



Ms. Anwar Ditta (centre), talks to some of her supporters before the start of yesterday's meeting.

Mother's Union leader slams 'illegal immigrant' crackdown

plea for her children

Morning Star Reporter

ANWAR DITTA, a Birmingham-born Asian woman, told a meeting in London yesterday that she would never give up the fight to bring her three children to Britain.

For four-and-a-half years, Anwar and her husband Shuja have been campaigning for the basic human right to have their children, Kamran, nine, Saima, seven, and Shuja, six, with them. The children are in Pakistan.

The meeting, held in the Africa Centre, London, set up a London Friends of Anwar Ditta Campaign and agreed to support the November 15 national demonstration to be held in Rochdale where Anwar and her husband now live.

Anwar works literally night and day for her children. Her husband, a welder, is on part-time, and Anwar works at home machining pillow cases for use in hospitals for a factory which pays 1p per pillow case.

To earn £25 a week, she has to machine 2,500 pillow cases. Rent for the machine of £5 and £2.50 national insurance stamp are deducted.

Anwar tours the country speaking for her cause. She has already visited Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham, Birmingham, Liverpool, Huddersfield and London.

Sometimes she machines the pillow cases throughout the night to make up for time spent campaigning.

"We are sending an investigator to Pakistan in a few weeks' time and I am having blood tests taken," she said yesterday. "Nothing will ever make me give up the fight."

By PHILIP COHEN

GENERAL and municipal workers' leader David Basnett has attacked the Tory crackdown on illegal immigrants—a crackdown which is leading employers to demand that black workers produce passports or work permits.

Mr. Basnett said on London Weekend's Television's Skin programme yesterday: "The government should tell employers that they should not require passports from coloured employees, or the production of them, when they apply for jobs.

"We've ceased to tolerate identity cards in this country after the war, we had bonfires of them as some of us would remember at that time.

"And it's quite unfair to reintroduce them and then reintroduce the requirement for only part of our population; it's quite wrong and the government should make that very clear," said Mr. Basnett.

Mr. Basnett and transport union leader Moss Evans protes-

ted to the Home Office this summer about mass "fishing raids" for illegal immigrants, which meant that many black people lawfully settled here had to suffer questioning and detention by the police.

Now Home Office minister Timothy Raison has announced he is reviewing the way such operations are carried out to "find ways of enforcing the law without damage to good race relations in this country."

In the same LWT programme Mr. Raison said: "If anybody wants to carry a passport around with them, then there is nothing to stop them doing so: All I am saying is that there is no need for anyone to carry a passport round with them."

Asked by reporter Samir Shah whether employers were put in the position of policing the Immigration Act themselves, Mr. Raison replied: "Employers, I suppose, may have to make their own deci-

sions, but there is no law saying that employers have got to find out, that the responsibility lies with employers to be satisfied."

Yet the Hilton Hotel management, which was the subject of a mass raid in May in which 100 workers were interrogated, said in last week's programme: "We have become ever more vigilant in making sure we do not employ illegal immigrants by checking on their passports, and on any correspondence they have had with the Home Office."

The personnel officer of a North London laundry says she has begun to ask job applicants for their passports since the Main Gas factory Home Office raid in June.

The Skin programme also revealed yesterday that the BBC now checks the passports of prospective employees. It said they asked for the passport of a British citizen, of Indian origin, who came to this country 16 years ago.

Inquiry into Bristol violence opens

By FRANKIE RICKFORD

A PUBLIC inquiry opened yesterday into the causes of the troubles in St. Pauls, Bristol, last April with evidence from local teachers and others involved with young people in the area.

It has been sponsored by Bristol Trades Council—because of the government's refusal to set up an independent inquiry itself—and already 5,000 leaflets have been distributed to homes in St. Pauls, inviting evidence on the background to the April event.

Hundreds of people took to the streets then, forcing the

police to withdraw from the area for four hours, after a drugs squad raid on a local West Indian cafe.

The inquiry panel is chaired by Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Mr. Ian Mikardo, and its 11 members are drawn from Bristol Trades Council and three West Indian community organisations based in St. Pauls. They are all men; a fact which drew comment from Avon councillor for St. Pauls, Ms. Pat Forrest, when she gave evidence at yesterday's session.

Bristol Trades Council chairman Ron Thomas hinted that it might be possible to co-opt some women on to the panel and also

to organise child care during the enquiry's future sittings.

Mr. Eric Black, living in St. Pauls, told the panel how his (West Indian) daughter, who recently started secondary school, had been placed in the lowest stream.

She is coping ably, and so gets little attention from her teachers, he said.

"How can she ever move up to the A stream from the D stream?" he asked. He voiced fears that her chances of going to college or getting a skilled job had already nearly been destroyed by the school's decision to put her in the lowest stream.