

**Here
to
Stay !**

LIBERATION

**Here
to
Fight !**

ORGAN OF ASIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT (Manchester) April 81

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15p



ANWAR WINS

A Victory all oppressed people can
rejoice in. How the campaign was
won And Interview with Anwar



EDITORIAL

COME WHAT MAY WE ARE HERE TO STAY

On 2nd of March black people throughout Britain came to London to show their anger at the massacre in New Cross where 13 black youths died.

10,000 supported the demonstration called by the New Cross Massacre Action Committee. Black school children, parents, workers, unemployed youths and students with clenched fists showed their determination to fight for freedom and justice.

Irrespective of whose hand actually threw the bomb, an individual white racist or a hireling of a fascist organisation, the blame lies with fascist organisations, the racist press and racist politicians whose hysterical rantings set the scene for New Cross Massacre. The time has come for us to be extra vigilant and organised to prevent any further outrages.

Resolutely fight fascism

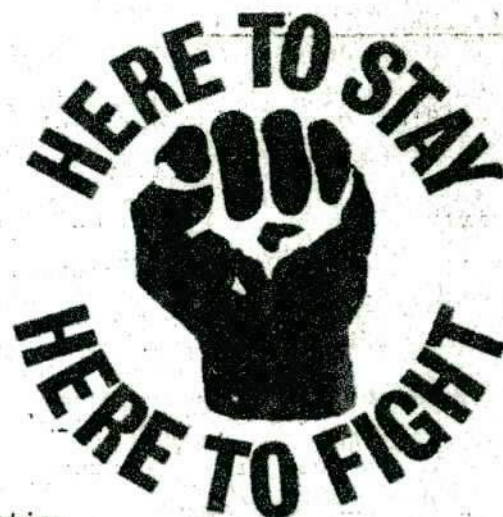
Recently, an arsenal of deadly weapons belonging to a fascist organisation was seized by police in the Mid-lands. Clearly this array of weapons was to be used at sometime in the future against black people in Britain. We have known for some time that fascist groupings have been training in Britain and abroad, but after suffering electoral rejection these groups have shed their cloak of 'respectability' and now openly flaunt their Nazi ideology. Some organisation dilute the physical threat fascism poses by simply dismissing fascist recruits as disaffected white working class youths who should be sympathised with and not fought. Our task is to defend our basic democratic right to walk the streets without fear of attack, by any means necessary.

Reliance on the state for protection is futile, any special units investigating racist attacks must be viewed with suspicion. Has it taken them till now to find out that racist attacks are part of our everyday life? Such units cannot help and only control us. We have to rely on our own resources to defend our self.

EDITORIAL NOTE

We regret that due to the pressures on space, the letters and comments received could not be printed in this issue. The article on Tebhaga peasant movement is also omitted here.

Views expressed in Liberation are those of the writers and not necessarily of the AYMM as a whole.



13 DEAD NOTHING SAID

by a Liberation Correspondent

On 18th January 12 black youth were killed and 27 injured in Deptford, South London in a deliberately set fire at 439 New Cross Road during the birthday party of Yvonne Ruddock(16). Another youth died later, bringing the toll to 13 dead and 26 injured. Press coverage was minimal till the New Cross Massacre Action Committee called a demonstration on 2nd March. The Tory prime minister wrote to Sibyl Phoenix, and not to the parents themselves, a full five weeks after the event. The local left-wing Labour MP, whose surgery is only a few doors away from the scene of the fire, did not raise the matter in parliament nor did any other MP. Silkin showed no interest in the demonstration or the tragedy that gripped the entire black community who no doubt voted for him and his party time and time again.

The demonstration on the 2nd of March was attended by over 15,000 people all over the country and passed without any major violent incident

The press described it as:

brutal-Sun, a rampage- Express, Young thugs-the Mirror, A Black Tide-Mail, a Black Mob-the daily Star.

In the last four years there has been at least seven fires deliberately caused. Ken Matthews, NF, organiser was jailed for trying to blow up a community centre in the area. Yet police did not investigate known fascists.

With the brothers and sisters killed at New Cross, we remember the brother killed in Manchester for throwing the core of a pear at a car. We also remember the brothers killed in South Hall, East London, Newham.... and resolve to turn our anger into the language of resistance.

Black Protest Grow in America

through

On 15th January, 100,000 people marched/Washington DC, demanding that Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday be declared a national holiday. The marchers remembered the contribution Dr. King made for civil rights and the violent way his life was terminated. Dr. Martin Luther King is not a hero of the American black people only, but oppressed people through out the world. The violent way this great humanist died is a lesson for oppressed people of the barbaric methods racism uses to kill any form of black protest. The march was one of the largest black gathering in recent history. The people present pledged to carry forward the fight Dr. King gave his life for. We too remember Dr. Martin Luther King on the occasion of his birthday with reverence and determination to fight for our democratic rights in this country. Dr. King's anti-Vietnam war protests played a significant part in defeating US imperialism in Vietnam. The fight of black people whether in the metropolitan heartland of imperialism or in the neo-colonial countries is a fight against world domination by imperialism. Dr. Martin made that fact crystal clear & is held with the highest esteem by oppressed people all over the world.

Local News

Stop The Nationality Bill



AYMM Contingent in the Demonstration

'WE CAN NOT TRUST THE LABOUR PARTY'

On 14th February the Manchester Labour Party called a demonstration against the proposed nationality bill. All the Labour Party speakers blamed the Tories of Racism and did not speak a word about the last Labour government's record on immigration or why the last government did not repeal the 1971 immigration act.

Mohosin Zulfiqar speaking on behalf of Asian Youth Movement Manchester welcomed the initiative taken by the local Labour Party

and called upon the rank and file Labour members to resist the attempt at the Torification of racism and attempts to provide a lackey service to the ruling class of this country by covering up for the racism of the puppets of bigbusiness in the Labour Party leadership. He said, 'To us it has always been a question of choosing the lesser evil, but we are increasingly wondering whether there are any differences between the Labour governments and Tory governments on the question of race'. He mentioned that the last Labour government did not repeal the 1971 immigration act inspite of promises while in opposition, the present nationality bill is based on Labour's green paper and this year's conference didnt even discuss immigration. How can one trust the Labour Party? He called upon all sections of the democratic movement to form the broadest possible united front against racism and actively campaign for the repeal of the 1971 immigration act and to scrap the nationality bill. He called upon the Labour Party to make specific commitments regarding what they will do while in government, because there is no way the black people will stand for what the last Labour government did. Zulfi was followed by Anwar Ditta and a PNP speaker who is also a member of the LPYS Millitant clique. The PNP speaker supported a lot of what the AYM speaker said and then went on to show -- -- -- still a little bit better than the Tories. A sentiment shared by many, but it is important that socialists atleast start differentiating between quality and quantity. Anwar Mentioned that the Labour party is also responsible for destroying her family life.



The AYM Speaker



Top: Picket at Timothy Raison's meeting in Oldham organised by the local community

Bottom: Picket at Rochdale at Timothy Raison's meeting.

State Racism

FIGHTING THE NATIONALITY BILL

Avtar Jouhl condemns CPGB

At a meeting organised by the Kashmiri Workers' Association on 1st February under the chairmanship of Mohammed Younis, the secretary of the IWA(GB) said... 'the CPGB calls on us to collaborate with the police. The only thing to do with the police is to surround the station when someone is arrested and get them out. We must distinguish between those organisations who want us to play ball with the police and genuine people's organisations.'

Qurban Ali of the Kashmiri Worker's Association said, 'We should not fall in the trap of thinking Labour is better than the Tories. We must take part, actively and without fear, in demonstrations against all racist laws. Beware of people like Tony Benn coming to make political capital out of our fight.' Mohammed Galib of the Pakistan Workers' Association said, 'Labour and Tories have no difference, racist raids and attacks and such vile practices as virginity tests were carried out under Labour and Tory equally.' T. Haque speaking for the Bangladesh Worker's Association expressed solidarity with the views expressed by the Kashmir Worker's Association. The meeting was attended by over 200 Kashmiri Workers and other anti-racists. According to informed sources all the organisations mentioned are very concerned by the Torification of racism by Labourites in CARL and their CPGB lackeys

Join AYM : THE FIGHTING FRONT AGAINST RACISM FACISM & NEO-COLONIALISM

In the 1980's Britain is overtly becoming a racist state. Institutionalised state racism in housing, employment and the social services has escalated with the deterioration of the economy. Increased powers of surveillance and harassment by the police, systematic persecution of black youth and degrading separation of families under the racist immigration laws, insult our dignities as workers and blacks.

WHY A YOUTH MOVEMENT

Black youth have shown in practice that they are the most militant section

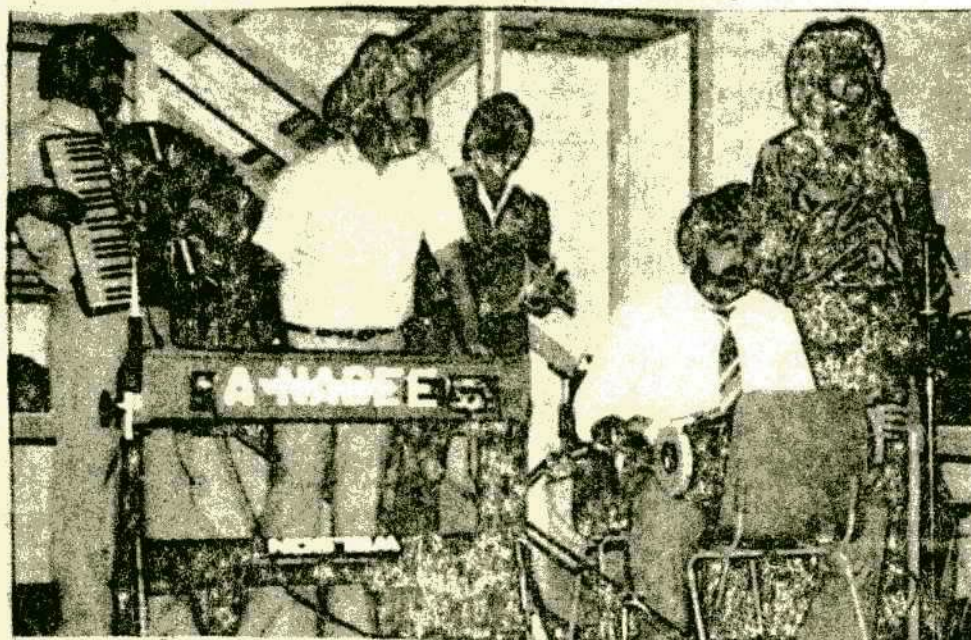


AYM Public Meeting : STOP POLICE RAIDS!

of our community. We have taken the most consistent and determined stand against racism because we have the least to lose in this system. In Southall, Bradford, Leicester... Asian Youth have battled and bled bitterly against the fascists and ultimately their allies, the British state. Spontaneous struggle is not enough an organised response to racism is essential to our future preservation. AYMM is that organised response of Asian Youth in Manchester and we will work towards forming a national youth movement.



Anwar Ditta & Md. Younus, Chairman of K.W.A.
at an AYM Public Meeting



Local Group
Ajnabee

WHAT WE STAND FOR

- a) We demand equal political and civil rights regardless of colour, sex or religion
- b) Equal opportunity in housing, employment and education
- c) End to all police harassment, eg. SUS or SUS by any other name
- d) Repeal of all immigration laws

AYM & THE STRUGGLE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT

Our struggle for black liberation is linked to the struggle of the oppressed people in the neo-colonies against imperialism and its most stable pillar - feudalism. We pledge support for the people's struggle in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka against the ruling class for the establishment of peoples democracy as a first step towards socialism.



ON WOMEN

Asian women are the most oppressed section of our community, subjected to oppression at home in addition to the general exploitation as blacks. Although we are living in an industrial society, most of our people retain feudal values and customs. AYM will struggle against these reactionary aspects of our culture. AYM believes that the emancipation of women is a pre-requisite for the liberation of society at large.

We demand:

- a) Equal pay and welfare benefits for women
- b) Setting up of free nurseries
- c) Adequate maternity benefits
- d) Setting up of single womens hostels
- e) Flexible working hours on demand for women

On United Front

AYM recognises the need for unity between blacks and the rest of the working population in Britain and other parts of the world. Our struggle is part of the struggle of the oppressed people of the world against imperialism, facism and neo-colonialism.



Members and supporters of the AYM at a local demonstration against police raid on black youth in Moss Side and other parts of Manchester

ON LABOUR AND TORY PARTY

History has shown the bankruptcy and hypocrisy of both the Labour and Tory party in making racism respectable. We believe that the only difference between the two is that the Tories are more racist than the Labourites.

FOR US LIBERTY TOMORROW MEANS STRUGGLE TODAY

AGITATE.....EDUCATE.....ORGANISE.....AGITATE.....EDUCATE.....ORGANISE

Black Workers and tradeunions:IMPERIAL TYPEWRITER STRIKE

Serialisation of major strike events involving black workers

by our special commentator

'You are our brothers and we'll do our duty by you,
but we wish you had not come.'

Ben. Tillet

Introduction

It was wednesday ,1st May 1974,when 39 Asians,27 women and 12 men,walked out of section 61 of Imperial typewriters,situated at Copdale Road,Leicester.The strike lasted for three months.By 7th May 500 Asian and one white worker were on strike.The strike has been the subject of much discussion and a number of enquiries.The sectarian neo-left accused the strikers of being black separatists and explained that the black workers could not win by themselves.Out of 1650 workers at Imperial,1,100 were Asians.Such defeatism preached by entryist lackeys of social-democracy wrapped up in left demagoguery can not hide the inherent national chauvinism of such people when one takes a look at the manner the strike was organised.What this continuous ranting that black workers cannot do anything by themselves reveal is the distrust in the ability of workers to rally other workers behind them irrespective of who leads the strike.If one looks at the school of thought they originate from,one will find that their history is inundated with doubts about the ability of the working class,just as their political guru doubted the ability of the Russian proletariat to rally behind them the Russian peasantry.The intention of this series is to provide our readers with the facts and figures of major strike events involving black workers so that we may learn from the experience of other workers and rectify the mistakes made in future struggles.This is the second article in this series.

The background

Until 1968,the workforce at Imperial Typewriters were mainly white,but by May 1974, 1,100 out of 1650 of the workers were Asians,mainly East African and some Malawian Asians.The work at Imperial involved assembling the parts of manual and electric typewriters made in Germany,Holland and Japan.A large percentage of the workforce were women.The basic rate of pay was £18 for women and £25 for men,with bonuses for the production of 200 machines/day. But these wages were not a norm.Denis Herbstein reported: in Sunday Times, 9th June 1974 issue, that Asian women were earning very low wages,for example one 18-year old girl earned £11.48 for a 47 hour week which included 7 hours overtime.Another girl received £8.15 for 35½ hours... The factory also operated a complex bonus scheme which was dependant on working speed or job timings,and in cases where an operator/140% efficiency,the management reserved the right to re-time the job. / exceeds

Working conditions

Most of the Asian women had frequently complained against their foremen and their fellow white workers.As the Sunday Times reported,'more than payslips, their complaints are about dignity'(9th June issue).An Asian Worker stated: 'The other thing is that every morning when we come to work...we have to stand in a long queue to clock in...Many of us have noticed that white women push past us and clock in first...Why should they be allowed to do it-not once or twice ,but every day?The setters(all white)set the white women's machine first ...ours they do last and they don't even do them properly...we asked for waiting time but they wouldn'tb give that to us.White women also get jobs of their choice ...we have to do what the setter gives us.' R.moore page79

The Local Trade Union

Most of the workers were members of the Transport and General Workers Union. The manual workers were organised in the 5/221 branch. There were 17 shop-stewards, elected on departmental or sectional basis, and a senior shopsteward who was also the secretary of the branch. Despite the overwhelmingly black workforce, there was only one Asian Shopsteward because the union rule required a two year membership qualification to hold posts. There were general feelings amongst the Asian workforce that the union representatives were part of the management in order to safeguard the petty privileges. Or in other words the trade union representatives became straw-bosses.

The dispute started on 1st May 1974, and involved 38 Asians, all working in section 61, over bonus fall back rate. Negotiations between management and union resulted in an offer to increase the fall back rate from 115% to 125% and to backdate the offer to January 1974. In discussion with the factory convenor, Asian workers discovered that under the 1972 agreement, their bonus should have been paid for 168 machines completed. This meant that the company had been cheating the Asian workers £4 per week over the last one year. The workers rejected the shop-steward recommendation and wanted the fall-back rate increased to 140%, backdated to January 1973. The negotiations failed and section 61 came out on unofficial strike. A strike committee was formed by 3rd May, and Husmukh Khetani and NC Patel from section 61 were given responsibility for organising the strike. Both were 19 and had no previous experience in organising strikes. The following demands were put forward:

1. The back dating of bonus payments to January 1973 at the rate of 125% and from May 1974 at 140%
2. Equality of promotion in the factory, equal rights to become foremen, supervisors, chargehands, utility workers etc.
3. That special attention be paid to the exploitation of women workers.
4. No victimisation of those participating in the strike.

The management issued an ultimatum to return to work or get sacked. The union convenor refused to negotiate with the strike committee leaders and tried to persuade the workers to go back to work, as did the local MP.

Some of the facts are:

By Monday, 6th May, 400 Asian Workers were on strike

By Tuesday, 7th May, another one hundred joined the strike

On the 10th the management sacked 75 of the original strikers

Pickets of 50 to 200 were held every day till the strike was won

Grievance meetings were held regularly where every move of the strike committee was debated and agreed upon. All information and grievances were collected and published in a strike committee bulletin

After further discussion with the workforce through these mass meetings the strike committee issued a new list of demands:

1. A substantial increase in bonus payments back-dated to 1973
2. An end to racial discrimination in promotion selection practices.
3. Substantial improvement in the wages of women workers with an early introduction of equal pay
4. No victimisation of the strikers
5. Shop-steward representation for the Asians
6. A threshold agreement.

These demands produced a stalemate because the trade union officials, Reg Weaver, the convenor and George Bromley, Union district secretary, refused to pay any attention.

How the Strike was sustained, the role of Asian Women, the support of the Black community, Reaction of the white workers and conclusions in the next issue

Black Jews in the Racist State of Israel

By our minority rights correspondent

'To be recognised as a Jew is no small matter in the Jewish state. Where one can live or work, even the opportunity to play in the Israeli basketball team depends on the decision of the orthodox rabbinate as to who is a Jew, by the criteria that they have established, which require either conversion or a proper genealogy going back four generations.'

Noam Chomsky in the introduction to 'The Arabs in Israel'
Sabri Jiryis

It is necessary to appreciate the stringent religious control over the affairs of the state to understand the position of black Jews in Israel. It is in this context that we will study the topic and also discuss whether religion or ethnicity can be an attribute of a nation. More precisely, can Jews be a nation?

The Jewish state

The state of Israel is not a state for the people living within the boundaries of the state, but a state of all Jews. Arabs who live within the boundaries of Israel are subjected to South African style pass laws, whereas an English Jew, who has no connection with Israel can enjoy all rights that go with citizenship. Where do black Jews fit in? A racist in America or Britain does not become a non-racist simply because he or she migrated to Israel.

To the orthodox white Jewish rabbinate, often laughingly termed as Semitic Jews^{*1}, the genealogy of black Jews, incorrectly termed Sephardim^{*2}, is not proper and black Jewish immigration to Israel has virtually come to a halt. However, it is not their inferior religious status, but the inferior economic and social status that flows from this racist ideology that is of concern to us.

Katz Commission White Wash

The Black Panther movement in 1971 was followed by the usual study commission to investigate ethnic conflicts. The commission, quite naturally, had to agree that there were inequalities between Western and Oriental Jews, (otherwise the commission would not serve any useful purpose) but identified the cause to be external. Most Zionists, including the more subtle ones in the so-called Jewish socialist socs., often site the lack of education, skills and large families due to the backwardness of the countries black Jews originate from as the cause of inequality, although the cause is most blatantly structural. If the cause was external then there would be no difference in this egalitarian, near perfect socialist state, which the Zionist socialist caricaturists claim Israel to be, between second and third generation oriental Jews in Israel and white Jews.

Oriental Jewish immigration and settlement

Between 1908 -1910 nearly 10,000 Yemini Jews were encouraged by Labour Zionists to immigrate to Palestine to work as agricultural labourers. The overseers, or Boazim, of private land operated in the same manner as the overseers of American cotton plantations in the South during the period of slavery. The European controlled Histadrut prevented Yemini from owning land throughout the mandate period. In serf owning feudal societies, some of the richer serfs themselves could own land. The attitude of white Jewish landlords were that typical to that of the slave owning period. The Arab-Israeli conflict, Zionist propaganda, religious, misplaced sympathy and imperialist exploitation caused further Arab, North African and to a limited extent Indian Jewish immigration once Israel became a Jewish state. These people were allowed in because Israel needed cheap labour as well as legitimacy as a Jewish state. From a serf owning peasant economy, the economy by that time had developed to a capitalist economy which required a supply of cheap labour to attract European capital investment. Oriental Jews once having immigrated to Israel had no where else to go whereas European Jews could return to western countries. This particular vulnerable position of the oriental Jews made it easier to turn them into a sub-proletariat. Movement up the social ladder was made impossible and oriental Jews became UNSKILLED: Labourers in the state controlled capitalist farms and privately owned but state subsidized industries.

In the first 10 years the immigration of oriental Jews to Israel exceeded the existing Jewish population settled in Palestine. Israel needed a large Jewish population to gain legitimacy as a Jewish state as well as to serve as an outpost of western interest in the Middle East. Its economy was heavily dependant on western capital and western Jewish immigrant capital, so the question of immigration control was an absurdity. The state settled the oriental population in the poorer mountainous, desert and frontier areas and the Europeans in the key industrial and fertile areas. The land and water allocated to black Jews were less than that allocated to white Jews in more fertile areas. The European farm communities had 59% higher income than the orientals. 40% of Israel's official poor lived in these areas. This ensured a supply of labour to the cities in the unskilled sector so that the European Jews could move up the occupational and social ladder. Thus a sub-proletariat was created by the state planners quite deliberately. The oriental Jews were pauperised ghettoised and subjected to systematic demigration of oriental culture and they had no where else to go. But the oriental Jews fought back. If one reads between the lines of the commission report after the Wadi Salib riots in 1959, Etzioni commission report in 1959 and the Katz commission report in 1971 the truth of the above statement will become crystal clear. Oriental Jewish immigration to Israel has now come to an end and the world crisis makes it impossible to throw crumbs at the Europeans and the very fabric of Israeli society is crumbling through internal pressures.

The inferior position of black Jews is clearly illustrated by the following facts (all information from the MERIP REPORTS) :

1. Orientals have consistently lower family income even white Jews of same educational levels
2. 92% of Israel's official poor are orientals
3. 49% of primary level students are classified as culturally disadvantaged of which 90% are orientals
4. 15.9% orientals go to universities compared to 73.5% Europeans
5. In 1969 the income of orientals born in the country was 58% of that of the Europeans.

Zionists want assimilation after all

"Concept for the oriental and for oriental Jewish culture is one of the hall marks of European Jewish ethnocentrism. Ben Gurion was quite explicit:

'We do not want Israelis to become Arabs. We are in duty bound to fight against the spirit of the Levant, which corrupts individuals and societies and preserve the authentic Jewish values as they crystallized in the Diaspora.' The Europeans refuse to acknowledge Oriental culture as a source of legitimate cultural values. 'The culture of Morocco,' exclaimed Ben Gurion, 'I don't

want to have it here and I don't see what contributions the Persians could bring. 'According to Abba Eban, 'Our object should be to infuse them with an Occidental spirit, rather than to allow them to drag us into an unnatural Orientalism'...The Israeli 'identity' created by the founding fathers sprang out of the Jewish life in the European ghettos. To speak of 'fusing' the exiles, by negating their difference in the name of the unity of the Jewish people, is to mask the historical and material foundation of the dominance of both the world Zionist movement Israeli society by European Jews. Because of European hegemony, a principal oriental Israel (Arab and Jewish) appears as an aberration to Israeli leaders, who feel it would no longer attract European Jews. That explains the importance in the assimilationist perspective of 'remoulding' Jews and inducing a kind of cultural amnesia through the process of Israelisation. This integration of orientals is even considered to be an act of paternalistic charity. 'When I see today what we have done for them,' affirms Golda Meir, 'I can say that the progress we have made is spectacular.'

MERIP Reports No 92

Golda Meir's statement; 'We in Israel need immigrants with a high standard, because the question of our future social structure is worrying us. We have immigrants from Morocco, Libya, Iran, Egypt and other countries with a 16th century level. Shall we be able to elevate these immigrants to a suitable level of civilisation?' is clear indication of the state's attitude to non-white Jews.

cited in Smooha p88.

What possible moral justification can the Zionists still give for the exclusive Jewish state if its professed aim is the imposition of modern industrial (ie imperialist) capitalist culture and values?

What is a Nation

Can Jews be classified as a Nation? see next issue of Liberation

Notes*

1. Semitic: White Jews are often called Semitic although all semitic people are not Jews and all Jews are not semitic. Ethnicity can not be an attribute of a nation in this present age, although Zionist, calling themselves Jewish socialists, cling to this fictitious semitism of white Jews to prove homogeneity of white Jews, and hence a justification to nationhood. Judaism ceased to be a national religion when the exclusive Jewish national god Adona known to early oriental (true judaism) was transformed into the one and only God, Javeh, - the creator of earth and heaven and the immortality of the soul was accepted. By rejecting the exclusive Jewish national god, Judaism addressed itself to all peoples and became the world's first potential world religion. But the children of Israel remained a privileged caste as the book of revelation of John shows. Judaism retained in a rationally vulgarised form all the rituals and characteristics of typically oriental religions and was always reactionary since the advent of Christianity. Both Christianity and Judaism today have no relevance in world politics but purely used to serve imperialism.

2. Sephardim:

Refers to a distinction which is liturgical, historical and linguistic (Judeo-Castilian), in contrast to the Ashkenazim (European Jews). It is incorrect because it does not differentiate between the B'nai Israel (Indian), the Falasha (Ethiopian) and Jews of Bhukhara, Yemen, China etc.

News from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

Bangladesh

The Bangladesh president, Ziaur Rahman have brought in the disturbed areas bill to enable him to declare effective martial law in parts of Bangladesh where the resistance to his government is intensifying. One such area is Chittagong Hilltracts. According to informed sources and returning relief workers, the situation in the area is extremely tense. Military repression is continuing unchecked. The Bangladesh High Commission had described the situation in the Hilltracts as a minor law and order problem created by extremists and miscreants. The principled left opposition is reported to be moving its war-wise freedom fighters and professional army 'deserters' from the Bengal tigers and commando regiments to help the people of Chittagong hilltracts in their just struggle against imperialism and for the right to national self-determination. In fighting shoulder to shoulder with the people of Chittagong Hilltracts, the progressive forces in Bangladesh are in fact supporting the territorial integrity of Bangladesh because without the right of national self determination of the people of Chittagong Hilltracts there can be no lasting unity. Committee for the national liberation of Chittagong Hilltracts have appealed for support for the release of their chairman, Shudharta Bikash Tang Chainga. The government is trying to settle Bengalis from the interior in remote areas of the Hilltracts to sow dissention between the Bengali people and the national minorities. The British Government is providing modern telecommunication equipment, worth \$1.3 million, to the police and there are 8 British military officers in the Military staff college training the Bangladesh Army internal surveillance and anti-terrorist squad according to sources close to the **Liberation forces** who has close connection with many serving army officers because they fought together in 1971. Some American helicopters originally allocated for Vietnam during the American presence there has now been re-directed to Bangladesh.

The Jatiya Chatra Dal (BCL ML student front), Banglar Chatra Union (JG MU's-) Jatiyo Chatra Dal (PCPB (ML) - Sayeed faction, and Jatiya Chatra Dal (Nagen Sharkar faction of Samyabadi dal (ML) have merged into one organisation. The united platform swept the Rajshahi University Student Union election. The Dacca election was won by a dissident faction of JSD and Mujibists. The merger took place after the Dacca elections where all M-L student fronts put up their independent slates. After Rashid Khan Menon's victory in the 60's, this is the first time the left is strong in student politics and gained control of a union.

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The Krishak Sangram Samity, Chasi Samity, Krishak Federation and some other peasant organisations have merged to form a united peasant organisation. This years Bangladesh Peasant Conference, probably under the chairmanship of Haji Danesh and supported by veteran M-L leader Abdul Matin, is reported to have already registered 100 000 delegates and observers. The conference will probably be held in Rajshahi, North Bengal, This show of mass support will stop for once and for all the slanders propagated by imperialist lackeys calling themselves socialist in the West that the 'Naxalites' have no popular support. The Bangladesh M-L movement is still divided. It is believed that the polarisation that is taking place around Abdul Haque and Ziauddin Ahmad will emerge as the strongest M-L group.

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Veteran Marxist-Leninist leader. Abdul Haque and Ajay Bhattacharya have been 'expelled' from the RCPB (ML) for taking a neo-Trotskyite Albanian line. Abdul Haque called a separate plenum and expelled some 'bourgeois elements serving the interest of US imperialism 'in the name of unity against one super-power. Unity talks between Haque and the PPEB is progressing well. The PPEB has perged itself of the opportunist elements led by the Jamal-Haider clique.

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India

Editorial Note: As with the news items covered on Bangladesh, the news coverage on India does not necessarily indicate support for the groups/parties mentioned or the political ideas expressed. Our intention is to bring news from the sub-continent which cannot be found readily in the press.

Communist Gadhar Party of India

A new communist party, called the Communist Gadhar Party of India has been recently formed as a result of, what the organisers called, tireless efforts of Marxist-Leninists abroad in the Hindustan Gadhar Party. It is not yet known where the first congress was held so it is not possible to speculate the extent of support or which factions of the CPI(ML) will support the new party. According to usually reliable sources, the party is likely to attract some following in the South and perhaps the Mohadev Mukherjee faction of the CPI(ML) in West Bengal. The founding meeting was attended by representatives from a Communist Party in Britain and Canada, but no Asian party sent representatives and it is not known whether any were invited. The Party has condemned both China, Mao tse Tung, and the Soviet Union and supports the Albanian line.

We will bring to our readers any policy statement issued by the Party as soon as practicable.

Vinod Mishra joins Nagabhusan Patnaik in unity call

Vinod Mishra, a leader of a major group in the now divided CPI(ML) issued a statement last November in response to the unity call of Nagabhusan Patnaik. Partial text of his statement is reprinted here.

Nagabhusan Patnaik is the name of an Iron man, of a brave proletarian fighter and a worthy party leader. He is perhaps the living link in person between the united CPI(ML) of the past and the divided CPI(ML) of the present, because of the immense respect he enjoys in all the factions of the party... the question of uniting in a single party is very difficult very difficult indeed...

It is not sufficient to unite simply on the basis of a simplified approach to the evaluation of the past. Rather, developing a new political basis of unity on the assessment of the present is all the more important and to an extent sufficient. Certain differences on the evaluation of the past which it is otherwise necessary to solve can even be left aside for the time being. The organisational form of unity should essentially be based on the principles of democratic centralism and debates on important issues should be conducted as a process of discussion and not of outright condemnation, in order to maintain the dignity of the Marxist-Leninist movement, to preserve its unity and to develop the correct line...

And in this context, Comrade Nagabhushan's call assumes paramount importance. We earnestly hope that all Marxist-Leninist forces will respond to this call both in word and spirit.

Finally, we take this opportunity to appeal to all revolutionary comrades to mobilise strong public opinion throughout the country to pressurize the government for the release of comrade Nagabhusan Patnaik...

Note: Comrade Nagabhushan Patnaik, at the time of writing this report, is critically ill and his appeal for unity will be probably the last letter that can be smuggled out of prison. Comrade Nagabhushan Patnaik, in the revolutionary tradition of the world communist movement has stood firm in his principles and always refused to accept political statue because he does not recognise the right of the Indian ruling class to judge a revolutionary. Another brave son of the Indian revolution will perhaps soon die, but the struggle will continue. The teachings of comrade Nagabhushan Patnaik will live for ever

Pakistan

Uphold the Right of National Self Determination Of the people of Baluchistan

The struggle for national self-determination in Baluchistan is intensifying. Although, many of the 'Liberation forces' are under the leadership of feudal lords fighting to preserve their privileged position which even the limited capitalist development is threatening to erode, it should not be used as an excuse to bolster national chauvinism. When a minority nationality is oppressed, it is the duty of the majority in the oppressor nation to support the right of national self determination of the minority. Pakistan is of course a multi-national country and in supporting the right of national self-determination of Baluchistan it does not mean the formation of various smaller states or the destruction of the territorial integrity of Pakistan. Granting the right of national-self determination will on the contrary be the only surity for the territorial integrity of Pakistan. Greater a state tends towards absolute equality of the various nationalities living within the territory of that state, the less significant will the demand for independence become, but a union cannot be lasting if the right to secede is not accepted. While supporting the right of National self-determination of the people of Baluchistan, one must remember that the right of self-determination includes the right to form independent nation state.

The true Baluchistan Liberation forces will emerge victorious and the ties of brotherhood of all oppressed people in Pakistan must be made stronger now.

Editorial Note:

The Baluch inhabit an area falling under the jurisdiction of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran—an area over 250,000 square miles, with a total population of 15 million including those now living in Middle Eastern countries and the Soviet Union. The Pakistani part of Baluchistan is 134,050 square miles with a population of 2.4 million. Some of the Liberation movements want to form an independent Baluchi state covering all three countries, while others want regional autonomy for the Pakistani part of Baluchistan only.

The Baluch is of Semitic origin and has a history dating back to over 1000 years B.C. The Baluchs of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan speak the same language, Baluchi, with minor regional variations and the written language dates back to over 100 years.

A loose confederacy of Baluch tribes existed from 1795 to 1948 (till the accession of the Kalat state to Pakistan)

We invite our readers to send articles on Baluchistan covering all shades of opinion. The present short contribution was written by a Baluchi member who wishes to remain un-named. The AYMM as a whole does not accept any responsibility for the views expressed or the correctness of the information supplied.

Sri Lanka

Ceylon Communist Party condemns China and Albania

In a joint communique with Groupe Marxiste-Leniniste du Senegal, Grupo para la Defensa del Marxismo-Leninismo (Spain) Organizzazione Comunista Proletaria Marxista-Leninista (Italy) Partido Comunista Revolucionario de Chile, Reorganisation committee, Communist Party of India (ML), Union Comunista Revolucionaria (Dominican Republic) and some other parties the Ceylon Communist Party has condemned both China's three world theory and the Line propagated from Albania. The communique said, 'The Albanian Party of Labour and its leadership have fallen entirely into the revisionist swamp. Shortly after the counter-revolutionary coup in China the PLA attracted a number of genuine revolutionaries because they opposed some of the more hideous features of the Hua-Teng clique in China, specially regarding international line... More significantly their position (PLA) grows daily closer to the made-in -Moscow revisionist line on... world events.'

15,000 March in London against the Bill

On Sunday, 5th April, 15,000 people, mostly blacks, took part in a demonstration against the nationality bill called by CARL. Speaking for the Indian Workers' Association (GB), Avtar Jouhl, condemned the leadership of the Trade Unions and the Labour Party for their lack of participation in the demonstration, and showed his disgust at the crocodile tears being shed by the Labour party leadership. Tony Haque, speaking for the Bangladesh Workers Association (UK) mentioned that the Tories were trying to find a convenient scapegoat for the evils of the system. He expressed confidence that a mass movement against racism could stop the bill. Speaking for SCUPO, Barrister Quadri, again showed his complete ignorance of what a nation is and reiterated his bankrupt theory of two nations. Most major national minority organisations participating in the demonstration were represented in the platform other than Asian Youth Movement, Hind Mazdoor Lehr and Kashmiri Workers Association (Younis-Nabi group). The large AYM-Bradford and AYM-Manchester joint contingent was joined by many other Asian youths during the March chanting Labour Tory just the same, both play the racist game, and Kill Kill, Kill the bill. The rally was chaired by Dipak Ray of the TUC race relations committee who while introducing Tony Haque of the BWA, said amidst shouts of Big deal that he, like Tony Haque was also a Bengali. Perhaps Dipak Ray was embarrassed at the pathetic trade union turn out. The LPYS, which claims to be the largest youth organisation and claims to have organised over 6 thousand people for the unemployment demonstration had a national mobilisation including paper sellers of less than 200. The SWP as usual turned up with more playcards than people to carry them reminding everybody that we have entered the age of politics by camera-journalism. The IMG turn out was less than their usual pathetic effort. Perhaps they are too busy supporting Tony Benn's leadership bid.

100 people attend meeting against the nationality bill and in support of Anwar Ditta

Over 100 people attended the meeting against the nationality bill and in support of Anwar Ditta's right to her children on 14th March, organised by Asian Youth Movement Manchester and supported by Jamiat ul Muslimin & Manchester Trades Council. Mr. Abdullah Azad of the immigrant welfare Centre explained in great details the complexities of the bill. He added that the bill would be very simple if this were South Africa, but since this is Britain it has to be covered up to look respectable. Gus John brought greetings from the Black Parents organisation in Manchester and the race today collective and thanked the Asian Youth Movement and Anwar Ditta Defence Committee for inviting him. Gus criticised the last Labour government and the Labour party on their record on racism. Anwar Ditta explained her struggle in details. Amidst rapturous applause she said 'To black people, Labour, Tory, Liberals—they are all the same'. She ended her speech by asking the people present to see World in Action (the documentary on Anwar's claim to her children) and make up their own minds as to who was telling the truth—Home office or Anwar Ditta. Speaking for the Asian Youth Movement, Qamr ul Kabir extended continued support for the campaign till victory. Referring to a leaflet distributed by a local Asian Tory and his minor children, he said, 'Anwar has described the conditions in which we are fighting the nationality bill, If a British born mother does not have the right to have her children with her, which is after all the most basic human right, then whom is this leaflet trying to reassure?' He went on to add that, 'Our right to be in this country has been bought with our sweat in the foundries, in the textile mills, in the buses and the health service...and that right is not open for debate by the Tory part or the Labour party or fascist organisations like the National Front and British movement..'. He demanded the right to bring children, dependants and spouses without any formalities, delays or racist harassment.

OVER 300 People Attend Rally Against the Nationality Bill

On 12 th April, over 300 people marched from Albert Square shouting, Kill Kill, Kill the Bill and Black People must Unite , Here to Stay Here to Fight and attended a rally at UMIST students union organised by the Immigrant Welfare Centre and co-sponsored by Jamiat-ul-Muslamin (Manchester), The Church of England and Asian Youth Movement Manchester. Nilofar Sheikh, speaking for the Asian Youth Movement Manchester, welcomed the participation of religious leaders and organisations and the presence of Labour MPs. She stressed the need for building the broadest possible united front against the bill and state racism and asked the Labour MPs present to make a firm commitment that the next Labour government will repeal the 1971 immigration act and the nationality bill and they will campaign along those lines now. She said that the AYM will organise demonstrations in every corner and street of Manchester and intensify the fight against racism. Gerard Kaufman MP brought greetings from the local party and the shadow cabinet. He said that Margaret Thatcher was the mother of the nationality bill. He criticised the slogan 'Black people must unite, Here to stay here to fight, and said that the correct slogan is Black and White unite and fight. Kaufman's paranoia about black people uniting is of course understandable since he no doubt appreciates that it will be more difficult to stab us in the back if we are united. The slogan Black people must unite, Here to stay here to fight, in no way precludes unity with white people. The stay of white people in this country is not being threatened but some people have an ability to make stupidity into a virtue. We would advise Kaufman to stop pontificating and concentrate on doing his job properly.

The meeting was also addressed by the Bishop of Manchester, a representative of the Anglican church, the Catholic church and a representative of the Synagogue, who claimed to represent the Jewish community and also a representative of the Sikh Gurdwara. The Rabbi's rantings to restore greatness to the British empire would have brought some comic relief if the situation were not so serious. The representative of the Anglican church summed up the feeling of the audience when he said 'people who tolerate other people becoming second class citizens have no right to first class citizenship.' The meeting was also addressed by Gus John, from Cynthia Gordon Action Group. Gus corrected Kaufman's knowledge of History and said that if Margaret Thatcher is the mother of the nationality bill then the Madonna is the Labour party before he went on to appeal for support for Cynthia Gordon, a West Indian woman who has lived and worked in Manchester for 12 years, facing deportation under the 1971 immigration act.

Fighting State Racism

Nasira is again faced with deportation

Nasira Begum, a Pakistani woman, has been living under the threat of deportation for nearly 5 years. Nasira's brother arranged her marriage on 3rd December 1976 and she was married in accordance with both Islamic and British law. Nasira's husband deserted her and the home office threatened her with deportation since to them the marriage was one of convenience and the Homeoffice also alleged that her husband was already married and not free to marry Nasira. Nasira appealed against this decision and the homeoffice appointed adjudicator ruled on 30th July 1980 that Nasira's marriage was genuine and not one of convenience and granted her permission to stay here. Nasira's husband is lecherous, was indeed married and divorced when he claimed to Nasira that he was a bachelor, but the logic

behind wanting to deport Nasira is understandable only to fascists. The Nasira Begum defence campaign can be contacted at:
Friends of Nasira Begum, c/o 595 Stockport Rd., Longsight, Manchester 13
Telephone: 061-225 5111

Cynthia Gordon has the right to stay

Cynthia Gordon, a mother of two British born children, lived and worked in Manchester from 1960 to 1972. Her father died in 1967 and in 1972 she went to Jamaica with her two children to look after her mother who had become invalid by then. Cynthia could have brought her mother to England but chose to go to Jamaica instead because she was sensitive to comments about blacks bringing their relatives to be a burden on the state. Her mother died in 1977 and she returned to England on a visitors visa and was granted leave to stay until February 1979. Some time before that date she applied for indefinite leave to stay in the UK. Cynthia Gordon could have re-entered Britain as a returning resident because there is provision under the immigration rules for persons to return to this country, in cases where they lived here most of their lives, even if they have been away for more than two years. She was not informed about that provision when she applied to the British High-Commission in Kingston in 1978 for an entry visa as a returning resident and was told instead that she could not do so because she has been away for more than two years. Cynthia is now threatened with deportation since she entered this country as a visitor and her status cannot be changed. Cynthia Gordon is not going anywhere and the children are staying put. If you are willing to help defend her right to stay please contact:
Cynthia Gordon Action Group, c/o 14 Gradewell Walk, Moss Side, Manchester M15 5NA.

Gary Pemberton is innocent

On Wednesday 15th October 1980, Gary Pemberton, an West Indian worker was charged for assaulting Colin Malcolm Mackenzie-PC 399. While carrying on his duties for the Bradford college students union, Gary approached PC399 to ask why he was at Queen's Hall, which was a private place. PC399 replied 'someone called the police'. Gary unaware of this went to check, meanwhile PC 399 entered the building and began questioning people. PC399 then insisted on questioning Gary, to which he was unprepared to comply until he saw his employers. PC399 then threatened Gary to charge him for obstruction, but Gary was not impressed. Gary was grabbed by PC399, his jacket torn and forcibly removed from the premises by 3 uniformed and 3 plain clothes policemen and taken to the police station. There were 2 police vans and 5 police squad cars outside the building. Gary was later charged for assault on PC399, tried on 27th January at Bradford Magistrate court, found guilty and fined £50. PC399 admitted in court that he was drinking alcohol before arresting Gary, but that admission had no effect on the Magistrate. Gary has appealed against this unjust decision of the magistrate and his appeal will be heard on Monday 27th April. Gary Pemberton Defence committee has called a demonstration on that date and people should assemble at 10AM near Bradford Crown Court, Bradford Town Hall. For further information please write to:
Gary Pemberton Defence Committee, c/o 4th Idea Bookshop, 14 South Gate, Bradford.
Defend Jaswinder Kaur from Deportation

Jaswinder is an Asian woman living in Leeds with her three year old British born son Manjit. Jaswinder is being threatened with deportation under the 1971 immigration act. Details of her case is included in the cover page. We appeal to our readers to join the demonstration. Although legally, Manjit cannot be deported, he is effectively being deported since the only choice offered to Jaswinder is to let her child go into care or take him to India. If the government gives the right to citizenship to a British born, then that right must be real and not superficial.

* * * * *
We regret that due to lack of space and financial constraints we could not cover the other campaigns in the area. We express our solidarity with the brothers and sisters fighting the racist immigration laws.

Anwar Wins: A victory all oppressed people can rejoice in
By a Liberation correspondent

Anwar Ditta, a Birmingham born mother, finally won her long struggle to bring her children, Kamran(10), Imran(8) and Saima(7) from Pakistan. The children arrived on Tuesday, 14th April from Pakistan via Amsterdam to Manchester, accompanied by their father Mr. Shuja ud Din. When Shuja went to Pakistan to bring the children, his employer, Heap Dawson, terminated his employment. He had asked for three weeks holiday to allow him to bring the children. After years of separation from his children, Shuja is now faced with the prospect of a long period of unemployment, considering the state of the Engineering industry in the area.

The campaign has not ended with the children arriving. Nobody can compensate for the five years lost in their lives, but the Home Office must be made to give compensation to the family as an admission of guilt. No doubt, many will raise the bogey of tax-payers money being spent on individuals at a time of severe economic recession, knowing full well that money paid in compensation is not even a drop in the ocean. Tax-payers money is spent, and correctly so, to compensate for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and to pay the legal expenses of people charged with crimes as mass murder, rape and arson. Why then shouldn't a mother be compensated for the state destroying her family life?

Anwar's victory is a victory all oppressed people can rejoice in, because Anwar and her defence campaign always stressed that she was not a special case. Anwar herself also campaigned for Ibrahim Ali, a Bengali father, separated from his children for the last 10 years, Nasira Begum, a Pakistani woman threatened with deportation and Jaswinder Kaur, an Indian woman, also faced with deportation. We give here a brief history of the campaign before we analyse the lessons we have learnt ourselves from the campaign and how, in the opinion of Anwar, the campaign was won.

Brief details

Anwar Ditta, born in Birmingham on 28th November 1953
Parents separated in 1962 and Anwar was sent to Pakistan
Married Shuja ud Din in Pakistan in 1968 and had three children there
Shuja came to England in 1974 and Anwar followed in 1975
Applied for children on 9th Sept. 1976
Refused entry on 18th May 1979
Appealed against decision on 8th June 1979
Appeal heard on 28th April and 16th May 1980 in Manchester
Appeal refused on July 30th 1980
Leave to appeal against refusal declined on 16th September 1980
Home office declared the case of Anwar Ditta closed on 30th September 1980

The Campaign

Defence committee set up in November 1979

Demonstrations:

Rochdale 1st March 1980- over 300 people
Manchester 26th April 1980-over 500 people
Rochdale 6th Sept. 1980 - over 300 people
Rochdale 15th Nov. 1980-over 1000 people

In addition Anwar spoke at over 400 public meetings through out the country thousands of signatures were collected, pickets organised outside the Home-office and hearings in Manchester and support committees set up in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, London, Nottingham and Bradford. Granada television's 'World in Action' documentary on Anwar, which disclosed the blood test results proving parentage conclusively was seen by millions. Although the defence committee was not directly involved with the programme, it would not be inaccurate to state that the media interest was there only because of the campaign.

The defence committee also provided translations of letters and documents and sent Ruth Bundy, Anwar's solicitor to Pakistan who gathered evidence including:

1. Signed statements from Witnesses
2. Verification of Pakistani identity card issued to Anwar as genuine (The home office said Anwar never went to Pakistan)
3. 6 year old copy of Telegram sent to Shuja's mother after Anwar's arrival in England.
4. Interviews and statements from, mid-wives, neighbours and the Maulvi who officiated the marriage.

The defence committee contacted and obtained the support of many Labour MPs, trade union leaders, national minority organisations, trade union branches. The campaign among many others were supported by:

Asian Youth Movement-Manchester	Indian Workers' Association (GB)
Asian Youth Movement-Bradford	Bangladesh Workers' Association
Asian Youth Movement-Nottingham	Kashmiri Workers' Assoc. (Younis-Nabi)
Asian Youth League-Leicester	Kashmiri Workers' Assoc. (Nazir-Mushtaque)

The campaign was also supported by Mrs. Jayaben Desai, Grunwick strike leader.

Interview with Anwar

Lib: What in your opinion is the most important factor that contributed to winning the campaign.

Anwar: Undoubtedly the campaign and the devoted work members of my defence committee did consistently. Many people think the Granada programme clinched victory. The programme helped to quicken the process and reached people whom we could not have persuaded to support us. But it is important to remember that without a campaign there would be no television programme or MP support.

Lib: What was the composition of the defence committee and which groups or organisations supported the campaign.

Anwar: There were people from all walks of life, but it was mostly ordinary working people. You know it as well as I do, why are you asking me?

Lib: The Asian Youth Movement had representation in the Committee, but I am from the News-paper. We allocate certain responsibilities to our members.

I want to hear from you what you think and not our representative thinks.

Anwar: I don't want to mention any groups at this stage because I may leave out a few. Every major Black organisation in Britain and many others supported the campaign. I am thankful to all and will acknowledge their help.

Lib: Would you tell us about your Defence Committee. What sort of internal problems did the committee face?

Anwar: My Defence Committee was, and we are not finished yet, simply wonderful. They liked to do more work and less talking. If I rang Manchester and said some leaflets need reprinting, it was done by next morning. Or if I rang the chairman of the Committee in Bradford and said something needs to be done, it was done immediately. You know that. I can say with confidence that other campaigns will benefit from talking with members of my defence committee.

Lib: So, you are saying that there were no disagreement in your committee.

Anwar: No, I am not saying that sister. But people were prepared to accept majority decision. Those who couldn't left the campaign. I don't want to name names, but people left the campaign because it was too militant and some left because it was not what they called anti-imperialist. Often, I took the decisions myself after consulting some members of the committee which the rest of the committee accepted. I said from the start, I need help, but I won't accept help with strings attached.

Lib: The chairman of the campaign was in The Asian Youth Movement-Brad and he left AYM before the victory. Were there any difficulties because of that with our representative.

Anwar: No. They were good friends. If they had differences they must have talked about it outside. I am not aware of any differences, and it would never have occurred to me if you did not mention it.

Lib: Why did you join the Labour Party and when did you join ?

Anwar: I joined the Labor Party two weeks after the appeal was lost in Manchester adjudicator court. Many people think, and perhaps you included, that I sold black people by joining the Labour Party.

Lib: Please, no. I am not suggesting that or asking you to justify anything. But, it could be of interest to our readers if you would answer, but you don't have to.

Anwar: No, I want to answer that question because it is important people know why I joined the Labour party. I have never distributed leaflets for the Labour Party, sold their news-paper or even asked anybody else to join the Labour party. I joined the Labour Party because it would make it easier for me to speak at Labour Party meetings and conferences. The Labour party is a powerful party and the members of the Labour party should know what is happening to black people. I felt that if I talked to them then more and more people would realise the need to fight racism and repeal the immigration laws when the next Labour government comes. Of course I wanted them to support me, but I never asked them to consider me as a special case. I have said in your meeting quite openly, that to black people Labour, Tory, Liberal, they are all the same, and I have said that in Labour party meetings and many Labour party members agree with me. I hope I have been able to persuade some people in the Labour Party the need to fight racism and have helped those in the Labour Party who want to fight racism. I have been helped by many people in the Labour Party and I am grateful for that. What I will do in the future, I don't know, but I hope the people who helped me will help others in similar position.

Lib: Where do you go from here? Will the defence committee be dissolved.

Anwar: The defence committee have still some work left. There will be a victory celebration and then there is the question of compensation.

Lib: No amount of money can compensate for what the home office did to you and your family. But, would you agree that the campaign for compensation must be stepped up because it will be an open admission of guilt on the part of the home office if they compensate and other people could also ask for legal expenses at the least ?

Anwar: I agree that no amount of money can bring back the five years lost of my life and my husband and children. The defence committee will soon issue a statement. You will no doubt be one of the firsts to know about it.

Lib: One last question. Did people in left groups, both within the Labour Party and outside try to recruit you or use you for party political gains.

Anwar: I don't think I can be taken for a ride so easily now. I have gained experience myself during the campaign. What exactly did you mean by left groups. I am a bit confused. What is left to some is right to others. Could you name some groups you have in mind.

Lib: Thank you Anwar. You have been a great help.

Note: Part of the interview was conducted in Urdu and the words used are not exact.

Lessons of the campaign

One of the main obstacles with campaigns defending the democratic rights of individuals is the arrogance and childishness of some so-called left groups who will attend public meetings to sell newspapers and say individual campaigns serve no purpose (perhaps they over-look their paper sales). This of course is a non-sensical conception of an individual campaign and a general campaign—a mere confusion between quality and quantity. What determines the nature of a campaign is the political content of the campaign and not the number of people the campaign is trying to defend. The way immigration laws are being used by the state to destroy people's family life or to induce repatriation can be exposed equally well in a campaign to defend the right of an individual as it can be done in a general campaign against racism and one complements the other. Even ignoring the fact that the so-called left can afford to pontificate, after all they are

not deprived of the basic rights black people are denied, campaigns for the defence of individuals are important to expose the criminality of the system we live in, in a manner which others can identify with.

For every individual who is faced with deportation, or deprived of his family

it is of course not possible to have a defence campaign, but defence campaigns can be used to create the conditions for a mass campaign against racism and ultimately the state, and above all the confidence that together we have the power to win. Having said that, it is also important to realise the limitations and resist attempts to make a defence committee a substitute for a political organisation or party. For every campaign it is important to decide upon from the very beginning what specific form the campaign should take. For example, take the case of Anwar, should the campaign focus on the lack of basic human right to have her children here or should it be a campaign against immigration control? The right of a mother to have her children with her is the most fundamental and basic human right and that right was being denied to Anwar (and many others) and a campaign around that is neither bourgeois Liberal or purely humanitarian, although progressives are the only genuine humanists, but a more direct attack on the racism of the state than the hundred and one principled statements of the childish left against the racist British imperialist state. A general campaign against immigration control in this instant would be a divergence because it would hide the very essence of immigration laws with illusions that immigration laws are to control numbers when the issue here is not the right of individuals to cross national boundaries unrestricted, but the right of black people settled here to have their dependants without delays and harassment. The other important realisation is to differentiate between essence and form. A campaign can be anti-imperialist in essence without necessarily using the word anti-imperialist every two sentences. For every campaign it is essential to make sure that groups are not allowed to come into the campaign to create diversions and fudge the issue by incorporating issues which are not of direct relevance. For example the tendency of some people to produce one neat parcel covering the rights of homo-sexuals, women, mentally handicapped and blacks. Or the crusade of some groups and tendency to incorporate the legitimate demand of the Irish people for national self-determination to build the unity of all oppressed people. This again shows a lack of understanding on the role of a political party and the role of united-fronts. In reality it delays unity because it is up to Irish organisations and national minority organisations to build unity through practice, because unity cannot be imposed from outside. The other most important realisation is to understand that a victory in a campaign is only a one-off concession from the state and one should not become dizzy with success. Campaigns, if run properly, can be a great help to build the conditions for a mass anti-racist campaign and can complement existing mass campaigns. It is for this reason that campaigns should be run with a level of professionalism and commitment. If one recognises a 'bourgeois court', and in a campaign when one goes through the courts, by implication one is recognising the court, it is important to keep a constant check on the legal side and the way the legal affairs are being handled instead of leaving it to the professional lawyer. Having said that, it is also important to note that some people attack law centres and similar bodies and in a way attack the monkey and shield the organ grinder.

In conclusion we would say, yes campaigns are necessary, but no-campaign is better than a half-hearted campaign.

Free Advertisements

Asian Youth Movement Manchester does not necessarily have any organisational links with any of the organisations mentioned here.

Asian Youth Karate Club
Longsight Library
Every Wednesday from 7p.m. (right of admission reserved)

Public Meeting

May 20th 1981 Wednesday, 7.30pm., Room 4, Student Union
Manchester University, Oxford Rd.

BLACK WOMEN IN STRUGGLE speaker: Valerie Amos

June 10th 1981 - at above address and time
speaker: Colin Prescod, chairman IRR

HERE TO STAY! HERE TO FIGHT!

The above meetings have been organised by IRR and TUBE (WEA)

Asian Youth Football Club

If interested in playing come to the Karate club or write to AYM
and we will forward the letter.

* * * * *

Appearing in next issue of Liberation :
WOMEN AND THE LEFT MOVEMENT IN INDIA

Kuldip Sondhu

Problems of Asian Women in Britain and The struggle for the Emancipation of Women

Nelofar Sheikh

Profile on Baluchistan

Liberation minority rights correspondent

Black Workers and Trade Unions

Special commentator

Can Jews be a Nation ?

Minority rights correspondent

How Maulana Modudi Distorted Islam

Religious affair correspondent

Copies of Liberation can be obtained from Grassroots Book shop.

* * * * *

If you wish to write for the Liberation, please send articles at the AYM address given in the cover page. Articles from members will be given preference. All articles must be signed, stating address of writer (which will not be reprinted). Unpublished articles will not be returned, so please keep copy. The Liberation is edited by an Editorial Board.

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Wanted

Recent pictures from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh of current events.

The Secret War in Bangladesh

By our minority rights correspondent

Independent sources report that the people of Chittagong Hilltracts have been subjected to summary killings, torture, arrest and detention without charges, harassment, and the wholesale destruction of not only homes but entire villages. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation has published detailed accounts of the massacre. (For further details contact: IFOR,

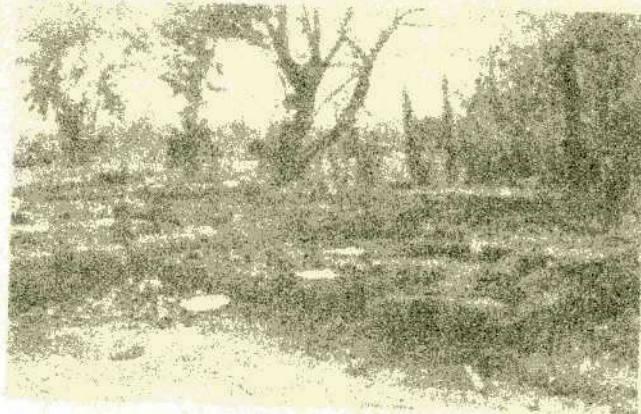
Hof van Sonoy 15-17, 1811 LD Alkmaar
The Netherlands.)

To legalise this mass killings, The Bangladesh government is introducing a Disturbed Areas Bill, currently in the 6th session of parliament, designed to give the police and armed forces personnel of all ranks unrestricted powers to shoot anyone suspected of subversive activities. Subversive activities will include writing anti-government slogans

Concurrently, the government is trying to settle Bengalees from the interior in the Hilltracts and have been instigating communal riots. The president of the Bangladesh Peoples democratic movement (UK) in a meeting in London stated that Mr. Ali Haider Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Hilltracts was authorised to settle 100000 Bengalee families in CHT from other districts of Bangladesh (Ref. His top secret letter no. 1025(9)/C of the 15th Sept. 1980 to all heads of Districts of Bangladesh) A camp has been opened at Haji camp in Chittagong.

The top secret letter guarantees that Bengalee settlers will be provided with Plain Land: 2.5 acres, Plain and Hilly land: 4.0 acres and Hilly land 5 acres for each family in addition to cash help.

Armed services personnels and retired personnels will be given preference.



Burned house in the village of Pujgang.

Considering the mass landlessness, the government plans to sow dissention between the people of the Hilltracts and the Bengalees will succeed unless all progressive and democratic parties in Bangladesh unconditionally support the right of National self determination and build mass support for it.

The Bangladesh Peoples Democratic Movement can be contacted at;

BPDM(UK)

P.O. BOX 30, PINNER, MIDDLESEX.

Publications available include:

Bangladesh: planned ethnocide of Minority nationalities in CHT.

