

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

Incorporating

NEW AGE

PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

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BRITAIN

HOLDS

FOREIGN

MPS

HOSTAGE



FINAL SALUTE TO BOBBY SANDS

The election of two H-Block prisoners to the southern Irish Dail (Parliament) in the recent elections represents an important step forward for the campaign of the prisoners for political status in the form of the Five Demands. Overall the results of the election have shown once again the growing support for the prison struggle and, in the situation of political deadlock that exists in the south, have enormously increased the influence of H-Block supporters there.

The H-Block campaign put up a total of nine candidates, all of them prisoners in the H-Blocks. Two of these candidates won seats Kieran Doherty from Belfast, who is now coming up for 30 days on hunger strike, and Paddy Agnew, who is on the blanket protest but not on hunger strike. The victory of these two men is an enormous morale-booster for republicans in Ireland, coming after the victory of Bobby Sands in the Fermanagh South Tyrone bye-election and the recent courageous break-out of seven republicans from Crumlin Road gaol. Furthermore, other H-Block candidates polled well. Joe McDonnell, now nearing fifty days on hunger strike, narrowly missed winning a seat, and the other candidate mopped up well over 15% of first preference votes.

This patently gives the lie to the British government's claim that the Republican movement is isolated and without support - it once again focuses the glare of world opinion on the Bri-

tish government's intransigence. Nor do matters end there. The H-Block campaign is preparing to re-contest the vacant seat in Fermanagh South Tyrone, the seat won by the late Bobby Sands.

The British government are seeking to change the Representation of People Act to exclude 'convicted prisoners from standing for elections. If they do this they will further expose the hypocrisy of their claims to uphold democracy. However, the republican movement has plans to outmanoeuvre the British Government, either by fielding a candidate convicted in the south, or by putting up one of the men who already has 'special status' in the Long Kesh - the latter a painful reminder to the British state that they are waging their

vicious criminalisation campaign to deny to the prisoners a right they have previously conceded to them. Daithi O'Connell, the H-Block election director, said in Dublin last week, "We will outwit the British Government on this."

The significance of the recent elections goes well beyond the immediate support won by the H Block Campaign. The overall election results in the South were as follows:

Fianna Fail 78
Fine Gael 65
Labour 15
Independents 8

The outgoing Government of

cont'd on P.10.

WELSH COMMEMORATION ATTACKED

By a "Class Struggle" correspondent.

Saturday May 30th marked the 150th anniversary of the Merthyr Rising. Led by the Scot Martyrs

Fife and Drum Band, about a hundred and eight people, largely members of the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement (WRSM) Cofian (The Welsh Historical Society) and sympathisers from

cont'd on P.8.

At the present time, it is becoming quite fashionable in ever broader circles to advocate very extreme progressive policies. At long last, this has now become the case even on such a sensitive issue as that of Ireland. Now, for example, we have Ken Livingstone, new Leader of the GLC, publicly speaking in support of the Republican hunger-strikers, and describing the IRA as freedom-fighters. These are worthy sentiments, far from quibbling with them genuine revolutionaries have long been voicing them themselves.

What separates the sheep from the goats in such cases is not so much the words, sentiments or policies voiced, but the course of action adopted to put those policies into action. To take Ken Livingstone as an example once again, it is clear that, although he is going to be an asset in certain respects at the present stage, it is nevertheless his cyclonic careerism which provides the main connecting thread in his political life. Such social-democrats are incapable of breaking free from the idea that the best way to implement progressive policies is to shin up to the top of the Labour Party or trades union tree.

The real break with reformist ideology is not the break in words, but the actual organisational break in real life. It is to identify with those sections of the people who are in active conflict with the British imperialist state, to organise among them, help build support for them, and learn from their struggles in such a way as to prepare for the day when these struggles are consciously led by a confident and determined revolutionary party of the working class. The Ken Livingstones of this world are miles away from such a course of action, and for all their fine words are basically tied up in social-democratic monkey-business.

BREAKING WITH IMPERIALISM

As the present stage of the British revolution begins to unfold, it is clear that we are faced with a period in which the struggles of the national minorities are in the forefront of the class struggle in Britain. For their struggles break with the traditions of reformism that the ruling class seeks to inculcate among working people, and show that at least one section of the working class is not immobilised by illusions in the bourgeois 'democracy' of Parliament, courts, etc.

Besides the street-fighting in Brixton, Bristol, Coventry and elsewhere, national minority people and their supporters provide a solid base for the development of internationalist ideology.

Hundreds of Caribbean youth in Britain support African Liberation Day events every year and readily support in theory and practice the liberation movements of Southern Africa. Whether it is the struggle of the people of Ireland, Afghanistan or Kampuchea it is national minority workers who respond most readily and most generously. Most significant have been the mutual support amongst the oppressed be they Welsh, Scottish Irish, Asian or Caribbean. On the June 13 Ireland solidarity demonstration a comrade from the Indian Workers' Association said that his community would always be in the forefront of support for the Irish people and such examples are occurring more and more frequently up and down the country.

At the level of conscious organisation, recent mutual support by national minority organisations is tremendously encouraging. It is now familiar in many areas for Asian organisations such as the Indian Workers' Association (GB) to provide contingents and speakers for Ireland solidarity events, and in turn for Irish republican organisations to express support for, and give platforms to, representatives of black and Asian peoples' struggles.

The rejection by broad sections of the people of Brixton of the Scarman whitewash 'inquiry' shows that however sympathetic the ruling class tries to make itself out to be, it cannot do more than tell oppressed peoples what they already know. They know their living conditions are bad, their job prospects minimal, and so on. Their actions during the Brixton uprising also showed that, besides being perfectly aware of these truths, they were quite capable of taking active measures to deal with this situation.

MISLEADERS

The real heroes in any revolutionary situation are the people themselves, who sacrifice themselves in the struggle. For example, in the case of Ireland, people like Tony Benn now make noises against the partition of Ireland. But where was Tony Benn when the Labour Government abolished Special Status, introduced the H-Blocks and brought in the Prevention of Terrorism Act? Tony Benn was in the Labour Government! While making every use of the publicity people like Benn provide for the republican cause, genuine socialists must make it plain who really take the credit for the fact that Ireland's partition is now once again questioned. Without the heroic self-sacrifice of the republicans themselves, the career politicians of the Labour Party would never have 're-discovered' the issue at all, let alone jumped on the bandwagon.

Another and more subtle danger is provided by those who create illusions in the field of international affairs and advocate support for the Soviet Union. Such people will present a threat to the independence of the revolutionary movement in a situation of increasing international tension. The Soviet Union will do all it can to muscle in on revolutionary developments for its own oppressive purposes.

Those who retain the illusion that the Soviet Union is a friend of oppressed peoples and nations show that, however sincere their own support for the oppressed in particular cases, there must be remnants of imperialist thinking in their own minds. Asian and Irish progressive people in Britain can see perfectly clearly that the Soviet Union is, for example in Afghanistan, suppressing an oppressed and weak third world country in a classic colonialist manner.

Such people would also do well to ponder the fact that some of the most trusted Asian and black leaders in Britain have been firm opponents of Soviet aggression and domination - for example, the late comrade Joshi of the Indian Workers' Association, and the respected Caribbean communist leader, the late Claudia Jones. Claudia, a communist from Trinidad, pioneered theoretical work on the emerging Caribbean minority in Britain and launched a highly successful weekly paper. A much loved and respected leader of her community, she took a firm anti-revisionist stand, visited China, and was received by Comrade Mao Zedong. She died in the early 1960s at a tragically young age, from cancer.

The Brixton Defence Committee, which is currently organising the boycott of the Scarman Inquiry, meets in the Abeng centre, where a room has recently been named after Claudia Jones. Such facts show that those who have illusions in the nature of the Soviet Union are lagging way behind national minority activities in this country.

CURRENT STAGE

The present storms in Ireland are bringing the sight of revolutionary struggle very close to the British working class. The developing unity

cont'd on P.5.

CAR WORKERS FIGHT BACK

By a 'Class Struggle'
Correspondent

Car workers at Ford and BL are fighting back! Strikes in May at plants of both companies showed that workers are prepared to hit back when attacked, despite obstruction by union leaders

FORD WORKERS' VICTORY

At Halewood, Ford bosses have been trying to force through the introduction of the new robot technology in the Body Plant, and bigger workloads for all workers in the Body and Assembly Plants. To crush shopfloor resistance they introduced their notorious disciplinary code last November to stop so-called 'unconstitutional' strikes. After a two week strike the company withdrew the code, a clear victory for the 10,000 Halewood workers.

This was a timely victory, as it is likely there will be many more important battles facing all Ford workers in Britain in the coming months. Fords plan to invest £1408 millions in Britain over the next four years, much of it on new technology robot

equipment. Over the same period they intend to cut the workforce by 40%, 10% per year. Fords' British operations are also being squeezed to help prop up the huge loss-making US parent company. While Ford of Britain have averaged £275 millions profit annually over 1977-80 period; Ford US lost \$1500 million last year - about £750 million - three times the profit here. The Detroit bosses demanded £438 millions from their British subsidiary last year, and £229 millions in 1979. So the coming months and years will see no let up in the pressure on the British workers.

BL JOB CUTS CONTINUE

At BL, Michael Edwardes has cut 66,000 jobs since 1978. 8000 have gone already this year, yet 5000 more are planned in more cut-backs which include:

- * TR7 production to cease.
 - * Rover plant at Solihull to close with production moving to Cowley.
 - * The remaining Speke plant to close.
- The job cuts will not end here. Imperialist competition means that if BL is to survive in the increasingly tough world car market, they must rationalise even more.

	Workers	Cars built 1980
BL	90,000	400,000
Ford (UK)	70,000	500,000

These figures show BL built less cars than their main rivals Fords last year, with more workers. But remember that Ford intend to cut their workforce by about 28,000 by 1985, whilst increasing output.

All BL's job cuts have so far had the support of the unions. But there are signs of a fight back by shop floor workers. 1,700 trim line workers at Longbridge struck recently over BL's plans to increase production of the Mini Metro. This meant speeding up the lines, and workers complained that they couldn't keep up with the job at the existing speed. The strike lasted several days, with the workers staying out despite repeated calls by shop stewards to return to work.

The reduction in productive capacity at BL, as well as at Vauxhall and Talbot, very much reflects the general cut-backs throughout British Industry. In 1980, for the first time, Spain exported more cars than did Britain. (133,000 more.)

EXPORT OF CARS IN 1980

Japan	3,947,000
W. Germany	1,873,000
France	1,530,000
Italy	511,000
Spain	492,000
U.K.	359,000

To date, only Ford have looked like maintaining their capacity in Britain. But even here, now, things could change. Ford's "world car", the Escort, is built at Halewood, Saarlouis in Germany and in North America. They now plan to open up production of the car in both Brazil and Spain for the European market. The fact that Fords has its tentacles all over the world means it can make repeated threats to British workers to cooperate with company plans or face closure.

FIGHTING CLASS UNIONS

Workers at both BL and Ford will have to fight to defend their jobs. That is the only way. Recent events have shown their preparedness to struggle when necessary. The biggest question-mark remains whether the union leadership is prepared to lead a fightback or whether it continues its previous practice of sabotage and defusing struggles. There are little or no signs of a change of line amongst the union bureaucrats, which emphasises the importance of workers struggling to turn the unions into real, fighting class struggle unions.



DEFEND THE LEEDS THREE!

Three newspaper sellers in Leeds have been arrested under the notorious racist 'Sus' Law which is daily used by the British state against black youth.

The three, Gordaon Teal, Bill Bolloten and Dora Browne were arrested whilst selling "Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!", newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG) on a housing estate. On arrest they were beaten up and Dora Browne subjected to racist abuse. All three have been charged with using threatening and abusive behaviour and the third additionally with the possession of an offensive weapon. These charges could earn prison sentences and huge

fines. Last year sellers of the same newspaper were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Glasgow.

Our organisation, the Revolutionary Communist League has some important political differences with the RCG, but we unequivocally this political attack on the rights of socialist newspaper sellers and consider it a serious attack on the democratic rights of all progressive people in Britain.

Donations to, and further information from: Leeds 3 Defence Campaign, c/o 49 Railton Rd., London S E 24 OLN.

IMPORT CONTROLS?

(Contributed)

Britain in 1981 is an imperialist country in deep crisis. Throughout the imperialist world, unemployment figures are escalating, manufacturing firms, particularly small ones, are going bankrupt, peoples' living standards are being slashed, and the democratic rights of working people are being whittled away. In Britain, this crisis is deeper than in most other imperialist countries. The proportion of the population out of work is higher than at any time since the 1930s the level of industrial production has fallen more sharply in the last two years than in any other period since immediately after the end of World War 1, and the tide of anger of the working class is getting stronger and stronger. In these conditions it is vital to be clear about who and what is responsible for such conditions, or this justified tide of anger will be targeted away from the real enemy, the imperialist ruling class, and those in their pay.

IMPERIALISM AND TRADE WARS

Imperialism is based on the export of capital, and the extraction of superprofits from the third world, and all imperialists and imperialist countries set out to win sources of raw materials and markets for their products.

When times are good for imperialism, competition between imperialist powers is carried out largely in a 'free' or controlled way. But in times of crisis, like now, contradictions between these powers sharpen as they struggle not only to keep or get new third world markets, but also to capture domestic markets of other imperialist countries, and to protect their own.

This competition, which is part and parcel of the imperialist system itself, inevitably leads to war. In the twentieth century, two such inter-imperialist wars on a world scale have broken out, in 1914 and 1939, and both of these military wars were preceded by fierce economic and trade warfare.

IMPORT CONTROLS - FOR JOBS OR PROFITS?

For thirteen years after the end of the first World War in 1918, the British state, then the dominant world power, maintained 'free trade' - the free movements of imports and exports, and the free movement of British capital throughout the world. In 1931, as British capitalism moved into one of its worst ever slumps, the National Government of Ramsay MacDonald introduced full scale protection, with the supposed 'aim' of saving jobs, particularly in key industries like coal, iron and steel, shipbuilding and textiles. Their real concern was protecting profit. In actual fact, in 1939, after eight years of protection, half a million workers had lost their jobs in these key industries, and successive governments had used the crisis as an excuse to launch viciously savage attacks on the working class.

After the end of the Second World War in 1945, although the USA emerged as the leading imperialist power, no country held the position of dominance that Britain did in 1918. It was, in short, the start of a period of both competition and cooperation between the main imperialist powers, with cooperation being dominant, as they grappled to cope with the rise of the colonies, and the 'communist threat'. In the field of international trade, this cooperation was expressed in the form of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) which supposedly still governs economic relations between countries today.

THE WORKING CLASS HAS

NOTHING TO GAIN

FROM IMPERIALIST

PROTECTION AND TRADE WAR

TRADE UNION LEADERS ALIGNED WITH IMPERIALISM

It is in this context, and the present deep-rooted crisis of imperialism throughout the world, that demands for import controls must be viewed. These demands are being made in many imperialist countries, but they are being voiced particularly strongly in Britain, both from important parts of the British ruling class, and from sections of both 'left' and right wings of the trade union leadership. They are not demands that are put forward in the interests of the working class, either of Britain or the world, but in the interests of decaying British imperialism. Union leaders like Duffy, Gill, etc., line up with the British bosses, and against the people of the third world, and the workers of other nations.

There are substantial differences within the British ruling class on the question of international trade. Some imperialists make big profits out of international trading and would make substantial losses in a trade war. They are firmly committed to 'free' trade. Others, and this section is on the increase, have suffered from the intense competition from more efficient imperialist countries and from third world countries determined to build up their industrial bases. This section of the bourgeoisie is strongly in favour of the tightening of import controls. Naturally, this section of the ruling class, and their servants in the leadership of the trade union movement, say that there would be no retaliation against Britain, no trade war, and that 'selective', but hard, import controls would save jobs for British workers. None of this is true, and to show it, it is necessary only to look at one of the industries where the demands for import controls are most widespread among both bosses and the unions - the textile industry.

THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

To listen to some of the hysterical statements of employers and union bosses in the textile industry you would think that Britain was being swamped by 'unfair' foreign competition. In actual fact there is no really free trade in textiles. Through the Multi-Fibre Agreement, imports into Britain have been controlled since 1959, and in 1977 these controls were tightened up. Yet the textile bosses claim that their industry is being destroyed by cheap imports, and are calling for an almost complete ban on the imports of finished goods. (Without the imports of raw materials there would be no British textile industry.) Yet these people do not say anything about the fact that the big textile companies are major exporters, with companies like Coates Paton exporting 70% of its output, and Tootals and Courtaulds both exporting 50% of theirs.

OVERALL CURRENT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (in £million)

Year	Visible Trade	Invisible Trade	Balance
1979	-3,404	+1,734	-1,670
1980	+1,039	+1,242	+2,281
1981 (Jan. only)	+757	+200	+957

"Visible Trade" includes trade in manufactured goods and raw materials.

"Invisible Trade" includes movements of money (returned profits, insurance etc.).

British Imperialism has been in constant surplus in trade for many years (apart from 1979). At present the surplus is rising.

In Jan. 1981 - just one month - British Imperialism made a trade surplus of nearly £1,000 million.

In 1980, when calls for import controls in the textile industry were at their loudest for years, the British textile industry was recording overseas sales of cotton yarn that were at their highest level for four years, and sales abroad of man-made fibre were reaching all-time records.

THIRD WORLD WILL FIGHT BACK

In July 1980, the Indonesian government asked to be allowed to increase its textile exports to Britain. At that time Indonesia exported about £10 million worth of textiles a year to Britain, and total Indonesian exports into Britain stood at £60 million, while British exports to Indonesia totalled £90 million - a substantial trading surplus for Britain.

In response to this request, the Tory government, with support from Labour Party and textile union leaders, refused angrily, and actually demanded a cutback in existing imports from Indonesia. British governments can no longer push third world countries around at will, and Indonesia reacted militantly by cancelling existing contracts with Britain worth over £150 million, and announcing that it would not consider British bids for a further £500 million worth of contracts. The contracts cancelled included the construction of a chemical plant, oil equipment, radar equipment, passenger aircraft, 60 buses, and the manufacture and construction of a steel bridge.

WHAT STAND TO TAKE

Amongst the imperialists there is a struggle between two main sections. One section sees their interests best served by 'free trade', the other by widespread protection. Both seek maximum profit through super-exploitation of the third world and exploitation of the working class in Britain. Both trends seek the maximum market for their own products, whether that be in the third world, in other developed countries or in Britain.

The working class has nothing to gain by hanging onto the coat tails of either trend.

It is true that some things are imported which it is entirely unnecessary to import; but it is equally true that British overseas trade is a basic source of profit for the imperialists. When did you last hear a trade union leader demanding export controls?

U.K. CRUDE TRADE BALANCE IN MANUFACTURED GOODS

1974	+£1,585,000,000
1974	+£1,585,000,000
1977	+£5,085,000,000
1978	+£3,555,000,000
1979	+£1,323,000,000
1980	+£3,760,000,000

At present, unemployment will grow in one way or another whichever imperialist trend is in power.

Our future lies with the destruction of the anarchy of imperialist production and of imperialist trade. It lies with the planned development of the economy; with the diversification of production to build an all-round independent economy. Our future lies neither with 'free trade' nor 'protection' both of which aim to exploit others, but with the establishment of bilateral trade with other countries - trade for mutual benefit.

This is the only way to expand production for the benefit of the working people. It is the way to produce more to raise the living standards of the people. The imperialists only concern themselves with production for their own enrichment. We know the results of the anarchy of their system.

The only stand we can take now which opens up this road, is to stand with those fighting imperialist plunder. The countries of the third world are standing together and fighting now; fighting for a new international economic order. A recent conference of the United Nations exposed the fact that the thirty poorest countries in the world have suffered even more over the last two years as their exports to the imperialist countries have been forced down in price (such as copper, etc.) while exports to them have increased in price. Our interests lie in standing with them, not with our bosses who exploit them.



Trade Unionists from Ford in Germany, who came to discuss international solidarity during the '78 strike in Britain. International solidarity - that's the way, not import controls.

cont'd from P.2.

against republicans, nationalists and socialists of Ireland, Wales and Scotland are bringing nightmares to the ruling class. The unity of these forces with the Asian, black and other national minorities is also proceeding apace particularly since the beginning of the hunger strikes last year. The construction of a revolutionary party in Britain demands the fullest solidarity with the growing anti-imperialist movement as a basic component.

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CHAIRMAN MAO AT A STEEL FACTORY IN ANHUI PROVINCE IN 1959

As reported in our last issue, the International Editor of "Class Struggle" has recently returned from a one-month visit to the People's Republic of China. On his return he was interviewed by the other members of our Editorial Committee. The first instalment follows:

Question: You entered People's China via Hongkong. What impression did this make on you?

Answer: Of course, there is a vast difference between China and Hongkong, although now you go through customs in Guangzhou after a through train ride. So, you've lost the old drama of getting out and walking across the bridge - a very symbolic exit from the world of capitalism and entrance to the world of socialism. I spent 1½ days in Hongkong. In Hongkong you see capitalism at its most raw and undisguised. With its intense activity, high pressure advertising, glut of consumer goods and countless shops there appears to be a superficial prosperity. But what prosperity exists, exists because the mass of working people are ground down and oppressed in the most intense and brutal way. Just beneath the surface phenomena of the neon lights there is no way that this poverty and degradation can be disguised. For example, just a few yards away from the hotel where I stayed a man slept in the open on a camp bed with a few possessions around him. That camp bed on the street was the home of that worker. "Home" for him is the same "home" that not just the occasional vagrant but many, many thousands of workers in Hongkong can "call their own".

When you enter China, the scene changes. Of course, by Western standards the people are still poor. But the extreme poverty - the poverty of degradation and hopelessness - is gone. Gone also are the extremes of wealth. Most importantly the people are not pressurised and ground down. They go about their business with dignity and pride, with the knowledge that they hold their future in their hands and that they have a rising standard of living.

Q: We understand that you visited several factories, of different types. Can you tell us something about the welfare facilities enjoyed by the workers?

A: Coming from Britain, one of the most striking, and most impressive things was that every factory, big or small, had a nursery. The people working in the nurseries enjoyed high prestige. Their job is considered a socially necessary one. All the nurseries were well equipped and brightly furnished. The children were all well cared for and happy.

Even very young children had an amazing self-confidence. Mothers and fathers can leave their children whilst they go to work, without any worries. For those on night shift, the children are looked after overnight.

Another, very impressive thing was the extent of medical facilities in factories. For example, in the Shanghai Heavy Machine Tool Plant (admittedly, a better than average case), there was one doctor for every 200 workers. Of these, about three fifths were doctors from medical colleges, and the rest were "worker doctors", that is workers from the factory who had been chosen by their workmates to receive a basic medical training after which they had returned to work on the shop floor but were there as medical personnel should the need arise.

A health centre on the site had a cardiogram and an X-ray machine. It is equipped for minor or urgent operations. In addition the factory is attached to an outside hospital in the city that guarantees to treat workers from the factory. The factory also owns its own sanatorium where workers can convalesce. NHS-type waiting lists for critical patients are unheard of. Of course, medical treatment is free for the workers in the factory.

Similarly, in Ma' An' Shan (in Anhui province), the Iron and Steel Complex owns its own hospital with 168 doctors, over 200 nurses and 500 beds. While I was there new hospital buildings were going up. There were specialised units dealing with burns and cancer research. The workers were given regular checkups and doctors frequently visited the factory to monitor dust and general pollution levels. If a

worker in the factory becomes unable to do his or her job, a lighter job suited to the person's ability is found. To simply make them redundant would be unthinkable. This hospital has achieved great success in reattaching severed limbs. In 75% of cases, this is done successfully. I spoke to one young man who had had a 26 hour operation to reattach three fingers. After three weeks the power of the nerves was returning and with it movement of the fingers. In a laboratory, young doctors were conducting experiments in microsurgery on animals. The aim was to reattach several blood vessels. Much of the facilities and equipment in this hospital were considerably more backward than we would expect to find in a London hospital. Yet it was considerably more advanced in microsurgery and the reattachment of severed limbs than British hospitals are. To me, this was real proof of the superiority of the socialist system, as well as a vindication of Chairman Mao's teaching "Of all things in the world, people are the most precious."

Yet another impressive thing was the importance attached to educational opportunities for workers. Take the example of the Shanghai Heavy Machine Tool Plant again. On the factory site there is what is known as a "Workers' College". Here, workers from the factory come to do a three year full time course, after which they will usually return to their former jobs. They receive full pay whilst studying. To be chosen to come here a worker must apply and then sit an examination and have a physical check up. His or her fellow workers are asked to give their opinions. At the end of the course, students acquire a diplo-



REHEARSAL AT A BEIJING NURSERY

INTERVIEW "The poverty of degradation and hopelessness is gone"



ma. Their study materials are the same as those used in regular universities. In addition to this, a spare-time college had 2500 students. They have two classes a week, and when examinations are coming up, workers are given time off to revise. In all, one third of the workers at this factory were engaged in some form of further education.

Q: All this sounds very impressive, but to what extent are workers involved in running their factories?

A: To a very great extent, and to an increasing extent. In recent years, factories have been engaged in setting up workers' Congresses and increasingly powers of management are being devolved to them. The workers Congress is elected by all the workers of the factory and it generally meets twice a year for around two weeks at a time. The Director and Deputy Directors of the factory have to give reports at the Congress and listen to criticisms and suggestions. In addition, the Congress discusses how the state plan relates to their factory, questions of health and safety, education, welfare facilities, the rights of women workers and so on. In most factories the Director and Deputy Directors are still appointed by the relevant state organisation although they are accountable to the workers. But, in some factories, the Director and Deputy

Directors are now elected directly by the Workers' Congresses and this method will gradually be introduced throughout China.

As a part of the economic reforms that China is now carrying out, factories are allowed to keep a portion of the profits made once they have fulfilled their obligations to the state. It is the Workers' Congress that decides how to use this surplus - as bonuses, on medical care, on nurseries, on new equipment and so on. This is a very important way of bringing into full play the enthusiasm and initiative of the working class in building socialism and is a creative application of the Marxist principle of payment according to work done.

When the Workers' Congress is not in session its powers are devolved to the trade union branch in the factory which is responsible for supervising the implementation of the decisions made and for protecting the just rights and interests of the workers from any bureaucrats who may seek to undermine them. Of course, the trade unions also carry on political education which includes encouraging the workers' enthusiasm for production, because in socialist China where the exploiting classes have been eliminated as classes (although a few individuals remain and new bourgeois elements will inevitably arise from time to time) the interests of the state, the collective

and individuals are fundamentally the same.

Q: OK, but what guarantee is there that if a contradiction should arise between the workers and any of the bureaucrats or new bourgeois elements you mention, that the trade union will defend the workers? How are Chinese trade unions different from, for example, the phoney state trade unions that Lech Walesa and the Polish workers had to fight against?

This and other questions will be answered in the next issue of "Class Struggle".

TO BE CONTINUED.



A ROUTINE CHECK UP IN THE NURSERY OF THE BEIJING No. 3 COTTON MILL

Irish and other organisations assembled on the outskirts of Merthyr and followed the route taken by the Welsh ironworkers of the 1831 Rising, into the centre of town where wreaths were laid to the memory of the great Welsh revolutionary Dic Penderyn. By the time the marchers had completed the three mile march, their number had been considerably augmented by members of the public who enthusiastically supported the occasion.

The march into Merthyr, was followed by a meeting in the hall of the Merthyr Technical College, addressed by Phil Rosser of the GMWU, Robert Griffiths of the WSRM, Irish speakers representing Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist Party. An appeal to the audience to raise money for the travelling expenses of the Scottish Fife and Drum band, many of whose members were unemployed, was a great success and their travelling expenses were collected in a very short while.

After the meeting at the technical College, the Union Jack was publicly burned. As it went up in flames, those who were responsible for burning it were approached by the police who had remained outside during the meeting, and charged under the Litter Act. This was a reference to the fact that the ashes of the Union Jack had been blown across the car park!

At 7:30 that evening the occasion was celebrated at the Bellevue Hotel in Merthyr. The hotel had been booked for this occasion and an extension to the licensing hours had been obtained till midnight. The celebration was proceeding quite happily till 9:30, when the manager suddenly announced that he was closing the bar. When asked for a reason, he seemed embarrassed and said he was acting on instruction from his employer, who owned a consortium of hotels in Merthyr. When the owner was contacted he also seemed confused and first said that he had been misled by the organisers into believing the celebration was to mark a silver wedding. When the organisers produced written evidence to the fact that he had been told that the celebrations were in honour of the 1831 Rising, he changed tack and said that it was because people under the age of 18 years were being served with alcoholic drinks. When challenged on this point he became truculent and refused to discuss the matter further.

The organisers returned to the hotel and reported to the gathering, who were furious as many of them had travelled a great distance to attend the celebration. A few of those present gave evidence of their anger in a somewhat robust manner... beer mugs were hurled against the wall and several chairs were thrown through windows. However

the rest of the crowd left the hotel in an orderly manner and as they were dispersing policemen with Alsatian dogs appeared on the scene and immediately set about attacking people at random. Their particular target were a small group of Irish women. The police, using such provocative terms as 'Mick bastards,' and 'Irish bastard' proceeded to arrest them. Several members of the crowd demanded to know why they were being arrested and on doing so were themselves threatened with arrest.

At this stage scuffles broke out and in all nine people were arrested after some of them had been set upon by dogs and bitten. Three of those arrested were Irish. Arrangements were made for a mini-bus to be parked outside the police station to drive them home as it was rumoured that they would be discharged later in the night. At two o'clock that morning, six of the arrested were released after being charged with obstruction. The three Irish women were kept in gaol till six the following morning when they were charged with assaulting the police and with INFRINGING THE RACE RELATIONS ACT by using the term 'Bloody English'.

This was obviously an organised attempt to smash the plans for making the anniversary of the 1831 Rising an annual event, but what the authorities are really worried about is the solidarity between Welsh, Irish and Scottish socialists and republicans.

For your reference ★ The Merthyr uprising of 1831 ★

The Merthyr Rising is a chapter in Welsh history that is conspicuously absent from the pages of school history books and the WSRM is determined to correct this situation by making it an annual event and thus giving back to the Welsh people, a part of their history that the British ruling class would like them to know nothing about.

The Rising must be seen against the post-war depression that followed the defeat of the French at Waterloo in 1815. Between 1815 and 1831, Welsh coal and steel workers had been organising into clandestine unions as their only protection against the harsh economic conditions imposed upon them by the mine and steel-works owners. This culminated in the Rising in 1831 when, for a whole week, the workers held the town of Merthyr against troops sent to crush them.

But poorly armed workers were no match for well-trained troops and after a week of bitter fighting, the Rising was put down. Then followed the murderous

vengeance...a vengeance that in itself, did not altogether have the desired effect. For some time after the suppression, secret organisation continued to exist under such incongruous name as The Scotch Cattle, and the Daughters of Rebecca. As toll-gates continued to be burned down and the underground resistance repeatedly, and in a highly organised manner, continued to strike at symbols of British rule, the Duke of Wellington was called out of retirement, to deal with the situation.

A commission of Enquiry was appointed to find out what the cause for this continued defiance of 'Law and Order' was. In 1849 the Commission gave its report.

The cause of the 1831 Rising and subsequent rebellion against the British state was due to the 'perversity of a stubborn people who insisted on speaking their own language'. Magistrates and officials complained that public notices and proclamation written in English could not be under-

stood by people who only spoke Welsh. No mention was made of exploitation by rackrenting squires, ironmasters and coal owners, but only of the use of the Welsh language.

So, the Welshness of the Welsh had to be exorcised. Schoolchildren were brutally punished for speaking Welsh. Apart from floggings, they were made to stand in the playground with a piece of wood tied around their necks, on which the words, 'Welsh Not' were engraved. To quote from Harri Webb, reporting in the Welsh Republic: "The whole process of education was utterly perverted and prostituted into a prolonged campaign of genocide which combined licensed sadism against its helpless victims with careerists cringing towards the scoundrels in the seat of power...the assault on the peoples' language was also an assault on the peoples' memory. Those who sought to steal our future began by stealing our past."

Veteran Irish patriot dies

Nora Connolly O'Brien, daughter of the Irish patriot and martyr James Connolly, died on June 16th in Dublin at the age of 88. It was James Connolly who led the Easter Uprising in Dublin in 1916, which held out against the British army of occupation for several days, but was eventually savagely suppressed, and its leaders executed. James Connolly, wounded in the fighting and unable to stand, was propped up in a chair to face the firing squad.

Nora Connolly played an important part in the Easter Uprising, and subsequently in the War of Independence. She was imprisoned during the ensuing Civil War. She was an active member of the Irish Citizen Army, and

afterwards of the Irish Republican Army. She continued an active propagandist in the republican cause right up to the very last months of her life, and was well-loved by Irish patriots and progressive people generally throughout the world. In the 1970s she twice visited the US on speaking tours, and last addressed a rally in London in November last year.

Nora Connolly was a life-long friend of China. She recently sent a book to China with the following inscription: "All my life I have been interested in China, and learned to love the Chinese people. I am sending you this book so that you may learn about our struggle for freedom, which is still going on after centuries. It is a book about

my father and how he trained me so that I would have the right vision of freedom and not be satisfied with national freedom only."

Late last year, she sent a message to a meeting in solidarity with the struggle of the people of Afghanistan against Soviet aggression.

On hearing the sad news of her death, the Provisional Republican Movement immediately issued a statement praising her as a great revolutionary daughter of Ireland, and a person who always upheld the ideals of her great father.

She requested a Republican funeral. The graveide oration is to be delivered by Daithi O'Connell, Vice-President of Sinn Fein.

STOP THE DEPORTATIONS!

In the past couple of months, there have been numerous activities, mainly in the north of England, against the deportation of four women. All four are the victims of Britain's racist and sexist immigration laws.

★ Nasira Begum, from Manchester was deserted by her husband; For 4½ years she has fought for her right to stay in Britain. Last year it seemed she had won her case, but the Home Office appealed against the decision that had gone in her favour. The Home Office claims that her husband was already married to one of two other women, that her marriage was therefore invalid, and that she had no right to British citizenship. The appeal hearing began on June 15th and was adjourned until the next monday.

★ Nasreen Akhtar, from Rochdale, was deserted by her husband and now the Home Office says her marriage was invalid. It wants to deport her and three of her children. But, it says, the fourth child, who was born in Britain, is entitled to stay as a British citizen...as if Nasreen would readily leave the child behind!

★ Jaswinder Kaur, from Leeds, left her husband after he'd beaten their son so badly that he had to be hospitalised. The husband was deported to India as an 'illegal immigrant', and the Home Office now says that Jaswinder must go too. Again they say her son can stay, but his mother can't. Both Jaswinder's and Nasreen's appeals have been rejected.

The three campaigns against

these deportations have been built up by local anti-racists, women's groups and Asian youth groups. They are now coming to a turning point as the threat of deportation looms closer.

★ Another campaign recently began against the deportation of Jamaican-born Cynthia Gordon, who lives in Manchester. She came to Britain in 1960, had children here, and then went back to the Caribbean in 1972 to take care of her mother. After her mother died Cynthia decided to return to Britain. She came as a 'visitor' on the advice of the British High Commission. What they didn't tell her was that she had a right to return as a resident if she could show that she had spent a considerable part of her life here, but that if she came as a visitor she could not later change her status. Now the Home Office wants to deport her as an overstayer!

In these cases the racism of the British state comes out in all its hideousness. But they are only the tip of the iceberg! In the past year or so there has been a sharp rise in deportations. Many black people have been quietly deported and thousands more are threatened. Filipino, Latin American and Moroccan workers, who have not had citizenship, but have been used as cheap labour by hotels, catering establishments etc., have also been victims of the Home Office offensive. The main reason that the four cases above have come before the public is that the women concerned were well aware that they had little chance of winning their struggle purely through the legal system, and

that their only hope was to campaign for the right to stay, and bring pressure to bear on the government.

FROM STOPPING IMMIGRATION TO ENFORCED "REPATRIATION".

Successive immigration acts restricted immigration further and further; it has now effectively been stopped. (Apart from immigration from southern Africa of course!) Now the state is making a big effort to force out as many black people as it can.

This hasn't required any new law. The present government used existing laws brought in by Labour and Tory governments... especially the 1971 act. The new nationality law will make things worse, but it is only a further step along the road which both Labour and Tory governments have taken. Labour spokesmen say they will repeal the nationality law and the 1971 Act, yet the Labour Party had 5 years in office from 1974-1979 when they could have repealed the 1971 Act, and they didn't do it! Not only that, they enforced them viciously. Nasira Begum's struggle for instance began during the last Labour government. The new Nationality Bill is based on plans drawn up by the last Labour Government, which were backed by so-called 'left' labour MPs.

No reliance can be placed on the Labour Party in the fight against deportations, whatever they say in the campaign for re-election - Only if deportations are fought every step of the way and resistance is built up in the coming years can the immigration laws be smashed.

IRELAND...

cont'd from P.1.

Charles Haughey (FF) failed to retain their overall majority. There are two reasons why that government has become unpopular. First of all Haughey's handling of his relations with Margaret Thatcher and the hunger strike; he repeatedly claimed to have established a "special relationship" with Thatcher, but could produce no goods. Secondly he has been unable to pull the Southern economy out of its deep recession. In recent years the Southern Irish ruling class has given up their attempt to run an independent economy and made the South a haven for international capital. Consequently the country has suffered grievously from the current international crisis. Haughey's answer - more foreign investment! He has not won the strong confidence of his people.

The alternative to Fianna Fail has traditionally been an alliance between Fine Gael and the Labour Party. Here there are difficulties. Fine Gael has campaigned on a militantly pro-British and monetarist platform. They failed to win a commanding majority on this basis. The Labour Party, who received their lowest poll in thirty years, are divided about teaming up with an openly reactionary Government such as Fine Gael seem set on introducing. The result is a hung parliament - at the time of writing neither side can form an administration.

Much therefore depends on the eight independents. Two of these, the H Block members, will not be in the house. But the continued suffering of the H Block prisoners will exert an enormous influence in the Dail. The other six independents are a mixed bag. One of them, Neil Blaney, is a firm anti-partitionist, and the ex-Labour Party member Dr John O'Connell, who successfully campaigned as an independent,

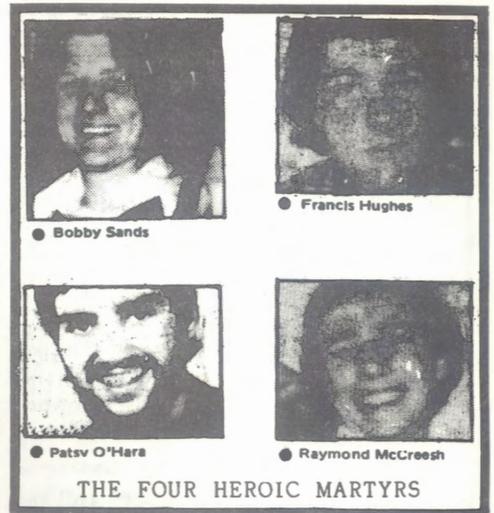
has had good relations with the Republican movement, though he is not himself Republican. The rest of them are more likely to team up with Fine Gael or remain independent.

The Republican movement attach much importance to these developments. Speaking in London recently, Paddy Bolger, a member of the Sinn Fein Ard Comraihle, said that the increase of support in the South is of crucial importance. "Margaret Thatcher may be able to contain us militarily in the North, but they cannot send the British Army into Southern Ireland and that is where their strategy will fail." Of course the election shows that there is still a long way to go. There were some negative developments. Sile De Valera, who has taken a strong pro-Republican stand - verbally, at least - in Fianna Fail, lost her seat; and the militantly pro-partitionist and pro-Brit "Sinn Fein Workers Party" won a seat - despite their virtual rout in local government elections in the Six Counties. Overall, though, the position is one of considerable advance with the Provisional Sinn Fein confidently expecting to treble their membership in the South in the next few months.

Summing up the election results Sinn Fein Vice President Gerry Adams said they showed "the absurdity of Mrs Thatcher's claims

"Believing that the British government has no right in Ireland, never had any right in Ireland, and never can have any right in Ireland, the presence, in any one generation of Irishmen of even a respectable minority, ready to die to affirm that truth, makes that government for ever a usurpation and a crime against human progress." - James Connolly.

FIVE OF THE HUNGER-STRIKERS. THEY WERE JOINED IN MID JUNE BY PATRICK QUINN, WHO WAS ARRESTED WITH THE LATE RAYMOND MCCREESH.



THE FOUR HEROIC MARTYRS

that the prisoners have no support and has indicted Charles Haughey for his refusing to demand that the British Government should concede the five just demands. The considerably weakened incoming Dublin government regardless of its composition have been given a clear warning to move with better effect before more prisoners' lives are lost. The Southern politicians can no longer verbalize about the prisoners while at the same time they sit back and do nothing."

The power house behind the present campaign is the hunger strike of the prisoners themselves. And no amount of rejoicing over the election results can remove the fact that the Thatcher government continues its bloody and obdurate stand. Joe McDonnell who succeeded Bobby Sands on the hunger strike is said to be already in a serious condition. There are now six men on hunger strike, and the prisoners plan to put on a new man each week so there is no let-up in the pressure on the British government. None of the recent advance would have been made without the indescribable courage of these heroes. The responsibility and duty of giving all the political and material support we can to this struggle falls on the shoulders of all progressive people in this country.



● Joe McDonnell ● Kieran Doherty ● Kevin Lynch ● Martin Hurson ● Thomas McEtwée

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



★ **ZIMBABWE:** "The United States continued occupation in south Korea and Soviet presence in Afghanistan are identical, both situations cannot be sustained under the United Nations charter....We uphold, as a sacred principle, the right of any people or nation to self-determination....To us, the non-aligned movement must continue to strengthen its resolve to condemn and oppose any interference by any state, big or small, in the domestic affairs of another." So said Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, on June 16th in a speech welcoming visiting Korean Premier, Comrade Li Jong Ok.

★ **REFUGEES:** According to a June 1st report the number of Afghan people who have fled their homes to Pakistan since the Soviet invasion of December 1979 has reached 2,058,983. Figures for those entering Pakistan during the first four months of this year were: January - 123,286, February - 186,481, March - about 177,000 and April - about 104,000.

Meanwhile, a report from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said that the number of Vietnamese refugees fleeing their country by boat in May was 14,792 the highest figure since July 1979. The agency said 5,320 arrived in Hong Kong, 1,489 in Indonesia, 923 in the Philippines and 3,209 in Thailand. Also 1,532 refugees arrived overland in Thailand.

How ironic that whilst the Soviet Union claims the right to go and 'liberate' other countries, wherever the 'liberators' go, the people leave!

★ **KOREA:** At a meeting in Pyongyang, the capital of socialist Korea, the coordinators of the non-aligned Countries for Food and Agriculture called on the non-aligned and developing countries to strive for self-sufficiency in grain production, through relying on their own efforts and by developing cooperation amongst themselves. It strongly condemned those imperialist countries who use grain as a political or economic weapon against non-aligned and developing countries. The meeting was attended by representatives from 16 countries, the UN Grain and Agricultural Organisation and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

★ **KAMPUCHEA:** The second international conference on Kampuchea was held in Tokyo, capital city of Japan, in early June. The first international conference was held in November 1979 in Sweden. The Tokyo conference was attended by 82 representatives from 31 countries as well as 150 Japanese activists. The day before the conference opened a mass rally of over 2000 people was held to welcome the foreign participants. Also attending the conference were a Kampuchean delegation led by Comrade Ieng Thirith, Minister of Social Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea, many foreign diplomats

accredited to Tokyo and representatives of the Vietnamese community in Japan. Amongst the main speakers were Samir Amin, a well-known third world Marxist economist and Leo Mates, a former Yugoslav Vice Foreign Minister. Messages of greetings were sent by Khieu Samphan and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. The conference unanimously adopted the "Tokyo Appeal" demanding that Vietnamese troops leave Kampuchea and Laos, for the preservation of Democratic Kampuchea's United Nations seat and for a UN-supervised solution to the Kampuchea problem. It designated April 13th, the traditional Kampuchean Spring Festival, as the "Day of Kampuchea" for international solidarity purposes. The third Kampuchea Conference will be held in Canada.

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has received a letter from the Kampuchean Ambassador to China, Comrade Pich Cheang, in reply to a letter sent to the Communist Party of Kampuchea to greet 17th April, Kampuchean National Day.



BEAR MEETS PORCUPINE

Reprinted from China Reconstructs

★ **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:** The government of this former British colony in the Caribbean is planning to bring in two repressive laws to restrict the rights of trade unions and opposition political groups. In Britain, the St. Vincent and Grenadines Society is organising meetings and pickets to denounce the new laws. They want support from all progressive people. Information: SUGS, 39 Clissold Rd., London N 16.

★ **MALAYA:** According to the BBC's "Summary of World Broadcasts", the radio station, "Voice of the Malayan Revolution", broadcast on 30th May the message sent by the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain to the Communist Party of Malaya, to mark the latter's 51st anniversary.

"Voice of the Malayan Revolution" has also announced the formation of the Malay Nationalist Revolutionary Party, as a revolutionary democratic party for the Malay nationality in Malaysia. The new party supports the Communist Party of Malaya.

★ **TURKEY:** The ruling military junta has placed on trial 25 leading members of the Workers' and Peasants Party of Turkey, including its leader Comrade Dogu Perincek. It is believed that some of the Turkish comrades were beaten up or tortured whilst awaiting trial. Amongst the charges they face are the 'crimes' of mentioning the existence of Kurdish and Arab national minorities in Turkey and calling for a thorough land reform.

★ **ZAIRE:** 5000 Zairean troops have been sent to Kivu province in the east of the country in a big operation against the base areas of the Peoples' Revolutionary Party, according to that Party's Brussels representative, Comrade Tutwemoto. The People's Revolutionary Party is a Marxist-Leninist party which has been waging a people's war for a number of years. Its strongest base is in Kivu province.

★ **GUYANA:** June 13th marked the first anniversary of the murder of Dr. Walter Rodney, the Pan-Africanist and Marxist historian and leading member of the Working People's Alliance. It was widely believed that agents of the Burnham regime were responsible for his death. The Burnham regime is worried by the growth of the Working People's Alliance as a revolutionary force in Guyanese society that is uniting and mobilising working people of African, Indian and Chinese descent. A memorial rally in London to mark the first anniversary of Dr. Rodney's death featured his wife Pat, a speaker from Ghana, from the Working People's Alliance and from the Indian and Caribbean communities in Britain as well as Indian and Caribbean poets and musicians. A film on the struggle of the people in El Salvador was shown.

★ **HONGKONG:** According to a report prepared by two Hongkong trade unions, unemployment now stands at 6.8% and underemployment at 21.1%. Amongst the worst hit industries is the textile industry, yet the chauvinist trade union leadership in Britain wants to impose import controls on textiles and other manufactured goods from Hongkong and other parts of the third world where the peoples' blood is sucked to further fill the coffers of those parasitic vampires, the British imperialists. About half the workers of Hongkong are paid less than HK\$ 1200 a month (a little over £90) although their factories are working at full capacity. In the electronics industry 70% of the workers earn less than this and many less than HK\$ 800 (a little over £60).

The anger of the black people of Coventry was turned against the police in the march protesting the racist murder of Satnam Singh Gill. The 19-year old Punjabi youth was stabbed in broad daylight in the city centre after a gang of skinheads set on him. The murder followed a number of attacks on Asians by skinhead gangs.

The police were unwilling to call the murder racist. But the Chief Constable was forced to admit this after several hours pressure from Asian leaders.

Local people held demonstrations every Saturday in the city centre. On 17th May a massive protest demonstration was organised by the Coventry Campaign Against Racism. Ten thousand marchers, predominantly Asian, marched from Foleshill road through the main areas of black population to a rally near the Cathedral. The march was led by several hundred Asian women from the community, many

COVENTRY RACISM RESISTED

with their young children. Contingents included those from many branches of the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain) and from many Sikh temples.

As the march filed into the square for the rally, a large courtyard surrounded by high walls on three sides, a group of 200 skinheads attacked them. The marchers turned to defend themselves against these scum. Immediately over a thousand police, including some on horseback, moved in to surround the marchers and force them back into the square.

Many marchers, led mainly by young Asians and Caribbeans, rallied against the police and attempted to break through

and avenge themselves on the skinheads. As the police closed ranks, and became more brutal, the black people, with a spirit reminiscent of Bristol and Brixton attacked them. Some stones and tree branches were thrown and police were pushed and knocked down. Asians, Caribbeans and some white allies vented their anger on the agents of the racist state. Fighting lasted for nearly an hour, but in the end the skinheads dispersed and the police made over 70 arrests.

Racists continued their violence on the national minority community. On Saturday night, June 6th, an Asian doctor was stabbed while sitting in his car outside a restaurant in the city centre. He died a few hours later in the hospital.

The national minorities and anti-racists of Coventry mourn for these martyrs of the racist violence stirred up by the British ruling class, but they continue to organise and fight back.

SOONG CHING LING

The outstanding veteran Chinese woman revolutionary, Soong Ching Ling, died of chronic lymphocytic leukemia at the age of 90 on May 29 1981. The widow of Sun Yat Sen, the leader of China's democratic revolution, she was a great patriot who through long years of revolutionary practice also became a great communist.

On 4 June the RCLB sent the following message of condolence to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China:

The International Committee of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has heard with deep grief of the passing away of Comrade Soong Ching Ling, Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Communist fighter. We extend our condolences to you.

Comrade Soong Ching Ling was the close comrade-in-arms of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the great patriot and revolutionary democrat. After Dr. Sun Yat Sen passed away, she tenaciously fought in defence of his three people's principles of Alliance with Soviet Russia, Unity with the Communist Party and Assistance to the workers and peasants and against the right wing traitors within the Kuomintang. Comrade Soong Ching Ling made a great contribution to the founding of the People's Republic of China and to spreading the truth about the Chinese revolution to the world. Comrade Soong Ching Ling made outstanding contributions to socialist construction and socialist revolution in China and consistently upheld leadership by the Communist Party. In the last weeks of her life, her long held wish to be acknowledged as a full member



of the Communist Party of China was granted.

Based on her deep grasp of Leninist theory of the unity and indivisibility of the struggles of workers in the imperialist countries and the struggles of the oppressed nations and peoples, Comrade Soong Ching Ling made a great contribution both before and after the founding of New China, to the struggles of the people of all countries against imperialism (including British imperialism) colonialism and hegemonism, against fascism and in defence of world peace and to the cause of friendship between the peoples of China and the world. Comrade Soong Ching Ling's passing away is thus not only a great loss to your Party and people, but also to the international communist movement, all oppressed nations and peoples and to the workers of all countries.

We are confident that the Chinese people will honour the memory of Comrade Soong Ching Ling by building China into a modern and powerful socialist country and by realising the great goal of national reunification.

Please convey our condolences to the relatives and friends of Comrade Soong Ching Ling.

ETERNAL GLORY TO COMRADE SOONG CHING LING!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

IRELAND SOLIDARITY

The struggle in Ireland is at a high point. To be informed of solidarity events around the country, 'phone the Troops Out Movement on 01-267 2004

Friday June 26

Philippines 1981: The Fight Against the Marcos Regime

Speaker - E. San Juan, leading Filipino activist from the USA, supporter of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines

7.30 - Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Organised by the Revolutionary Communist League.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday August 8/9/10

JOIN THE MASS DELEGATION TO BELFAST!
PICKET ARMY FORTS! MARCH WITH THE PEOPLE!
MEET THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT!

Organised by the Troops Out Movement. Details from P.O. Box 353, London NW5 or 'phone 01-267 2004.

Contingents for trade unionists, women, youth, national minorities. Learn about the struggle! Show your solidarity!

Saturday July 18

National Demonstration to support the hunger strikers.

Assemble 1.30 All Saints Rd., Oxford Rd., Manchester.

Wednesday July 29

Support the Hunger Strikers!
Demonstration called by the Leeds Hunger Strike Committee.

Assemble 12.30 pm., Potternewton Park, Harehills Avenue, Leeds 7.

Saturday July 4

Victory to the Hunger Strikers! Political Status now!

Demonstration organised by North London Hunger Strike Action Committee.

Assemble 2 pm. - square opposite Archway tube.