

# FREE THE BRADFORD 12!

May 1982 "Class Struggle" Correspondent

Some 2,000 people staged a militant demonstration through the streets of Leeds on Saturday April 3 to demand freedom for the Bradford 12, whose trial began on April 26. The demonstrators represented Support Groups for the Bradford 12, Asian youth groups, organisations of the Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Kashmiri, Afro-Caribbean, Iranian and Irish communities, anti-deportation campaigns, students, trade unionists, the womens' movement, anti-imperialists and a number of left wing groups including Red Action and the Revolutionary Communist League.

The march went ahead despite threats of a police ban, attempts to prevent it from marching through the city centre and other harassment. It attracted a great deal of interest and support from local people.

A number of speakers addressed a rally after the march. The United Black Youth League and Anwar Ditta both drew attention to the link between the fight against racism in Britain and the anti-imperialist struggle in Ireland. The Indian Workers' Association speaker told how the British state had used conspiracy charges against

the leaders of the Indian independence movement in 1924. Anwar Ditta said that the members of the Bradford 12 were so close to her that they were members of her own family. Without their support her family would not have been reunited. The Bangladeshi Welfare Association spoke of the importance of the different national communities uniting in support of the Bradford 12. Other speakers included Pow Shien Leong who told the crowd that her son, Chun Hee, had just won his appeal against deportation and a representative in exile of the Worker-Peasant Party of Pakistan. Messages received included one from the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

## TRIAL TO START

Support for the Bradford 12 is now pouring in from organisations around the country. A mass picket will

be held when the trial opens at Leeds Crown Court at 10 am on April 26. The picket aims to "shake the foundations of Leeds Crown Court"! Pickets of the court will be held every day of the trial, with mass pickets every Wednesday, beginning Wednesday May 5. All our readers should make efforts to be there. As the National Mobilising Committee point out:

"This trial has serious and far-reaching implications for all black people - and in fact for all working people in this country. If the twelve are convicted, another nail will be driven in the coffin of black people's rights."

More information from: Box JK, LAP, 59 Cookridge St., Leeds, 2.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The case of the Bradford 12 is starting to draw international attention. "Concret" the newspaper of the Party of Labour of Belgium recently carried a major article entitled, "The British state wants to imprison 12 young anti-racists for life".



## BLACK BOOKFAIR

The First International Bookfair of Black and Radical Third World Books took place in Islington, London on April 1-3. It was a big success. Exhibitors came from Africa, the Caribbean, France and USA as well as Britain. Over 3,000 people, mostly Afro-Caribbean people came to the Fair, and a sizeable proportion of them were local working class people, who showed a keen interest in books on their history and culture.

Events were organised around the fair on black film-making, writing, and other subjects, including an evening meeting on racist and fascist attacks on black, left and community bookshops.

The Fair organisers, Bogle-L'Ouverture, New Beacon Books and the "Race Today" Collective, were very pleased with the success of the event and intend to organise an even bigger and better bookfair next year.