

CLASS STRUGGLE



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MONTHLY

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Lebanon Rises Up

Once more, Lebanon became the focus of world attention in September, as the "international peace-keeping force" intervened in its internal affairs to oppose the progressive nationalist movements. Over the past few weeks, US and French warplanes have attacked positions held by the militia of the Progressive Socialist Party, and US warships have also opened fire on them with their computer-guided guns. The British government too has made threatening gestures against the nationalist forces, reinforcing its air base at Akrotiri in Cyprus, and flying planes low over West Beirut.

Nevertheless, the Lebanese national forces are on the advance, and only increased outside interference, whether from the western powers, Israel, or Soviet-backed Syria (as in 1976), can put them back on the defensive.

MYTHS

There are many myths in the west about what's happening now in Lebanon. The conflict is portrayed as a "sectarian one", between different religious groups, with the unfortunate "peace-keeping" forces caught in the middle trying to stop them killing each other. Another version is that the legitimate Lebanese government is trying to extend its control over the whole of Lebanon, and the Palestinians and a handful of Syrian-backed left-wing extremists are opposing them; this is the version which the Lebanese government is anxious to promote.

In fact, the current fighting around Beirut is part of a greater struggle between the great majority of the Lebanese people, who want a united, democratic and independent Lebanon, and a small minority who, through the support of Israel and the western powers, especially the US, now control the government. Entangled as this conflict is with the question of Palestine, and wider regional issues, the central issues are Lebanese.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The origins of the present situation go right back to the middle of the last century, when the great majority of the region was part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. As the empire decayed, the main European powers tried to extract advantages from it and seize its territories. France appointed itself "protector" of the Maronite Christians, (the

Maronite Church has links with the Catholic Church), who were concentrated along the coast and in the mountainous areas from the neighbourhood of Beirut to just south of the city of Tripoli, in the north of present-day Lebanon.

On the basis of these "interests" France staked its claim to the whole of Syria (including Lebanon) when the Ottoman Empire was carved up at the end of the First World War, while Britain took Palestine and Iraq. Both powers followed a divide and rule policy to maintain their domination; Britain supported the Zionist colonisation of Palestine against the opposition of the Palestinian Arab people, while France split off Lebanon from Syria, and constituted it as a state in which there would be various religious and national communities (Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, Maronite, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Christians, Druzes, as well as a small Jewish community), but the dominant position would be held by the Maronites. Thus, France aimed to constitute a Lebanese state based on sectarianism, and tied to itself.

When Lebanon became "independent" in 1943, this sectarian set-up was further institutionalised through the "National Pact", (itself a re-interpretation of the colonial constitution of 1926) by which the elites of the various communities agreed to a share-out of government offices and seats in the Lebanese parliament under Maronite hegemony - the President would always be a Maronite, the Prime Minister a Sunni, etc. The army too, was essentially an instrument of sectarian Maronite domin-

ation, which was why the elites of the non-Maronite communities did not want it to be too strong.

THE CIVIL WAR

This system began to break down during the 1970s, as new social movements swept Lebanon, even affecting sections of the Maronite community.

The most reactionary sections of the Maronite leadership saw that their domination of Lebanon was in danger of crumbling away, and took a calculated decision to launch a civil war, but one that they would present as a war between Lebanese and foreigners - i.e. Palestinians. In April 1975, gunmen of the Phalangist party (an organisation modelled on the European fascist movements of the 1930s) triggered the war by attacking a bus full of Palestinians and killing most of them. Within days, fighting spread, and a full scale civil war began, with the rightist forces of the Phalange, National Liberal Party and a few others on one side, and the leftist and nationalist forces, including the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party on the other. The Palestinians were drawn in on the side of the latter, because of the right's attacks on them.

The Phalange gamble failed; a coalition of progressive and nationalist forces gained the upper hand and was well on its way to complete victory when Syria intervened. The Syrian government tried to portray itself as "socialist", and it had warm relations with the Soviet Union; however, it showed where it really stood (as did

(Continued on p.6.)



Palestinians carry a wreath during a march to commemorate those massacred at Sabra and Shatilla (September 17th).

FREE THE NEWHAM 8!

About one thousand people marched through Newham, East London, on September 24, in solidarity with eight local Asian youths. Exactly a year ago, they were arrested when they went to face white racist youths who had harassed Asian schoolchildren in the Newham area, and instead walked into a trap laid by the police.

The march was led by black organisations, including the East London Indian Workers Association which has been very active in raising support for the Newham 8.

against British imperialism for 800 years. You must be determined - as determined as the Palestinians in their struggle against Zionism!"

Once more, thunderous ovation rang out. Other speakers included Baldev Gill, an Asian woman threatened with being gaoled on false drug charges (see page 2) and ones from Sheffield Asian Youth Movement and May 3rd Defence Campaign.

A discordant note was struck by 'Militant' Labour MP Dave Nellist. Resplendent in beige suit, Ariel-white shirt and red



RALLY

A stirring rally concluded the march. Parvez Khan thanked the marchers on behalf of the Newham 8. Then Gautam Appa, spoke for the campaign:

"What are the police doing about racists who knife and kill people every week? Nothing."

"Up and down the country, people are beaten up by fascists. The fascists are cowards - they always attack people when they're isolated: if they aren't cowards, let them show their faces now!"

Wild applause greeted these remarks. Appa went on:

"We as a community are proud that Asian youths went out to beat up the fascists. To hell with talk of law and order - there is no law and order when we are attacked on the streets."

"We claim the right to defend ourselves ... We will face the state itself for the right to self-defence!" he concluded, amidst the sound of cheers, whistles, applause and stamping feet.

Then spoke Kwame Ture (formerly known as Stokely Carmichael). Stating his support for the eight, he went on: "It is a law of revolution that you must know the enemy, and if you want a revolution, you must be ready to take the enemy all the way down."

"To win, we must have constancy. In order to win a struggle, you must be like the Irish, who've been constant in their fight

tie, he made his way to the microphone to the accompaniment of a chorus of boos from large sections of the audience. After a brief reference to the Newham 8, he went on to tell his unappreciative listeners how "this Tory government is beginning to institutionalise state racism."

When Cecil Gutzmore of the National Campaign Against the Police Bill spoke, he delivered an appropriate response to this rubbish: "Dave Nellist talked about the Tories, but Labour has been in government for much of the last 20 years, and they set about tightening up the state machine. Labour approved of what the police did in Southall in 1979."

"We've had three decades of the Labour Party saying the class struggle is over, there's only the economic struggle. We must demand that the Labour movement supports black people's struggles. We must demand no more class collaboration from the labour movement."

SUPPORT

Meetings in support of the Newham 8 have been organised in Sheffield, Birmingham, Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Manchester, Leicester, Nottingham, S E London and N London. The N London group has held regular street meetings to rally support for the eight.

The trial begins on October 24, at Snaresbrook Crown Court, East London. The campaign has called a picket of the court that day at 10 a.m. and wants supporters in the public gallery for the duration of the trial.

Michael Smith Murdered

Michael Smith, the internationally renowned Jamaican poet died on Wednesday 17 August as a result of head injuries suffered after being stoned by four men outside the Jamaica Labour Party Headquarters in Stony Hill, St. Andrews, Jamaica.

According to informed sources from Jamaica, Michael, who lived in Golden Spring, St. Andrews, had attended a political meeting in the nearby district of Stony Hill on the evening of Tuesday 16 August. At the meeting he had confronted the main speaker, Mavis Gilmour, Minister of Education in the ruling Jamaica Labour Party government. The following morning, Michael was passing the JLP headquarters in Stony Hill when he was stopped by four men who wanted to know what he was doing in the area. Michael is said to have replied: "I-man free to walk anywhere in this land," and the four began to stone him. A woman who was passing by and witnessed the stoning begged the four to stop. She too was hit by a stone. Michael was chased by his attackers from the JLP office past St Jude's church into Fort George Road. There he was stoned and robbed. The lady who had witnessed the attack was offered \$100 not to say anything. She took the money, but according to one account went to the police with the money after Michael died.

The stoning stopped when two motorists approached the scene from different directions and the killers jumped over a cemetery wall and ran into the JLP office. One of the motorists is reported to have said that he could positively identify the killers. He has since had his life threatened. There were several other eye witnesses many of whom are afraid to go to the police for fear of reprisals.

Michael was unconscious when he was found. He was taken first to Stony Hill Clinic and then to Kingston Public Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. In spite of the fact that the police have descriptions of the murderers, no arrests have been made to date.

It is ironic that Michael Smith who did not support or owe allegiance to any of Jamaica's three political parties (Jamaica Labour Party, Peoples National Party, Workers Party of Jamaica) should be an early victim of the impending election campaign due to take place within the next two years. The horrifying details of his death reflect the depths of barbarism into which Jamaica has descended. The death of this outstanding young poet highlights what is generally hidden - the brutalisation of everyday life in modern Jamaica. Michael's death

seems to be yet another in a series of politically motivated murders in an increasingly repressive tribal society and puts paid to the pretensions of Jamaica's present rulers to stability and democracy. It is perhaps a measure of the viciousness and ferocity with which Jamaica's forthcoming elections will be fought. It will be remembered that nearly a thousand people died in the 1980 campaign.

News of Michael's death has shocked and horrified people all over the world who either knew him or his poetry. He was a tremendously gifted poet, a poet of great genius - indeed, one of the most powerful and accomplished poetic voices that Jamaica has ever produced. Along with Oku Onuora, Mutabaraka and Linton Kwesi Johnson, Michael was one of the leading exponents of the new movement of Jamaican poetry called "Dub Poetry". His voice was the authentic voice of Jamaica crying out against injustice, oppression and barbarism in the language and rhythms of the oppressed. As a performer of poetry, Michael was unrivalled. His manner was dramatic and captivating, full of power and vitality with the capacity to move and entertain.

Michael Smith was born on September 14, 1954 in Woodford Park,

Kingston. He grew up in Jones Town, West Kingston. He was educated at Jones Town and Denham Town Schools and later Kingston College and St. George's extension High School. After winning a social development commission scholarship in a workshop competition, Michael attended the Jamaica School of Drama where he specialised in directing. He graduated in 1980. Michael not only performed his poetry intensively in Jamaica, in 1978 he represented Jamaica at the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba. A year later he performed in Venezuela and in 1981 he performed in Carifesta in Barbados. In 1982 Michael's performance at the First International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books in London was a highlight of an international poetry evening. After a successful British tour, Michael recorded an album 'MI CYAN BELIEVE IT' for Island Records which was received with critical acclaim from music journalists all over the world. He also performed for UNESCO in Paris in November of 1982, toured with reggae singer Gregory Isaacs before going on to Milan and Amsterdam where he was well received.

Michael's murderers must not go free. We, the Alliance of the Black Parents Movement, the Black Youth Movement and the

Race Today Collective together with Creation for Liberation and the organising committee of the International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books are calling on all concerned Jamaicans, West Indians and Britons to do the following:

1. Demand that there be an impartial enquiry into the circumstances of Michael's death and that those responsible be brought to trial.
2. Demand that the Jamaican media report the full facts of Michael's death. We urge other artists and organisations to do likewise.
3. Demand that official recognition be given to Michael's contribution as a poet to the artistic and cultural life of Jamaica.

Reprinted from a leaflet issued on 23 August 1983 by Creation for Liberation, the Alliance of Black Parents Movement, Black Youth Movement, Race Today and the organising committee of the International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books.

c/o 165 Railton Road, London SE24 0LU. Tel: 01-737-2268/2074.

NHS - Pared to a Skeleton

Cuts in NHS funding recently became open headline news. This heralded a new phase in the government's attack on the NHS. Anyone involved in the NHS over the last five years - either as patient or employee - has seen the piecemeal cutbacks relentlessly destroying the health service. On occasions a hospital closure has sparked off a community protest, but on the whole, people have been kept ignorant of the problems until they are in need and discover painfully that the service is not there. That their ageing parent cannot go into hospital when ill and incapable; that they must suffer with their slipped disc for many months before a specialist can see them. Recently even acute services are being affected - so that hospital maternity units are without adequate medical cover, and wards admitting sick children don't have proper nursing cover at night.

Particularly under attack at the moment are health service workers who are threatened with both loss of jobs - 8,000 jobs to be lost in the next nine months - and, for some, a pay review body which will deny them the right to strike. These workers in their long pay struggle last year demonstrated their new unity and their extreme oppression in terms of low pay. They have also been very active in the fightbacks around the country against hospital closures. An attack on health service workers is an attack on the NHS. Alongside the announcement of job losses are reductions in money for the regional health authorities.

At a time when the elderly population is growing and medical advances are being made such cuts make a double impression in real terms. In Liverpool, for example, over the next five years, £5,500,000 is to be cut from health spending and 800 hospital beds will be lost. There are signs that GP services are going to be attacked - plans for improving inner city general

practice are to be shelved - and community nursing services are under a terrible strain.

The other side of this tablet is, of course, private medicine which is doing very nicely, thank you. A lot of rubbish is said and written about private medicine, freedom of choice, etc. etc. - but it is crystal clear to most working and unemployed people that it is only for the ruling class and quite out of reach for the rest. Nevertheless it is rapidly expanding with both the opening of new private hospitals (some of these using closed NHS hospitals like St George's in London) and also the increase in the number of pay beds in NHS hospitals: these went up by over 200 in 1981 alone. The combination of this expansion with the shrinkage of the NHS is quietly but quickly producing a two-tier health service. Former Health Minister Dr Gerald Vaughan has predicted that in the future 25% of health care will be private medicine i.e. solely for profit.

In order to fight effectively for the survival of the NHS it is necessary to understand its origins and the reasons for the present attack. The NHS was set up in 1949 and together with the educational system, social security etc. constitutes the Welfare state. Free health and education were fought for by the working class but whilst we are in the imperialist system, they are inevitably a mixed blessing. The Welfare state serves the ruling class in many ways. The health service ensures a supply of workers fit enough to do their dirty work for them, make their profits and provide another generation of wage slaves. It is most effective in the treatment of acute illnesses which can be cured, which allows patients to return to work. It has always provided very badly for the old, the handicapped, and the chronically sick, all of whom are of no use to capitalists. It has done nothing

to counter the class inequalities of health. For example, the death rate for female babies under one year old is 10 deaths per 1,000 live births for social class 1 (professional occupations), rising to 35 deaths per 1,000 live births for social class 5 (unskilled workers). Similar differences occur for all age groups and have not markedly changed over the years.

The educational and social services aspect of the Welfare state control and indoctrinate the working class in more obvious ways. The Welfare state is paid for out of taxes (and an increasing proportion of taxes are being paid by low-wage earners) but is geared to serve the imperialist state. This then is the Welfare state that was set up in the 1950s before British imperialism crashed into the depths of its present recession and when the British ruling class was still relatively prosperous.

The reality is that our Welfare state was impossible without the exploitation of the Third World peoples. Vast British profits made in places such as "Rhodesia", "South Africa" and Hong Kong, where wages are negligible and hours of sweated labour never-ending, enabled the British ruling class to buy off their own working class with concessions like these. Thus the British proletariat allied itself with its own bosses against the people of the Third World. And now that era is ending - people are rising up and kicking out British imperialism - "Rhodesia" is now Zimbabwe - and British imperialism is in great crisis. Such a crisis that the NHS and free educational system are beginning to affect its profits. This process has nothing to do with Tory or Labour, Mrs Thatcher or Tory wet. (Although Maggie does seem to take particular delight in it...) The NHS would be under attack whichever of the bosses' parties were in

power. The Callaghan government, for example, closed 280 NHS hospitals and stopped all new health centre building.

That is not to say that nothing can be done - in the short term the NHS can continue if the ruling class is forced to take a cut in profits instead. But to be successful in saving the NHS the struggle will be led by people who are clear as to who are its enemies and who are its friends. British imperialism is the enemy, and that includes the whole of the ruling class be they Tory, Labour or Alliance; and the working class and oppressed people of the world are our friends. We must smash old alliances of bosses and white workers against national minority people in this country, and the peoples in their countries of origin. Fightbacks on a local level must unite NHS workers, patients, and the local community: an alliance which will really frighten the state.

With this sort of insight and unity the NHS can be saved from destruction - but don't wait until you're too ill to fight - fight now!

LETTER FROM A READER

RACISM IN FRANCE

Your readers are probably aware of the rapid growth of racist attacks in "socialist" France. Over the summer many black people travelling from Britain on Visitors Identity Cards have been turned back at the Channel ports, for no other reason than the colour of their skin.

This racist victimisation is not confined to adults - who might, according to the racist logic, be classified as possible "illegal immigrants", but even children in school parties. Last July, I accompanied a group of 12-year olds from school on a day trip to Boulogne. For the first time ever their "identity cards" were scrutinised - all of those who were of Third World origin were refused entry unless they could produce proof of their British nationality - as if anyone would bring such a thing on a school outing! In the end we lied to the police and changed everyone's "place of birth" to "London". At the time we put this incident down to a particularly officious control officer. More recent events show that this is not the case and that the French authorities are mounting a vicious campaign against black people.

TUC 'SOLIDARITY'

In a recent report the TUC has come up with some interesting reasons for not investing pension fund money in South Africa.

"There are very good reasons to doubt whether, because of inherent and increasing political instability, a long-term investment in South Africa is either prudent or wise for trustees."

And the effect of the South African government's decision to abolish currency controls

will mean that:

"Share values are likely to be more volatile ... because sales will be easier and will tend to respond to political events."

This report which uses arguments in keeping with the profit-mad decisions in trans-national company boardrooms shows the TUC's lack of real international solidarity and how the trade unions have become integrated financially in the imperialist system.

«DON'T YOU COME FOR ME...»

Josephine Thomas of Huddersfield has been waiting for one year for her appeal against deportation to be heard in Leeds. In the following interview, she tells of her long struggle against the Home Office and of other battles she has fought. To listen to Josephine talking of her life in this country is to hear a black woman "speak bitterness" of this racist society. But it is also to be deeply moved by her determination to continue to fight.

JOSIE SPEAKS BITTERNESS

"The campaign goes on. I keep on battling but nothing from the Home Office, nothing since September last year. That's when the Law Centre filed the appeal.

"I've been here since 1962 and my children were born here. I went back to Grenada in 1976 and I went over the two year limit. But nobody says nothing. They don't give you no warning. They just want us, West Indian people, to come here to work. Which we did. And nobody warned us about the two year limit. I had enough time to come back within the two years but nobody told me what was happening so it was over two years when I come back. Why should I be punished? But they tell me I have to go. But that is wrong because nobody warned us.

NO WARNING

"I went back to look after my mother. That's another thing I'd like to ask the Home Office man. Would he have the guts to just get up and leave his mother lying on her sickbed. What kind of warning did he give we West Indian people before we come here? No warning at

haven't got me no beds. I used to get milk tokens. They're finished and now I've asked for more but I still don't get them. I asked for a cooker when Georgette was born but got no reply. I got one myself. Same with fridge. I got it myself. No help from Social. I didn't get no moving expenses when we moved here. It was friends that helped me.



Josie Thomas with Pow Shien Leong from Leeds who fought the Home Office in order that her son, Chun Hee, and her sister, Pow Yean, could stay here.

all. But I never planned to give up easily. I decided to go on fighting it out. My children were born here, they belong here and I want them to get an education here. They have the right to stay with their mother and I want to give them all the help that's needed.

"Now while I'm waiting for the appeal there's too much pressure. The children are around the house all day. Like Richard, he's eighteen and he's finished school. He go to the Job Centre but he still can't get no job.

WORK

"I came here in 1962 and I worked. I worked and never claimed from the government. I never depended on the government. I never even claimed for my children when they were in Grenada. I only went to the Social Security in 1979 to claim for the rent. Because when I moved here the rent went up. And do you know what they did? The first thing they did was get right onto the Home Office. They told me to come back. So I did and they told me that I should get money from the government of where I came from.

SOCIAL SECURITY

"I worked and I battled my way through. I never depended on the Social. It's only recently that I've been at home. When I was sick, I wouldn't take a note from the doctor. I insisted on going to work and got the doctor to sign me off. At one time after I came back in 1979, I was doing seven part-time jobs in one day. I never claimed maternity allowance and people told me I should. They owed me £100 but they never paid up. I saved up and saved up and paid for the children to come here from Grenada themselves. The children came in September and in February we got the house. All I want is a better home and a good education for my children. I get help from friends and from the Pastor at the church that I go to, but I don't get no help from Social. Like I asked them to get me beds because I don't have good beds for the children. But still to this day they

"When I first came here, that was a Saturday and Monday I started work. The first job I did, that was at a fireworks factory. It was making rockets. I did filling. Like there were different sheds and we did filling, the next shed did packing etc. I began to go all itchy and I come out in a rash. I ended up at the hospital. The doctor told me not to go back because he said I was allergic to the powder. And when I went back, they said sorry but they couldn't employ me any more. But I was disfigured. I was disfigured so that even my mother wouldn't like to see me naked. That was a real dirty job and look what it did to me. I worked there three months and I've still got the marks. My son took a photo. I didn't get no compensation. I didn't know anyone who could take active steps to get me none.

"After that I got a sewing job in Halifax. That was making coats and suits. It was piece work but it was a right nice job. The people were very nice, you see. But after Richard was born, I didn't go back because he needed looking after and it was too far for me to continue.

"That was when I went into textiles. Here in Huddersfield. I did cone-winding. That job I did for about four years. It was hard work because it was piece work and like, you had to go fast to make your wage. I did industrial work all that time from 1965 to 1971. I did cheese-winding: that's doing



the smaller bobbins for patterns. I did weft-winding and supercup-winding. Then I did fetching different patterns to make up the weft. You're given these sheets and the patterns have to be made up. You have to set it up with all these different colours.

"All the time I was suffering with scars from that other job. They kept running. There would be inflammations and then they started bleeding. In 1971 I took baby out when he was six months because of trouble with the father and came back in 1972. Then I continued working in textile, doing different jobs. The children's father died in 1975 and then I went back to Grenada in 1976 to look after my mother. When I came back in 1979 I did all cleaning

"My case was heard in Leeds. I tell you I'd rather deal with Lieutenant Colombo than deal with that lot. After a time I just refused to answer their questions. Their questions were just out of the way and they were putting words into my mouth. They said why didn't I go back and join my children there instead of them coming to join me here? They said why did I come here in the first place? So I said to them why don't you do your own dirty jobs yourselves then? I didn't come here for fun, you know. I did the dirty jobs and I was invited to come. I came here, to do the dirty jobs. I did them and then I got sick and then I got no help.

"Then they told me that I was

six feet down. That is in the cemetery. Did I commit any crime? I asked him. No, I didn't and I don't intend to unless they come to lay hands on me. But I won't pay no fine. I'll go to prison but if I go to prison my children go with me. What are you deporting me for? I'll go to prison, I told him. I will fight you and I will win because I'm going to live happily with my children. I'm not going anywhere until God is ready for me. So don't you come for me.

I'M NOT AFRAID

"You see, you've got to let these people see that you're not afraid of them. They know now that I'm not afraid. They're not stronger than me and I've got to fight them. I'll fight them myself, if no-one helps me because God is on my side.

"Then we got a reprieve and I got in touch with my MP. The campaign started and neighbours helped me, collected jumble and raised money. The local paper wrote about me. Lots of local councillors wrote and said they supported me. There's been battle after battle. We've collected petitions and sent telegrams. Now the Law Centre has filed a new appeal.

"I've got two boys with my mother. One of them is only six and he's pining to come here. My mother's nearly 75 and she's not in good health. I want to bring him back home. It's on my mind about that

I'M NOT AFRAID!»

jobs. There was this sewing factory and I worked for them, sometimes packing and sometimes cleaning: 50p an hour. At that rate, I'd have to work 56 hours to get £28. But I got all different cleaning jobs, like one was 5.30 in the morning and then when I'd finished that I'd go to another at 7 and so on till 9 or 10 at night. That's how I saved up to bring the children here. All this time the Home Office were after me saying that I had to leave the country. But I carried on because I wanted to bring the children.

"I WANT TO COME HOME"

"At that time UKIAS told me to go back to the West Indies and apply to come in from there. That's the only thing I could do, they said. I told them that if it costs me my life, I'll stay here and stay with my children. And I mean it. I was getting these letters from the children that said "I want to come home. The West Indies is not my home. I've been away too long and now I want to come home.

liable to a fine if my answers were out of the way. So I refused to answer any more of their questions.

"After two weeks they wrote me telling me to leave. But I'm not going to leave. The only time I'm going home is when I'm dead, and I mean it. They gave me three weeks to get out of the country. So I left it then. I wanted time to figure it out. I wanted to look into it more and go to my MP.

DID I COMMIT ANY CRIME?

"Then I got this letter that said that if I didn't get out they would fine me £200 or send me to prison and they would deport me. I stood there reading this letter and I had this cup of tea. And I didn't even notice that I'd dropped the cup. So I sat down and I read the bible. I went to my neighbours and I rang up the Home Office man. My neighbours were my witnesses. I said to them are you saying that I have no right to be in the country? And I said the only place for me in the place that I come from is



Josie with her youngest child, Georgette.

child. Because his life is in jeopardy if anything happens to my mother.

I'M NOT ALONE

"I build up my confidence by praying. I believe God will help me. And so many people come now to help me. With all these people turning out to help it shows that I must be right. Otherwise they wouldn't turn out. I know I'm not alone and I have to keep brave courage. But sometimes it's not easy. To cope with it inside isn't easy. There's all that pressure. Sometimes I think I'll let it go.

"But I know that I am going to stay with my children. They're not going into any home, they're not going to be adopted. They're not going one foot from this house."

Josie's appeal could be heard any time now in Leeds. She needs your support urgently. Contact: Josephine Thomas Support Committee, c/o 54 Deighton Road, Huddersfield HD2 2VF. Telephone: Hudds 26092.

CYNTHIA GORDON



The Home Office want to make Josephine Thomas into a criminal using the racist immigration rules. The particular rule that she has been trapped under is the so-called 'returning residents rule' by which people who leave the country for over two years lose their rights here.

Josephine's case is similar to that of Cynthia Gordon, a Jamaican woman who settled in Manchester. She lived and worked there from 1960 to 1972 but was refused permission to stay when she left to look after her sick mother in Jamaica, stayed over two years and came back in 1978. Cynthia also has children born here who see this country as their home. She fought a campaign and won mass support, particularly in Moss Side where she lived, and finally won the right to stay. Josephine Thomas must also be allowed to stay!

Wrongfully charged
 Terrorised and framed
 Facing life imprisonment

Baldev is Innocent

Baldev Gill, an Asian woman from Southall has been framed by the notorious Customs Officers on a charge of 'importation of Heroin'. Baldev is innocent but has already spent six weeks in jail, on remand, and now faces life imprisonment.

BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS!

On 4th July 1983, when Baldev was arrested, the Customs Officers threatened to smash the typewriter on her. She was bleeding heavily as a result of her miscarriage and her clothes were soaked in blood but Southall Police Station refused her sanitary towels. Even when her condition became critical, the Customs Officers obstructed medical treatment and persisted in interrogating her.

FRAME UP!

Baldev was kept in isolation and terrorised. She was denied access to solicitor, family and friends and transferred from one interrogation centre to another for two days.

Meanwhile they smashed the door of her flat down and planted evidence in an effort to gain her conviction.

After this systematic ill-treatment a statement was fabricated implicating her. Baldev refused to sign it.

BALDEV IS INNOCENT!

Baldev was arrested during a raid on an apparently organised gang of drug dealers. But it was only by accident that she happened to be on the premises, where people were arrested at random. This included her 13 year old sister, who was illegally interrogated, mistreated and detained.

STOP STATE ATTACKS ON BLACK PEOPLE

Baldev's plight represents the systematic attack and criminalisation of Asian and Afro-Caribbean people by the police and the authorities. In this case they have chosen to victimise a member of the most vulnerable and oppressed section of the Asian and Afro-Caribbean community: black women.

For further information, ring 01-843-0578 or 01-843-0343. Or write to: 86 Northcote Ave., Southall, Middlesex.

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Mozart 7 Campaign



Picket of Marylebone Court by Mozart 7 campaign including Mrs Andrea Nicholas and her daughter Nazarene, two of the Mozart 7. (Picture: Outwrite)

Local black people picketed Marylebone magistrates court in mid-August as part of a campaign round the Mozart 7 - seven women who have been wrongfully charged with actual bodily harm (ABH) and obstruction.

Andrea Nicholas, three of her daughters and three other young women were arrested and charged with ABH and obstruction after the police charged into the estate where they live on July 18.

The police were chasing a young man who, they claim, disappeared into Mrs Nicholas' house. When they attempted to follow the man into the house, Mrs Nicholas and her daughters asked to see a warrant.

The police called for reinforcements until there were over sixty policemen on the estate. Meanwhile a crowd of local people had gathered.

After a cry of "Rush them!" from the police there was a struggle which ended up with the seven women being arrested and taken off in police vans where they were beaten up. Later the women were charged and police have invaded the estate in large numbers. In one incident police brought dogs onto the estate and another three were arrested.

A spokesperson for the Mozart 7 campaign said: "This incident and other incidents on the estate show that the police have become a clear danger to local people. It is obvious that what is needed are measures to check the illegal activities of the police rather than issuing them with further powers."

repression..



..and resistance

MALIKA

Malika Benkhelefa is still campaigning for her right to stay here with her eight year old daughter. Like other black women, Malika's legal right to stay in this country is dependent on her husband. She has no rights as an independent person. Her husband has left the country and divorced Malika, whose appeal against deportation has been turned down once by the Home Office.



"The family are so distressed and stunned by the Gestapo-style deportation order that they found it difficult to give coherent answers to questions by an 'Asian Times' reporter."

MR CHEEMA

On August 31, a picket was organised at the Home Office to protest against the deportation of Mr Cheema from Southall. Mr Cheema is under threat of deportation because his marriage has broken down. He is also now threatened even though he had previously been given "permanent leave to stay". The Home Office are using Section 3 of the 1971 Immigration Act (SS.5B) to try to deport Mr Cheema on the grounds that this will be "conducive to the public good". They justify taking away of "permanent leave to stay" on the grounds that

searched and humiliated by the police. One of us was forcibly dragged naked through the corridor in front of male police officers."

ESTHER ANKELI

In Manchester, the Esther Ankeli Committee Against Deportation is still waiting for a decision from the Home Office. A leaflet from the Committee gives the basic facts of Esther's situation:

"Esther was married in Nigeria in 1972, and came to England to join her husband in 1977. The marriage broke down in 1980. She has two children, Angela age 9½ and Felix age 3 - British born.

"Esther is employed here and has worked hard to make a home for herself and her children.

DEPORTATION NOTEBOOK

On September 14, a public meeting was held in London to build support for Malika. Her campaign can be contacted: c/o 439 Harrow Road, London NW10. Tel: 01-960-5746.

VYTHELINGUM FAMILY

The Home Office is threatening to split up the Vythelingum family from Mauritius. Even though Mr Vythelingum has been here since 1971, according to the immigration laws, he is an "overstayer". So even though he has lived and worked here for over ten years, married, bought a house and now has three children, he and his wife have been told to go.

Their three children were all born here and have the right to stay. The choice for the children is either to leave the country of their birth (Britain) or to be put up for adoption and forget their own parents.

A newspaper report said: "We understand that such is the indecent haste with which the Vythelingums are being hounded out of this country that they are not even being given an opportunity to sell their property.

someone informed them that the marriage had been one of "convenience".

Mr Cheema has been to the High Court and the Court of Appeals but his appeals have been dismissed. His case has now been submitted to the European Commission for Human Rights.

Southall Rights, who organised the picket, are particularly angry at the extension of the use of this section of the Immigration Act to cover cases of simple marriage break-down.

AFIA BEGUM

Women campaigning for Afia Begum's right to stay, were arrested, strip-searched and held overnight by police. On August 15, members of the "Sari Squad" chained themselves to railings outside Leon Brittan's house. Afia Begum is still in hiding as the Home Office have still refused her permission to stay. A press statement issued after the protestors were released, said:

"Five of us were arrested. We were dragged along the road in our chains by the police. We were taken to Rochester Row police station and put in a disgusting cell that stank of urine. All of us were strip-

"Both Esther and her children are under threat of deportation simply because of the marriage break-up.



"Esther is one of an increasing number of women who face the injustice of an English legal system which makes some women dependent upon the status and goodwill of their husbands for their right to live in this country. They are denied the basic right to live as independent citizens."

Support Esther in her Fight to Stay in Britain!
 No Deportations!

The campaign can be contacted at: Abasindi Co-operative, Moss Side People's Centre, St.Mary's Street, Moss Side, Manchester M15 5NA. Tel: 061-226-6837.

Asian Collective Formed

On August 25 at a press conference in Hackney, the formation of a new militant Asian organisation was proclaimed. The East London Asian Collective is a body which unites militants from several areas of East London in a political struggle against the racism of the state.

It is significant that in all the boroughs where the Collective is based, the Labour Party holds power. Yet - as speaker after speaker pointed out - the Asian people of those boroughs - Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham - have no real say in their own destinies. For instance, in Newham, Asians make up 35% of the population, but only 1 in a 100 Town Hall workers. In every sphere of social life - education, employment, health - the national minority peoples are unrepresented. Asian children are fostered with white parents, so cutting them off from their own cultures. In schools there is no provision for teaching of Asian languages. Asians are discriminated against in housing and employment.

The Asian Collective has been formed to combat these injustices. It has three main demands:

- * Employment provision
- * Provision of services
- * The right to participate in decision-making.

It aims to mobilise the Asian people of East London to win these democratic and national demands. It is not afraid of taking on the racist organs of local government in militant struggle, and will propose the withdrawal of economic support (a rates strike) along with the withdrawal of political support for the Labour Party and the putting of physical pressure on Council meetings.

The comrades of the Asian Collective see this as the first step in a wider struggle of all the black communities in Britain. They are very aware of similar unity discussion taking place within the Afro-Caribbean community. As Comrade Chatterjee said at the press conference:

"We are anxious to engage in dialogue with other black communities. There are three million blacks in Britain, and they are treated as a colonial people. We are a colony. We are engaged in an anti-colonial struggle."

Editor of 'CS' Speaks in Korea

The following is the full text of the speech delivered by Comrade Keith Anderson on the third day of the World Conference of Journalists against Imperialism and for Friendship and Peace held in Pyongyang, Korea.

Fellow Delegates,
Dear Comrades,

This is a very significant conference, and it is very fitting indeed that it be held in Korea because the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is, indeed, the pride and joy of anti-imperialists throughout the world.

Under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung the Korean people defeated two big imperialist powers in succession, firstly Japanese imperialism, and then US imperialism. During the Fatherland Liberation War, the US imperialists committed the most foul and bestial atrocities against the land and people of Korea. Yet, from the ruins of the war the Korean people, led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, have in the northern part of their country built a model socialist state that provides a dignified life and a high standard of living for all its citizens. This is indeed an historical achievement with few equals.

Whilst engaged in the socialist construction on the northern half of the country, the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have never for a single moment forgotten about the bitter life endured by the people living under colonial fascist rule in the southern part of the country. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung shows constant concern for the compatriots in the south and has advanced numerous proposals for the peaceful reunification of the country, most notably the proposal for the founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, advanced at the sixth congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in 1980.

The vicious Yankee imperialists are still occupying the south of Korea, and they constantly threaten the liberated north. This year, under the war-maniac Reagan, these threats have reached a fever pitch. Early in the year we saw the US imperialists stage-manage the "Team Spirit '83" war game which mobilised all manner of lethal weapons, and an unprecedented number of imperialist bandits to rehearse an invasion of the socialist north. In addition to this, we have seen the various frantic moves to rig up the tripartite military alliance of the US imperialists, the Japanese militarists and the Chon Du Hwan flunkyst fascists to threaten socialist Korea, the other socialist countries in the area, and the newly independent countries and

revolutionary movements in Asia. The US imperialists constantly bluster and make threats against Korea. They even threaten to introduce into the southern part of Korea, the most inhuman weapon, the neutron bomb.

If a war breaks out in Korea, it could quickly become a nuclear war, and therefore inevitably a world war. Journalists of the world must make every effort to smash the US schemes for war, and fight to ally the peace movements in the capitalist countries, with the oppressed nations and peoples and the socialist countries, in order to stop US imperialism wherever it meddles in the world.

Yet despite the terrible threats with which they must cope, the Korean people are the most consistent internationalists. Revolutionaries around the world from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, North America and Oceania all well know from their own experience the active support, solidarity, encouragement and assistance that is rendered to them by the Korean people and the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

It is a secret to nobody that the Korean people take the progress of the world revolution as their own life and death concern. No wonder, then, that revolutionaries around the world eagerly study the Korean experience, in particular as summed up in the works of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, and ardently praise Korea as the model socialist country.

Korea represents a symbol of the age described so vividly by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. "Ours is an age of independence when the oppressed and humiliated people have appeared as the masters of the world and are pushing the wheels of history with vigour according to their own will and demand. The people of the world oppose all forms of domination and subordination and call for independence, and many countries are taking the road to national independence and sovereignty. This is the main trend of our times which no force can stop."

It is therefore deeply appropriate that, in the month of joint anti-US struggle, revolutionary and progressive journalists from so many countries should gather here in Pyongyang to discuss the tasks of journalists in the struggle against imperialism, for independence, friendship and peace, and to give their unconditional support and solidarity to the Korean people's

struggle for national reunification led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Comrades,

Revolutionary journalists are an important, an essential, part of the revolutionary movement. As the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung says, "Progressive journalists and publications (the advocates and propagators of advanced ideas and the mouthpieces and organisers of public opinion) play a very great and inspiring role in social revolution and construction".

Bearing such an onerous responsibility, it is vital for revolutionary journalists always to be at the side of the most oppressed and to work conscientiously to help build their revolutionary fightback. As the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung once said: "To defend freedom of speech and of the press and their rights and interests, journalists should always breathe the same air and think in the same way as the Vietnamese and other heroic peoples of the world who are fighting arms in hand against the US imperialist aggressors."

Comrades,

In Britain, the oldest imperialist country, there is at last developing a contingent of revolutionary journalists of a new type. Identified with papers such as "Class Struggle" and "Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!", these are journalists without the ambition to make money, or to decorate the universities of the bourgeoisie as token "leftists" but to play their part in building a revolutionary movement in Britain in the age of independence. Fundamentally, this means building a movement that makes common cause with the national liberation movements of Ireland, and of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and with those countries building socialism. This is an essential first principle for revolutionaries in Britain.

The dialectical relationship between the working class in the oppressor nations and the people of the oppressed nations, and the tasks that devolve to the working class in the oppressor nations have been scientifically explained by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung: "The imperialists make every effort to estrange the working class of the metropolitan countries from the peoples of the colonies. They manoeuvre to poison the working class with the stinking ideas of racism

and national chauvinism and to disorganise the militant ranks of the working class from within by bribing the labour aristocrats with a portion of the super-profits they have raked in from the colonies".

Here the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung shows that for the working class in the metropolitan countries the task of extending solidarity to the oppressed nations is inseparable from the struggle for its own emancipation. Indeed, the experience of the working class in Britain shows that unless the workers make common cause with the oppressed nations and peoples they will be unable to resist the ravages of poverty and unemployment, or to defend jobs, living standards and democratic rights, let alone win the ultimate victory in the proletarian socialist revolution. That is why genuinely revolutionary journals in Britain place at centre of their attentions the revolutionary struggle in Ireland as well as the revolutionary struggles around the world, in southern Africa, Central America, the Middle East, South East Asia and Korea.

Inspired particularly by the heroic struggle of the Republican Movement and the nationalist people in Ireland, and more generally by the revolutionary struggles throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America, real proletarian forces for revolution have announced their existence in Britain over the last few years. These are forces that reject British imperialism and its labour aristocracy, and can be won to an anti-imperialist movement. These forces are the most oppressed sections of the working class, the black and Irish workers, the unemployed and the youth. In 1980, the black youth of St Paul's, Bristol, confronted the police proclaiming "we are the black IRA", thereby showing their determination to join together with the majority of the people of the world who are engaged in the struggle against imperialism.

In 1981 the British ruling class faced a situation such as it had not faced at home for well over 100 years. In 30 towns and cities, and in over 20 areas of London alone, proletarian youth forces, led by black youth the descendants of the slaves on whose backs the British empire was built, rose to fight for their national and democratic rights. For weeks in July the ruling class trembled as the new emerging forces announced their existence in

Britain, and as whole areas of cities of British became out of bounds to police and the state for days at a time. As the great Afro-American revolutionary Malcolm X once observed, the chickens had come to roost.

It is very important to note that this unprecedented upsurge of struggle in Britain coincided with a highpoint of the struggle of the Irish people spearheaded by the immensely courageous and heroic hunger strikers. The British ruling class was confronted by the thing it dreads more than practically anything else, unity in action between the Irish people and the people of no property in Britain.

Soon the youth forces for revolution in Britain will rise again. This gives revolutionary journalists in Britain the heavy responsibility of building a revolutionary press that can unite, link and give direction to the revolutionary fightback, that can reach the revolutionary forces on the streets, in the dole queues, the estates, the schools and colleges, the youth clubs, the factories and building sites, the prisons and elsewhere.

Comrades,

At this time of great significance for the building of a revolutionary movement in Britain, it is a matter of great joy, great honour and great opportunity for us to visit the beautiful and militant land of Korea, and to attend and participate in this significant and historic conference. Everything we see and learn here will make a real contribution to our work in Britain. From the bottom of our hearts we would like to thank the Korean people, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the dear leader Comrade Kim Jong Il for making this possible.

LONG LIVE THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
BEACON OF SOCIALISM
IN NORTH EAST ASIA!

LONG LIVE THE GREAT LEADER
COMRADE KIM IL SUNG!

LONG LIVE THE DEAR LEADER
COMRADE KIM JONG IL!

LONG LIVE THE DEMOCRATIC CON-
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF KORYO!

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL
SOLIDARITY!

LONG LIVE FRIENDSHIP AND
SOLIDARITY BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE
AND REVOLUTIONARY JOURNALISTS
OF THE WORLD!

Socialist Korea

September 9 this year was a day worthy of celebrating by progressive people around the world because it marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The DPRK has the historic merit of being the first state of workers and peasants to be established in the East, and during its 35 years it has decisively shown to the world the superiority of the socialist system. 35 years is a short period in the 5,000 year history of the Korean people, but it has been the most glorious and Korea today enjoys unprecedented international prestige and authority. Comrade Kim Il Sung has said: "Under the banner of the Republic, our people have firmly taken their destiny in their own hands, heroically surmounting all difficulties ... and have undertaken a truly immense amount of work for the

prosperity and development of the fatherland and the glory of the nation." Korea was just beginning to build itself up when the US imperialists began their aggressive war in 1950. Under the slogan of "Everything for Victory in the War!", the Korean people assisted by the Chinese People's Volunteers had the historic merit of inflicting the first military defeat on US imperialism. After the war the Korean people reconstructed their ravaged country and rapidly built socialism, guided by the revolutionary line of Comrade Kim Il Sung (the Juche Idea) that stresses independence and reliance on the masses. Socialist industrialisation was completed in just 14 years. Now under the slogan "Speed of the 80s", the Korean people are struggling to build a fully modernised socialist society. A great deal of importance is

attached to education in Korea and there is free and compulsory 11 year schooling. However, the main contradiction in Korea remains the unsolved national question, namely the fact that US bayonets continue to prop up a puppet regime in the south. Accordingly, the DPRK has put forward numerous proposals for reunification, most notably the proposal, advanced in 1980, to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo which would allow the north and south to choose their own social system whilst living together as one people. The DPRK enjoys diplomatic relations with just over 110 countries, and has economic and cultural exchanges with many more. It is an active and principled member of the non-aligned movement. Joining the Korean people in their festival this year were 270 delegations and delegates from 116 countries - a measure of the international support for the Korean revolution. They included a Party and government

delegation from China led by Comrade Peng Zhen. At a celebratory banquet, Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"Today, our Republic, as a dignified, independent and sovereign state, contributes actively to humanity's sacred common cause of making the whole world independent on the international scene and has numerous supporters and close friends in all continents and all parts of the world. Never, indeed, in the national history of 5,000 years has our country exalted the dignity and honour of the Korean nation before the whole world with such high international authority and great influence as it has today. This is a great pride and honour of our people."

All genuine communists and anti-imperialists in Britain will join with revolutionaries around the world in sending greetings to Comrade Kim Il Sung and the Korean people on their great national holiday.

Boycott IPU!

Dear Comrades,

The next IPU (Inter-Parliamentary Union) Conference is to be held in Seoul this autumn (October).

The decision to hold the 70th IPU Conference in Seoul was made in Rome last year. The question of a venue must be decided on a unanimous basis. But in the Rome conference the question of the venue of the 70th conference was decided by a majority vote.

In the April IPU Executive Council Session held in Helsinki this year, 63 countries or 43 percent of the member nations of the IPU expressed opposition to the holding of the next IPU conference in Seoul.

The main point of their opposition to the planned Seoul conference is that the present (Continued on p.6.)

Boycott IPU

(Continued from p.5.)

"government" of Chon Du Hwan is an authoritarian government and that political activity and freedom of the press are severely restricted by it.

South Korea does not have a working parliament performing a check and balance function for the administration. In addition to the indirect election of the "president", the power and authority of the parliament is severely limited compared with parliaments in other countries.

What is more important is that Chon Du Hwan himself came to power by means of a military coup, not through democratic procedures.

Mr Kim Yong Sam, former head of the banned major opposition New Democratic Party, staged a hunger strike for 23 days in May and June to demand restoration of full democracy to south Korea. His demands included reinstatement of the purged politicians and guarantee of political activity.

Students in south Korea continue protest actions calling for the resignation of the Chon Du Hwan "government."

Under the current situation in south Korea where there is no democracy or freedom of political activities, it is not proper for the IPU to hold a conference in Seoul.

Why does Seoul make an avid bid to host the 70th IPU Conference? The south Koreans want to make use of the conference as a forum to make the outside world recognize the present "government" internationally.

They will make desperate efforts to impose on the participants the idea of "cross recognition" which is intended for permanent division of the Korean Peninsula.

An IPU conference in Seoul will also discourage the south Korean people at large who eagerly want Korea's reunification.

We appeal to our readers to take actions to get your views reflected in your respective governments and parliaments.

We also hope that our readers will write us letters expressing your views on this particular subject.

We wish you greater success in your work.

Sincerely yours,
Editorial Board,
The People's Korea,
5 Tsukudo Hachiman-cho,
Shinjuku,
Tokyo 162,
Japan.

Solidarity Events

LATIN AMERICA

Thousands marched through central London on September 11 to mark the 10th anniversary of the fascist coup in Chile. The march was part of a series of activities organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and others in support of the peoples of Latin America and in opposition to US intervention and backing for fascist rule.

For a month before the march, there had been daily pickets of the US embassy by solidarity activists, and the day before, a large political and cultural event took place in Imperial College, London, where photo-exhibitions, video-shows, bookstalls, music and dancing were all used very successfully to promote the cause of the peoples of Latin America.

PALESTINE

About 1,000 people took part in a march organised by the Sabra and Shatilla Anniversary Committee on September 17th. A large contingent was mobilised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. Support from solidarity organisations included the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and the North and South London Irish Solidarity Committees.

A Jewish member of PSC was arrested by police when he attempted to stop NF fascists who had been thrown off the march from distributing anti-Semitic leaflets. The police were highly provocative during the march, forcing Palestinians to remove their keffiyehs from their faces (no doubt so that they could be photographed) and making derogatory remarks.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines Support Group organised a two-hour picket of the Philippine Consulate in London on September 21, one month after the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport, and on the 11th anniversary of the declaration of martial law by President Marcos. The picket called for

an independent inquiry into Aquino's murder, and appealed for an end to political repression and military terror, no more detention, torture and execution of political prisoners, and the restoration of human and democratic rights.

That very day, half a million people demonstrated against the Marcos government in the Philippines' capital of Manila, defying police and troops.

In murdering Aquino, Marcos cut off the head of the liberal opposition to him. This means that the main opposition to his rule will henceforward be the National Democratic Front, led by the revolutionary Communist Party of the Philippines.

EELAM SOLIDARITY

In the wake of the recent atrocities committed against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, a meeting of solidarity with them was called by the Asian Collective of East London at County Hall on August 25.

Speakers from the Eelam Solidarity Front and the Tamil United Liberation Front pointed

out that the recent atrocities and massacres were aided and abetted by the government and assisted by the army and police. The Tamil population, in the main, were recruited from Southern India by the British to work on their plantations in "Ceylon". There they worked in intolerable conditions and were discriminated against by the British in favour of the native Sinhalese community.

At the time of independence the position of the Tamils as a permanent undergroup was cemented by Mountbatten as part of his divisive arrangements for the whole sub-continent. The ruling party under the leadership of J.R. Jayawardene has continued to crush the Tamils and to act as the faithful servants of British and American imperialism in this strategic area.

But oppression always breeds resistance. As one speaker said at the meeting: "The only right oppressed people have is to take up arms and resist." The Tamil United Liberation Front demands the right of self-

determination for the Eelam people, and has won overwhelming mass support. The Tamil Tigers have begun a protracted and arduous armed resistance. This is at a time when insurrection is spreading throughout the entire sub-continent.

Speakers from East London Asian Collective, Black Peoples Socialist League, Revolutionary Communist League, Revolutionary Communist Group and many others pointed out the specific responsibility of progressive people in Britain to show solidarity with the struggles of the people of this neo-colony and showed how this fight was connected with the struggle of black people and all oppressed people in Britain. Danny Morrell, for the BPSL, said: "Here at home, we see every day how black people must unite to fight racism. Dimitrov pointed out long ago that those who fail to fight reactionary measures are in no position to fight fascism. The Tamil people are not alone; they are united with and have the support of the progressive people around the world."

Palestine Solidarity in Glasgow

By Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee.

On Saturday 17 September, the Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee had a busy day both opposing imperialist Labour Party politicians and supporting the anti-imperialist struggle of the PLO.

Tony Benn, member of "Labour Friends of Israel" and arch-enemy of the Irish people who never tires of telling us how he supports Irish re-unification but forgets to tell us he voted for the introduction of the PTA, decided to 'honour' the people of Glasgow with a visit. It was bad enough having to put up with this unemployed imperialist visiting our city but to have this 'Friend of Israel' visit Glasgow on the day when Palestinians were marching to commemorate the Zionist massacres in Sabra and Shatilla proved too much for us to stomach. The GIFAC organised a picket of the Benn meeting around the slogans: Tony Benn - Friend of Zionism, Enemy of Ireland, Labour Party Murderer!

With the support of the Scottish

Republican Socialist Party (SRSP) and members of the SWP, the 30-strong picket far outnumbered the 'left' paper sellers who were desperately trying to drown out our militant chants. The few working class people who attended the meeting got our message and copies of 'Ireland's War' and 'Starry Plough' were eagerly snapped up whilst the middle class socialists and opportunists scurried away lest they were tainted with revolutionary anti-imperialism!

Leaflets advertising the Palestinian demonstration were given to everyone entering the meeting and people were called on to reject the pro-Zionism of Tony Benn and march side by side with the Palestinian struggle.

After the picket of Benn's meeting the GIFAC took a 'Palestine-Ireland: One Struggle - One Fight!' contingent on the Palestinian march. Our contingent was joined by the SRSP, the Glasgow IRSP Support Group, Glasgow Sinn Fein and revolutionary youth and was an impressive display of pro-Republicanism and anti-imperialism. The com-

licity of Labour Party supporters to Benn's pro-Zionism was shown by the fact that only a handful of people from his meeting attended the march. As we proceeded through Glasgow City Centre, the Palestinian comrades led militant chants of 'Hands Off Lebanon! British Forces Out! Victory to the PLO!'

At the rally after the march the Labour Party chairman had the nerve to read out a message of 'Solidarity' from Tony Benn which underlined his support for Israel by defending the 'right of all states in the area to exist within secure boundaries'. This position was also backed up in a speech by Michael Meacher, the 'left' contender for the Labour Party deputy leadership. However, these insults were adequately countered by the Palestinian speaker who militantly opposed Zionism and its friends in Scotland, Wales and England. Once again, GIFAC was proud to march with our Palestinian comrades and our newspaper 'Ireland's War' was well received by all the anti-imperialists on the march.

Lebanon Rises Up

(Continued from p.1.)

the Soviet Union, by continuing to support Syria) when, rather than have a progressive nationalist Lebanon emerge next door, it came to the aid of Lebanese fascism and saved the rightists at the eleventh hour.

ISRAELI INVASION

The situation temporarily stabilised after the intervention, but this could not last. When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, not only did it seek to wipe out the PLO, but also to crush the progressive forces in Lebanon. It hoped to establish a number of sectarian mini-states in Lebanon, under its domination. But things did not go according to plan. Palestinian and Lebanese resistance was far stronger than Israel's leaders had bargained for. Eventually with the evacuation of Beirut, they thought their goal was at last within reach, but again, they miscalculated.

Israel had considered that the Phalangists, under their leader Bashir Gemayel, could be treated as puppets, like their man Haddad in the south, but the Phalangists had ambitions of their own. Bashir Gemayel wanted to establish Phalangist domination of the whole of Lebanon,

but knew this to be impossible without some sort of accommodation with the elites of the non-Maronite communities; he would have to reject Israeli domination of the south, and refuse to sign a peace treaty with Israel if he was to secure this. He also hoped to build a Lebanese state directly tied to US imperialism, and the Israelis saw this as a threat to their own special relationship. They therefore arranged his assassination on September 15, 1982, and then occupied West Beirut, allegedly to "keep the peace".

"PEACE KEEPERS"

The occupation was almost certainly arranged in advance with the USA. Before the Palestinians left West Beirut, they and their main allies had accepted the introduction of the "international peace-keeping force", which was due to remain in Beirut until late September. However, the American force withdrew on September 11, (fourteen days early) and the French and Italian contingents soon followed, just in time for Israel to occupy Beirut, and turn the Lebanese fascists loose on Sabra and Shatilla camps, where they massacred 2,000 Palestinians and poor Lebanese.

Afterwards, Israel pulled out and the peace-keeping force returned, but it co-operated with the sectarian Lebanese army's round-up of leftists and progressives in West Beirut: the French contingent even participated in the round-ups. This showed that, far from being neutral, the peace-keeping force was there to protect western imperialist interests in Lebanon, and that meant supporting the Lebanese government against the patriotic forces.

RESISTANCE

Israel played a game of divide and rule in the areas it occupied. In the far south, which it hoped to hang onto, directly or indirectly, it gave a free hand to Haddad's militia. North of the Awali river, it permitted the Phalangists to operate. The mountainous Shouf area, South east of Beirut, was one in which there was little fighting during the civil war. It was mainly Druze and there were no Palestinians in the whole region. The Maronite villages there were not under Phalangist control and they lived at peace with their neighbours even at the height of the civil war. The Israelis helped the Phalangists to move into the Maronite villages, stirred up conflicts with the Druzes, and then portrayed themselves to the world as "peace-keepers" between warring factions."

Not Lebanese opposition could not be prevented by these means. A Lebanese National Resistance Front was formed, which conducted a highly successful guerilla war against the Israelis. Since the evacuation of Beirut, they have lost about 150 dead in south Lebanon and hundreds more wounded, mostly at the hands of Lebanese fighters, not Palestinians.

Israel could not go on taking such losses. It intensified pressure on the Lebanese government to sign a peace treaty, and it finally did so in May this year.

The Israelis said they would carry out a phased withdrawal, but their final withdrawal from Lebanon would depend on "all foreign forces" (i.e. Syrian and Palestinian) leaving. By this device, they would be able to pull out of the area where they were suffering their greatest losses, continue to occupy the area south of the Awali river, and put the blame for their refusal to pull back further on Syria and the PLO.

SUPPORT THE LEBANESE PEOPLE!

When the Lebanese government signed the "peace treaty" with Israel, not only did the leftist and nationalist forces of the former National Movement oppose this treasonous act: so did people who'd previously tried to remain neutral, and also many

rightists, including former President Franjeh. The main opponents of the treaty formed a "National Salvation Front" in July. They have a programme which includes the abrogation of the treaty.

Once Israel pulled out of the Shouf on September 3, the network of Phalangist posts there collapsed like a house of cards. 80 of them were rapidly seized by the patriotic forces. The government's attempt to replace the Israelis with the Lebanese army has also failed, in the face of mass resistance, and it has nearly been pushed back to its starting point. All that now saves it from being pushed out of the Shouf and West Beirut is the "international peace-keeping force".

The duty of progressives in Britain is clear. The Lebanese national forces must be supported, and imperialist intervention must be opposed. The British force in Beirut should be pulled out, as should the other imperialist troops. The will of the mass of the Lebanese people is clear, and must be respected. Come what may, Lebanon cannot be kept down, and will win independence and social progress, and go on making a worthy contribution to the Arab nation's anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist cause.

Behind the new PTA

Contributed

There is a popular misconception that the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) was introduced to enable the government of the day to deal with "terrorists", i.e. to give it the necessary "legal powers". In fact, all British governments have always been able to "deal with" anyone who, for whatever reason, they wish to arrest, imprison or deport. There have always been laws in such vague and all-embracing terms that any enthusiastic young (or not-so-young) copper on the beat could find some reason for arresting any citizen walking down the street....(obstruction; breach of the peace; suspicion of carrying drugs, etc.) A favourite in recent years has been 'conspiracy'.

Enacting a detailed law, such as the PTA, serves to "refine" the legal procedure, to speed the process and give more legal "bite" to the state judges when they sentence the "criminal". More importantly it also usually serves a specific political need of the ruling class, and that need, as far as the PTA is concerned, is to prevent the growth of any support for the just struggle of the Irish people for self-determination.

The effect of the PTA has, inevitably, fallen most drastically on Irish people, but it has also had serious effects among progressive, socialist and revolutionary movements in general.

The PTA, when enacted in 1974, was announced as a "regrettable but temporary Draconian measure", for a period of six months. It has now been going

for nearly 9 years, with various slight alterations.

It will soon be amended and extended as a result of the recommendations of Lord Jellicoe. The main departure from previous versions will be that police powers of arrest and detention are extended to include not only anyone 'suspected' of membership or support of Irish "terrorists", but also anyone they 'suspect' (no proof needed) is an 'international terrorist'.

All the other repressive sections of previous versions are retained, with only minor variations. For instance, it is still an offence to display in public any kind of support for a 'proscribed organisation' (i.e. IRA or INLA).

Thus the 'temporary' measure of 1974 has become virtually a permanent Draconian measure with no expressions of regret. It now includes the ruling class political requirement to prevent the growth of support for all freedom and national liberation struggles throughout the world, support which is a necessary element in the politics of any genuine revolutionary socialist party or group in this country. It is an expression of the political requirement of British imperialism to carry out a general offensive against all democratic rights and is the blueprint for what we will be subjected to increasingly over a wide range, e.g. the rights of national minorities and trade union rights.

It is important to understand that these acts are precisely what we claim - the political needs of the ruling class. There was hypocritical talk that Lord Jellicoe was 'reviewing

the working of the PTA impartially' and this was also claimed when Lord Shackleton did a similar review in 1977.

When Jellicoe was given the job of reviewing the PTA in early 1982 he said: "I feel that the main reason I have been asked is that Mr Whitelaw knows that I have no preconceived ideas on the subject."

This is the biggest lie and piece of ruling-class hypocrisy and arrogance that one can imagine; as also was the idea that Lord Shackleton could make an impartial review.

They are both members of the ruling-class and pillars of the Establishment, and the government knew they would come up precisely with the political requirements of the ruling-class (Lord Shackleton was deputy chairman of big business RTZ Corporation and had been in naval and military intelligence and held numerous high-ranking government positions, e.g. Lord Privy Seal, Paymaster-General, Leader of the House of Lords.)

Lord Jellicoe is an even more interesting character. Born in 1918, the son of Admiral Earl Jellicoe, he succeeded his father to the title in 1935.

In the Second World War he was in the Coldstream Guards, the Special Air Service (SAS) and the Special Boat Section (SBS). Before the war had ended Churchill had laid plans for the anti-communist campaign which commenced in Greece (1944-45). Jellicoe was in command of the SAS operations to smash the Greek ELAS Communist partisan fighters. An early baptism into the art of counter-insurgency against forces of freedom and socialism. The cold war continued to hot up and in

1949 British and US intelligence agencies, inspired chiefly by Labour's minister, Ernie Bevin, devised a joint plan for the destabilisation of socialist Albania and the overthrow of its leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha. By then Jellicoe had been in the British Foreign Service for two years and was First Secretary in the Washington Embassy. He was a member of the four-man Special Policy Committee in charge of the Albanian 'operations'. So he was very firmly entrenched in a career of secret intelligence counter-insurgency to maintain world imperialist domination against the spread of the anti-colonialist upsurge which was taking place.

Jellicoe later held many senior government posts and in 1973 was Leader of the House of Lords and also Lord Privy Seal, one of the highest State appointments, where he was in charge of the Civil Service Department. That year, one of the numerous government scandals occurred. Lord Lambton (of the Earl of Durham dynasty) was Minister for the RAF and was involved in a call-girl scandal, as a result of which he resigned. (Lambton regarded prostitutes as 'part of the life of all manly men', and he commented 'Surely all men patronise whores'.) In the course of investigations it transpired that Jellicoe also made a habit of 'patronising a Mayfair escort agency', and he also resigned. It later transpired that after the miners' strike of 1972 the government had set up a permanent National Security Committee (NSC) and the Chairman was none other than Jellicoe. (He was replaced by Lord Carrington after the Lambton affair.) Part of the NSC duties was "to carry out a study of the techniques of terrorism and to evolve methods of counter-terrorism". So it is plain that to the ruling class the miners had been guilty of terrorism; and, in fact, the official government

guidelines for defining terrorism make it clear that this includes any kind of movement which seeks to change government by 'unlawful means' (cf # at end)

From that time on Jellicoe cultivated big business connections: Director of S G Warburg & Co; Sotheby Holdings; Smiths Industries; Morgan Crucible; and Chairman of Tate & Lyle.

When he was asked by Whitelaw to 'review the PTA' in 1982 he said he was "gratified at his return to official governmental duties". We have no doubt that in the intervening years, 1973-1982, he was deeply involved in many un-official governmental duties.

The PTA is not merely to do with terrorism but is the framework for a military-fascist capitalist onslaught on all political forces whose aim is the establishment of peace and socialism. When more and more people become part of the social revolution to replace the decaying capitalist system, then we shall see the PTA extended to its ultimate intention - to include British terrorism, such as the miners' strike!

Note: The Special Branch closely link 'terrorism' and 'subversion'. In 1963 Lord Denning defined subversion as 'overthrow of the Government by unlawful means'.

In 1975 (after the miners' strike) Lord Harris defined it as "activities which threaten the safety or well-being of the state and are intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means".

In 1978 Merlyn Rees gave approval to the definition of Lord Harris - but he also offered his own definition, being "those who I think cause problems for the State"!!!

MATT LYGATE RELEASED

By Glasgow Irish Freedom Action Committee.

On Monday September 19 at 6.30 a.m., Matt Lygate walked out of Edinburgh's Saughton prison after 11½ years of incarceration. Matt, a militant Scottish Republican Socialist, was given a 24-year sentence for his alleged involvement in bank robberies to raise funds for the Workers' Party of Scotland. The severity of the sentence handed out to Matt was designed to intimidate those in Scotland who dared to fight against capitalism and imperialism and for socialism. As one lawyer put it, Matt got "8 years for bank robbery and 16 for politics."

Throughout his time in prison, Matt refused to desert his revolutionary principles and used his time to develop his politics and discuss with his fellow inmates, who nicknamed him "the wee political man". He fought for and successfully won the right to have Xinhua News Agency (the official Chinese news agency) reports sent in to him.

However, while Matt was inside, fighting for his own rights, he was forgotten and abandoned by the British left. As a political prisoner we might have expected the left to campaign on his behalf but it seems his revolutionary Scottish Republican Socialist beliefs were too much for the London-dominated British left and it wasn't until the Scottish Republican Socialist Party put up a 'Free Matt Lygate' candidate in the recent Glasgow Queens Park By-Election that people were reminded of Matt's plight. After the By-Election, the SRSP set up the 'Free Matt Lygate Campaign'



Matt Lygate met by some of his supporters outside Saughton Prison, Edinburgh.

which was supported by members of Matt's family, the GIFAC and the RCG. Despite repeated applications for parole it wasn't until the Free Matt Lygate Campaign had been set up and was taking its message to the working people of Scotland that Matt was finally given a release date. The campaign for Matt Lygate was victorious and this fighter for Scottish Republicanism and socialism is free.

Members of Matt's family, the SRSP and GIFAC travelled through to Edinburgh to greet Matt on his release and his continued commitment to revolutionary socialism and Scottish Republicanism is an inspiration to us all. In a statement he proclaimed:

"I came out my own man, not institutionalised, not broken. I think the authorities tried to get me to crack but I didn't and I never made any secret of my politics. My basic tenets remain the same."

The GIFAC welcomes Matt's freedom and congratulates him on his never-ending spirit of resistance which he displayed during his 11½ years of imprisonment.

Home at Last

At the end of August, Ann and Eileen Gillespie arrived home in Ireland after spending 9½ years in English prisons.

They had been sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for bombings in which they had no part and were released on completion of their sentences, less normal remission. They spent nearly all their sentences in the top security prison at Durham. In an act of vile callousness, the British Home Office in April this year refused them parole to attend their father's funeral, though that was a mere four months before their release date.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DEFEND GIFAC
Picket Glasgow District Court,
St Andrews Street.

Mon. October 3: 9.30-10.30 am.
Tues. October 4: 1.30-2.30 pm.

GIFAC PUBLIC MEETING

'END THE STRIP-SEARCHING
DEFEND THE ARMAGH WOMEN!'

Thursday 20 October, 7.30 pm.
Room 4, City Halls, Albion St.,
Glasgow.

DUNDEE IRISH REPUBLICAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN PUBLIC MEETING

'Despite Informers, the War
Goes On!'

Wednesday 26 October

7-9 p.m.
Central Library Conference Room,
Dundee.

10 October

General Meeting of the National
Campaign Against
the Police Bill

7.30 pm at Camden Town Hall

19 November

National Conference of the
National Campaign Against
The Police Bill

3 December

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST THE POLICE BILL

From Brixton to Trafalgar
Square.

Britain mounts show trials

(Continued from p.8.)

squeezing republicans like
toothpaste.

"We are still here, so there's no need to get confused about what is happening. We should take an example from the women in Ballymurphy and Springhill who, since the murder of "Kidso" Reilly, have been out with whistles and bin-lids informing people in the area when the British army and RUC are making incursions.

"We should support all protests, rallies, demonstrations, pickets and lobbies. We should be ensuring that our neighbours, our friends and our associates know exactly what's happening.

"Generally, the message from here today is not to believe the "Sun" or the "Mirror", or what some of the other media are saying, when we know that they are saying it from a direct feed from the RUC. We must work from our own knowledge and experience, and our knowledge of the situation is this: the British government can never beat a consciously risen and hostile section of the Irish people."

STOP PRESS: As "CS" was going to press, news came through of a massive break-out from Long Kesh. This is another major success for Irish republicans and a massive humiliation for the British government, which thought it had made Long Kesh escape-proof. For years, the British forces have been using infra-red aerial photography to detect escape tunnels, and now 38 prisoners have bust out through the main gates.

This was the biggest prison breakout ever carried out by Irish republicans, whose ingenuity has once more beaten the British occupation forces.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



Torment in Armagh

Over the past two years, Irish republicans have notched up a series of successes against the British occupation authorities. But the more they have nailed the lie that their organisations have no support, the more the British authorities have intensified repression of the nationalist people, with their "shoot-to-kill" policy, and their round-ups of republican activists on the "evidence" of informers.

But it's not only out on the streets and in their homes that republicans have been the objects of intensified British repression. Over the past year, women in Armagh prison have faced increased torment from their captors.

STRIP SEARCHES

Last year, Thomas Murtagh was appointed Governor of the women's prison at Armagh. This "born-again Christian" instituted a more brutal regime than had previously been in force; clearly, he could not do this without the say-so of his superiors. His most barbaric act was the introduction of strip searching.

The pretext for this measure was an incident last October, when a young non-political prisoner picked up some keys which an RUC officer had carelessly left lying in an ante-room of a magistrates court, and took them back to prison with her. The fact that she only came into possession of the keys because of the negligence of one of the Crown's own was not considered relevant; Murtagh seized on this as an excuse to begin the strip search policy.

The policy was introduced on November 9th last year. Whenever the women enter or leave prison - for court appearances, hospital visits, inter-prison



Women demonstrators call out the names of the prisoners in Armagh.

visits and even after seeing visitors - they have to enter cubicles and strip. The curtains pulled across the cubicles only cover them from the waist down, and they can be seen not only by women warders, but also by any male ones who happen to be around. They must pass their clothes out for inspection and then have their bodies examined by prison staff. Covering of a sort is offered, but since putting on these skimpy bits of material would only prolong the body search, the women refuse them, preferring to get it all over with as quickly as possible.

The conclusion that this is the main aim of carrying out strip searches is supported by consideration of the wider prison context in which they're taking place.

Since Murtagh became governor, women on remand have been isolated from other prisoners. When women leave their cells, they are locked, and they have to get special permission to get anything from there.

Under Murtagh's administration, there has been a marked rise in the use of petty rules by warders, as well as severe punishments, though they're not applied consistently. This also indicates that a psychological war is being waged on the women: they'll never be quite certain of exactly where they stand. The authorities' message is: "Obey, submit unquestioningly, don't dare do anything which just might be out of line. You are at our mercy."

During their periods, women are required to remove their sanitary protection for inspection - and this, despite the fact that no republican woman in the last year has been found attempting to smuggle anything in or out of Armagh.

Three women who refused to strip naked were violently set upon by prison officers, and forcibly stripped. This happened twice to Catherine Moore, from Derry.

"ROUTINE AND NECESSARY"

When a number of MPs and councillors wrote letters of protest

about the strip searches, the Northern Ireland Office sent back a reply stating that the searches were "routine and necessary". Yet clearly, "prison security" isn't what makes them "necessary", as women are searched even when they return to prison after very brief court appearances, when they have not had the slightest chance to take anything and conceal it about them. If they're "routine" then this only shows how ready the British state is to make barbaric practices against captives normal.

HARASSMENT

It is evident that the main reason for the strip searches is to humiliate and degrade the prisoners. Reactionary regimes around the world try to break the spirit of their political prisoners so that they become "tame" and give up the fight. Some try to gain by the degradation of their prisoners what they cannot obtain by any amount of direct physical violence, and Britain has plenty of experience in this field.

In a statement issued at the end of August, women POWs outlined what they were now facing:

"Since the ending of our "no work" protest in February of this year, we republicans have had to contend with increasing coercion from the prison regime Women are appearing before the governor on bogus charges which warrant severe punishment such as solitary confinement of minimum three-day periods at any one time. Other such penalties for breach of "disciplinary rules" range from loss of remission, unlimited lock-up (i.e. loss of night association) to suspension of such privileges as visits, etc."

An escalation of pressure on the prisoners came right at the

end of August, during a Prison Officers Association dispute in the north of Ireland. For two weeks, 12 republican POWs in "A" and "B" wings in Armagh had been dependent on food parcels sent in to the prison as their only sustenance. This was because the warders had insisted that the established practice of republican orderlies collecting meals and distributing them to the women should cease, and that each woman should collect her food individually. The republican POWs refused to accept this, and lived off their food parcels. With the prison officers' dispute, this remaining food supply was cut.

Sinn Fein MP Gerry Adams condemned the Armagh prison authorities:

"Prison rules have been stretched to their limit in an effort to mentally and physically break the women in Armagh. What kind of satisfaction could any individual or regime gain from strip-searching, humiliating, harassing and starving a captive group of women, must be beyond the most debased mind."

He called for the removal of Governor Murtagh from his post.

The women refuse to be broken, resisting each and every effort to grind them down by withdrawing rights or imposing new restrictions or rules. Their determination will beat the British state.

A "Stop the Strip Searches Campaign" was set up by women in London earlier this year. Anyone wanting more information or wishing to give financial or other support should contact the campaign c/o A Woman's Place Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2.

BRITAIN MOUNTS SHOW TRIALS

Britain has mounted a big show trial campaign against Irish republicans in the north of Ireland, and its main weapon in this campaign has been the paid informer.

On August 4, Judge Basil Kelly, a former Unionist MP, jailed 21 men and one woman for periods totalling 4,022 years for membership of the IRA and a host of other "offences". This was on the uncorroborated "evidence" of informer Christopher Black, who was rewarded for his treachery and lies by being given a new identity, being fixed up with a new place to live (believed to be racist South Africa), paid, and exempted from any legal proceedings for his activities before he turned informer.

More trials have followed where the prosecution case has rested on informers' "evidence", and more are pending. Among 10 men currently threatened with long terms of imprisonment on the evidence of paid informer, Kevin McGrady, is Jim Gibney, who at the time of his arrest was Sinn Fein national organiser.

ARRESTS

A series of arrests took place

in Belfast in September based on the statements of two informers. William Skelley, a man who has a long history of going to the RUC with claims about involvement in IRA operations (claims that were always in the past proved to be unfounded even to the RUC's satisfaction!), gave "evidence" which resulted in the arrest of seven men on charges of IRA membership, killings, possession of firearms and other offences. Among those rounded up at the time was Robert Lean, who Skelley had claimed was involved in some killings.

Lean turned informer, and on his word, the RUC arrested 14 more men and two women.

MOTIVES

What makes people like Black or Lean turn over to the RUC former comrades and innocent people they scarcely know? Generally they have either received long sentences or know that, if found guilty of the charges made against them, they will receive such sentences. They are isolated from other prisoners, so that pressure can be applied on them in the ab-

sence of the direct solidarity of colleagues who are themselves steadfast and who would support their resistance to RUC threats and promises. They may well be subjected to violence; the RUC's record on this is well established. Like Black, they are promised their freedom (or very much reduced sentences), the protection of a new identity and a home away from Ireland, and money.

John Carson, from Belfast, recently released when an informer retracted his testimony, said that he'd been offered up to £50,000 if he'd incriminate other people. Sean Seamus O'Hara, brother of dead INLA hunger striker, Patsy O'Hara, has told of how in March 1982, he was offered £50,000 and a new identity if he'd identify as members of the INLA people whom the RUC named.

The RUC demand that once people agree to inform, they pay the full price for what they're offered in exchange. The informer is given every incentive to implicate many people, and it doesn't matter much what they've done or not done.

BRITISH OBJECTIVES

Two main objectives lie behind the use of informers and the show trials.

One is obviously to get rid of republican activists - not only military ones, but political activists too. While this can do some damage, new activists are steadily coming forward; internment, intimidation and murder have failed over the years to break republican strength, which, on the contrary, has grown.

The other aim is to sow distrust among the nationalist people. By giving plenty of publicity to the trials, and to allegations that certain informers held responsible positions in republican organisations, the British authorities hope to make republican soldiers doubt their comrades, neighbours in nationalist areas suspect each other, and even make people feel uncertain about talking republicanism with their closest friends.

COUNTER MEASURES

There hasn't been a single measure taken by British

imperialism against the Irish people since 1969 which they have not been able to overcome. Since Britain began parading its informers, some at least, have been persuaded by their families to retract their statements. At the end of August, a meeting of 140 people in West Belfast, many of them relatives of people framed up by informers, agreed to call a conference to launch a broad six county-wide campaign against the informer show trials on October 2nd.

It also called a demonstration for September 11th. There Gerry Adams MP stated: "Sinn Fein is not and never will be on the run." He went on to speak about how the nationalist people should respond to the latest British tactics: "We shouldn't be panicked, confused, or in any way demoralised about it. Many forces that I see about here today were here in 1971, and they told us that internment would put us on the run. It didn't. Margaret Thatcher told us that republicans were playing their last card and they weren't and Ray Mason said that he was

(Continued on p.7.)