

RELIANCE ASIAN WORKER'S DISPUTE

NO TO EXPLOITATION OF ASIAN WORKERS!!

PRESS RELEASE

On the 5th July 1984, cleaning staff at Heathrow Airport were given 90 days notice of dismissal by their employers 'Reliance Cleaners'. Then on the 12th July the workers concerned received a second notice stating that their employment would be terminated within one week, two weeks or three weeks rather than 90 days. Thus, Reliance had unilaterally breached the previous contract.

Reliance Cleaners is a large company operating in South Wales, Slough, Stanstead, Wood Green and Heathrow Airport. It has a long history of abuse and intimidation of its workers, particularly Asian women at Heathrow.

For example:-

1. Workers have been bullied to accept different work places and conditions under the threat of dismissal.
2. Reliance have issued new contracts of employment after 18 months and moved workers from terminal to terminal, thus reducing the redundancy entitlement.
3. They have suspended or dismissed workers on the flimsiest of evidence.
4. On some occasions workers have had their union cards taken away.
5. For a 40 hour week consisting of shift work the workers were paid £52.88 (net).

In this particular dispute:

In order to reduce their redundancy liability, Reliance have:-

- a. Suspended some workers with 5-6 years experience with the company for failing to 'clean' properly.
- b. Conducted a vicious campaign which is implemented by certain supervisors who intimidate and bully workers into resigning so the workers lose their redundancy entitlement.
- c. Threatened one worker that the D.H.S.S would be contacted thus losing his employment benefit if he refused to sign for the new employer 'Home Counties Cleaners' for a reduced wage.
- d. Informed the D.H.S.S that one of the women had voluntarily left her employment due to her husband's death. In fact, she was dismissed and secondly, her husband was alive and well. These vicious lies caused her great stress and mental pressure.

Realising that Reliance still had some small offices to clean and Heathrow, on the 6th September 1984, Reliance withdrew the first notice of dismissal from eleven workers. However, these workers had already found alternative employment and did not wish to continue working. The management responded by threatening to withdraw their redundancy entitlement and dismissing the workers.

When these threats failed the workers were not allowed to collect their wages!

TRADE UNION RESPONSE

When the local branch of the Transport and General Workers Union was contacted the response was totally unsympathetic and S.B.A.E.U were told to mind their own business.

Further when a local ~~Reporter~~ interviewed Mr McCloud, Area Representative of the T & G, who is responsible for the workers at Heathrow Airport he made the following remarks:-

- i) "I know Indian people, they always have two jobs!"
- ii) "If you offer nuts, you should expect monkeys!"
- iii) "Asians are not willing to fight for themselves!"

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

Pleading to the Industrial Tribunals is not enough in itself, and no level of compensation would be enough for the humiliation and degradation suffered by the Asian workers at the hands of the Reliance management. As Southall's Black and Asian workers fought for better wages and conditions at Woolfe's in the 50's and 60's, as they fought against exploitation in the Perivale Guttermans dispute in the 70's and as the Miners are fighting today for the right to work, it is of paramount importance that the Asian Cleaners of Reliance fight for and win their demands against the management.

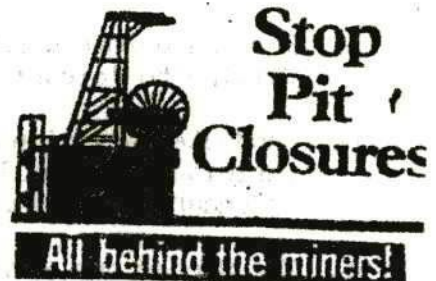
Reliance Asian Workers say:-

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!

WE WILL NOT BE TREATED AS ANIMALS!!

WE ARE HUMAN!!

VICTORY TO THE MINERS!!



For further information and messages of support to:

Southall Black/Asian Employment Unit
c/o 54 High Street
SOUTHALL
Middlesex

Telephone: 01-843-0094