

# DEFEND BLACK RIGHTS

By MIKE RODNEY (Finchley CLP)

The Tories came to power on a clear racist ticket. Talking about the country being "swamped" by an "alien culture", they pledged to tighten up still further the already racist 1971 Immigration Act.

The new curbs — added last year — have meant that the rate of deportations has doubled. Right now, hundreds of Filipino workers are threatened with expulsion on the flimsiest of grounds.

Raids on factories and workplaces, in search of so-called "illegal immigrants", are being stepped up. Two hundred Blacks are being held, on any given day, in detention centres around the country. Police harassment of the Black community is on the increase.

Now the Tories are planning a new stage in their racist campaign. Their nationality proposals — due before the Commons early in the year — seek to deprive millions of Blacks of their right to enter, work and stay in the country.

The proposals divide people into those whose ancestors were born here (mainly white) and those whose ancestors weren't (mainly Black. The introduction of such a colour bar will not only mean the vast majority of Blacks being excluded from Britain. It will also mean that many of these — registered as UK citizens — will be made virtually stateless.

Moreover, those Blacks already in Britain could witness a real curb on their civil rights. Under the proposals, many could be denied the



Growing anti-racist fightback: 500 march in Rochdale in support of Anwar Ditta, November 15.

right to vote, for example, or to hold office in the Civil Service.

## SECOND-CLASS

The implications of these proposals — if passed — do not need to be spelt out. Denied entry on grounds of colour — and denied democratic rights in Britain on the same grounds — Black people will effectively be-

come second-class citizens.

The climate of legalised racism created by such proposals will give the police the green light to escalate their harassment and intimidation of the Black community.

Worse still, it will give the racist thugs of the National Front — and other ultra-right groups — an added impetus to step up their assault and

even murder of Black people.

The cause of this racist campaign launched by the Thatcher government is only too clear. As unemployment escalates and living standards fall, the Tories hope to single Black people out as a convenient "scapegoat".

They clearly want to shift the

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