life for his comrades on numerous occasions. On returning to Scotland, he was later an organiser for the Fire Brigades Union, and Secretary of the Scottish-USSR Society. Spain remained dear in his heart and as Chairman of the Lothian and Fife Group of the International Brigades Association was largely instrumental in having memorials set up in Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh to local people who fought for freedom in Spain.

At the time of the split in the international communist movement, Comrade Tom stuck firmly to a revolutionary orientation, and was something of a "father figure" to the Marxist-Leninist movement in Britain. For a number of years he was Chairman of the Workers' Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist). As a Scottish patriot, Comrade Tom was an important figure in rediscovering and popularising the life and work of John Maclean. He was always a great friend of China, and was fond of remarking that the first political meeting he ever attended was one called by the Liberal Party to support the 1911 revolution in China, to which he was taken by his father. In 1980, he made his only visit to China, a visit which inspired him enormously.

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain salutes Comrade Tom Murray and remembers him with affection.

(In our next issue, 'Class Struggle' will print a personal tribute to Tom Murray, from one of his former comrades-in-arms in the International Brigades.)

USA found guilty *Contd.*

Declaration of Human Rights); the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights); the right to liberty and security of person (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) etc. etc.

PRISON STRUGGLE

Especially striking were the testimonies to black people's struggles against this oppression. Brother Mafundi Lake served a 13-year prison sentence in Alabama after being wrongly convicted of stealing \$27. His testimony clearly established the terrorism and genocidal attacks against black people in the prisons. Because he would not submit, he was kept for months on end, naked in a punishment cell with no bed or heating and only one meal a day. But the prisoners hit back by forming Inmates For Action (IFA) a military formation for violent resistance which also organised cultural activities (history, political education, poetry etc) with the prisoners shouting their contributions from cell to cell.

Sister Afeni Shakur, a former member of the Black Panther Party (BPP) gave a detailed account of the ruthless FBI attack on the Black Panthers from the late '60s onwards. Questioning Sister Afeni, International Observer Ike Mfoli of

Comrade Omali Yeshitela, People's Advocate at the World Tribunal and Chairman of the African People's Socialist Party, together with another APSP comrade are visiting England in March and April as part of a European tour. At present plans exist for visits to London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Liverpool, Bradford and Newcastle. For details of meetings, etc. contact Grass-roots Bookstore, 61 Golborne Rd., London, W.11.

AFRICAN SOLIDARITY

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

To mark the second anniversary of its foundation, and the anniversary of the assassination of the popular Nigerian leader, General Murtala Mohammed, the UK branch of the People's Redemption Party of Nigeria held a public meeting in Brixton to protest the mass expulsion by the Nigerian authorities of workers from Ghana and other West African states. The meeting aimed to voice "opposition to the expulsion of fellow Africans from our motherland by a backward and unpopular regime."

At the meeting the PRP described the actions of the Nigerian authorities as "politically irresponsible, cruel, dangerous and fascist in the extreme." They said that the action "must have exposed as hypocritical their (the Nigerian authorities' - CS Ed.) claims to a policy which has the interests of Africans as its 'centrepiece'". The PRP said that the tragic situation was the "sole and direct responsibility of the Nigerian ruling class."

Also addressing the meeting were speakers from the Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners in Kenya and the Ghana People's Solidarity Organisation. The Kenyan speaker exposed the pro-imperialist roles of both the Kenyan and Nigerian governments.

Solidarity between revolutionaries of Nigeria and Ghana is a fitting answer to the chauvinist behaviour of the Nigerian ruling clique.

the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania pointed out that the dual power institutions adopted by the Black Consciousness Movement in Azania (South Africa) were inspired by the Black Panther Breakfast for Children programme, medical centres, etc; these programmes provide a mass base for the struggle and produce a new generation of leaders to take the place of martyrs like Steve Biko.

DUAL POWER

This concept of dual power is a creative application of the experience of Soviet power which existed for a while in Russia prior to the October Revolution, side by side with bourgeois state power, as well as the experience of the liberated areas formed during the revolutionary wars in China, Kampuchea, Vietnam and various places in Africa. For Africans in the USA, this means that the black liberation movement must as far as possible assume the real and actual responsibility of government of its own people.

The black power institutions which existed in the late 60's and early 70's, like the BPP community programmes and Inmates for Action, were crushed by the devastating military onslaught of the US government. But now the struggle is set to move onto a higher plane. The recent Miami uprisings were a precursor

of this. The general contours of the new stage of struggle were clearly outlined by the APSP in the course of the Tribunal.

The Jews under Hitler and the dispossessed Palestinians are examples of peoples who have been the object of genocidal attacks because they lacked state power, Comrade Omali Yeshitela told the Tribunal. But: "To withhold the right to justice to the powerless, to those whose greatest victimization has been the forced theft of liberty, of self determination, of state power, is to give countenance to international piracy and brigandage." The Tribunal is a step in the direction of refusing this unjust state of affairs.

CHAIRMAN MAO

Although they lack state power at the present time, Africans in the USA have the capacity for revolutionary people's power, it was pointed out. This is a question of self determination, which includes determining the ideas guiding their own struggle. "Those who define, rule ... Anybody, any place on the face of the earth who has someone else making determinations for them, are a people living in bondage." US imperialism may have won one military victory, but, as Comrade Yeshitela put it: "There was a great man once whose name was Chairman Mao. He said: 'US imperialism ain't nothing but a paper tiger.' And here we have the peoples of the world quivering because of a punk

organisation like the US saying we'll pull out. (This refers to the US government's threat to withdraw funding of United Nations Development Programmes if other states refuse to toe its line - CS Ed.) And you know it's a punk organisation because every time we fought back against it, we won. Only time we lose is when we don't fight."

WORKING CLASS

The demand for reparations has the possibility of becoming a focus for the current phase of the movement for black power. The tribunal proceedings point out very clearly that it is the African working class who made all this happen. They, in their thousands, filed reparations claims, contributed politically and financially to make the Tribunal possible. The black petty bourgeoisie may jump on the bandwagon and try to sidetrack the movement, but the honest working class elements who have made the cause their own will carry it forward.

To maintain this forward drive, immediately after the Tribunal ended a meeting was called to found the African National Reparations Organisation (ANRO) in the presence of 85-year old Queen Mother Moore who has been leading the reparations struggle for over 40 years. Women comrades took a dynamic and leading role at this meeting.

CRIMINALITY

One important thing about the

tribunal verdict is that it clearly establishes the question of criminality. The US authorities systematically criminalise blacks who fight back against their oppression, but now their struggle will be seen in the context of the US government's immense crimes, and the \$4.1 trillion it owes them.

The issue of reparations also clearly establishes the terms on which the black revolutionary movement will relate to other political groups. "Our international allies," Comrade Yeshitela stated. "Have accepted the definition of the white ruling class of the world for who we are and our significance all over the world ... Some people are our allies objectively and are just too dumb to know it subjectively. What we have to do is educate them. We call it positive criticism."

'Class Struggle' has no hesitation in giving its unconditional support to the African people's just demand for reparations. In our opinion, this is a concrete demand which could well be taken up by the many nations oppressed by British colonialism and imperialism. The whole economic, political and military system in this country was built up on the oppression and exploitation of subject nations and peoples. No way can the working class in Britain liberate itself from imperialism unless it lines up with these people's demands.

REPARATIONS NOW!

LEBANON — free the prisoners!

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

For 36 hours, 15 people went without food and remained outside in the freezing cold in central London from 6 p.m. Friday February 18th until 6.30 a.m. on Sunday 20th. Similar vigils and hunger strikes took place in Exeter and Southampton, during the same weekend, and the following weekend in Manchester and Bradford. Besides those on hunger strike, others came along, gave support and participated in the vigil.

These were the first activities in Palestine Solidarity Campaign's month of work in support of the Palestinians and Lebanese prisoners held captive by Israel and also by the Lebanese government. Each London hunger striker represented 1,000 of these prisoners.

Israel holds about 3,500 Palestinians for resistance activities in occupied Palestine. At least 5,500 Palestinians and Lebanese men (probably many more - the Israeli press has mentioned 9,000 in the past) are held in Ansar camp in South Lebanon. An unknown number of women prisoners from south Lebanon are held within the borders of the Zionist state itself, and it is known that there are also male prisoners held there. It is ironic that these Palestinians have fought for decades for the right to return to their homeland, and now, Israel has taken them there as captives.

All these prisoners, like the 2,000 or so Lebanese progressives and Palestinians rounded up by the Lebanese government are treated as criminals. In fact, whether they were fighters or civilians who stood up for their rights, they are political prisoners, locked up for resisting the seizure of their homelands and calling for the right of the Palestinian people to go home and build their own state. It is their treatment by Israel which is criminal. The prisoners in Ansar are on a subsistence diet; they are at present living in bitterly cold conditions with only tents for shelter. They are subjected to torture and brutality by Zionist guards and intelligence personnel. One former guard told the Israeli paper Ha'aretz

how he was sickened by "the screams of pain of men under interrogation". Some have been shot during two uprisings there, and a Lebanese farmer was arrested to stop him talking when he found a mass grave on his land nearby in January.

Little is known about the prisoners taken to jails in occupied Palestine, but it has been revealed by Zionist sources that 14 Palestinians have been killed at the prison at Meggido.

The PSC calls for the release of all these Palestinian and Lebanese political prisoners. It is organising activities throughout the campaign month, culminating in a rally at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC2, on 18th March. It has launched a petition which should demonstrate the support there is for the prisoners in Britain - during the London vigil, 2,165 persons signed it. This demonstrates that it is possible to get a lot of support for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in Britain if only solidarity activists go out to win it.

For petitions and/or information contact: PSC, BM PSA, London WC1N 3XX

Palestine

By David Evans.

"We represent the true Arab Revolution", PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told the closing session of the 16th Palestine National Council, to the applause of the 350 delegates and 600 fraternal observers present.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) is often referred to as a Palestinian "parliament in exile". It consists of representatives of the whole Palestinian people.

Debate turned around what stand the PLO should take towards the Reagan plan for the Middle East. There was a high level of unity between all Palestinian forces on what this plan meant for the PLO and Palestinian people. In the words of PNC Chairman Khaled Fahoum: "The Reagan plan does not respond at all to the

Arab Students in Conference

'Class Struggle' correspondent

The British and Irish sections of the National Union of Iraqi Students (NUIS) and the General Union of Arab Students (GUAS) held their annual conferences in late January and mid-February respectively. These extremely successful conferences were each attended by several hundred people and were held in Chelsea Old Town Hall. Speakers at the opening session of the NUIS conference included the Iraqi Ambassador, Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, various Arab Students Unions, British Anti-Zionist Organisation - Palestine Solidarity, RCLB and WRP. Amongst the messages read out were ones from the General Union of Palestine Students and the General Union of Jordanian Students, who were holding their own conference in Birmingham on the same day.

Speakers at the opening of the GUAS Conference included the Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, Egyptian National Movement, Sudanese National Movement, Raghid Al-Solh a patriotic Lebanese political figure, Arab Liberation Front and the Committee for the Defence of Freedom and Political Prisoners in Syria (British section). In a well-received speech a representative of the Revolutionary

aspirations of the Palestinian people and can in no way solve the Palestinian question." The plan does not recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people or acknowledge the right of the Palestinians to form their own independent state.

However, different forces within the PNC disagreed about what the PLO's reaction to the Reagan plan should be. Some, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called for outright rejection. PFLP leader George Habash said: "We were not steadfast in Beirut just to allow the US to implement their schemes through diplomatic channels."

Members of Al Fatah, the largest commando organisation, argued against outright rejection. They considered that it was necessary to keep some tactical flexibility and to try to avoid becoming too isolated in the Arab world. In the end, the final political

Communist League of Britain said:

"Communists in Britain give their unconditional support to all the revolutionary and progressive struggles of the Arab nation and people. In the strongest possible terms we condemn Margaret Thatcher for her arrogant refusal to receive the Arab League delegation (Applause). Thatcher calls the PLO 'terrorists'. The racist anti-Irish Prevention of Terrorism Act is going to be extended to cover so-called 'international terrorism'. In fact, the biggest terrorist that Arab history has ever seen is none other than British imperialism which has butchered and plundered in Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan and elsewhere. Margaret Thatcher, the terrorist who slowly starved ten young Irish patriots to death, has no right to call the PLO, or anyone else, terrorists. We say the real terrorists are Begin, Thatcher and Reagan. (Applause) The Irish, Palestinian and Salvadorean peoples - amongst many others - are freedom fighters."

Amongst messages received by the Conference were ones from the Scottish TUC and the Irish Council for Overseas Students Affairs.

resolution of the PNC stated that the PLO refused to consider the plan as a sound basis for a just and lasting peace.

Although the different forces within the PLO had argued openly for different stances on the Reagan plan, all were pledged to accept the decisions of the PNC as a whole, and to remain united in the PLO.

Three months of warfare in Lebanon last year showed that Israel cannot crush the determination of the Palestinians to fight for their national rights. The 16th PNC showed that the leadership of the Palestinian people remains firmly committed to push ahead with the struggle.

MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY

'Class Struggle' salutes the memory of the 30,000 men, women and children brutally massacred in Hama, Syria, one year ago by the terrorist regime of Hafez Assad.

NORWAY COMMUNISTS CELEBRATE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

INTERNATIONALIST RALLY
IN OSLO.

In February 1973 the Workers Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Norway (AKP(ML)) was founded. In the ten years since then the party has grown and prospered. Through its daily newspaper, Klassekampen (Class Struggle) the AKP has become known throughout Norway as a militant fighter for independence and socialism. In the world as a whole the AKP is looked upon as one of the strongest European parties in the new Communist movement which grew out of the struggle against modern revisionism and the imperialism of the Soviet Union in the late 60s.

It is to this tradition that the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain is proud to belong, and we were therefore delighted to be able to send a representative of our Central Committee to the AKP's birthday celebrations. The highlight of these celebrations was a concert in Oslo on February 18th. Over 1700 members and supporters of the Norwegian Party packed into the Oslo Concert Hall for an evening of progressive music and song. After a video showing ten years' work of the AKP the first of many acts was introduced. These included folk groups, rock bands (such as the 'Bygg Band'), a comedian and theatre groups. They came from all over Norway, and this and the enthusiasm of the audience attested to the widespread support for the AKP and its work.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Our movement is an international movement, and it was a reflection of this that parties and organisations from many countries were present at the rally. As well as the RCLB there were

representatives from the Party of Labour of Belgium, the Communist Workers' Party of Denmark, the Independent and Revolutionary Workers' Movement of Columbia, the Communist Party of Bolivia (Marxist-Leninist), the ELF and EPLF from Eritrea, the Communist League of Iceland, the Communist Party of China, Sinn Fein, Communists from Turkey and the Afghan Mujahid Freedom Fighters' Front.



It was the Afghan comrade who spoke, on behalf of all the foreign delegations in thanks and tribute to the AKP. He also spoke of the situation in his country faced with a Soviet oppressor, and in response to this the meeting collected over £3,000 for the Afghan resistance - enough as the meeting heard to buy two Kaloshnikov rifles!

'RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!'

In his keynote speech at the meeting, Comrade Paal Steigan, chairman of the AKP, summed up the party's ten year history. He pointed out how Norway had been affected by the work of the party - in its struggles

among the workers for social justice, its support - at times dangerous - for Norway's national independence, and its support for the national rights of the Sami ('Lapp') people of the North. He referred too, to the AKP's record in international solidarity, with Afghanistan, Poland, Palestine and other anti-imperialist struggles.

In common with many other Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations, the AKP has had its difficulties in recent years. In trying to overcome an ever dogmatic and rigid form of organisation some of its comrades have become despondent, or wished to submerge the party in the mass movement. According to Comrade Steigan the bourgeoisie has pronounced them dead on several occasions.

Yet they are still there - with their daily paper, working in the factories and mass movements, contesting (this year) over 60 seats in the local elections. Through struggle they have overcome the problems to which a number of other parties have succumbed. Quite a record for a corpse!

On February 18th in Oslo nobody could doubt that the AKP(ML) along with the other parties and organisations of the revolutionary communist movement, was the voice of the future - the voice of the people of the world striving for independence and social justice. We salute the Communists of Norway, and join with them in the world-wide struggle against imperialism and oppression!

Til rydning for vart samfunnshjem
Vi intet har, men alt vi evner.

(The earth shall rise on new foundations,
We have been nought. We shall be all.)

Jamaica: Repression and Resistance

by Keith Anderson

The figurehead of the British imperialists, the Queen, caused no small offence by her imperial arrogance during her recent visit to Jamaica. The people of this third world country were "not amused" at the calculated way that this descendant of pirates and slave traders came to lord it over them, against the spirit of the age, the age of independence, when third world countries and peoples are standing up.

The previous Jamaican government of Michael Manley incurred the wrath of US and British imperialists by its attempts to exert a degree of independence. Whilst the CIA and IMF applied their pressure, British banks withdrew export credits. A CIA operations squad coordinated murderous attacks on the people by hired thugs, the army and the police. With this classic destabilisation, Seaga (better known as CIAga) was brought to power to roll back the gains of the Jamaican people, impose imperialist austerity and act as an imperialist agent in the Caribbean. Since then, British police and military experts have returned to Jamaica, where they are joined by US Green Berets and Israeli officers. The SAS has resumed training on the island.

On the economic front David Rockefeller heads a team of imperialist bankers that "advises" Seaga on policy. The encroachment of establishments like British and American Tobacco further dispossesses Jamaican farmers from the land. All forms of social services are being cut back, more than a quarter of the people are illiterate, rents in the ghettos have risen over 50% and the official unemployment rate of 26% drastically underestimates the number of jobless city youth. There have recently been outbreaks of polio, but available foreign currency is used to import luxuries for wealthy white expatriates rather than to meet the people's needs.

In the midst of this situation the Pirate Queen had the reactionary gall to pronounce: "It is all the more remarkable that Jamaica is managing to make headway and I have admired your courageous efforts to recover economic health."

What she means of course is that she welcomes the renewed flow into the vaults of her and her class.

Her visit to Jamaica has in fact inspired new moves to abolish the monarchy in Jamaica. "I am delighted to be with you as Queen of Jamaica," declared the woman whose millions are soaked in the blood of countless slaves.

"When she comes here we do not regard her as the Queen of Jamaica," riposted Michael Manley.

The Jamaican people have a glorious revolutionary tradition. The escaped slaves - the Maroons - under the leadership of General Cudjoe, fought the British colonialists to a standstill using guerilla warfare and camouflage, forcing them to recognise their freedom in 1739. In 1838 mass struggles forced the British to abolish slavery. In 1865 Paul Bogle led a mighty uprising. In 1978 youth in Kingston, Spanish Town and Montego Bay fought the police from behind 500 barricades. Revolutionary organisations are building in Jamaica, like the Youth Forces for National Liberation who declare: "We, the suffering and exploited masses of Jamaica, must take up the Revolution banner handed down by Paul Bogle. Our organisation was founded in the era of Mao Zedong's thought. It is guided by the Marxist-Leninist world outlook and steered with the invincible thoughts of Chairman Mao."

The days when this foul, reactionary and very rude woman can go to lord it over "her subjects" in the Caribbean are well and truly numbered.

Korea Resists US Threats

The US imperialists are bringing the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of war. On February 1, 1983 the Supreme Command of the Korean People's Army issued a statement which said:

"Under the grave situation today when the danger of war is approaching our country hour by hour, owing to the reckless military provocations of the US imperialists, the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army issued Order No. 001 dated February 1, 1983, to the entire units of the Korean People's Army, all the members of the Korean People's Security Forces, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards to enter into a semi-war state from February 1 to mid-April, the period of the enemy's joint military exercise.

"This is a self-defensive measure to provide against the US imperialists' moves for war. It is the legitimate right of a sovereign people to take a self-defensive measure in face of the imperialists' threat of aggression."

The same statement also pointed out:

"If they start another war in Korea in violation of the unanimous desire of our people and the world's people for peace and Chajusong (independence), they will be unable to escape an irretrievable, annihilating blow."

TEAM SPIRIT 83

Since the victorious outcome of the Fatherland Liberation War in 1953, this is the first occasion for the Korean People's Army and other defensive forces to be placed on a semi-war alert. What provocation has made this necessary? The statement quoted above detailed the truly enormous nature of the Yankee threat.

"The US imperialists, together with the south Korean puppet clique, are staging a joint military exercise called 'Team Spirit 83', the largest in scale in its annual series, with the whole area of south Korea as the main theatre in the period from February 1 to the middle of April.

"According to an announcement of the enemy, army units such as units under the 6th Army, the 1st Army Corps Headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Landing Division in the US mainland, the Western Command of the Army and the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, etc., the naval forces including the Task Force of the 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan, the 3rd Naval Landing Unit in Okinawa, and the 1st Naval Flying Corps etc., and the air forces such as the 43rd Strategic Flying Corps under the Strategic Airforce including the Guam-based B52 bombers and six flying corps under the Tactical

Airforce in the US mainland, Okinawa and the Philippines, will come to south Korea to participate in the "Team Spirit 83" joint military exercise and more than 70,000 soldiers of the US imperialist aggression forces will stage together with the south Korean puppet army a gamble of three-dimensional invading operation with large combat forces. Mobilised there are all the ultra-modern means of war such as various types of warships including the "Enterprise", the biggest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier of the US 7th Fleet, and various kinds of planes, missiles, artillery and tanks."

NUCLEAR THREAT

In a statement of February 3, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exposed the strategy of the US imperialists and the nuclear threat they pose:

"The US imperialists set the Korean peninsula as a "frontline bridgehead" for the execution of their aggressive global strategy and a "testing ground for a showdown of strength" in the 80s and have long hastened preparations to invade our Republic, deployed a large quantity of nuclear weapons in south Korea and stepped up in a planned way even the moves to start a nuclear war in Korea.

"This was fully disclosed when the US Army Chief of Staff during his recent tour of south Korea openly ranted that the United States would "use tactical nuclear weapons" in case a war breaks out in Korea."

The Foreign Ministry statement also exposed how the US is involving the Japanese militarists in their schemes. Japan is the former colonial power in Korea and its brutality is remembered bitterly by all patriotic Koreans.

"They are drawing even the Japanese militarist forces into the current 'Team Spirit 83' joint military exercise.

"In collusion with the Japanese reactionaries, they are zealously hastening the formation of a tripartite military alliance of the United States, Japan and South Korean puppets....The US imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries have worked out even a joint operational plan to send the Japanese 'Self-Defence Forces' to the Korean front in case of 'emergency'.

The Foreign Ministry states: "The Korean people and peoples of Asia and the world who cherish peace will never tolerate these reckless war provocation manoeuvres on the part of the US imperialists."

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Throughout the north of Korea workers, farmers and intellectuals as well as army men are responding to the critical situation. The Korean people are also confident of international support.

As the Foreign Ministry statement said: "The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people express the belief that the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, non-aligned countries and all other justice and peace-loving countries of the world, international organisations, democratic organisations and personalities of all walks of life will pay deep attention to the grave situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula, bitterly condemn the 'Team Spirit 83' joint military exercise of the US imperialists and the South Korean puppets and express greater support and solidarity for the Korean people's just cause of forcing the US imperialist aggressive troops out of South Korea and achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country."

Communists in Britain have no hesitation in raising their voice to condemn 'Team Spirit 83' and to support the just struggle of the Korean people for reunification. British imperialism is also an enemy of the Korean people. To this day some 30 British troops form part of the imperialist occupation force in south Korea. (They are rotated from a garrison in British-occupied Hong Kong). Under the leadership of the Workers Party of Korea and Comrade Kim Il Sung, the Korean people will assuredly be victorious in reunifying the country independently.

HANDS OFF KOREA!



January this year saw the publication of the first results of a major high energy physics experiment to test the theories of Sheldon Lee Glashow, Abdus Salam and Steven Weinberg which won them the Nobel prize for physics in 1979.

What appears to have been discovered at the giant CERN Super Proton Synchrotron near Geneva, is a "new" sub-nuclear "particle" dubbed 'W' or, more eloquently 'intermediate vector boson'. If indeed the CERN experimental results are confirmed through repetition and extension then a most significant step will have been taken in human understanding of the basic laws of matter; for the 'W' in both its positive and negative forms, along with what has been labelled the 'Z' particle (with no charge), are key figures mediating the weak nuclear interaction which governs radioactive decay.

Not only is this a major advance in our understanding of nature, it also hammers another nail in the outlook of idealism and metaphysics, further confirming the objective existence of material reality independent of human thought.

All but the most reactionary of bourgeois philosophers now accept the objective existence of the external world, but many still attempt to hang onto a "dualistic" outlook allowing also for some sort of "supernatural" reality, whether in the form of "fate" or some other external 'force', etc. In this context the 'W' represents one less hiding place for these 'philosophers' and their blinkered view.

INTERACTION OR FORCE?

Until the last century or so, the way matter developed and moved was seen in terms of 'forces' acting on it. This approach was a clear reflection of the metaphysical outlook which seeks the basis for change externally. As science has delved more deeply into matter, especially below the level of the atom, it has been recognised that what actually occurs is an interaction between different aspects of one material whole.

Isaac Newton recognised an aspect of this some three hundred years ago when he spoke of every action having an equal and opposite reaction. That was back in the 17th century but the weight of two thousand years of metaphysical thinking in the west held back the full philosophical impact of Newton's work.

In 1862, James Clark Maxwell, drawing on the experimental work of Michael Faraday, successfully unified the theory of electricity and magnetism. Since that time physicists have identified

The W & Marx

by Brendan Hill.

four, and a possible fifth, 'fundamental' interactions, i.e. the electro-magnetic, gravitational, weak nuclear, strong nuclear, and a speculated 'super-weak'. The first two are part of everyday life but the weak, strong and 'super-weak' are, at present, regarded as the exclusive realm of nuclear/high energy physicists. It is with the discovery of these nuclear interactions that the 'force'/interaction synonym becomes quite untenable in philosophical terms. Everyday language may take some time to adjust however.

MASS, ENERGY AND EINSTEIN

One of Einstein's most earth-shattering revelations was that mass, the quantisation of matter, is, as it were, congealed energy. A reasonable analogy from common experience being the relation between solid carbon dioxide, 'dry ice', and carbon dioxide gas. The two seem totally different, yet carbon dioxide gas is just 'dry ice' in a different concentration.

Not only did Einstein deduce the equivalence of mass and energy, he determined the precise ratio of interchange in the famous equation $E=MC^2$, i.e. 1 gram mass is equivalent to the square of the speed of light in centimetres per second, ergs of energy. Enough to make a sizeable hole where once was a fair size town. The figure, by the way, is approx. 900,000,000,000,000,000 ergs.

GRAND UNIFICATION THEORY

For some years now, theoretical and experimental high energy physicists have been seeking links between the various known interactions in an attempt to deduce a system by which they might all be united into a single 'Grand Unification Theory'. Einstein spent the best part of his life in a fruitless quest to unite the theories of electro-magnetic and gravitational interaction, but even before his death it was noted that a more productive field of investigation might be that of a link between the electro-magnetic and weak nuclear interaction as a starting point.

By 1979 work in the electro-weak area had progressed to the point where Abdus Salam, Steven Weinberg and Sheldon Lee Glashow were jointly awarded the Nobel prize for physics in connection with their work on this very subject, as mentioned earlier.

QUARKS

-Three quarks for Muster Mark!
So opens the four apostles section of 'Finnegans Wake', last novel of the great Irish writer James Joyce; and therein lies the source of the obscure name given to the more fundamental constituents of which all hadrons (protons, neutrons, mesons, and their more massive relatives) are currently believed to be made up.

Quarks were postulated by Murray Gell-Mann with the aim of finding a relatively simple foundation for the plethora of particles turning up in high energy physics. His original solution required three different 'flavours' of these components, and as he was reading Joyce's celebration of Ireland's life and history at the time, he dubbed his building blocks accordingly. Quark, by the way, rhymes with Cork, not nark.

Since then the number of quarks has increased somewhat.

First, and this was highly appropriate considering the source of the name, to four, as with Joyce's apostles. At present some thirty six are on the table - six basic 'flavours', each coming in three different 'colours', and each, in turn, with its own reciprocal anti-quark.

No 'free' quarks have been observed, and indeed there is a respectable theory of 'quark confinement' that allows for this. There is a school of opinion, however, which dismisses quark theory in favour of a so-called 'nuclear democracy' proposed by Geoffrey Chew (much admired by our friend Capra). Should the quark theory ultimately fall, as I very much doubt, then at least we can enjoy the irony of the continuation of the Joyce quote:

-Three quarks for Muster Mark!
Sure he hasn't got much of a bark
And sure any he has it's all beside the mark.

Both the electro-magnetic interaction between protons and electrons (the standard case, though it would be more precise to say hadrons and leptons of opposite charge, since protons and electrons are but the most common of a number of similar sub-atomic entities), and the strong nuclear interaction which holds the nucleus together, come within the scope of 'quantum field theory' which is a pretty esoteric area of mathematics amalgamating Einstein's special theory of relativity and the quantum mechanics of Erwin Schrödinger. That relating to the hadron/lepton electro-magnetic interaction is called Quantum Electro-Dynamics or QED, and is very well established. The containment of 'quarks' (see box) is covered by the young and yet to be fully-tested theory of Quantum Chromo Dynamics or QCD. 'Electro-weak theory' is a further example of 'quantum field theory', a 'gauge theory', and just as QED requires the mediation of a photon, electro-weak needs its own mediator. Due to the very short range of the weak interaction (only within a nucleus) and its feeble strength (about 100,000th that of the strong interaction), the mediator must be relatively massive, indeed some 80 times the mass of the proton whose decay it mediates. It should be pointed out here that this mass relates in practice only to the 'free' 'W' or intermediate vector boson. Within its normal sphere of activity, all carried out at relativity affected velocities, it has no intrinsic mass.

MAKING A 'W'

To produce a 'free W', a huge amount of energy has to be accumulated and transformed into matter. At the CERN Super Proton Synchrotron, streams of protons and anti-protons (the anti-matter equivalent of a proton) are collided, each particle with an energy equivalent to the mass 270 protons at 'rest'; i.e. in the head on collision, a total energy of 540 GeV (gigaelectron volts). The electro-weak theory predicts that out of every 200,000 or so such collisions there should be but one case of 'W' release. This is precisely what appears to have occurred!

The 'W' is not recorded directly since it decays very quickly into a very energetic electron and a neutrino. (Neutrinos are strange, incredibly light, some even say massless, almost ethereal particles which hardly react at all with other matter. They thus speed off undetected.) The electron, with its tremendous energy gained from the 'W', leaves very clear evidence of its passage through the detectors.

At a more fundamental level theorists describe the creation of the 'W' particle in terms of quarks. The proton comprises three quarks; the anti-proton is made of three antiquarks. A quark of one 'flavour' meets a reciprocally flavoured anti-quark, the sum charge being that of \pm one electron (quarks have fractional charges, 2/3 or -1/3, reverse the signs for anti-quarks), and in a process called annihilation, they produce a 'W' which then decays. By generating mesons, the mediants of the strong interaction, the remaining 'spectator' quarks turn up as swarms of low energy particles. At lower energies the quark/anti-quark pair creating the 'W' might emerge as a meson of similar charge.

So far nine 'W' events have been reported. To clinch the electro-weak theory's validity, a 'Z' is sorely needed. Theory predicts approximately one 'Z' per ten 'W's' so it shouldn't be too long to wait.

'Uncertainty' and Capra's Mysticism

"If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change it by eating it..." Here, in his brilliant pamphlet 'On Practice' Mao Zedong deals with the unavoidable relationship between knowledge and change; the very act of investigation involves changing the object of that investigation. This universal corollary is not too inconvenient in everyday life, but when dealing with matter at the sub-atomic level it becomes a very real problem. The upshot of which is that, for instance, you can only discover either the position or momentum of an electron in any observation, not both, since you necessarily dramatically change one in determining the other.

HEISENBERG

This problem was first summed up by Werner Heisenberg in 1927 when he set about dealing with the problem in what is known as 'Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle', which states, roughly, that the more precisely you try to determine something, the greater the level of uncertainty in your results.

CAPRA'S MYSTICISM

Philosophical idealists have reacted to the uncertainty principle by claiming that the phenomena it relates to most radically are not only indeterminate - in the sense that we cannot directly observe all their features - but that the phenomena themselves lack a concrete existence independent of observation. This outlook has had a powerful negative effect on the work of some physicists. It has been used as a gateway to mysticism, as in Fritjof Capra's popular book 'The Tao of Physics'.

Capra, himself a theoretical physicist, has reacted to the perceived phenomena confronting him in high energy physics by recognising the operation of dialectics, but the dialectics of the Tao and Heraclitus, etc. Despite his evident knowledge of ancient Chinese philosophy, he apparently remains ignorant of the work of Hegel, Marx, Lenin or Mao. The end result, even though his book gives a useful popular exposition of modern physics up to 1974, is to cultivate an outlook of mystic fatalism whereas those who have successfully broken with the western tradition of metaphysics and idealism recognise that each new advance in high energy physics is giving yet further confirmation of the outlook of materialist dialectics.

THE GIANTS OF MARXISM

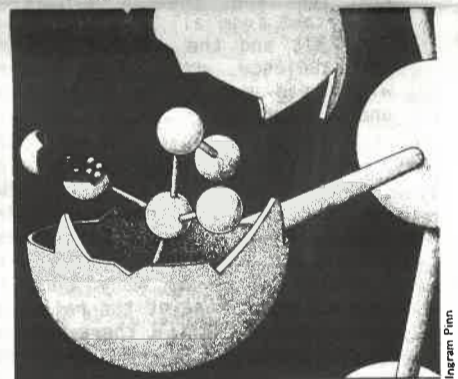
Marx and Engels took a very active interest in the scientific developments of their time. They held Maxwell's work on the theory of electro-magnetism in high regard, as did they that of Darwin in the field of evolution. These great leaps in science helped Marx and Engels to develop their own philosophical outlook of materialist dialectics.

Lenin also took a keen interest in the developing theory of matter, and in his work 'Materialism and Empirio-Criticism' refuted the outlook of Ernst Mach and his cronies who were effectively holding back the work with their stagnant thinking - Mach, by the way, himself a leading physicist, doggedly refused to accept Einstein's special or general theories of relativity. Mach's outlook still, however, continues to have considerable influence in bourgeois scientific circles.

With Stalin, Marxist philosophy took a distinct step backwards. His 'Dialectical and Historical Materialism', aimed at being a popular exposition of the subject, succeeded only in watering it down and converting 'dialectics' into a dogma, something to which, in essence, it is anathema. The resulting practice was seen in the notorious Lysenko affair in which experimental results which 'fitted' the dogma parading as 'dialectics' were accepted unquestioningly, whereas those that failed to slot in, however thorough the procedures employed, were rejected out of hand. This is not to reject Stalin's massive contributions to the development of the then socialist Soviet Union, but to draw the necessary lessons from his philosophical weaknesses. The slow progress in Soviet atomic physics in the thirties and forties is by no means unconnected with the philosophical climate of the time.

Mao Zedong made significant contributions on the philosophical front, as he did in just about every field of endeavour he engaged in. In the 30's he gave a series of lectures in Yanan on the theory and practice of materialist dialectics, drawing heavily on Lenin's 'On the Question of Dialectics' and 'Materialism and Empirio-Criticism' and relating them to the practical experience of the Chinese revolution and the tradition of dialectical thought in Chinese history. These lectures were written up in the form of the pamphlets 'On Practice' and 'On Contradiction'.

Mao highly appraised the work of the Japanese physicist Sakata Shiyouchi who argued that 'elementary particles are a single, material, differentiated, and limitless category which makes up the natural order'. In relation to this outlook it is instructive to note that the Gell-Mann quark theory finds a precursor in 'Straton' theory which argues that the hadrons and leptons constitute unities of opposites of more elementary strata which themselves are further subdividable. The Straton theory remains very much the baby of Chinese scientists.



The present day dogmatists of 'Marxism' dismiss Mao's contributions as an eclectic mixture of the 'Dialectical Materialism' of Stalin (to which they themselves adhere) and eastern mystical philosophy à la Capra. They fail to come to terms with the dynamic of what Mao saw as the fundamental law of the universe i.e. the law of the unity of opposites. As Mao put it in his 'On Contradiction', "The interdependence of the contradictory aspects present in all things and the struggle between these aspects determine the life of all things and push their development forward. There is nothing that does not contain contradiction; without contradiction nothing would exist".

The question is not, "does the universe conform to the outlook of 'Dialectical Materialism'?", but rather, "does the current stage of development of materialist dialectics match up to the phenomena it seeks to interpret in the course of changing the world?". The most recent advances in the theory of matter, as reflected in the discovery of the 'W', show that we are on course.

A final word from Mao Zedong:

"It is only when there is class struggle that there can be philosophy. ... The foundation is class struggle. The study of philosophy can only come afterwards." - Talk on Questions of Philosophy - 18 August 1964.

BEWARE RCP WRECKERS!

Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.
24 February 1983.

The development of a genuine anti-imperialist and revolutionary movement in Britain - in particular the building of an Ireland Solidarity Movement - is revealing a lot of things about the various organisations that make up the British left. Organisations will stand or fall depending on the stand they take towards the growing fightback of the oppressed, and the building of a movement that supports the fightback. As Mao Zedong said in a different, but not totally dissimilar context: "Every Chinese is free to choose, but events will force you to make the choice quickly."

THUGGERY

An organisation that has been doing an excellent job of self exposure recently is a sinister and dubious trotskyite outfit, the grossly misnamed "Revolutionary Communist Party". This organisation which has always specialised in lies, slander, distortion, sectarianism, splitting, provoking and wrecking, now seems determined to add fascist type violence against revolutionaries to its "recommended list". Just as the imperialist crisis of the 1930s turned the trotskyites of that period from a profoundly incorrect trend within the working class movement into a gang of wreckers, so the imperialist crisis of the 1980s is driving this particular trotskyite organisation in the same direction.

At a January 29 Conference of its front organisation, the "Irish Freedom Movement", held in Leeds, the RCP engaged in the most disgusting and undemocratic behaviour. They stage-managed debate to ensure that only their own members and supporters were allowed to speak. In particular, members of the Revolutionary Communist Group and supporters of the Irish Solidarity Committees were denied any right to speak. At the same time these organisations were subjected to a stream of slanders and lies, including a statement by Mike Freeman (a leading member of the RCP), that the March 12 demonstration was "irrelevant and opportunist."

When RCG members protested at this behaviour they were, without warning, pounced on by RCP goons and beaten up. One comrade was punched in the face and had his head butted into a door. Another comrade, who suffers from ulcers, was violently kicked in the stomach, had his coat ripped, and an attempt was made to push him down

a flight of stairs. Members of the RCG, Revolutionary Communist League, Workers' Power and independents walked out in disgust at the RCP's behaviour. The RCP were left with only themselves attending the conference. Within the hour, comrades from the RCG and RCL had returned to the hall to distribute a joint leaflet exposing RCP thuggery.

The RCP's seemingly bizarre behaviour has a political basis to it. For a long time there has been no national anti-imperialist movement on Ireland in Britain. In this situation, the RCP has been able to parasitically build itself on the backs of the struggle of the Irish people through the creation of front organisations which allegedly support the Irish people, but in fact support nobody but the RCP! The IFM is just such an organisation. There is no public method of anybody but the RCP affiliating to it.

The growing strength of the anti-imperialist Ireland Solidarity Movement - particularly since the historic November 20 Conference - has thrown the parasitic RCP into a state of panic. They are utterly unable to advance a single principled political reason for not supporting the building of a united solidarity movement. They have no answer, other than to fall back on lies, slander and distortions, and when all else fails, on violence. It is for this same reason that the IFM have called a "Smash the PTA!" rally on the very same day as the national "Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now!" demonstration. Clearly their interest here is sabotage, not building a movement. It is for this same reason that they have always virulently attacked Ken Livingstone from the 'left', every time he has been under attack from the media and other reactionary forces for speaking out on Ireland.

Indeed, the RCP is being forced to develop a cult of violence. Their newspaper has glorified the practice of knee capping as allegedly being a proletarian form of justice. This is in marked contrast to the stand of the Republican Movement who view such things as regrettable necessities. Similarly, in one of their sectarian attacks on the women's movement, they denounced the idea that courts be called on to deal severely with rape cases, and promoted instead an encouragement to youth to slice off rapists' ears,

At the January 29 Conference, leading member after leading member of the RCP ranted that they wanted to "rebuild the violent tradition in the working class". This obsession with violence for its own sake, abstracted from any class or revolutionary standpoint, is remarkably similar to the ideology of fascism. Its promotion on January 29, was clearly intended to prepare the audience to support a violent attack on communists.

Despite its habit of always putting a position to the 'left' of everybody else, the RCP does not make a fundamental break with the pro-imperialist and chauvinist outlook of the British left that it claims to despise so much. Like most of the rest of the British left it believes in concentrating its work on the sold-out "Labour movement", acting as its 'left' face. It refuses to make a strategic turn to the new emerging forces of the most oppressed, the poorest workers, the unemployed, the national minorities and the youth. It denies the existence of a labour aristocracy, and it pointblank refuses to face up to the effects of imperialism upon the working class of the oppressor nation. Their racist outlook was revealed by one of their leading members, Phil Murphy, at the November 20 Conference, when, in criticising the keynote speech of Comrade David Reed, he said: "In the list that he gave of the forces to build an Irish Solidarity Movement, he mentioned blacks, Irish people, unemployed youth ... but he failed to mention the British working class."

Clearly to these racists, to be working class, you have to be white, English, male, middle-aged, employed and in a trade union.

OPPOSITE TO THE COMMUNIST STANDPOINT

On this basis, we can see that whilst their stand on Ireland is superficially anti-imperialist, it is in fact the opposite of the communist (and therefore consistently anti-imperialist) standpoint. Marx explained the communist standpoint on Ireland very clearly when he wrote: "After occupying myself with the Irish question for many years, I have come to the conclusion that the decisive blow against the English ruling classes (and it will be decisive for the workers' movement all over the world) cannot be deliv-

ered in England but only in Ireland."

This statement is all the more true in the era of imperialism. It is the revolution in oppressed nations that opens the way to the revolution in the oppressor nations, not the other way round. The RCP turn all this on its head. Their purpose in taking up the question of Ireland is simply as a stick with which to beat their rivals in the British Labour movement. To do this they try and discredit the fact that the Irish struggle is a similar struggle to national liberation struggles around the world, instead making it a "special case" - a piece of chauvinist British exceptionalism. "Here we show that, because the IRA is a special case for the British labour movement, it is a special case for us too." (Next Step No.10).

ATTACKS ON LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

In typical trotskyite fashion, the RCP has attacked all national liberation movements fighting imperialism. Their venomous attacks on the liberation movements in southern Africa - "Independence has brought no benefits to the masses of Zimbabwe", 'Next Step' October 1982 - show what they really think of the Republican Movement. The 'Next Step' No.10 (February 1981) carries an article by its editor, Mike Freeman, entitled "The Irish Republican Movement - Why We give Unconditional Support". This article is in fact nothing else but a scurrilous and venomous attack on the revolutionary national fightback of the oppressed. So blind and extreme is their chauvinist hatred of the oppressed that they fall victim to flights of frenzied fancy that take them to the heights of subjective idealism. To take one example. In describing the defeat of the Chinese working class and communists at the hands of Chiang Kai-shek in 1927 they state:

"The Chinese working class has yet to recover from this defeat." Here one begins to wonder what sort of world the RCP are living in? The Chinese Revolution of 1949, when the Chinese people stood up, is universally acknowledged as one of the seminal historical events of this century. Today, China is a socialist country. The working class holds state power. Before liberation, millions of people would die of starvation when the harvest failed. In socialist China, nobody goes

hungry. Before liberation, life expectancy was 30 years. Today it is 70 years. Last December 17, then Chancellor of imperialist West Germany, Schmidt, had to admit that: "neither developed nor developing countries can now bring themselves out of depression or manage a new upturn, with the sole exception of China." All this is as nothing to the racists of the RCP. (Incidentally, the RCP blames the 1927 defeat on Stalin. It was, however, the responsibility of the then General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, Chen Duxiu, who later became, yes you've guessed it, the leader of the Chinese trotskyites.)

In this article the RCP say: "The vast majority of British people lines (sic) up with Thatcher, Atkins, Foot and Benn against the Irish people; and it is for this reason that we make the Irish struggle a special case...When we have won large numbers of British workers to respond to IRA bombs with jubilation, when explosions result in trade unionists calling for strike action and mass demonstrations to force the immediate withdrawal of British troops, then there will be a time to criticise the programme of Provisional Sinn Fein."

So there you have it. For so long as they can be 'extreme', 'left' and gain a bit of cheap notoriety, then the RCP will 'support' Ireland's freedom fighters. But let them be too successful, let the British working class start to support the Irish people, let a strong solidarity movement be built, and the mask will fall. The real anti-Republican face of the RCP will be revealed to the world.

In fact, we already get glimpses. In the latest (February 1983) issue of the 'Next Step' the RCP use the opportunity of a book review to attack the 1956-1962 military campaign of the Republican Movement. They say: "The Republican leadership was still dominated by the petit-bourgeois outlook of traditional republicanism." The cat is poking its head out of the bag and a mangy chauvinist creature it is. This 'criticism' is actually precisely the same as that advanced by the sticky pro-imperialist "Workers' Party" when they split from the Republican Movement.

We call on all comrades in the revolutionary movement to beware of this dubious, conspicuously wealthy, provocateur organisation, and, as far as possible to have nothing to do with it.

DEFEND THE GIFAC 5!

Five supporters of the GLASGOW IRISH FREEDOM ACTION COMMITTEE were arrested last year while taking part in a black flag protest to commemorate the deaths, on hunger strike, of PATSY O'HARA and RAYMOND McCREESH.

PICKET

GLASGOW DISTRICT COURT
ST. ANDREWS STREET
1 p.m. FRIDAY 11 MARCH 1983
GIFAC 5 - NO CASE TO ANSWER!
DROP THE CHARGES NOW!
GIFAC 5 - NOT GUILTY!

Send letters of protest to:

The Lord Advocate for Scotland, Parliament Square, High Street, Edinburgh.
The Glasgow Herald, Albion St., Glasgow.
The Daily Record, Queen Street, Glasgow.
The Scotsman, Queen Street, Glasgow.

Send copies to: GIFAC, c/o Box 15, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.

ARMAGH WOMEN

AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.



Picket at Armagh last year.

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

The new governor of Armagh Jail is trying to outdo his fore-runners in the barbarous treatment he metes out to the women Republican prisoners.

* Prisoners have been put on 23-hour lock up, and loss of

all privileges, for merely switching from one TV channel to another during association time.

* Two women have been held in 24-hour confinement in the loyalist 'B' wing of the prison. In a statement issued on Tuesday November 16th, the women

Republican prisoners report that both women's lives have been threatened by inmates, and that the administration has refused to move them.

* Strip-searching of women remand prisoners has resumed on November 9th, and has been going on since. Even women who are menstruating have to strip completely, and are subject to a degrading visual search, examining their vaginal and anal areas.

There can be no other situation where the slogan 'Control of our own bodies' has such intense meaning. But the attempts to degrade the women only backfire on the prison administration; and on the British state behind it.

One ex-prisoner, quoted in 'An Phoblacht/Republican News' January 27 1983, said: "First of all, I felt humiliated by it, then she told me to turn round and I was aware I was being stared at. My embarrassment turned to real anger at the way I was being treated. It's the same for other women, but we came to realise that it isn't us who are being humiliated. It's the screws."

The women Republican prisoners decided to end their 'no work' protest as of January 31st, as they felt that to continue would be an unproductive exercise.

Chris McAuley of Sinn Fein's Department of Women's Affairs commented: "Throughout the six years of the protest in Armagh, the women Republican prisoners remained determined and resolute in both morale and spirit despite their atrocious living conditions, loss of privileges and remission, and 23-hour lock up.

"Even to the present day, faced with degrading and humiliating strip searches, the women on remand in Armagh have not only their dignity and self-respect but have given Republican women on the outside a deep sense of pride. And they will remain a source of inspiration to us all in the fight for freedom."

DELEGATION

On Sunday March 6 at 2 p.m., International Women's Day will once again be marked by a picket of the Jail. As in previous years, there will be a delegation from England, organised by the Armagh Coordinating Committee.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



REPORT FROM DERRY: BLOODY SUNDAY REMEMBERED

By Mike Henderson of Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee.

Sunday 30 January saw the 11th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, Derry, when 14 Irish civilians had been gunned down in cold blood by the British army for daring to peacefully demonstrate against repression in Ireland.

Every year the people of Derry hold a commemoration march to remember those killed in the Bloody Sunday massacre and to emphasise their continued opposition to Britain's occupation of Ireland. This year the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee (GIFAC) were proud to be invited, by comrades from Derry IRSP, to attend the commemoration march. We took a contingent comprising not only of GIFAC members but also supporters of the Tyneside Action Committee on Ireland, Edinburgh Irish Solidarity Committee, Scottish Republican Socialist Party and the Chilean Socialist Party.

On arrival in Larne, on Saturday we were immediately given a small reminder of the kind of harassment that is an everyday occurrence for the nationalist people in Ireland. Our vehicle was stopped, emptied and searched by the RUC Special Branch. Our comrades were searched, questioned, had property confiscated and were held for around one hour. Our reception in Derry could not have been a bigger contrast. The IRSP comrades were waiting for our arrival and had food ready for

us. We were taken to a social where we had the privilege of being introduced to the family of murdered hunger striker Patsy O'Hara. Their courage and determination, despite all the sorrow they had experienced, was a great inspiration to us all. Our Chilean comrade was made especially welcome when Patsy O'Hara's brother sang a Chilean revolutionary song. Everybody was keen to know about our work in Glasgow and we were pleased to be able to tell people of the formation of the Building an Irish Solidarity Movement.

The following day we were taken to the assembly point of the Bloody Sunday march. Despite snow, hail and strong winds over 10,000 people turned out to join in the commemoration. The march was led by the relatives of the 14 dead, carrying wreaths, while behind them 14 young people carried black flags. Republican bands, (including several from Scotland) IRSP and Sinn Fein Cummain and many other anti-imperialist groups made up the bulk of the march. As well as the thousands on the demonstration itself, many more local people lined the route of the march which was the same as the original route 11 years before. Throughout the parade, the GIFAC contingent, like all those who had travelled a long way to the commemoration, were met with applause and shouts of welcome from those who lined the route.

On reaching Free Derry Corner a rally was held chaired by Neil McLaughlin of Derry Sinn Fein.

The first speaker, ex-blanket man Patrick Coyle, was followed by Jim Wray, who spoke on behalf of the Bloody Sunday relatives. He made the essential point when he said, in reference to the murdering British army: "You have answered them today. You have shown them the futility of the murders on Bloody Sunday. You will not be coerced, you are still on the streets and will remain there."

Martha McClelland read out numerous messages of support from the USA, France, Germany and one from our comrade from the Chilean Socialist Party. The only solidarity message read out from "Britain" was the GIFAC message which reminded people of the support for Irish freedom in Scotland. "We know that we speak for thousands of ordinary Glasgow people when we say: **VICTORY TO IRELAND'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS! VICTORY TO THE IRISH PEOPLE! TROOPS OUT NOW!**"

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein Vice-President, gave a speech in which he pointed out that the killings continue: "Now, 11 years later, the British army and the RUC are still engaged in their shoot-to-kill operations!" He roundly condemned the traitors in the SDLP who work hand-in-glove with British imperialism and ended with a call to everyone there to continue their work against the "terrorists of Downing Street."

After the playing of the 'Soldiers Song' the rally dis-



persed. After the march the contingent from GIFAC, by invitation, were proud to be able to meet with the sister of murdered hunger striker Micky Devine.

After witnessing such a united and determined display of opposition to British rule in Ire-

land and after receiving such warm hospitality from our friends in Derry IRSP who themselves face such high levels of repression, we came back to Glasgow more determined than ever to build our Irish solidarity movement. As one speaker at the rally said: "There is work to be done. Let us do it!"

United and Resolute

The African People's Socialist Party (USA) have given their support to the 12 March demonstration. They express their regret at not being able to participate, "for it would be an excellent opportunity to show the strong solidarity from the anti-colonial struggle of African people in the U.S. for the anti-colonial struggle of the Irish...the African People's Socialist Party...definitely want to be able to sponsor this demonstration and show its support in any other way it can."

SPONSORSHIP GROWS

As we go to press support and sponsorship for the March 12 demonstration is building up.

IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR SUPPORTING THE DEMONSTRATION:

Ray McLaughlin, Kevin Dunphy, Paul Hill, Brendan Dowd, Eddie Byrne, John McCluskey, James Bennet, Paul Norney, Anthony Clark, Roy Walsh, Stephen Blake, Vince Donnelly, Bobby Campbell, Patrick Hackett, and Gerry MacLochlainn (in a personal capacity).

SPONSORS INCLUDE:

- * Ricky Wrethman, Peter Wardlaw: Scottish Political Prisoners.
- * Graham Little, Jimmy Anderson: English prisoners.
- * Connolly-Keegan Cumman of Sinn Fein; Finbar O'Doherty - Derry IRSP (in personal capacity).
- * Scottish Republican Socialist Party.
- * Dafydd Elis Thomas - Plaid Cymru MP; Alistair Logan - solicitor.
- * Bangladesh Workers' Association - London; Kashmir Independence Movement; International Solidarity Front for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Iran - Glasgow.
- * ACTT Heme Hempstead Branch.
- * East Twickenham and Clerkenwell Labour Parties.
- * Keith Veness, Charlie Rossi, Bob Crossman, Anna Bowman, Maurice Barnes, Peter Pendsay: Labour Councillors.
- * Irish Solidarity Committees from: North London, South London, West London, East London, Bradford, Manchester, Liverpool, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Tyneside; Bristol TOM.
- * Revolutionary Communist Group; Revolutionary Communist League.
- * Ireland Committee - Netherlands; African People's Socialist Party (USA); Workers Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Norway.

Speakers at the Rally will include: Michael Holden, Member of Sinn Fein (Britain) and Shop Steward; Helen O'Brien, Sister of an Irish POW; Keith Veness, Islington Labour Councillor; Keith Anderson, on behalf of 'Building an Irish Solidarity Movement'; Speakers from sponsoring organisations. Chair: Terry Marlowe.

OTHER SPEAKERS INVITED INCLUDE: Dafydd Elis Thomas MP; Roach Family Support Committee.

NEW P.T.A. POWERS?

'Class Struggle' correspondent

A Home Office review (headed by Lord Jellicoe) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which has been used to harass and intimidate nearly 6,000 people since its introduction in 1974, has recommended a substantial increase in its provisions. Under the new proposals all travellers between Britain and Ireland would have to fill in landing and embarkation cards. Up to now these have been used sporadically. Jellicoe says: "I recommend that landing and embarkation cards should be completed by all passengers on commercial flights and sailings between Great Britain and the island of Ireland."

The other major proposal is to extend the Act to cover so-called "terrorist groups" from any part of the world, particularly the Middle East. Jellicoe says they should be "available for use against suspected terrorists of any group, cause or nationality." Jellicoe who resigned from office in the Heath cabinet after a sex scandal, makes the lurid claim that London is becoming a "battleground" for political forces in the Middle East.

The sinister nature of the Jellicoe proposals can be seen when we recall that Thatcher has repeatedly publicly slandered the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a "terrorist organisation". The Jellicoe recommendation illustrates once again the community of interests amongst all peoples fighting imperialism.



GIFAC banner on 'Bloody Sunday' march in Derry.

IRISH SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT - FROM FRONT PAGE.

DEMONSTRATE ON MARCH 12!

The demonstration on March 12 will be an important occasion in the building of a solidarity movement. Unlike many other demonstrations it has been carefully routed to go through working class and Irish areas. It is not a "protest" march, but a demonstration putting forward positive slogans within the context of serious work to build a movement.

OPPORTUNISTS AND THE STATE

Predictably the work of building the Solidarity Movement is under attack. These attacks have come from various shades of opportunists, the most serious being the violent assault by "RCP/IFM" thugs at a conference in Leeds on January 29. Attacks have also come from the state and local authorities. Three supporters of the newly formed West London Irish Solidarity Committee were arrested at a recent street meeting.

Lambeth Tories tried unsuccessfully to prevent the South London Irish Solidarity Committee from using the facilities at the Town Hall. In Manchester the newly formed Solidarity Committee has been denied the use of council facilities (e.g. the right to hire a meeting room in a public library) by the Labour Council. All these attacks, from whatever quarter, are being resisted. Contrary to the desires of those who attack us, it is by defending our rights that our movement will gain in strength.

No attack from the state, or from any opportunist force, will hold back the building of the Irish Solidarity Movement. If you want to be put in touch with a Solidarity Committee in your area, or want to help form one, then contact: Co-ordinating Committee, Building an Irish Solidarity Movement, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX.