

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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fortnightly 8p

## THE COURTS AND THE LAW — WHOSE SIDE ARE THEY ON?



*Welsh workers show massive solidarity in Cardiff*  
On Friday January 25th, 16 private steel companies applied to the Queen's Bench division of the High Court for an injunction banning the extension of the steel strike to the private sector. At this level they failed to get their injunction. So they immediately appealed to Lord Denning, "Master of the Rolls". The slow "wheels of justice" turned out to be not so slow when it comes to satisfying the demands of capitalism. Denning hastily rigged up a hearing the following day in order to grant the private steel bosses' application. Denning refused permission to the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) to appeal to the House of Lords. But even this decision could be appealed against. So the ISTC appealed and the wheels of justice returned to their slow pace while the Law Lords judged the effectiveness of Denning's ban. Instead of crushing the struggle of steel-workers thousands of steel-workers in the private sector struck in anger at Denning's ruling. Denning disregarded even the letter of bourgeois law and had exposed by his ban the fraud of the courts impartiality. In justifying his decision he said:

"The disastrous effect such a strike as this will have on the economy and the well-being of this country means it is only right that the court should grant injunctions to stop these people being called out and stop all this picketing".

In other words strikes and picketing should be banned in the national interests i.e. the interest of capitalism.

### LAW LORDS SHARE OPPORTUNISTS' FEARS

After Denning's ruling, ISTC leader Bill Sirs panicked. The class bias of the courts was clearly

exposed. But Sirs failed to show this. Instead he set himself against the justified anger of the workers and complained:

"...It will worsen the situation. Even people who are not involved will want to take part".

On Friday the 1st February, the Law Lords decided that they agreed with Sirs and over-ruled the injunction. Their chief concern was to protect the image of the impartiality of the law. Denning in his eagerness to serve the bourgeoisie overstepped the mark and precipitated a political struggle which was drawing in even broader sections of the working class. In not taking advantage of Denning's ruling to expose the law courts as serving the bourgeoisie, Bill Sirs has sought to restrict the strike to a purely economic struggle for higher wages. As such he is doing a better job than Denning of serving the bourgeoisie. The steel workers' struggle is taking on more of a political character.

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## BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN THE DOCK

"The British decision to renew for another six months the state of emergency and to maintain martial law in the territory is a serious violation of the spirit and intent of the Lancaster House agreement and that decision should be rescinded". This angry denunciation of British manoeuvres in Zimbabwe was spoken by C.Cecil Dennis on behalf of the Organisation of African Unity at the opening of the United Nations Security Council debate on the situation in "Rhodesia". Besides condemning the use by Lord Soames, the British Governor, of racist and fascist laws brought into force by Smith, the African countries put forward four demands to force Britain to respect the agreement to hold "free and fair elections":

1. Expel all South African troops and all mercenaries forthwith from Zimbabwe;
2. Confine forthwith the Rhodesian Security and auxiliary forces to their bases;
3. Release all political prisoners;
4. Allow all Zimbabwean exiles to return home without threat, intimidation or arrest in conformity with the Lancaster House agreement".

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## ZANU FUND P. 7

# KICK OUT MISLEADERS!

More than 200 branches have called for the removal of Duffy and the entire Executive Council of the AUEW because of their handling of the victimisation of Derek Robinson. Robinson, a toolmaker and Chairman of the British Leyland Combine Committee was sacked from British Leyland in November for simply putting his name to a pamphlet. The pamphlet produced by the Combine Committee was called "The Edwards Plan and Your Job."

As soon as the news of Robinson's dismissal went around, thousands of workers at Longbridge and other plants went on strike to oppose this blatant victimisation. The T&GWU made the strike official on Monday 26th November. The AUEW Executive, the very next day, instructed its members to return to work and cross the official T&GWU picket lines. All the AUEW did was to announce an enquiry into the dismissal which to this date has not yet reported back! The AUEW Executive were clearly determined to defeat the strike and diffuse the struggle.

Even the *Sunday Times* admitted that "If the charge of misconduct is successfully used in this catch-all way against Robinson, no shop steward in the land should any longer feel safe." Duffy and the rest of the leadership of the AUEW have no interest in defending shop floor organisation against attack. They have shown this especially in their practice over recent months.

## DUFFY TRUSTS BOSSES

At a recent meeting of the British Institute of Management and the Institute of Industrial Managers held at the Carlton Hotel in Cheltenham, Duffy told the bosses, "My task is to convince workers that management can be trusted. I believe in sincerity. If we haven't got it, we cannot sell in Britain. I don't believe in strikes. I have never led a strike in my life... No victory can come from a strike.

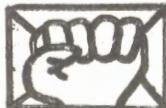
Cont'd from front page ABOUT STEEL STRIKE

## ANTI-UNION LAWS SPEEDED UP

The law lords' decision will mean that the Government will speed its so-called Employment Bill through Parliament. It may even be rushed through at the same pace as the Prevention of Terrorism Act which abolished some basic rights at one fell swoop in the name of fighting terrorism. Bill Sirs may have had this in mind when he fought to give the private steel bosses one week's notice before re-summing the strike.

For the opportunists to preach observance of

From our  
postbag



The Editor - CS,  
New Era Books, 203  
Seven Sisters Rd.  
London N.4

Dear Comrades,

We have received your Special Issue of *Class Struggle* on Kampuchea with the greatest pleasure. We are also happy that this issue has been worked out by *Class Struggle* and *New Age*. The unification between the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain and the Communist Workers' Movement will indeed improve your efficiency of struggle and broaden your scope of action, and therefore will bring about new contributions to defend world peace by supporting the Kampuchean people's cause against the Vietnamese special war of racial extermination. There exists in Britain a great sympathy for the Kampuchean people. We have a common interest in the struggle against expansionism in Southeast Asia as

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The main victory we can have is harmonisation".

In early December, the AUEW Northfield Branch in Birmingham, which has a majority of Leyland Longbridge workers, immediately called for the removal of the entire AUEW Executive Council. They charged the Council with bringing the union into disrepute. Their resolution read:

"This Northfield Branch of the AUEW censures the AUEW Executive Council for;

1. Failing to defend one of their leading shop stewards, Brother Derek Robinson, who was victimised by top British Leyland management in a completely unconstitutional manner, as confirmed by the local full-time official Brother B.Benson.

2. For failing to defend the most basic hard won rights of their members - the right to free speech.

3. For failing to support the thousands of members who had taken industrial action in defence of that right, to make their strike official in spite of the unanimous full recommendation of the Birmingham West District Committee.

4. For dividing the trade union movement by instructing their members to return to work by crossing the official picket lines of another union

We believe the Executive Council has brought our union into complete disrepute and we therefore call on the General Secretary to hold an immediate ballot on the removal of the entire Executive Council as per Rule 15, para 5."

So far, over 200 branches have supported this Northfield resolution to remove the present reactionary Executive. If 280 or so branches support it then the ballot will have to be held. Certainly, Sir John Boyd, General Secretary of the AUEW and the future "Lord Duffy" are getting nervous.

*Class Struggle* Correspondent.

injunctions and anti-worker laws is to preach treachery to the workers' struggles and subservience to the capitalist state's legal powers. The militancy and class consciousness of the steel-workers forced a climb down by the law lords. The same militancy will defeat anti-worker laws.

## LONDON MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS

February 8th....British capitalism in crisis  
March 7th.....Imperialism and the working class  
At the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London W1  
Organised by the RCLB, c/o New Era Books. 7.30pm

well as in Europe and in the world.

With our warmest congratulations, we wish you more and greater victories in this 1980. May 1980 be the year of the victory of the forces cherishing independence, peace and justice over the Vietnamese regional expansionists.

Fraternal salutations,  
Embassy of Democratic Kampuchea,  
Beijing.

Dear Editor,

Your article "Abortion and the right to choose" purported to present a working class position on abortion. I do not believe this is so. The article considers the trade union struggle as more important than other political struggles and separates itself from many working women. I do not intend to deal with pseudo-scientific or abstract philosophical arguments here. They have no place

in our Marxist view. Reality is what we have to consider.

We live in a world where unmarried mothers are still looked down on. They face poverty, harassment, poor housing and social stigma. For a married woman another pregnancy may be the difference between "coping" and the last straw.

It is the bourgeoisie who see life in pounds and pence, closing nurseries so that women cannot go to work and cutting health care. We care about life. Our children are our future. To workers and communists people are precious and life matters.

Your article says that the effect of the Corrie Bill will be disastrous, but it is wrong on why. Women will need abortions in just the numbers they do now. The facilities at present are inadequate. All the Corrie Bill will do is cut the cost to the NHS and drive those women to the backstreets. The slogan "Abortion: Keep it legal - Keep it safe" is a good one. But "the right to choose" is abstract. The "choice" is a false one forced on many women by capitalist society.

The article is correct that the net effect of restricting abortions, cutting nurseries etc is to drive women into the home. However, it goes on "...much more threatening to them is the increasing unity of working class women and men which is only possible through women working and fighting alongside men...". What about women fighting in tenants associations and against nursery and hospital closures? Working makes women more independent. But the trade union leaders make sure divisions continue, and try to ensure women don't fight alongside men.

The most important fact omitted is that for national minority women, the struggle is to have the right to have children. Sterilisations have been forced on women in hospitals in East London. One consultant in Liverpool pressurises poor women especially from Bootle, which is predominantly Catholic, to have their "tubes tied" after 2 children while they are still in the ante-natal clinic. He is considered "progressive" because he will give abortions freely especially if you are poor, black or catholic. He is also the most well known user of the experimental drug Depo-Provera in Liverpool.

In the USA the women's movement has taken up slogans in favour of reproductive rights. This unites with all women and men who suffer the evils of bourgeois society. The article is correct in its general thrust that only with socialism will people matter enough that pregnancy really can become a choice. Infertility and unwanted pregnancies will be a rarity and forced sterilisations and inadequate contraception a thing of the past.

A Liverpool Reader.

Dear Editor,

On Saturday January 26th, a neat piece of direct action was taken against a Liverpool shop which had a record of racial discrimination. Several complaints were made against the Army and Navy Stores, but the final straw was the (alleged) beating up of a black youth by a security guard there. A letter of complaint was sent to the manager, but after ten days no reply had been received. The Liverpool Black Organisation, Merseyside Anti-Racist Alliance Community Relations Council and the Alinsky Project decided on an answer of their own. They descended on the shop, their pockets bulging with halfpenny pieces, and caused half an hour's worth of havoc by buying small items with very small change! Management capitulated and agreed to a meeting with representatives of the organisations concerned - meanwhile a great time had been had by all.

A.L.

## A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ WHILE THE PILKINGTONS GLASSMAKING GROUP AWAIT Governmental approval for big investment on the Continent, cutbacks at home will make 1,400 workers redundant over the next three years. Pilkingtons plan to purchase 18 glass making factories from the French glassmaking company BSN at a cost of £120 million. In Britain they employ 22,000 people and 12,000 of these at the St Helens plant. St Helens is witnessing the destruction of its coal industry with the closure of the Lea Green Colliery in 1964, the Clockface in 1966, Ravenhead in 1968 and Woodpit in 1971. This leaves just two pits open employing 2,300 workers and 5,200 workers unemployed (1,000 over 60 years old). Thus St Helens relies on the Pilkington group to employ a quarter of its working population and 38% of its men. This manoeuvring of Pilkingtons and the resulting problems in St Helens are typical of our unplanned capitalist economy which shows no concern for the overall prosperity of the area nor acknowledges the right to work.

■ DESPITE BRITISH GAS PROFITS OF AROUND £500 million in the next financial year, the Government have announced a substantial increase in the price of gas. Next year, on some of the Governments own estimates, British Gas could be making as much as £700-800 million profit. Tory spokesman David Howell has argued that the increase is designed to keep the price of gas in line with other fuels. However it is becoming increasingly obvious that the price increase is nothing more than a disguised levy designed to raise an extra £2,300 million for the Government. The *Sunday Times* accuses the Government of concealing the true reasons for the increase and points out that "...poorer people spend more of their income on fuel and power and that ...there can be no doubt that a consumer gas tax is regressive against the poor". Call it what you will, the increase in the price of gas will inevitably lead to the deaths of many more old and poor people this winter.

■ SIX MEN CONVICTED OF THE BIRMINGHAM PUB BOMBINGS of 1974 have been refused leave to sue the West Midlands police for beatings they allege they received while in police custody. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, ruled that the men could not bring a case because their allegations of assault had been explored thoroughly during their trial in 1975. Lord Denning said further, "they were convicted of murder and sentenced to imprisonment for life, yet the state continued to lavish large sums on their actions against the police. It is high time they were stopped". According to Lord Denning "this case shows what a civilised country we are". In fact the beatings presumed that they were guilty before any trial took place and raise the whole question of whether they received a fair trial in the first place.

■ YET ANOTHER REPRESSIVE BILL IS BEING SNEAKED through Parliament. It is called the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill and it will give police in Scotland sweeping powers to stop and detain "suspects". It will give authority to stop and search anyone for offensive weapons, and without charging them, detain suspects for up to six hours and take their fingerprints. We have learnt how police use legislation like this since the Prevention of Terrorism Act was passed. Everyday objects are termed offensive weapons and much police brutality and intimidation can be packed into that six hours. Besides being used to intimidate Scottish people, the Act would be used as a precedent for a similar Bill in England and Wales. Lets give our strong support to the campaign that has already been launched against the Bill.

# "Nothing will put me of

The following interview with Lilly Shaw, sister of Jimmy Kelly and member of the Jimmy Kelly Action was recently conducted by *Class Struggle*.

*Class Struggle*: What was your response when you first heard of Jimmy Kelly's death?

*Lilly*: I got a telephone call saying Jimmy had died of a heart attack. When all the family got together, the people in Barkbeth Road where Jimmy was, arrested were talking about the way the police were beating a man the night before. Eddy, the elder brother, was on holiday. He went to the hospital and noticed a mark on Jimmy's forehead. Eddy asked me to phone our own family doctor to check Jimmy's body over. My husband said that it's not a doctor you need but a pathologist. So he phoned a solicitor who phoned around seven times before he got Doctor Tolly who accepted. All the other pathologists refused when the police were mentioned. Eddy went next day to the coroners inquest which was opened and adjourned. The inquest was for 10.45. He got there just turned 10.40 and asked where Jimmy Kelly's inquest was to be opened. The lady said she didn't know and that she would phone and find out. At 11.05 he was still waiting. After saying to the woman have you been told not to say anything, she said: "All I can say is that it may be in Delf Lane". We didn't know at the time, but inquests are normally held there. She, surely must have known this. Over at Delf Lane the coroners' officer was talking to Bobby, one of the brothers and his wife. They had the burial order. A few members of the family asked about Jimmy, whether there were any marks on his body. He refused to let any of the family see his body. He said that there were no marks, only that were visual. That was the forehead, the chin and the back of his neck. Eddy asked what the marks were on his arms. There was a big gash about 7 inches long. He said these bruises were from the handcuffs and the postmortem. I asked if there was any internal injuries. He said none whatsoever. So, I asked who ordered the inquest. He said that it's the coroner who decides if there is a postmortem, not the family, and I have the

authority to order the inquest. So, I said if he died of an heart attack, why did you order an inquest? He said in case of allegations. In the end, he turned round and said - "well, there are allegations from people like yourself who say about brutality and this is why it was ordered." He assured us that Jimmy was handled with kid gloves. He still maintained this after Alan Usher's and our pathologist's postmortem.

Eddy, then said that we were getting a doctor in. His words were that you can get two, three, four or five doctors. So, I turned round and said that we're not getting a doctor, we're getting a pathologist. His immediate reaction was, "it will cost you".

All through this our pathologist has come through all kinds of obstacles. We got the burial order on the 22nd June (1979) when they opened the inquest. We were told afterwards, when our pathologist did a postmortem, that the heart was removed. Not one member of the family was told this before. Yet that coroner gave us the burial order. Our own pathologist has had sight of the heart whilst Alan Usher (the third pathologist) was examining it. But he was never in contact with the heart. His words were that Benstead (the first pathologist) kept getting in his way.

*Class Struggle*: What did the neighbours round here say when they first heard about it?

*Lilly*: It was that quiet. Everyone was shocked. But then, at the funeral, the public and a lot of people from Barkbeth road were outside the church, and they followed the funeral to the cemetery demanding a public enquiry. But there was also a lot of police cars that attended the funeral. Apparently, although I don't know because I was in the funeral car, as members of the public were walking, the police were jeering them. It was that reaction which made the public set up the Jimmy Kelly Action Committee.

*Class Struggle*: What did you think of the police before Jimmy Kelly's death?

*Lilly*: I can honestly say that I have had no trouble with the police. I have always respected the police and I still respect the police. But there is an odd

## Liverpool Precinct Five — Three acquitted, retrial for two

In the trial of 2 young blacks framed by police and security guards in Liverpool, the jury failed to reach a verdict. Eugene Sylvester, aged 20, was charged with causing "actual bodily harm", and he and Karl John, 17, were charged with "affray". The charges arose out of an incident in February, 1979, in which security guards had attacked them with truncheons in Liverpool's St John's Precinct (See *Class Struggle*, August 24th, Vol 3, No 17). Police then waded in and attacked all blacks in the vicinity, shouting racist abuse. Witnesses for the defence gave conclusive evidence that the security guards had wielded truncheons in the attack. The guards swore they had not but they were proved to be liars. However, the prosecution tried to prove there was a plan to cause a disturbance. Evidence on how long the lads had been in the precinct was confusing, and the prosecution played on this minor matter. After some hours, the jury announced they could not reach a verdict, and the judge ordered a new trial.

On the same day three girls arrested in the same incident came up in the Magistrates' Court,

charged with "disorderly conduct". All three were acquitted. One police witness even failed to identify one of the accused whom he had arrested.

The re-trial of Eugene and Karl comes up in the week beginning Feb, 11th. The Liverpool Precinct Five Defence Committee, which has given militant and effective support to these victims of racist violence, is continuing to organise for their case.

*Class Struggle* Correspondent, Liverpool.

"In all the years that I have worked in community relations, never once have the police upheld a complaint against themselves".

This statement from the Rev. Ron Walters, Senior Community Relations Officer for Waltham Forest was made because the Rev. Walters was attacked by Local Councillors after he had made some criticisms of the police in his annual report to the Community Relations Council. Defending his report he argued that "It is very difficult to get the police to admit they have bad people in their midst".

Exactly! And that says something about the police force as a whole, doesn't it! Contributed.

# f fighting for Jimmy..."

few that we need to be shut of.

*Class Struggle:* Why do you think they are afraid to have the truth come out and want to hush it up?

*Lilly:* They say that they don't want to hush it up - that it is still subjudice and that they are not allowed to comment. So at the present stage, I believe what they are saying. But eventually there will be a time when it is not subjudice and they have got to answer these questions.

*Class Struggle:* What was the first reaction of the local chief of police? Did he make a statement?

*Lilly:* He has made no statement to the family. Nobody has been near the family. Not even to say that they are sorry. Robert was woken up at 01.45 in the early hours of Thursday 21st of June, and asked if he knew a man with a tatoo of an archer on his arm. He said that it sounded like his uncle Jimmy and asked what was wrong. They said that they found Jimmy lying unconscious on wasteground. He asked them what state he was in and they said a pretty bad state. Inspector Gerty was called out and he assured us he was going to do a full investigation himself. Gerty and no other member of Liverpool police has since been near Robert for any statement whatsoever. Inspector Gerty hasn't even been to interview two of the eye witnesses.

*Class Struggle:* You spoke to me earlier about your attendance at a trade union meeting yesterday. Could you say something about this?

*Lilly:* The meeting was in Kirkby and a member of the public got in touch with us and asked if we would care to go along and express our own views on Jimmy's case. We came out of there with 100 per cent support. We had appeal forms for raising £10,000 in order to be represented by QC at the enquiry. These men last night were scrambling to get hold of these appeal forms and put them round their factories. A businessman at the meeting said he saw two boys just arguing between themselves about football. A police chief stopped and said, "you're arguing". One lad answered "we're not, we're just debating between ourselves". One policeman then said, "yes, you are" and threw him in the van. Seeing this himself and reading the Jimmy Kelly case, the businessman said that it makes

him frightened that he could be the next one that's dead.

*Class Struggle:* Can you tell me what the reaction has been to the proposal for an independent body to do random checks on police stations?

*Lilly:* The majority of the public, I could say 100% of the people that we've come across are all in favour of it because if we have a selected body going round at random, especially at weekends, checking on prisoners; the prisoners themselves won't retaliate or resist getting arrested if they know they have got someone checking up that they are alright. The whole purpose is that if you are arrested, you will look the same when you are discharged.

*Class Struggle:* Can you recall any message of support which has particularly encouraged you to keep fighting for Jimmy?

*Lilly:* I'll keep on fighting for Jimmy, because Jimmy Kelly is my brother. And nothing will put me off fighting for Jimmy. I owe it to Jimmy. But regarding meetings we've been to a lot of meetings and everyone that has stood up has, more or less, had the same story. It goes on. Not only in Huyton, but all over. Not just people that I know, that are out of work. Even businessmen of every category have had a tale to tell, of brutality that has happened to them.

*Class Struggle:* The campaign has built up a lot of momentum and it is well in the public eye now. The authorities cannot ignore it. Where do you go from here?

*Lilly:* We're going where we said we're going right at the beginning. Although we welcome this enquiry brought out in the House of Commons yesterday to look into all the deaths in police custody, our first demand was for a full independent enquiry into Jimmy's death and we are still campaigning until we get that. And if we don't get justice, we fully intend to take it to Strasbourg.

## RCL-CWM PRESS FUND

On January 1st, 1980 the Revolutionary Communist League and the Communist Workers Movement announced their decision to unite.

Unity gives us many opportunities to advance revolutionary politics in Britain. One of the most important results will be the development of our revolutionary press. Unity will bring the merger of the editorial committees of *Class Struggle* and *New Age*. This will improve the content of our paper. But that advance must also be accompanied by improvements in our presentation. We want to produce a 12 page fortnightly paper by summer and we need new equipment to improve the layout and look of our paper.

Our aim is to develop the liveliness and readability of *Class Struggle* and to involve more people in writing for it. We want workers in the factories, people on the housing estates, activists in many struggles to help build up *Class Struggle* as their own paper. We want you to write for it, to organise around it, to sell it.

But it also takes money. We can't do everything at once but we can make a good start. We urge all

readers of *Class Struggle* and *New Age* and all those who want to see a genuine revolutionary paper produced in Britain again to dig deep into their pockets. Send a lump sum now or send a little every week. If you can only afford 10p it is welcome. It all builds up.

Unity gives us opportunities, but we need money to take them all.

All donations to:

NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N.4.  
Please include a note saying its for RCL/CWM Press Fund.

## HELP BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION



# ISLAMIC COUNTRIES CONDEMN ALL FULL BACKING FOR AFGHANISTAN AND

At a three day special conference, the foreign ministers of Islamic countries united against imperialism and superpower contention. Five resolutions were passed unanimously at the three-day meeting.

The conference backed "the struggle against all forms of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, expansion, apartheid and racism, including Zionism, exploitation, the use of force, and all forms and manifestations of foreign occupation, domination and hegemony". One of the resolutions went on to record "grave concern at the efforts of certain great powers to exert various forms of pressures on the Islamic states, threatening the use of force against them, and to interfere in their internal affairs, and to establish military bases on their territories to protect the interests of these great powers and their strategic plans in the context of the struggle raging between them." The resolution emphasised the need to unite with the rest of the third world.

## SOVIET EXPANSIONISM ATTACKED

In other resolutions the conference condemned "the presence of military forces of the Soviet Union and some of its allies in the horn of Africa" and demanded "the total and unconditional withdrawal of these foreign troops". The foreign ministers also pledged themselves "to liquidate foreign bases in the horn of Africa and the Red Sea, and to remove these areas from the conflict between the great powers". If this resolution is carried through it will be a major blow for peace and

independence, and a major blow to both superpowers. Specifically it represents a rebuke to the attempts by the USA to establish new bases in response to Soviet aggression. The USA has made it clear that its opposition to Soviet expansion is purely for its own selfish motivation. The Islamic countries such as Pakistan can use this to their own advantage to gain aid, but their opposition to the establishment of US bases reflects the popular pressure in the region against the USA which wants to use the situation to increase its own power there.

A third resolution, and the most important immediate one for the ministers, militantly opposed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. After condemning the invasion as a "violation of international law" and "an aggression against human rights and a violation of the freedoms of people" the ministers demanded "the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet troops stationed on Afghani territories". They suspended the membership of Afghanistan in the Islamic conference, and called for aid for the Afghan people and for the countries bordering Afghanistan. The conference called on the Islamic countries to consider not participating in the Moscow Olympic games unless the Soviet Union withdrew its troops.

## SUPPORT FOR ANTI-USA STRUGGLES

The conference moved on to back a resolution in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people "including their right to establish an independent state in their usurped homeland". The ministers condemned the repeated Israeli aggression

Cont'd from front page

The foreign minister of Tanzania backed the demands and condemned the partiality of the British Government. As well as opposing on principle the presence of South African troops in Zimbabwe he warned that it was also a dangerous precedent for external intervention.



Robert Mugabe, President of ZANU, speaking to over 200,000 supporters - the biggest meeting ever held in Zimbabwe - on his return to the country to take part in the elections.

## GB IMPERIALISM IN THE DOCK

"Since the signing of the agreement", the Chinese representative Chen Chu pointed out, "the Patriotic Front has strictly adhered to the provisions of the ceasefire agreement". He went on, "But, up to now, South African police and armed forces and a large number of mercenary troops have still not been completely withdrawn from Zimbabwe. Furthermore the security forces of Rhodesia and its so-called auxiliary forces have been allowed to leave the assembly points for free activities under the pretext of assisting the Rhodesian police to maintain law and order and to harass, encircle, and even flagrantly kill those forces of the Patriotic Front that are on their way to the assembly points".

After opposing British violations Chen Chu pointed out that "hegemonists from outside are casting a covetous eye and seeking every opportunity to carry out infiltration and expansion in this area".

Mozambique, Zambia, Jamaica, Niger, Somalia, Algeria, Zaire and Yugoslavia also condemned the ceasefire violations.

The British representative of course denied any bias or problem in Rhodesia.

In fact while the United Nations debate was in its final day, Lord Soames, the British Governor in Salisbury, attempted to sow confusion and hide his own guilt by launching an attack on ZANU - accusing ZANU of ceasefire violations!

The UN Security Council however was not fooled. It voted 14 votes to nil to censure the British Government. The British ruling class has been in the dock and is condemned by world opinion for its continuing oppression of the people of Zimbabwe.

# IMPERIALISM IRAN

in southern Lebanon and pledged support to the Lebanon. They also vigorously opposed the Camp David agreement and Egypt's recognition of "the Zionist racist entity".

The foreign ministers spoke out against the United States' "threat of punitive measures against the brotherly Islamic Republic of Iran" and pledged its opposition to imperialist economic sanctions against Iran.

## IRANIAN PRESIDENT HITS AT SUPERPOWERS

Meanwhile a general election has been held in Iran to elect a President. The new President, Abol Hassan Banisadr, has called for a united front with neighbouring Turkey against the two superpowers. He said that Iran was prepared to give "unconditional aid" to Turkey "on very short notice". "The greatest support Turkey could offer Iran is to remain independent", he added. The President said that Iran had prepared "an aid plan aiming to reduce foreign pressures on Turkey exercised through foreign banks".

Meanwhile, US banks in Iran have been ordered to close. At the same time as continuing the independence struggle against US imperialism, the Iranian President is strongly opposing Soviet expansionism and has pledged support for the Afghan independence struggle.

Throughout the region there is a clear pattern of the two superpowers struggling for control, which is being spurred on by Soviet expansionism, but what is becoming just as clear is that there is another growing current for third world unity and independence from both superpowers.

## ZANU FUND



The United Nations' Security Council has already put its name to the world-wide protest against the manouvres by British imperialism and its agents in the coming election in Zimbabwe.

British imperialism and the superpowers are interfering in every way then can to back their horses.

One party has no imperialist backing of any sort. That Party, ZANU-Patriotic Front has mass support. But it has an uphill struggle. One of the most recent manouvres by Lord Soames, the British Governor, was to seize and destroy ZANU election material.

ZANU is short of money for its election campaign. It will not accept aid with strings. Because it is the strongest force for genuine independence, ZANU's victory will be a blow against all imperialism. It is in the interest of all workers to help ZANU to strike that blow. Only the working class and the oppressed peoples and nations of the world will give aid without strings. We must play our part in that.

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## PRESS STATEMENT ON SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALIST AGRESSION AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

ISSUED JOINTLY BY

Indian Workers' Association GB, Bangladesh Workers' Association UK & Kashmiri Workers' Association UK.

On behalf of the said organisations in the United Kingdom, we strongly condemn the Soviet Social Imperialist naked military aggression against Afghanistan in order to establish its hegemony in Asia.

This naked aggression is a flagrant violation of international norms and the five principles of the Bandung Conference.

The so called treaties of Peace and Friendship between Soviet Union and other countries are fully exposed as the Brezhnev clique used a similar treaty of "Peace and Friendship" with Afghanistan to launch its aggression against the people of Afghanistan.

Our organisations support the Afghan people in resistance against Soviet aggression. We call upon the people of the Indian sub-continent to support the Afghan peoples' just struggle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. We demand the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet occupation force from Afghanistan.

Signed by:

Mr. A.S.Jouhl,  
President,  
Indian Workers' Association (GB)

Mr. T.Haq,  
President,  
Bangladesh Workers' Association (UK)

Mr. Mushtaq Ahemed,  
National Organiser,  
Kashmiri Workers' Association, (UK)

## URUGUAY:

## R. PORTEIROS MURDERED

Comrade Ruben Porteiros, communist, exemplary working class fighter and Uruguayan patriot, died in late December, 1979 at the hands of the fascist dictatorship.

Porteiros, a militant of the National Convention of Workers (CNT) was a worker at Boissons. He was arrested with other comrades at his home in Montevideo in April 1974 and detained at a military prison oddly named "Liberty". After years of continuous torture and untold hardship he contracted a serious kidney disease. Through popular pressure the authorities were finally forced to transfer Porteiros to the military hospital but withheld adequate treatment.

Porteiros, aged 50, was released back to his family in a desperate condition and died just four days later.

In its communique the Revolutionary Communist Party of Uruguay (PCR) accuses the dictatorship for comrade Porteiros' death, denounces the crime and demands the release of all political prisoners. The Party declares that the assassination of comrade Porteiros will not go unpunished by the Uruguayan people.

# BLOODY SUNDAY REMEMBERED



Mr Gallagher, Willie Gallagher's father, speaking at the rally after the Birmingham demonstration to commemorate Bloody Sunday. Willie is imprisoned in northern Ireland on a charge of bombing. He was "convicted" at a one judge, no jury trial where the 2 prosecutors could not even agree on the identity of Willie Gallagher. A TV play exposing this case was heavily censored.

About 2,500 people marched through Birmingham on Sunday January 27th. The demonstration commemorated Bloody Sunday in Derry 8 years ago when British troops shot dead 13 demonstrators and maimed 130 others. A fourteenth civilian died subsequently from injuries received. The paratroop regiment which carried out this bloody act of terror was later rewarded with a war medal by the British Government.

The demonstration led by Sinn Fein followed a banner exposing the H-block in Long Kesh where almost 500 prisoners are incarcerated in undescrivable conditions for refusing to wear prison uniform. They have been convicted according to a law forced upon them by the British Government in 1976 which robs them of their status as political prisoners and brands them as common criminals.

## LOCAL RADIO STIRS HOSTILITY

Birmingham is the city where the pub bombings in November 1974 when 21 people died took place. Although a member of the Provisional IRA is said to have acknowledged responsibility for this vile act on innocent people, the Provisionals have repeatedly condemned it. Speaking at a rally, in a city precinct at the end of the demonstration, Sinn Fein again condemned the bombing. The Sinn Fein speaker pointed to the fact that only 35 minutes after the bombing, National Front leaflets were circulating in Birmingham's City Centre. He questioned the role of the Special branch and people like Kenneth Littlejohn whose role in provoking and taking part in bank raids in southern Ireland was exposed in a Dublin trial in August 1973. Such facts are not widely publicised. In 1968 when the "troubles" blew up some journalists told the truth about oppression in northern Ireland. Penguin published a book of reports by *Sunday Times* reporters called *Ulster*. It catalogued systematic beating and torture of civil rights activists. This book was withdrawn immediately the struggle developed into one to get the British out of Ireland.

This is the background of censorship of the facts. Meanwhile, the local radio in Birmingham interviewed relatives of those killed in the pub bombing and portrayed the peaceful march as a march of murderers and terrorists.

## NATIONAL FRONT PROVOCATION

The demonstration went past the pub which was bombed. Outside it National Front demonstrated. A

soldier in uniform climbed above the police cordon and gesticulated at the demonstrators. Television reports distorted this scene to show the demonstrators gesticulating at the pub which was bombed. It was the National Front they were angry at and very few of the people knew that the pub was the one where 21 people died.

The demonstration had been forced by the police along a very unpopular route. But there were few signs of open hostility by passers by. Many took and read leaflets.

At the point where the demonstration concluded a number of good speeches were made. Speakers from the Bradford Asian Youth Movement and Women against Imperialism spoke as well as many others.

Many Irish workers attended the demonstration and showed their courage by doing so. A police photographer took pictures from above the nearby Mothercare Shop. Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act Irish people especially face being picked up and harrassed. Still, the demonstration was a great success.

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