

CLASS STRUGGLE

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SMASH BRITISH PIRACY!



Argentinian troops on their territory, the Malvinas.

As "Class Struggle" goes to press a determined invasion of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands by British imperialism is underway. Troops have landed, but they have met fierce resistance. The events of the last few weeks show one thing very clearly: that British imperialism retains all of its aggressive and savage nature. Its barbaric features have not altered in the slightest.

Already, British imperialism has run up a formidable list of atrocities in this reactionary war:

- * The sinking of the 'General Belgrano' with the loss of at least 300 lives, 35 miles outside of the British-imposed 'exclusion zone';

- * The air attacks on civilian ships carrying food and medicine, the sinking of a fishing boat and the strafing of its lifeboats and the firing on a boat flying a Red Cross flag that was on a rescue mission;

- * The bombing of civilian targets on the Malvinas (so

much for concern for the islanders) and the use of barbaric cluster and fragmentation bombs.

- * The unexplained murder of an Argentinian prisoner of war on South Georgia, the transporting of POWs to Ascension Island in hellish conditions, and the proposal to allow Captain Astiz to be interrogated by third countries. All of these actions are in defiance of the Geneva Convention, and mirror the brutality shown to Irish POWs;

- * The sending of nuclear submarines in defiance of the May 1969 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, a treaty whose protocols have been signed by Britain.

- * Imposition of a totally-illegal blockade up to 12 miles off the Argentinian shore, in an area which includes Argentina's exclusive economic zone, as well as international waters where Argentinian ships have a perfect right to be;

- * The loss of a Sea King he-

licopter (probably containing SAS men) over Chile, showing how British aggression is threatening all Latin American countries;

- * And, the steady bombardment of the British servicemen aboard the Task Force with a diet of extreme pornography and violence in order to dupe them into carrying out their inhuman orders.

Savage British piracy is condemned throughout the world. We are living in the era when the peoples of the world insist on striking out down the road of independence. The third world is not to be pushed around! Already the British imperialists have had to face the loss of HMS Sheffield and at least 7 helicopters.

Communists in Britain say:

No to British imperialist warmongering and aggression!

The Malvinas belong to Argentina, not Britain! Victory to Argentina!

END BRITISH COLONIALISM!

Anti-Imperialist May Day

May 1st (May Day), the international day of working and oppressed people, was celebrated this year by the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) with an anti-imperialist rally in London. The rally was addressed by speakers from Iran, Eritrea, Azania, Ireland, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Opening the meeting, a member of the RCLB said that this was a reflection of the clearcut anti-imperialist line that the League had adopted at its Second Congress last year.

A speaker from the Moslem Students' Society (supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran) presented a brief history of the

Iranian working class and stressed that their struggle was inseparable from that of the Iranian people as a whole. He explained how the Iranian Revolution had been betrayed by the reactionary regime of Khomeini and that the workers bore the brunt of poverty and repression in Iran. Furthermore, the revisionists of the Tudeh Party are used to spy on and police the workers.

The speaker from the Eritrean Workers' Association (mass organisation of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front) traced the successive struggles of the Eritrean people against foreign masters: Italy, Britain, United States and, today, the

Soviet Union. The comrade said that since 1977 Eritrea has been Russia's Vietnam. They are "perpetrating atrocities of immense proportions", using napalm and cluster bombs.

The comrade from the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania told the meeting of the three-century long struggle of the Azanian people against foreign aggressors who have usurped the land. He said that Azanian workers are denied rights European workers take for granted. This denial of rights enables the imperialists to draw superprofits. For example in basic wages rates alone a Ford worker in South Africa earns just one sixth of the wage of a Ford

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

"In view of what had happened recently in Southall and other areas where black families had been petrol-bombed and murdered.... in Deptford where black youth had been burnt to death, we took the news that coachloads of skinhead thugs were coming to Bradford very seriously. It is my belief that when a people are attacked it is their right to act in self-defence. The nature of that defence depends upon the nature of attack... We decided that an organised defence of our community was necessary. In my view, the defence of black people, of all working class people, who are threatened by the menace of facism, necessitates the forming of defensive organisations."

Statement by one of the defendants while in police custody, July 1981.



Free The Bradford 12



From the start of the political trial of the Bradford 12 the police conspiracy has become even clearer.

- * Statements by police officers put forward in court were all made more than a month after the actual events took place. All their original statements have been 'lost'!

- * Two of the four new statements make identical claims that shouts of "we want a riot" were made. Yet this statement was not written down in any police notes made at the time.

- * None of the officers could name any other officer on duty at the time. A convenient circumstance that makes it somewhat difficult to verify their statements.

- * One police officer, Benn, claimed in his second statement that there was a violent struggle when arresting Sabir Hussain. Yet there is no such comment in his notebook, written at the time.

Ellis, the Acting Superintendent for Bradford Central Sub-division, had supervised the police up to the arrest of Tarlochan Gata-Aura, Tariq Mahmoud Ali, Sabir Hussain and Giovanni Singh. He claimed never to have heard of most of the campaigns the Bradford 12 had been active in, including that of Anwar Ditta! He claimed not to have known Tarlochan by name or by sight despite the fact that Tarlochan had spoken to police many times in the course of his political activity. Yet in other police statements it has been made clear that after being arrested members

of the Bradford 12 were questioned about the development and founders of the United Black Youth League and its relationship to the Asian Youth Movement. Dossiers on some of the defendants were used. Why, then, the claim in court of ignorance of the Bradford 12's political activity? Because, of course, how else do you pretend this is a non-political trial?

CONSPIRACY'S RULES

The special rules of evidence in conspiracy cases, and the political basis for them, were clear in police evidence. Detective Inspector Sidebottom for instance, made a point of stressing that Tarlochan had "a large number of Left-wing books and periodicals", mentioning the New Statesman (!), Race Today, H-Block Literature, KAR and CARF. This showed that Tarlochan "was a man of extreme views". Such evidence is supposed to allow the jury to 'infer' that Tarlochan was therefore part of a 'conspiracy'.

A Jury of Peers?

No Chance

The Trial is not being held in Bradford where the community is aware of racist assaults and of police racism. It is being held in Leeds. The Jury Panel of 75, selected by the state, from which the 12 jurors were to be picked, contained ONE black person who was eligible. After several days it was agreed to amalgamate two Jury Panels; still a mainly white jury. On questioning potential jurors, the prosecution claimed that if jurors were to have good friends in the National Front this would not be a case for rejecting them!

COMMUNITY READY TO DEFEND

ITSELF

It is true that the Bradford Asian community were prepared in July to defend their community. Strong rumours were rampant that coachloads of skinheads were about to attack the community. Southall, where this had already happened during the previous weekend, was in the forefront of people's minds. Some events during that time serve to demonstrate the real threat that existed.

- * On July 10 an Asian man was stabbed and robbed.

- * On July 11 the window of the Pakistan Consulate in Bradford was smashed.

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A speaker from the Irish Republican Socialist Party told the meeting of the origins of her organisation, of its fight for national liberation and socialism and

Cont. on P.2

May Day from p.1

its policy of working for an anti-imperialist broad front. She spoke in support of the youth uprisings in Britain last year and said that it was important to see the links between the Irish people and the national minorities. She explained how the Irish community in Britain was terrorised by the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and of how it has been used against members and supporters of her Party. She concluded by calling on British revolutionaries to build a campaign for British withdrawal from Ireland.

The speaker from the Afghanistan National United Front and the People's Liberation Organisation of Afghanistan told how the Soviet social imperialists have both worked to undermine Afghanistan and its economy in order to make Afghanistan a Soviet colony and also worked to undermine and destroy the genuine revolutionary movement in Afghanistan. He said that Russian activities have given communism a very bad name in Afghanistan.

The Bangladesh Workers' Association stressed the importance of the Theory of the Three Worlds for revolutionaries. Some people could not accept it because of their social chauvinism, they could not accept that it is the third world that is the major force. Yet this is borne out in Britain today. Whilst the working class as a whole is on the defensive, a section

of the most oppressed are on the offensive; for example in Toxteth and Brixton. The comrade also strongly condemned British imperialist aggression against Argentina.

the Labour Party is, and always has been, a thoroughly racist and imperialist party, a party of savagery and barbarism. Yet all the main organisations of the British

Organisations that were unable to send speakers to the Rally but expressed support were the Democratic Revolutionary Front/Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement of El Salvador, the UK Branch of the People's Redemption Party of Nigeria and the Ghana People's Solidary Organisation.

It is a fact that the RCLB is the only party political organisation in this country that could or would assemble such a platform, and this shows the tremendous responsibilities that it faces, responsibilities that the RCLB is determined to shoulder over the coming months and years.

Also on May Day, the UK Branch of the People's Redemption Party of Nigeria held a convention with many important guests from Nigeria. This marked a big step forward in their building a national democratic organisation amongst the Nigerian community in Britain. A representative of the RCLB attended on invitation.

DEFEND

THE MAY DAY 2!

About 2,000 people attended the traditional May Day March in London. Taking part in the march was a contingent initiated by the South London Irish Solidarity Committee calling for "Victory to the Irish people! Troops out Now!" Their message was that on this day of international working

class solidarity, British workers should take a stand in support of the struggle of the Irish people. Two of the marchers, Terry O'Halloran and Chris Procter, were arrested for chating the slogan, "British army murderers out!" Inspector Summers of Stoke Newington Police said that this slogan could not be shouted because his son was in the army. Summers thinks that he can decide what working people can say on their May Day march.

After their arrest the comrades were subjected to a torrent of abuse, taunts and threats. They were threatened with being held over the weekend. They were finally released after nearly ten hours, only after repeated pressure from supporters. Now the two comrades are charged with "behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace", under a fourteenth century law! The message is clear: the police are engaged in a campaign of political censorship against any views with which they disagree, and through their taxes the working class will have to pay for it.

Each and every police attack on democratic rights must be fought. A militant picket was held when the comrades appeared in court on May 19. Their trial has been fixed for October 12. The May Day 2 Defence Campaign needs support: BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX.



MAY DAY PLATFORM WITH SPEAKERS FROM BRITAIN, AZANIA AND ERITREA

The final speaker was the representative of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain. He stressed that for us May Day is a day of internationalism. That is why we have worked to build a platform uniting the frontline fighters against British imperialism and the two superpowers. The comrade stressed that the British working class has no Party of its own and that the majority of the British working class movement supports British imperialism. Furthermore, this same movement has time and time again sold the struggles of the British working class down the river. The comrade explained that

left give it support and fail to give genuine and consistent support to the national liberation movements. That is why it has fallen to the RCLB to build a revolutionary communist party based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. The speaker explained the League's priorities of industrial base building, work in support of the fightback of the national minorities and Ireland solidarity work, and said:

"Ours is a party that is going to be built amongst the most oppressed. It will be thoroughly internationalist in both its words and deeds."

The Editor, CS, c/o 203, Seven Sisters Rd., London N.4.

Ireland

From Manchester Women and Ireland Group

We have just finished writing and publishing a booklet inspired by this year's picket of Armagh jail. It is called *Images from the Armagh Picket 1982*.

Some of the women in the Manchester Women and Ireland Group who went to Ireland this March had visited the North of Ireland before. For others it was their first visit. The bulletin starts with some of our impressions of being in Belfast and of talking to women living through the war. It includes an interview with a young woman from Belfast: she graphically details how the struggles and hardships of the past 13 years have forced everyone to change. Most especially this is true about women:

"Pre-1969, even pre-1973, the women's role in the war was not recognised as even existing, because we ourselves were not really thought of as a force to be answered to. This has now changed due to the overwhelming response to the revolution from women themselves."

This response is echoed in the statement from the women inside Armagh Jail. Also included are poems written by the prisoners, a report on the picket, and a summary of the position of women in Armagh Jail and in Limerick in the South.

We hope it is an easy read, but also that it inspires you to find out more and to join all those who call for

"Britain out of Ireland". It is available from our address for 50p plus postage (16p); bulk orders (over 10) are cheaper. Box 15, 164-166 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN.

From a Member of North London Irish Solidarity Committee

On April 22, the North London Irish Solidarity Committee held a very successful public meeting both to build for the May 8 demonstration in memory of Bobby Sands and as a part of its regular work amongst the working and oppressed people of north London.

45 Irish, black and English local working class people, of all ages, attended the meeting and saw the video film "Ireland's Hunger Strike". The main speaker was Mrs Hill, the mother of framed Irish Prisoner of War, Paul Hill. Mrs Hill spoke graphically on the struggle waged by Irish prisoners in English jails and stressed that their closest allies were the black prisoners. Enlarging on her theme she said that Britain had been "built up from plunder around the world", so all the oppressed had an interest in uniting together to fight imperialism. She ended up by calling on people to support the struggles waged by the prisoners.

The speaker for the Committee, Mark Peters, said that the basis for a solidarity movement in Britain was that British workers and the Irish people shared the same enemy, the British ruling class. Outlining the repression and the British propaganda war in the north, he stressed that the nationalist people were undaunted and that the IRA are "here to stay".

Principled solidarity work is able to win working class support for the struggle of the Irish people.

Democracy

From Gordon Teal

My friend and I were arrested in May 1981 for selling an anti-racist and socialist paper, "Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!" from door to door in Chapeltown, Leeds.

We then set up the Leeds 3 Defence Campaign to contest the case. We appealed against the convictions and fines totalling £200 for "behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace", "obstruction of a police officer" and "peddling without a licence" in breach of the 1824 Vagrancy Act. We had our appeal upheld on all accounts at Leeds Crown Court in November 1981. Lord Belstead, Under-Secretary at the Home Office, said in a letter to us at that time "these cases seem to me to have demonstrated the fairness of our judicial system..."

Both my friend and I are now being taken to the Divisional Court as the police are appealing against our successful appeal. This is surely an unprecedented step by the police on such minor charges.

I have recently heard of the cut-backs in legal aid to which many lawyers have come out in opposition. I did not fully appreciate the significance of these cuts until now when I am forced to pay legal costs. I have to make twelve monthly contributions of over £12 to my legal aid - this is in spite of the fact that I do not want to go to the Divisional Court but am being taken there by the police. The police, it should be noted, get their finance for such proceedings not out of

their own pocket but from the taxes that people like me pay. This means that I am paying the costs of the case twice - once for me and once for them. Moreover, thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money is being spent in taking my friend and me to the Divisional Court and we are only charged under the Public Order Act. This is all after we have been found innocent in an Appeal Court.

I am only a staff nurse yet I have been refused legal aid while multi-national companies are granted legal aid. It is only recently that Shell and BP were awarded legal aid amounting to £33,000. How is it that I have to pay legal costs while these multi-national companies get so much help? I, like many others, used to think that the legal aid scheme was meant to help ordinary people like myself get some form of justice, and that it was not meant to help multi-national companies. Where is the justice in all this? I am sure that there are many other people who find themselves in a similar position where it is virtually impossible to get the legal aid that they need.

In fighting the charges that the police have brought against me, of which I have already been found innocent, and in the fight to defend the democratic right to sell anti-racist and socialist literature, it seems that the police can rest assured that even if I am found innocent, once again, I am in effect paying a fine through my contributions to the legal costs of the case. Would it be an

overstatement to say that British justice no longer means that a defendant is never innocent? This is what the cut-backs in legal aid and the whole of the case of the police against my friend and myself would seem to suggest.

Schools Action

From a former member of the Schools Action Union

The tenth anniversary of the 1972 London school strike falls this year. It is an occasion which deserves to be remembered.

Over a period of several weeks, thousands of school students walked out on strike and demonstrated for demands which have been popular with them for decades: no caning, no detentions, no compulsory school uniform, and others. The movement started in West London at Rutherford's School, and then spread to become an all-London movement. One day 10,000 came out in protest activities.

The force which sparked the strikes and largely led them was the Schools Action Union (SAU).

The ruling class clearly saw the strikes as a serious threat. Schools are institutions where children are indoctrinated with bourgeois ideology; the education system in Britain serves British imperialism, and is intended



Labour Movement Backs Britain

Faced with continuing rises in the cost of living, soaring unemployment, constant erosion of democratic rights and the continuing war in Ireland, substantial sections of the Labour Movement have discovered a new militancy; that is, militant support for British imperialism in its reactionary war against Argentina. Yet again, the Labour aristocracy has shown itself to be the most enthusiastic backer of British imperialism, a role they have played throughout their history. As Lenin said,

"For they are the real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement... real channels of reformism and chauvinism. In the civil war between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie they inevitably, and in no small numbers, take the side of the bourgeoisie." (Emphasis in original.)

Thus, Moss Evans of the TGWU said,

"We believe they should get off the Falkland Islands, and if we can't do anything other than use force, then force will have to be used."

Terry Duffy of the AUEW said that Britain needed more weaponry and went on,

"None of us wish to see bloodshed, but I have always believed that if we wish to retain democracy we should never succumb to bullying, and in particular to a dictatorship who wish to destroy free trade unionism."

Coming from Duffy this remark is utterly priceless. He is the racist who tried to visit South Africa in defiance of the wishes of black trade unionists. He is the scab who sold out the Laurence Scott workers in Manchester. It is the job of Argentinian workers to defend trade unionism in their country, not for imperial bossmen like Duffy, who has done nothing to oppose Tebbit's plans to manacle trade unions in Britain.

DOCK STRIKE OFF

The disastrous effects of support for British imperialism

to produce adults who will serve it with the minimum of questioning. Small wonder then that a press campaign was waged against the SAU, with "shock-horror" headlines like "Classroom Castros Bent on Revolution" appearing; the "Daily Mail" sent a spy along to an SAU organising meeting, and another paper organised the theft of documents from the SAU headquarters. Side by side with this went state repression. The leader of the Labour-controlled Inner London Education Authority sent a letter to all parents in the area, warning them to make their children go to school, police were sent into a number of schools to control the situation, and some heads locked the school students in at breaks so that they couldn't join the strike. The police arrested many of those they considered to be "ringleaders" and harassed others. It was only by methods such as these that the state was able to put down the movement, but the strikes nevertheless had a lasting influence on many who took

on the class struggle in Britain can be seen on the docks. In early May a threatened national dock strike was called off at the last moment so as not to disrupt the "war effort". As a result, thousands more jobs will be lost and the government has been given a green light to attack the job protection of the National Dock Labour Scheme.

Liverpool Seamen Against Imperialist War

In stark contrast to the scab leadership of their Union, the Liverpool Branch of the National Union of Seamen has unanimously declared its opposition to the war in the South Atlantic. Many Liverpool seamen have refused to serve on vessels bound for the war and one branch member explained,

"This is despite the fact that they have been unemployed over long periods and despite tempting extra rates and pool fall-back when they return."

Over 400 people attended a meeting to oppose the war against Argentina, called by Newcastle Trades Council.

The annual conference of the National Union of Seamen, meeting in Tenby recently, endorsed a resolution calling for a British invasion of the Malvinas. Speakers from Liverpool and Felixstowe opposed the motion. General Secretary Jim Slater said,

"We cannot allow the Argentinians to continue to protract these negotiations."

The most sickening comment came from Assistant General Secretary, Sam McCluskie, who has also called for bombing of the Argentinian mainland. Speaking of the sinking of the "General Belgrano" outside even the arbitrarily imposed British exclusion zone and with the loss of 300 lives, he said,

"I shed not one tear for the Argentine cruiser that was sunk, because it could just as easily have been ours."

part, so that the spirit of revolt remained strong in them

The ultimate defeat of the strikes showed that SAU's forces were too weak to carry forward the struggle and that the Marxist-Leninists who led it had to dedicate themselves to building a party which could in the future help school students to build a movement which could sustain itself and develop despite the attacks of the state and other servants of the ruling class.

It is also significant, given events in the last two years, that the school strikes mainly had the character of an uprising of the most oppressed sections of the people in London. National minority and women school students played a prominent part in the strikes, and the great majority of support came from working class areas.

School students had risen up before 1972 against oppression and I have every confidence they will do so again.

Every British worker should condemn this vile gloating over the lives of 300 young Argentine sailors who gave their lives in the fight for their country's right to self-determination and territorial integrity.

The action of the National Union of Seamen is the most vile class treachery and shows how tied to British imperialism is the leadership of the working class movement. It shows the need for a new revolutionary movement to be built based on the hopes and aspirations of the most oppressed.

Arthur Scargill, leader of the Miners' Union, has called for the recall of the British fleet, and this has led to a row in Barnsley Labour Party. Roy Mason said,

"I don't think it is right we should give in to a damnable military junta."

Mason should know about "damnable military juntas". As Northern Ireland Secretary he earned the hatred of the Irish people to an extent that few British rulers have managed - and that takes some doing! He encouraged sectarian killings, revamped the RUC, withdrew special category status and built the H blocks. He thus bears direct responsibility for the deaths of the ten hunger strikers. Some fighter for democracy!

QUEEN AND COUNTRY

Nothing irritates Labour 'leftists' more than the suggestion that they might be less than 125% loyal to Queen and Country. In a recent House of Commons debate on the Malvinas MP Tam Dayell was accused of being disloyal. Hotly denying this he reminded the House that he had been an eager participant in the imperialist butchery in Korea in 1950-53.

Lenin described the pro-imperialist opportunists as,

"alien to the proletariat as a class ... the servants, the agents, the conduits of the influence of the bourgeoisie, and of whom the labour movement must rid itself if it does not want to remain a bourgeois labour movement." (all emphasis in original)

Speaking of those who advocate unity with the opportunists, he said,

"The victory of revolutionary Social-Democracy (today read revolutionary communism - CS Ed.) on a world scale is inevitable, but it is marching and will take place against you, it will be a victory over you."

"Class Struggle" Correspondent

The 2,000 or so shopfloor workers at the Edmonton factories of M.K. Electric have decided recently on a 15% pay claim. Last year the M.K. bosses were able to con and bully the workers there into accepting a paltry 7% pay rise.

M.K. had been on a 4-day week for 9 months of 1981 and with a fall in orders the bosses claimed they could not "afford" the 15% rise demanded. Plus, they said, the bank's interest rates were too high. So, when the shop-



Mr Men fans will welcome a new storyline from Mr Topsy-Turvy, played this week by Mr Tebbit, Employment Secretary, who confidently stated that more robots in industry will mean more jobs, not less! Facts - such as the loss of 600 jobs at Halewood last year when robot welding was installed on the Ford Escort production line; or the installation of word processors in offices allowing one typist to do the work of three - obviously have no influence on Mr Tebbit's speeches.

He went on to say: "Robots don't get tired. They can achieve a consistency and quality which the human simply cannot match. While robots are getting on with the boring, dirty and dangerous jobs, they offer people the chance of better-paid and more fulfilling jobs." Again, the reality of the dole queue seems to have escaped him. In present day Britain robots are being used to increase production and make maximum profits for the capitalists.

But then Mr Topsy-Turvy and his friends are good at turning things on their heads.

The wife of Major Guy Sheridan, who led the action to seize South Georgia, wrote to the 'Daily Mirror' recently:

"It's a worry, of course, but it would have been a bitter disappointment if they'd gone all that way without having a bit of a skirmish."

Meanwhile, a sailor whose letter home was printed in the 'Daily Express', crowed that: "The wops took 3 hours to give up."

The West Midlands Chief Constable is being sued for damages by the mother of 16 year-old Gail Kinchen who was shot and killed by police bullets in a siege two years ago. Gail's boyfriend, David Pagett, is serving a 12-year sentence for manslaughter because he was using her as a shield when the police shot her.

Not content with shooting Gail Kinchen and running down David Moore, the police killed another four young men when their car was hit by a police car in a 100 mph chase. The police were after a suspected stolen Ford Capri when they ploughed into the side of a Vauxhall Viva. The three passengers in the Viva were killed instantly, and the driver died later in hospital.

Britain's bosses continue to rake in the cash while the rest of us suffer from unemployment, inflation and cuts in services. British Oxygen's Dick Giordana heads the top pay list with £477,100 a year. Other high earners include: underwriter Ian Postgate with £322,800, city journalist Patrick Sergeant with £255,646, Lonrho chief Tiny Rowland with £251,650 and Lord Grade with £201,630.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Directors' boss, Walter Goldsmith, has called for the ending of Bank Holidays.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has accused the Government of getting care for the elderly and handicapped on the cheap. Today 1,250,000 people (mainly women) in Britain volunteer to care for elderly and chronically ill members of their families. Many are disqualified from receiving the full range of state benefits and pensions because they could only manage part-time jobs.

England has more than 2,300 beds in new hospitals which cannot be used because of shortage of funds. As for the staff in wards which are actually used, nearly half of all full-time nurses earn less than the Government's official poverty line of £82 per week. This includes 35,000 who have qualified after two years' study.

M.K. Workers Press For 15%

floor started a work-to-rule, the bosses responded with a threatened lock-out. The workforce caved in and accepted the 7%.

Now the M.K. bosses are trying a brand new tactic. They say the "Falklands crisis" is so worrying that they won't start pay talks for some weeks. They're afraid that interest rates will go up and maybe even taxes to pay for British imperialism's war in the South Atlantic.

Most M.K. workers are greeting this ploy with much laughter. Many of the workers are in no mood to be conned again this year. They expect M.K.'s profits to be well up on last year's "low" of £5.6 million.

They well remember that this was after 9 months of short-time working, high interest rates and 160 redundancies. Not too bad for a "bad" year!

Many are convinced that a solid 15% pay rise is needed just to keep their living standards in pace with rising inflation. But the only way this claim will ever be achieved is through unity in action.

Many workers are ready to push past those opportunists who mislead by crying: "We're lucky to have jobs." These workers have learned from experience that militant, united action is needed to force M.K. to meet the 15% pay claim.



POLICE CLAIM NO RACISM IN BRADFORD!

In court Superintendent Ellis denied any knowledge of rumours of a skinhead attack and claimed that he was "proud of 'race-relations' in Bradford". Det. Inspector Sidebottom was asked if he knew of a recent Home Office report on racist attacks. West Yorkshire was one of 13 areas investigated. It said that Asians were 50 times more likely to be attacked than whites. He claimed never to have heard of it!

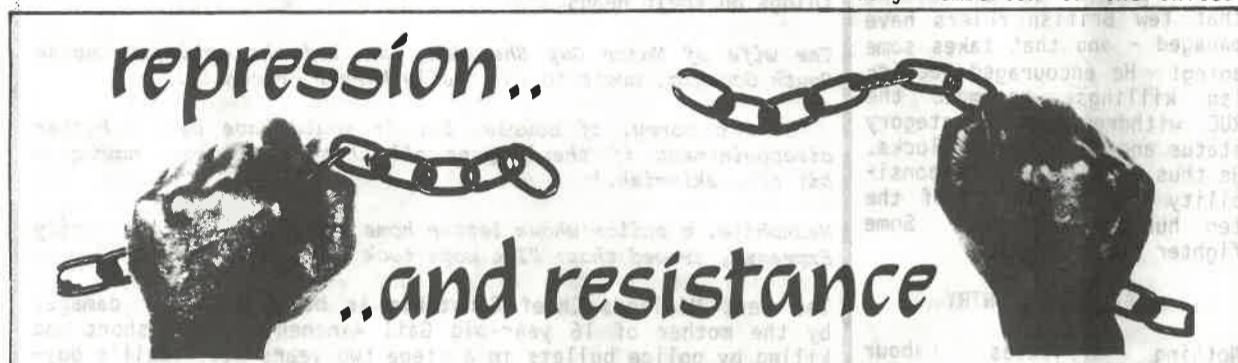
"The liars are those who say that there was no racial violence in Bradford that week end. I am charging the police with criminal negligence." Sighbet Kadri, one of the defence lawyers.

All the police agree. There are no racist attacks happening in Bradford. Manning, one of the officers, regularly on duty in the area, claimed never to have heard of any attacks, nor of Anwar Ditta, Gary Pemberton or the United

Cont. from Page 1

- * On July 14 an Asian youth was attacked by 40 white youths with a petrol bomb. Two were arrested and charged - with stealing petrol and assault! No 'conspiracy' here!
- * On July 24 two Asian homes were gutted by firebombs. Two white men were charged - and released immediately on bail. No 'conspiracy' of course.

- * On August 23 the West Indian Community Centre was firebombed and gutted. Remembering Deptford, police claimed it was an 'accident'!
- * On September 25 local papers carried reports that black people were being attacked late at night from cruising vans.
- * On November 20 Mohammed Arif, a taxi-driver, was murdered by a Nazi.



George Lindo was found guilty four years ago of robbing a betting shop. The only evidence against him was a 'confession' made to Bradford police. George signed the statement, written by police, after 18 hours' interrogation. As soon as he was out of the police station he withdrew it. He had been given no food and was denied a solicitor. After being sent to prison he finally had his sentence quashed - just two weeks before he was due for parole! Evidence showed he had been framed. At the beginning of May, after a long campaign, he finally won compensation; but that cannot cover up the ease with which the police can frame people. ■

Unsurprisingly, the trial of the police murderers of David Moore has led to their complete acquittal. The trial was shifted from Liverpool to stop demonstrations against the police and to gain a jury with little experience of Liverpool's uniformed thugs. The prosecution had some vigour in it, but not directed against the men on trial! It was David Moore whose character was smeared. It was David Moore who was on trial. The jury did not even have to hear the police's defence. They were found not guilty at the end of the prosecution evidence. The witnesses who saw the police drive a Landrover straight at David Moore and run him over obviously had little attention paid to them. ■

Meanwhile, Ronnie Pilgrim, one of the Thornton Heath 15, has been sent to prison for 8 years for the manslaughter of Terry May. Unlike the cases of racist murders of national minority people, which are rarely reported, Terry's death was used as an excuse for a massive racist outburst by the gutter press. The event leading to Terry's death was the attack on a pub by black youth searching for the fascists responsible for a series of racist attacks in the area. In contrast, Paul Carr, a racist skinhead, cold-bloodedly stabbed Dr Amal Dharry to death because he "hated Pakis" and wanted to "prove his bottle". No big headlines here. No press campaign against racism. The evidence, however, could not be ignored. He got 7 years for manslaughter, after being found not guilty of murder! ■

Angry traders signed a protest on May 2 calling for a ban on the National Front's market bookstall in Brick Lane, East London. Senior NF official Terry Faulkner said: 'We do a lot of street selling around Brick Lane. Certainly it could be seen as inflammatory but that is part of the game.'

Mr & Mrs White were finally awarded damages of £51,392 by the High Court at the end of April. Nearly 6 years ago they and their son, Denis, were assaulted viciously during a racist police raid on their home in London. Whilst some may claim that this represents 'justice', it should be noted that of the 17 officers involved in the assault, and in a 6-year cover-up, not one has been disciplined for their actions. The police who covered up this assault, and for that matter the Prison Warders who have covered up the facts of the 'unlawful killing' of Barry Prosser, and even the Scotland Yard police who obstructed the Operation Countryman investigation of police corruption, could all be charged with 'conspiracy to obstruct the course of justice'. At least it would appear so until you remember that that is a law for use against the state's enemies, not the state itself. ■

At last the parents of the 13 black youths who were murdered in the New Cross arson massacre have won a small victory in their campaign to get the truth known. The High Court has given the families leave to apply for a new inquest. The coroner in the original inquest didn't even bother to take notes during the proceedings. The 'open verdict' reached at it is a disgrace that failed to show the truth of what happened and did not expose the great efforts of the police to claim that it was not an arson attack at all. ■

It is well known that degrees obtained by students in third world countries are given less status than those awarded by British, USA and white commonwealth countries. This discrimination frequently denies third world students the right to do postgraduate courses, bars them from many jobs, and prevents promotion. Binalesh Ditta was told that his two degrees from Calcutta University were not good enough to exempt him from parts of lawyers exams. The Law Society allows exemptions usually, but this was a third world degree. However, when he applied for a grant to do a degree in Britain, he was told he couldn't have one as he already had a degree - from Calcutta! The racist establishment wants it both ways. ■

According to a survey carried out in February by the local Community Federation, only 84 out of 1,556 young people between the ages of 16 and 18 in Toxteth have got full-time jobs. An unemployment rate of 95%! In Brixton the official unemployment rate is 80%. ■

The Liverpool Central and Southern Community Health Council recently applied for government backing for two health projects. One was to pay two researchers to carry out a survey on the health disorder in the black community; the other was to establish a special unit to investigate and treat sickle cell anaemia. Both were refused. Perhaps it is clear why, if you know that sickle cell anaemia affects black people only. ■

Black Youth League. He is a white Rhodesian who left Zimbabwe in February '81. Perhaps he couldn't stand the new government there. It is overwhelmingly black.

Detective Inspector Sidebottom was asked: "Has any incident room ever been set up in Bradford to deal with the problem of racist attacks?" He replied: "No, it is not considered to be a serious problem." Detective Constable Prosser, when asked "Are you aware of any incidence of such attacks?", replied "No, there aren't any." "Not a topic the police think relevant?" he was asked. "No."

Having magicked away the real situation in Bradford, the police are trying to claim that the Bradford 12 were planning a 'riot' and intended to attack shops and police in the area. The lies build into a pattern - a conspiracy by the police to put away national minority political activists.

The Anwar Ditta campaign, which they have never heard of, to bring her children to Britain made such an impact that it led to TV programmes on the case. Some of the Bradford 12 were centrally involved in the campaign.

Gary Pemberton was a local man who had assault charges

Funeral Fund

The father of Masood Malik, one of the 12 defendants, died on Friday, 14th May. The Judge refused to adjourn the trial despite an appeal by defence counsel. In opposition to this cold-blooded judge, the Bradford 12 campaign has asked sympathisers to donate funds to allow Masood's mother and elder brother to accompany the body to Pakistan. Cheques should be made payable to the Bradford 12 Defence Fund and donations addressed to Box JK, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. Cheques should be marked on the back: 'For the Masood Malik Family Appeal'.

ASIANS CHALLENGE LABOUR STRONGHOLD

Independent Asian candidates took 2,765 votes in four wards in the London Borough of Newham during May's local elections. Whilst not yet being in a position to win elections, it is a strong base from which to work. Noor Darwesh, one of the candidates, stated: "Considering we entered the polls at the last minute, I think we did well. We can build on this result." In fact the results show that the 8 Asian candidates had at least as much support as those of the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

Nine more independent Asians stood in Tower Hamlets, another London Borough, which includes the Brick Lane area. A strong base of support led to the election victory of one of the candidates.

In both Boroughs furious Labour Party members attacked the Asian community's representatives. Yet both Borough councils are solid Labour strongholds which not only have shown little or no support for those fighting racism, but in fact are racist themselves in housing and other services.

The standing of Asian candidates is in itself most importantly a demand for

brought against him. After a campaign, again with the central involvement of some of the defendants, he was acquitted of the trumped-up charges. And the police officers had "never heard of him"?

NO RELIANCE ON RACIST POLICE

The Bradford police deny any racism in Bradford. They refuse to investigate or stamp out racist attacks. The Communities say now: "We will defend ourselves". The police round on them with a viciousness equal to their apathy when it comes to racist attacks.

The issue of the trial is clear. The national minorities must fight back. They are fighting back. They will not be intimidated by the racist state.

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE!

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Last month "Class Struggle" reported that the Belgian paper "Concret", produced by the Party of Labour of Belgium, had carried an article exposing the trial of the Bradford 12. In Canada, "The Forge", newspaper of the Workers' Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) similarly attacked state racism in Britain and supported the Bradford 12. The Sri Lanka Communist Party (Left) wrote to the British High Commission. The letter said: "We feel that these are the most serious - and the most blatantly political - charges to be brought in the wake of the uprisings which shook over 30 towns and cities in Britain last summer in effect the trial of the Bradford 12 represents a trial of the entire black community for its growing spirit of defiance to oppression. We demand all the charges against the Bradford 12 be dropped immediately." Long extracts of the letter were printed in "Saturday Review", the only regional English paper in Sri Lanka! ■

representation of national minorities. It is a democratic demand against state racism.

The actual platform of the candidates as expressed in the Newham candidates' joint leaflet not only opposed oppression and discrimination in the council services and in its own employment policies, but went on to demand the development of nursery schools, facilities for youth and the unemployed, and the extension of education services whilst opposing cuts which have been introduced by the Labour Council. Simultaneously they opposed any rate increases.

This stand is a stand against all methods of pushing the burden of the crisis onto the working class; a policy of total opposition.

The stand the candidates took was a stand of working class unity and democracy, but in standing they also demonstrated that such unity can only really exist on the basis of full support for the particular demands of national minorities and a recognition that their struggle against oppression which encompasses all classes and communities, is a struggle in its own right.

LIVERPOOL 8 FIGHT BACK

Liverpool 8, where one of the biggest uprisings of last summer took place, was again the scene of popular resistance on the weekend of April 24-25.

On the night of Friday, April 23, police descended on the house of a black family in Granby St., and proceeded to ransack the place under the pretext of looking for stolen property. The youth they were after was out, but when he returned he contacted members of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee and went to lodge a complaint at Admiral St. Police Station.

The police reaction was to rough up the three, pushing the youth's head through a window, throwing out the defence committee members and then charging the youth with robbery and criminal damage!

So much for the "new sensitivity" which the police are supposed to be showing towards black people since the Scarman Report! Events such as this show that the real effect of that 'liberal' document was to give a license to the police to go on with their rampage of racist violence against black people.

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION

The youth of Liverpool 8 delivered a swift response to the police that evening. Smaller hit and run clashes had already occurred over the weeks before this, but now the young people gathered in Granby St., and threw out the police, inflicting a number of casualties on them. Next day, no police ventured in until 4 p.m., when a patrol was once more seen off in no uncertain manner, losing hel-

metts and radios in their flight.

Later the same evening, fighting took place on Upper Parliament St., barricades were built and the police went in with the armoured jeeps and vans they got last year and which they have been itching to try out ever since.

Sunday was fairly quiet, so the police kept clear of Granby St. most of the time, but there was more fighting on Monday, when police vehicles were stoned. The reaction of Chief Constable Oxford was to send in the "riot squad." So much for 'community policing'!

In fact the people of Liverpool 8, like those of many areas which are largely black, or where desperately hard-up white people live, don't want any kind of policing - 'community' or otherwise, that the racist British state can provide. For them, the police are like an army of occupation and the police know this, which is why they make little effort to observe legal niceties in these areas, and why they are tooling up with more repressive equipment to repress the people.

Contrary to police mythology, the people of places like Liverpool 8 are well aware of what the police stand for, and that's why they fight back, not because of 'manipulation' by left-wing extremists - the racist remark made after every uprising involving black people which denies that they can think and act for themselves.

As the year wears on, the war between the most oppressed sections of the people and the police will intensify.

Law of the Sea

After nine years of discussion the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea voted on the text of a draft convention. It was passed by 130 votes to 4, with 17 abstentions. It is a step, but only a step, in the third world's lengthy struggle against great power domination in international relations.

The draft includes a provision for 12 nautical miles territorial waters and a 200 nautical mile economic zone for coastal states. For several years these two demands were bitterly resisted by both superpowers, for a combination of economic and military motives. The USA, as is well known, thinks it has 'interests' all over the globe; the USSR for its part was the first superpower to send its war fleet into the Indian Ocean and covets waterways like the Straits of Malacca for this purpose; it has built up a dominant position in the field of giant factory ships over 10,000 tons which can plunder the world's marine resources. An article in the Soviet paper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* in January, 1977 arrogantly demanded that states which could not land 100% of the potential catch in their waters must let others in.

When the superpowers saw they couldn't resist demands for the 200-mile zone head-on, they changed tactics by declaring their own 200-mile zones, using these to browbeat neighbouring countries (e.g. the Soviet Union with Japan),

while at the same time still not really respecting the rights of other states. In 1976 an Irish captain bravely fired on an intruding Soviet ship; Soviet nuclear submarines frequently pry into the waters of the Nordic countries and elsewhere.

A further struggle was over the exploitation of seabed resources, particularly polymetallic nodules which lie on the ocean bed. The seabed and its resources are described as the common heritage of humanity and are to be administered by an international authority, but consortia composed of the big capitalist companies are also accorded certain privileges. The USSR, which lags behind the western imperialist block in this particular technology, raised bitter opposition and delayed the vote with its wrangling.

Eventually, the vote split pretty neatly with the third world in favour of the text and the two imperialist groupings refusing to support it. The USA voted against, the Soviet Union, together with its satellites and Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, abstained. Among the major imperialist powers, France and Japan joined the third world in voting in favour. The opposition and obstruction of the two superpowers and some of their hangers-on shows how protracted the third world's struggle will still have to be in defence of the preliminary gains it has made.

South Atlantic

THE ENEMY IS IMPERIALISM

The present British imperialist aggression against Argentina has been described by some on the "left" as a war against fascism. Funnily enough, this idea, which crops upon among the so-called "left", we also find in the mouths of Tory hawks like Winston Churchill. Enough to make us smell a rat.

In fact, the conflict is really between oppressed and oppressor nations. To begin with, when British imperialism wanted to sell arms, the junta's money was good enough. Ironically, the AM-39 air-sea missile which sunk the Sheffield is based on a sea-sea missile produced by an international consortium of merchants of death with 17% British participation... But the imperialists seemed not just surprised but a trifle offended to be on the receiving end!

But it is not just a matter of incidental complicity, imperialism is actually the cause of fascism in the third world. Historically (see last month's "Class Struggle") Britain bears responsibility for the dependent condition of Argentina's economy, which reduced Argentina to the state of impoverishment in which it now is and where the junta has been savagely repressing the working class and people in the name of monetarist policies which can only make it more dependent. Amongst the British monopolies who still have investments in Argentina are ICI, Dunlop, GEC, Unilever, Shell and Pilkingtons.

US imperialism has been conniving in the repression, while the junta's main diplomatic support has been the Soviet Union. At the recent 38th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights the USSR once again successfully prevented any condemnation of the junta's atrocities. Why this concern? Because the junta's reactionary policy since 1976 has served to accentuate Argentina's dependent position as a purveyor of cheap foodstuffs by appointment to the world imperialist system, and increasingly it has been gobbling up Argentinian wheat to keep the Soviet social-imperialist economy going somehow while it concentrates on building a massive expansionist war machine. Assuredly, imperialism underpins fascism in the third world.

Not The Junta's War

This is not the junta's war. Communists, Peronists, liberals like Adolfo Perez Esquivel - who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his heroic struggle against the junta's atrocities - and all other shades of opinion are rock-solid behind the struggle against British imperialism. The junta has unleashed forces it can't control. In demonstrations, which it cannot now possibly suppress, people have been calling Yes to the Malvinas, No to government economic policy!

If the war becomes protracted, it will be hard to resist demands for more democratic liberties, the freeing of prisoners, etc. There have



Anti-imperialist demonstration in Buenos Aires.

been occasions in the past - such as the inclusion of Chiang Kai-shek in the anti-Japanese united front in China from 1937 onwards - where the involvement of fascist forces in patriotic anti-imperialist struggles have actually created good conditions for overthrowing fascism. It is a basic position of principle for Communists to support all struggles which are objectively anti-imperialist - for example, Ethiopia's struggle against Italian imperialism under Haile Selassie's leadership. Stalin pointed out that in the struggle waged in the mid-20s between Egypt under bourgeois leadership and Britain governed by the supposedly socialist and proletarian Labour Party, the former was progressive and the latter reactionary. These words are still topical today.

The Third World Movement

Imperialism is uniting against it the different strands which make up the third-world movement. There is the fundamental force which is the basic groundswell of demand by the most oppressed and exploited masses for independence and freedom, the spirit of the slaves whose democratic citizens' army routed the British invasion of Buenos Aires in 1807; and there are the various just and progressive struggles building up within the official third-world movement: for non-alignment, the democratisation of international relations, for economic co-operation among developing countries towards a new international economic order, for a law of the sea incorporating a 200-mile economic zone, against great-power military - particularly nuclear - deployment.

Britain, which opposed the third-world countries' just demands over the law of the sea for many years, and even undertook an earlier unjust imperialist war against Iceland over this very issue, now has the effrontery to proclaim a 200-mile so-called total exclusion zone around the Malvinas, before sinking an Argentinian ship with heavy loss of life outside this zone. Moreover, under the terms of the treaty of Tlatelolco (1967) Latin America is supposed to be a nuclear-free zone. The use of a nuclear submarine against a state which does not use nuclear energy for military purposes is another monstrous imperialist crime.

Soviet Hypocrisy

The USSR - which has also bitterly opposed the just

initiatives of the third world for excluding great-power rivalry from their regions - had better shut up with its hypocritical condemnations of Britain, particularly as we might be prompted to ask why Soviet social-imperialism doesn't hand back to Japan its four northern islands which are under illegal Soviet occupation, the territories plundered from China by Czarist imperialism, etc.....

Historical conditions are such that the assertion of Latin America's identity can only come about in opposition to the USA, which has been the major hegemonic power there for so long. For this reason, the unequivocal decision of the USA to back Britain will have immensely important consequences. Many Latin American regimes are heavily dependent on the US, but after this event it is hard for them to avoid bowing to the pressure of anti-imperialist forces. Thus Costa Rica has called for the seat of the Organisation of American States to be moved from Washington; Ecuador has urged "continental solidarity" against colonialist aggression; and governments which already had third-worldist leanings, like Peru and Venezuela, have moved further in this direction.

If the forces which the war is stirring up in Latin America are profoundly healthy ones, those being stirred up in Britain are the most foul and reactionary. We have nothing but contempt and loathing for Labour Party and trade union backers of this imperialist war. Some left-wing forces in Britain have condemned the war, and we unite with them in this. However, we insist that it is not enough for them to view the war as a product of Thatcher's lunacy, arrogance, etc, as is done by, for example, the Socialist Workers' Party; it is the action of a declining imperialist power which becomes all the more enraged and vicious in its decline. Moreover, it is also necessary to stand on the side of Argentina's just struggle, which embodies the healthy forces in the world today opposing imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism.



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Interview with Argentinian Communist

"Class Struggle" is extremely pleased to be able to publish an interview with a representative of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Argentina (PCMLA). The PCMLA has been waging a heroic struggle against successive reactionary regimes in Argentina, for genuine independence and people's democracy. It enjoys fraternal relations with Marxist-Leninists around the world, including with the Communist Party of China. At a time when the British gutter press is whipping up vile anti-Argentinian racism we are pleased to publish the views of our Argentinian comrades and we are sure that they will be of great interest to British workers and progressive people. The interview was conducted by "Class Struggle" in Paris.

CS: What attitude do Argentina's revolutionaries take towards the Argentinian action over the Malvinas Islands?

A: We support the government's actions with regard to the Malvinas Islands. There is a powerful anti-imperialist tradition in Argentina, which is directed above all against British imperialism. I expect there must be many people in Britain who never knew where the islands are until recently but every child in Argentina learns from an early age where they are and who they belong to. British imperialism aims to

control the passage to the Pacific. This is why it seized the islands in 1833. Even since the construction of the Suez and Panama Canals, a large proportion of shipping from Australia and New Zealand passes round Cape Horn. In addition, it is possible that the area contains as much as nine times as much undersea oil reserves as the North Sea.

It is, of course, true that we are not supporters of the Argentine government. Its motive in taking action over the islands at this time is to divert the attention of the people from the unemployment and poverty that they face. The government was beginning to face an explosive situation, with an extremely violent confrontation having taken place at the end of March between the Peronist trade unionists and the police. The only way out for the government was to unleash the extremely powerful national sentiments of the Argentinian people by taking action over the Malvinas Islands.

On this issue, the Argentinian government knows that it can rely on the full support of the people at home, and of opinion around the world - we assume, for example, that the Irish people support us!

CS: What accounts for the particular strength of the anti-imperialist tradition in Argentina?

A: Argentina was for long controlled by British imperialism. In 1943, a nationalist coup took place, and by the mid-1940s the leading nationalist figure was Peron. Under Peron's leadership, Argentina adopted a foreign policy that was resolutely opposed to British imperialism. It is in this context, for example, that its alleged Nazi sympathies should be viewed - as one example among many of nationalist movements in countries oppressed by British imperialism which aligned with Germany during the war.

Argentina's communists took the view that Britain's war effort should be supported, and refused to have anything to do with the Peronist government of the 1940s. Peron even offered the Communists his co-operation, and a place in his government, but they turned down the offer. By mishandling this question, the communists lost all their influence among the working class, which has ever since that time firmly supported the nationalist policies of Peronism.

Peronism has been a largely anti-democratic movement internally, but globally has played a positive role. The Peronist trade unions function as a clandestine opposition to the government, and a return to elections would result in another Peronist government. Peronism was

three times voted into power, and the extent of its popular support is thus unquestionable. A return to democratic rule would thus of course result in no softening of Argentina's national demands, including the demand for return of the Malvinas Islands - rather the reverse.

CS: What is the relationship of Argentina to the Soviet Union?

A: Unlike the rest of Latin America, Argentina has traditionally been dominated by British rather than US imperialism. Although US political dominance has increasingly supplemented that of Britain, particularly since the 1976 coup against the last Peronist government, the US, itself an exporter of foodstuffs, is unable to provide a market for Argentina's exports, which are largely grain and meat. The Soviet Union, a major importer of foodstuffs has thus become an extremely important market for Argentina; its share of Argentinian grain exports this year is expected to be 80%. This situation is bound to become a source of tremendous political contradictions within Argentina, including within the military ruling circles, where some elements may be prepared to become supporters of the Soviet Union's aims. The vital importance of the Cape Horn route, which is controlled strategically by

Argentina, means that the Soviet Union is bound to be intently watching the current events. Soviet naval predominance over both the Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope routes would place the Soviet Union in a position to strangle Europe's oil and other supplies at will.

Britain's long history of oppression of Argentina and intervention in its internal affairs against the forces of democracy, and its illegal presence on the Malvinas, have led to this situation, where Argentina is held in a position of double dependence; on the one hand on US and British imperialism, and on the other on the Soviet Union as the only alternative open to Argentina's present rulers.

The true interests of the people are served by the independent, nationalist, anti-imperialist forces which have gained Argentina what progress it has made in recent decades, and which alone can break the grip of this double dependence on the two superpowers and ensure a truly independent course for the country - just as it was solely through adopting self-reliant and independent policies that countries like China, Korea, Albania and Yugoslavia gained their independence.

THIRD WORLD CONDEMNS BRITAIN

In its struggle against British imperialist aggression, Argentina is receiving strong support from Latin America, the socialist countries and the rest of the third world. They know that if British imperialism is able to inflict a military defeat on Argentina, no oppressed nation anywhere in the world will be safe from imperial piracy.

The revolutionary government of Nicaragua said in a statement:

"The Government of National Reconstruction, in keeping with its anti-imperialist and non-aligned international policy, which is opposed to all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism, feels that one of the causes of the disturbance of international peace is the maintenance of anachronistic colonial enclaves that contradict the fundamental principles underlying contemporary international law.... It repeats its backing to the government of the Argentine Republic in this dispute."

A Nicaraguan leader has said that his country is willing to send "thousands and thousands of committed fighters" to Argentina because "colonialism should be banished from the world".

The government of Grenada say:

"Over the years, many international organisations to which we belong have identified the issue, quite rightly, as one of colonialism. These include the United Nations, the non-aligned movement and the Latin American section of the Socialist International."

The revolutionary movement in El Salvador (FDR/FMLN) have commented:

"The islands belong to Argentina. The claim of the Argentinian people to sovereignty over them is a legitimate one. Second, the islands do not belong to Britain. The British government's decision to send the task force is an outrageous act of colonialism. It is using this to try to divert the British people from its own internal crisis. Third, the action by the

Argentinian military in reclaiming the islands is a legitimate action. All we demand of the Argentinian government is that they are consistent. We support their claim to sovereignty, and they should respect our right to sovereignty and self-determination in El Salvador. We demand, therefore, that they remove all military aid to the military junta in El Salvador, and withdraw their military advisors from our country."

On May Day workers demonstrations in Venezuela, Colombia and Panama proclaimed support for Argentina. The Latin American Federation of Bank and Social Security Workers and the Latin American Confederation of Communication Workers have both decided to black all British related work. On May 14, a demonstration of youth from Argentina and sixteen other Latin American countries was held in Buenos Aires. The marchers represented political parties, trade unions and youth and student organisations.

In Lima, capital of Peru, 50,000 demonstrated. Many Peruvian youths have volunteered to fight for Argentina. 2,000 youths demonstrated in Bolivia. In Brazil, 56 trade unions issued a joint statement supporting Argentina and denouncing British and American imperialism. The vast majority of Latin American governments have also taken a strong stand. For example, the Foreign Minister of Guatemala has denounced London's "new colonialist policies". In other words unprecedented anti-imperialist unity exists in Latin America at present.

THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

On May 5, China's "People's Daily" wrote:

"The Malvinas dispute is a historical question left over by imperialism.... Argentina's sovereign claim over the Malvinas has already won the sympathy and support of a number of non-aligned nations.... It should be pointed out that we are now in the 1980s of the 20th century and that any attempt to force the nations of the Third World into submission through the use of warships can never succeed."

On May 7, China's Xinhua News Agency commented:

"The British Government declared that the action it has taken is aimed at putting 'military pressure' on Argentina to force it to withdraw its troops from the islands. In other words, Britain is trying on the strength of her gigantic fleet to impose her will on a weaker country which has stood up in defence of sovereignty. A Thai newspaper accused Britain of action 'in revival of the gunboat policy she practised in the colonial era'."

"However, the colonial era of the 17th and 18th century is past and gone long ago, and the gunboat policy no longer works...."

"(The) United States stand has hurt the national feeling of the Latin American people and deepened its contradiction with the Latin American states. In a note of protest to the United States on 2nd May Argentina pointed out that the Argentinians can neither understand nor forget that in one of the most critical hours of their history, the United States 'has preferred to side with a power outside this hemisphere and co-operate with its aggressive designs'. Some leaders of Latin American countries pointed out that this act of the United States is contrary to the historical trend and has shelved the US claim in the Monroe Doctrine that 'America belongs to the Americans', the pan-American doctrine, and the Pan-American Co-operative Pact. Some even said that gone is the day of Latin America being the US 'backyard'."

On May 6, Socialist Korea published an article entitled 'Brigandish act of aggression by British imperialism':

"Britain's anachronistic act of trying to re-establish the old colonial order by force has aroused condemnation among the peoples of the Latin American countries and the progressive people of the world. Britain claims that the Malvinas Islands, located 12,000 km from it, are part of its territory. This is foolish logic.

Britain has continued its illegal occupation of the Malvinas Islands for a long time. It has never shown any interest in a peaceful solution to the Malvinas problem. Instead, recently it began to encroach on Argentina's sovereignty.

"Britain's encroachment on Argentina's sovereignty is an expression of its wild design to act as an emperor of the sea as in the past by brandishing the old gunboat diplomacy.

"History is created according to the people's wish and desire. Today the peoples in Latin America are advancing along the road of independence, opposing domination and subjugation. No matter how desperately the imperialists may try to maintain their colonial domination in Latin America, it is a foolish act.

"The imperialists must renounce their anachronistic stance. Britain must stop its military actions in the Malvinas Islands and withdraw its armed forces of aggression.

"The decolonisation of the Malvinas Islands must be realised. This is a demand of the times. If the imperialists defy this just demand, they will be more vehemently denounced and rejected by the peace-loving people of the world."

'CONSPIRACY' SERIES

Due to the need to give proper coverage to the war in the South Atlantic, the next article in the 'Conspiracy' series is held over to the July issue.

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MAY DAY IN IRELAND



REPUBLICAN MAY DAY MARCH IN DERRY

On Monday, May 3rd the first May Day Demonstration ever to be organised by the Republican Movement was held in Derry. Chairing a rally, John Carlin of Derry Sinn Fein said that the trade union leadership had failed the working class, "even on its chosen ground of bread and butter issues." He went on,

"The only victory that will do justice to the struggle of the hunger-strikers is the revolution which is not only political but is social, economic and cultural as well.

"Our struggle will not cease until we have achieved full employment ... a housing programme which will make decent housing a right and not as it is at present a privilege and a weapon in the hands of the state ... until we have removed discrimination against women ... until we have achieved a secular society ... until we have removed from Ireland all aspects of nuclear warfare and established an independent foreign policy. And most important of all our struggle will not cease until we have removed the Brits from Ireland and ended the foreign political, economic and cultural domination of the Irish people. This then is our goal and this is our May Day pledge."

A May Day statement of the Irish Republican Prisoners of War in Hull Prison displayed the revolutionary internationalism of Irish POWs. It reads in full as follows:

"The Irish Republican POWs in Hull prison wish to take the opportunity on international workers day, May 1st, of sending greetings to the English, Scottish and Welsh working class and its revolutionary organisations.

"We would like to send warmest thanks to the individuals and groups who have practised true international solidarity with the developing Irish Revolution, in the face of massive media-inspired hysteria and the intimidation by the state forces and anti-democratic laws.

"We would like to ask the workers, youth and national minorities not only to support the struggle for socialism and national independence in Ireland but to deepen the struggle for socialism at home.

"While Ireland may be the grave-digger of British imperialism, it is the English, Welsh and Scottish working class who will put it in the grave."

Palestine

3,000 marchers made a dynamic impact on the streets of London on Saturday, May 15 when they took part in a demonstration to mark Palestine Day, called by the London Office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. A rally in Trafalgar Square heard speeches from the PLO, and from two anti-Zionist Jews Dr. Uri Davis and Mick Ashley. A speaker from the Indian Workers' Association said,

"Nothing has exposed the duplicity and double-dealing of the Tory government - who for years have denied the right of self-determination to the Palestinians - than the government's claim today that it is going to war allegedly for the right of self-determination for 1,800 Falkland Islanders."

Arab workers and students from Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan and elsewhere took part, carrying Palestinian flags.

BANGLADESH

In the latter part of April, 1982 the Communist League of Bangladesh (ML) and the Revolutionary Communist Party of Bangladesh (ML) successfully held a Unity Congress and have together formed the Revolutionary Communist League of Bangladesh (ML). This is a new and important step in the continuing struggle to unite all Marxist-Leninists in Bangladesh into a single party, and also a great and inspiring victory for the international Marxist-Leninist Communist Movement. The Unity Congress was held under difficult conditions when wide-

spread repression is underway in the country following the recent coup. The Congress adopted a Declaration to the International Communist Movement which presents the views of the Bangladeshi comrades concerning the situation in their country, the world, the third world and in the international communist movement.

The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain was one of a number of Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations from around the world who sent greetings to the Unity Congress.

FREEDOM FOR IRELAND

Ireland in Brief

Submarine

After almost three weeks of denial, the British imperialists finally had to admit that it was one of their submarines that was responsible for the sinking of the Sharelga fishing boat, which could have resulted in the deaths of five prawn fishermen. The submarine became entangled in the trawler's nets, and it pulled the trawler back for two miles at high speed before it sunk. To avoid detection the submarine took no part in rescue operations. Britain only admitted it was responsible after irrefutable evidence was produced. This is another example of the all-round oppression of the Irish nation by imperialism.

Sean McKenna

Sean McKenna, one of the original seven hunger strikers in the pre-Christmas 1980 fast who spent 53 days on hunger strike, today lies desperately ill in the Long Kesh prison hospital. Sixteen months after the end of his hunger strike, apart from treatment on heart machines and drips at the end of the strike, he has received no medication other than several courses of vitamin injections. When he ended his hunger strike it was estimated that he had only 24 hours to live had he not done so. In a recent interview with "An Phoblacht/Republican News", Sean's mother, Brigid, said,

"He is just living from day to day. He needs proper medical attention which I can't

see him getting in the prison hospital... His eyesight, which was badly affected due to protein deficiency during the hunger strike, is almost totally gone. He has difficulty balancing himself and has to hold on to something. He cannot stand for any length of time and most of the time is totally incoherent, not knowing who is visiting him or what they are talking about."

The Wolfe Tones

One of Ireland's most famous groups, the Wolfe Tones, have produced a record in honour of the founder of the Argentine Navy, Irishman William Brown, who was born in Foxford Co. Mayo in 1777.

The Argentine Navy, under William Brown, played a major role in defeating Spanish colonialism and winning national independence. The record was launched at a party given in the home of the Argentinian Ambassador in Dublin. One verse reads,

"See, the Irish still are slaves, while Britain rules no waves in Argentina."

The Wolfe Tones can be seen live in Concert on Friday June 18 at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, and on Monday June 21 at the National Club, Kilburn, London.

A Sticky End

The anti-national Sinn Fein The Workers Party finally dropped Sinn Fein from its title at its recent conference. This formalised their complete break with Republicanism and their open support for imperialism.

At the conference they declared their support for Prior's plan to restore Stormont. Not content with support for British imperialism, and seeking also to support Soviet social-imperialism,

the Workers' Party proclaimed its support for martial law in Poland.

1 in 2,000

Just over 12,000 school leavers recently sat a Post Office clerical officers' examination in the Irish Free State. Because of cutbacks there are just six vacancies this year: a 1 in 2,000 chance of getting a job.

Delegations

The Youth Delegation to Ireland, organised by the Irish Freedom Movement at Easter, was a big success. 100 British youth got the chance to see firsthand the oppression of the Irish people and their resistance to it, and to build friendship with the Republican youth of the six counties. Shortly before the Delegation took place, a number of MPs called for it to be banned. 'Left' Labour MP Geoff Rooker said, "if the argument is going to be used that we're taking mainly unemployed people over there to see the site of the war and to convince them that a war is the only solution, then, quite frankly, I find that completely repugnant."

Labour spokesman, Don Con-cannon, said: "The devil will find work for idle hands." They were, of course, articulating the fear of the ruling class: that the youth who rose up in revolt last summer will draw inspiration and lessons from the Irish struggle in order to further their own war against the British ruling class.

AUGUST DELEGATION

The Troops Out Movement is organising a mass delegation to Ireland on August 7-9. It will visit Belfast, Derry and Crossmaglen. Anyone interested should contact: Delegation Organising Committee, P.O. Box 353, London NW5 4NH.

World in struggle

Iran

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has received a message from Mojahedin leader, Massoud Rajavi, in reply to the message of condolence it sent on the occasion of the martyrdom of Mousa Khiabani and other Mojahedin leaders. (see March issue of "Class Struggle") The message reads in full as follows:

In the name of God
and
in the name of the heroic
people of Iran
and all the martyrs for
liberty

While paying deepest gratitude for your sympathy and message of condolence for the martyrdom of the people's martyred commander; the great Mojahed, Mousa Khiabani, and all the Mojahed sisters and brothers who accompanied him, including the heroine Mojahed sisters; Ashraf Rabai'i (Rajavi) and Azar Rezai'i (Khiabani), allow me to express profound aspira-

tions for the ever closer attainment of liberty and independence for my fettered homeland.

The roaring stream of the People's Mojahed martyrs' blood will, no doubt, guarantee the Iranian nation's inevitable triumph over Khomeini's anti-human regime paving the way towards the achievement of peace, democracy, economic development, and social progress.

Confident in victory,
Yours sincerely,
Massoud Rajavi

June 20 will mark the first

anniversary of the massacre of peaceful demonstrators by Khomeini's guards in Teheran. After that day the mass executions began, and the day is considered to be a turning point in the history of the Iranian people's struggle. To mark the occasion, the Moslem Students Society is holding a national demonstration in London on Sunday, June 20. The march assembles at 1.30 on the Embankment and will march to Speakers Corner at Hyde Park, where a rally will be held. So far, speakers include Labour MPs Reg Race and Bob Litherland, and TUC Chairman, Alan Sapper. The RCLB is amongst the sponsors of the demonstration.

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FREEDOM FOR IRELAND

THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



May of this year saw the first anniversaries of the deaths of four revolutionary Irish martyrs: Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara. They died on hunger strike in a struggle to gain political status, as encapsulated in five concrete demands. These glorious martyrs of the Irish revolution, these symbols of hope and inspiration to oppressed and suffering people throughout the world will never be forgotten, and the anniversaries of their murders were marked in Ireland, Britain and around the world.

IRELAND

The hunger strikers have been remembered in activities throughout Ireland, in Belfast, Dublin, Monaghan, Drogheda, Galway, Limerick and many other places. At a rally in Belfast on May 5, Tom Hartley, speaking for Sinn Fein, said:

"Today, throughout the world, Britain is seen as a colonial power occupying a part of our country. The hunger-strike blew away the British lies. It is important that we here tonight build on the success of the martyrdom of our comrades. It is important that we march and be seen. We must show the world continually that the hunger-strikers of Long Kesh are a part of the revolutionary people's aim to get full equality and full nationhood."

In concluding he congratulated the youth at their huge turn-out, stressing, "They're

our future; it was their generation who died last year, and it is their generation who are going to win the struggle for Irish freedom."

LONDON

In London, the hunger strikers have been commemorated at vigils, meetings and demonstrations. On the anniversary of each death, a vigil is held in Kilburn Square, north London. They have attracted hundreds of people, mostly local Irish workers.

On May 6, a commemoration evening was held for Bobby Sands in the Irish Centre, Camden Town. Several hundred working class people attended. Amongst the speakers was Solicitor Alastair Logan, who said:

"Countless people around the world regard Bobby Sands as a freedom fighter which is what he was. With men like Bobby Sands, the Irish



nation will never be defeated."

The Brixton Black Women's Group described Bobby Sands as, "an inspiration to us all." A shop steward from Fords Dagenham said that five major trade union branches and one district committee in Fords had supported the demands of the hunger strikers and the call for Troops Out.

A speakers form the South London Irish Solidarity Committee said that the real friends of the Irish people in this country were the most oppressed sections of the working class and cited the black youth of St. Pauls, Bristol, who confronted the police saying: "We are the black IRA."

Dave Farrell, a leading member of Sinn Fein, said that the Republican Movement was not an enemy of the British working class. Indeed they shared a common enemy, British imperialism. He said that the Republican Movement supported the uprisings against racism, the struggle of the British working class and the struggles of the peoples of Scotland and Wales.

MAY 8

A major demonstration took place in London on May 8. Attended by well over 3,000 people, it was called to honour Bobby Sands and his comrades and to demand: Britain out of Ireland! Self determination for the Irish people!

After a short rally addressed by various solidarity organisations, the march moved off led by the Shamrock Flute Band from Glasgow. Amongst those taking part were Sinn Fein, IRSP, Cumman Na Phoblachta, Irish in Britain Representation Group, solidarity organisations, and numerous others including trades councils, trade union branches, national minority organisations, contingents of Palestinians and Iranians, and left groups. The Revolutionary Communist League was one of a number of organisations participating in an extremely militant contingent calling for: Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now!, initiated by the North London Irish Solidarity Committee.

At the rally after the march, chaired by Labour MP Ernie Roberts, Owen Carron MP said that the hunger strikers had not just died for five demands, "but for the demand of British withdrawal once and for all." Plaid Cymru MP, Daffyd Ellis Thomas, said that the destruction of the British state requires the

solidarity of all nations and oppressed groups in these islands. He said that the British left must grasp the crucial role played by the national question in Britain.

Comrade Teja Singh Sahota, speaking for the Indian Workers' Association, said that Indian people are proud that it was an Irish soldier who refused to fire on Indian demonstrators during the days of Britain's colonial rule in India. "There is a long standing solidarity between the Irish and Indian peoples." To applause and cheers he said that the Irish people can only win their freedom "through the barrel of a gun." Other speakers included Euro-MP Richard Balfe, GLC leader Ken Livinstone, Mrs. Hill, mother



OWEN CARRON SPEAKING ON MAY 8.

of framed Irish prisoner of war Paul Hill, Irish Republican Socialist Party, Troops Out Movement and Pan Africanist Congress of Azania.

That same evening, hundreds of people attended a social in Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton, which reverberated to the shouts of "I-I-IRA" and "Viva, viva Argentina." Topping the bill was Christy Moore who sang a new song about the hunger strikers, and there were also traditional band An Rinne, Shamrock Flute Band, Jazira (a West African high life band), an Iranian singer and an Azanian poet.

LEEDS

On May 5, the Troops Out Movement held an over 100-strong demonstration in Leeds. At a rally, the following message was delivered:

"The national campaign to free the Bradford 12 expresses its complete and unconditional support for the Irish liberation struggle and its revolutionary organisations."

In Brighton, a vigil was held by the local Troops Out Movement.

Other commemorative activities were held throughout Bri-

tanny, in New York, in Sydney, Australia, in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand, and in Montreal, Regina and Toronto in Canada.

Forthcoming events

MONDAY MAY 31

Revolutionary Africa Liberation Day. Speeches, and workshops on Africa, Caribbean, Britain. Plus full cultural programme. 2-10.45 p.m., the Tabernacle, Powis Sq., London W.11.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 2

Free the Bradford 12! Mass Picket of Leeds Crown Court. Coaches from London - details Camden Law Centre. Also pickets every day.

SATURDAY JUNE 5

Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Smash Police Censorship on Ireland! Street demonstration called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee. Assemble 1.45, Tooting Broadway Tube

MONDAY JUNE 7-WEDNESDAY JUNE 14

Concert tour by El Salvador revolutionary group, Yolocamba. Details from: 01-359 2270.

MONDAY JUNE 7

Protest Reagan's visit to Britain. Demonstrate at US Embassy, 5.30 p.m.

TUESDAY JUNE 8

Protest Reagan's visit to Britain. Demonstrate at Houses of Parliament, 1 p.m.

SATURDAY JUNE 12

Free the Bradford 12! Support the First Avenue Ten! Joint benefit, Norwich Rd. Community Centre. Nr. Stratford, East London. With 'Meccado' 7.00pm. £1.75.

THURSDAY JUNE 17

Smash police censorship on Ireland! Meeting organised by North London Irish Solidarity Committee. Speakers include GLC Councillor Steve Bundred, Sinn Fein, May Day 2 Defence Campaign. 7.30, North Library, Manor Gardens, off Holloway Rd.

FRIDAY JUNE 25

Smash police censorship on Ireland! Meeting organised by South London Irish Solidarity Committee. Speakers include Tooting 3 Defence Campaign. 7.30, Lola James Hall, Tooting Swimming Pool, Garratt Lane, S.W.17.

FRIDAY JULY 9

Vigil for Joe McDonnell. 8 p.m., Kilburn Square.

TUESDAY JULY 13

Vigil for Martin Hurson. 8 p.m., Kilburn Square.

SATURDAY JULY 17

Victory to the Irish People! Troops Out Now! Demonstration called by South London Irish Solidarity Committee. Assemble 1.30 p.m., Tooting Broadway Tube. March to rally at Clapham Common.

PLASTIC BULLETS



STEPHEN MCCOOMY.

On May 13, the European Parliament voted by 110 votes to 43 to ban the use of plastic bullets throughout the Common Market. Demonstrating once again that the 'rule of law' is only for the British imperialists when it suits them they have declared that they will continue to use the bullets. Even 'The Guardian' described Whitehall's reaction to the vote as "dismissive."

The RUC have said that they will continue to use plastic bullets, and they have been supported by the vile Don Con-cannon, Labour Party Spokesman on northern Ireland. The European Parliament debate was sparked by the murder of 11-year-old Stephen McCoomy on April 19 (see last issue of "Class Struggle"). He was the 14th murder victim of the British plastic bullets. The 14 are:

25.4.81	Paul Whitters	15
13.5.81	Julie Livingstone	14
22.5.81	Carol Anne Kelly	12
22.5.81	Henry Duffy	45
9.7.81	Nora McCabe	30
31.7.81	Peter Doherty	40
9.8.81	Peter Magennis	41
19.4.82	Stephen McCoomy	11

This list does not include the blindings and maimings and countless other injuries caused by plastic bullets.

The plastic bullet started life as a wooden bullet in Hongkong. They were used by the British imperialists to quell the uprisings in 1967 against British colonialism and in support of Socialist China. One person was killed and hundreds suffered appalling injuries from both impact and splintering. Today 5,000 plastic bullets have been issued to police forces in England and Wales. From the colonies in the third world, to Ireland, to Britain, the oppressed share a common enemy, British imperialism.

A booklet on plastic bullets, "They Shoot Children" is available from New Era Books. Price 50p + 20p p&p.

	Age	
23.4.72	Francis Rowntree	11
16.7.72	Tobias Molloy	18
22.5.73	Thomas Friel	21
30.8.75	Stephen Geddis	10
10.10.76	Brian Stewart	13
10.8.80	Michael Donnelly	21