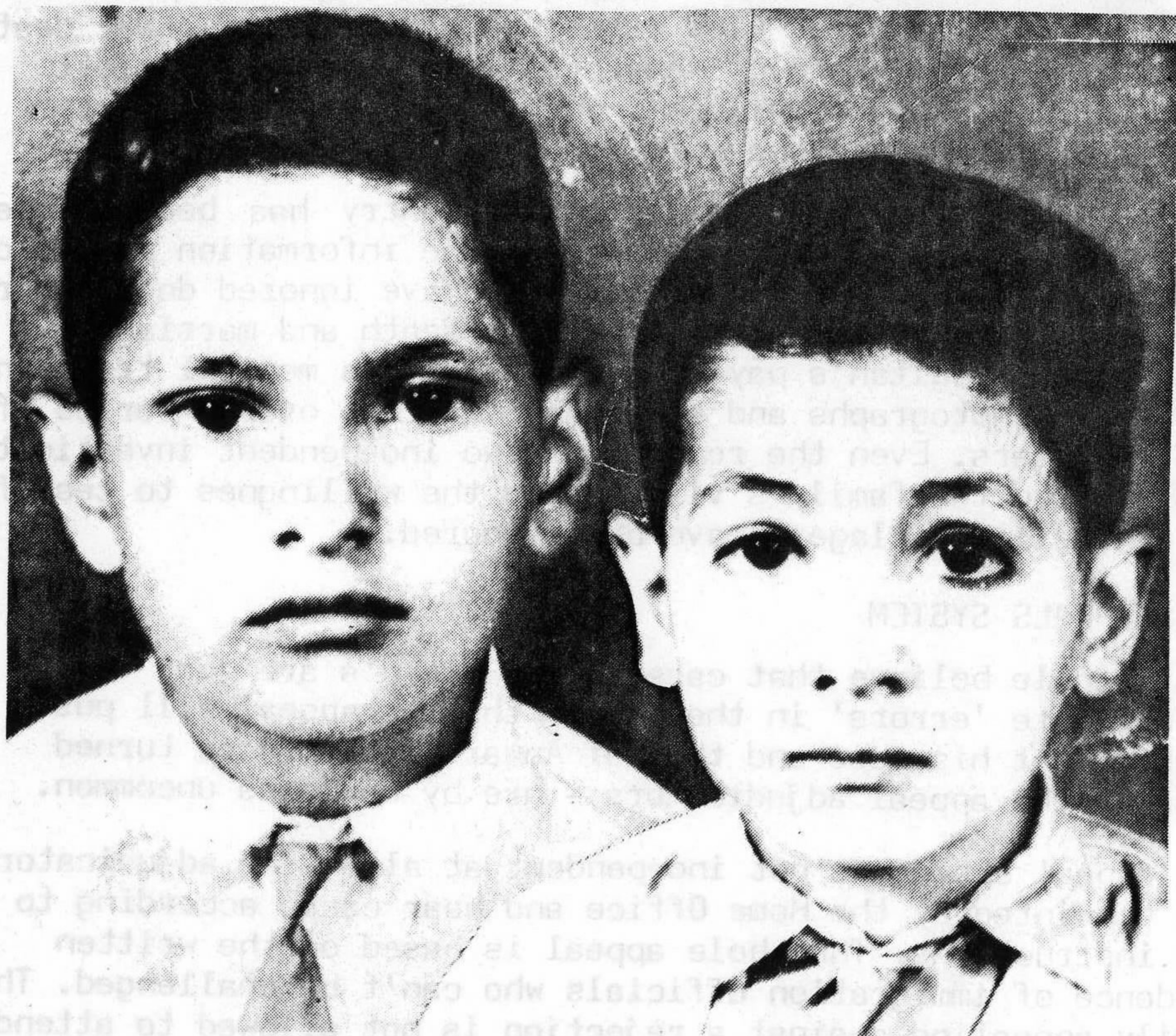


BRING SULTAN MAHMOOD'S



CHILDREN HOME

For eleven years - since 1971 - Sultan Mahmood has been fighting to have his family join him in England. Although he has British nationality and has lived and worked here for 15 years, he has been denied the basic human right that we expect and demand other countries to respect - to have his family with him.

His wife and children spent eleven years - an entire childhood - waiting for interviews and entry visas from the British Embassy. Sultan has put forward application after application and three appeals for his family to join him, but they have all been turned down.

In 1980 Sultan's wife died after years of illness. Her death, hastened by nine years of separation and uncertainty, left Sultan's two younger children, Shehzad and Arshad without father or mother - orphaned by the Home Office.

Each time the family's application for entry has been refused on flimsy claims of 'discrepancy' in the information provided by the family. Immigration officials have ignored documentary proof of financial support, of birth, death and marriage evidence, of Sultan's payment for his wife's medical treatment, of family photographs and of letters written over a period of fifteen years. Even the reports of two independent investigators who visited the family's village and the willingness to testify of ten fellow villagers have been ignored.

THE APPEALS SYSTEM

Many people believe that cases like Sultan's are just unfortunate 'errors' in the system that an appeal will put right. Yet his case and that of Anwar Ditta - also turned down by the appeal adjudicators - are by no means uncommon.

The appeal system is not independent at all. The adjudicators are appointed by the Home Office and hear cases according to its instructions. The whole appeal is based on the written evidence of immigration officials who can't be challenged. The family appealing against a rejection is not allowed to attend.

It is not surprising that in 1975, when one of Sultan's appeals was heard, 95% of the appeals were refused. And yet when random independent investigations were made of 58 cases that has been refused, 55 were found to have been wrongly refused!

The refusals of Sultan's children to enter this country has nothing to do with fairness or justice and everything with politics. They are a consequence of the racist policies of successive governments which have been aimed at stopping black immigration at whatever human cost.

The 1971 Immigration Act halted immigration for work and subsequent legislation has restricted the entry of dependents, dividing families and alleging 'marriage of convenience' on any pretext. The Immigration Act is not only a way of keeping black people out but of harassing black people settled in this country.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can help Sultan and his family fight and win their case. Anwar Ditta, Abdul Azad and others have shown that the Home Office can be made to listen. Individual letters, motions of support, lobbying, demonstrations and publicity all help in exposing this injustice.

- * Write supporting Sultan's struggle to his MP James Lamond, who will take these letters to the Home Secretary. Also approach your own MP.
- * Ask your organisations, trade union, etc. to pass a motion supporting the case.
- * Join the Campaign's public demonstrations, pickets and other activities.

Come to our picket outside Sultan's Immigration Appeal, on Monday 10th May at Aldine House, New Bailey Street (off Deansgate) Manchester, from 9am.

- * Return completed petition forms, send donations and keep in touch with the Sultan Mahmood Support Committee. Send letters of support.

SULTAN MAHMOOD SUPPORT COMMITTEE, 87 GOWER STREET,
OLDHAM, LANCs.