

FLAME

Black workers paper of the Socialist Workers Party



Battle of Lewisham, Flame centerspread.

LEWISHAM: Nazis under 'heavy manners'



Victory. They did not pass.



Our wedge breaks their march in half.

AUGUST 13, a day that, we will never forget. It was the day that black people, coming from all over London, put the Nazi Front under 'heavy manners'. It was the day that the Black youth gave the police a beating in running battles in the streets of Lewisham.

August 13 was a day when the anger of the black community exploded. Anger at being unemployed, anger at being at the end of police harassment like 'Operation 39 Police Nigger Hunt' that took place in Lewisham.

people and white working class can crack this system. The solidarity and unity shown at Lewisham shows what can be done.

- That it is necessary for us to build an organisation that will be able to lead the struggles against unemployment, racism, struggles at the workplace, against police brutality, deportations and racist immigration laws. We have to build an organisation to link all of these struggles into one mighty river to run this dog-eat-dog system over.

Victory

For the black community it was a day of victory. We showed that only by force of numbers and by using any means necessary will we be able to defeat the Nazi Front.

Everyone is on a high after beating the Nazis, however our situation still remains the same. The police still attack our youths in the streets. We are not able to find work, our lives are boxed in by the system. So, after fighting the Nazis we have to ask: Where from here?

We in Flame say:

- Only the power of black

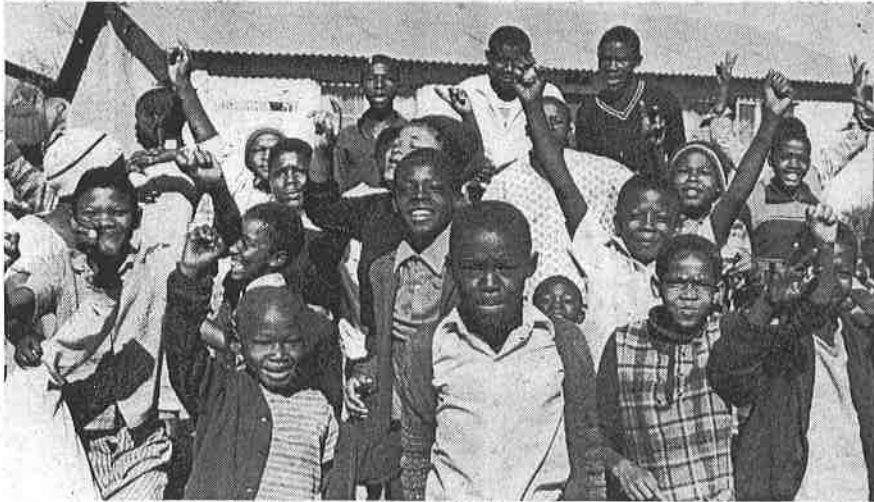
- Where we go from here then, is to struggle, not only against the Nazi Front but to struggle against all aspects of our oppression.

Fightback

- We say finally that *Flame* and *Socialist Workers Party* are building that organisation, a fighting party of the black workers, black unemployed, white workers, white unemployed, women workers—a fighting party that will combine the best of all our activities for the final assault against the system. Our goal—a society of free people, no capitalists, no police muggers, and one in which we can see our lives go forward.

AFRICA IN STRUGGLE

Soweto: The struggle continues



South Africa, a new generation of fighters take to the street outside their school

SINCE THE explosion in June, Soweto continues to simmer. Recently one youth was shot and killed and 175 students arrested in raids upon high schools. Flame speaks to Majakata Mokoena, who has just left South Africa on the recent events there.

Tactics

'So far we have gotten rid of the Bantu education school Boards. At present our tactic is to get rid of the smaller institutions of the white racist Government and then move to get rid of the system itself.

We have called upon the civil servants of the government to resign in Soweto. The reason we do this is because the civil servants represent the Government, it is its immediate agent of our oppression. So far some of them have resigned, however, the police have not responded.

They say they will not be intimidated. The workers, that is our parents are 100 per cent in support of

our movement. Many of them are in the Black Parents Association.

In Soweto itself, a committee called Committee 10 has been formed by the Black Consciousness Movement. This Committee is really the genuine voice of the people of Soweto. Therefore, the government has not recognised it. However, it has the support of the Soweto people.

The Soweto Students Representative Council is still the leading force in our struggle. I can only speak properly of Soweto, but the Students Representative Councils in other towns have taken up the demands also.

Results

All in all, the results we have achieved so far have been good. Our main aim is still to overthrow the system and we are busy slicing the back of snake—to rid of foreign domination and exploitation of man by man. The struggle continues, victory is ours.'

SMITH TRIES TO REGAIN LEADERSHIP

ON JULY 18 in Salisbury, Zimbabwe Ian Smith called for an election on 31 August. The result of this election will be in many respects irrelevant to the freedom fighters. What it does represent is an attempt by Smith to regain the leadership of the white electorate. A leadership, he began to lose when he signed an agreement with Dr Kissinger accepting the principle of majority rule and early independence. Smith hopes he will be able to undercut any support the breakaway right wing Rhodesian Action Party may have gained.

Support

Smith's support has traditionally come from white farmers, civil servants and small shopkeepers. After the Unilateral Declaration of Independence he also had the support of many of the industrialists because UDI meant that the State played a much greater role in the economy to their benefit.

Change

Now the situation has changed. South Africa no longer gives them the unconditional support it once did. Now the increasing attacks of the freedom fighters mean that many of the business men are in favour of having a 'puppet' black government.

Lose

Smith's traditional supporters, however, stand to lose a

great deal, no matter how puppet-like a black government may be. The Land Tenure Act which the all white parliament passed in 1969 made a 50-50 division of Zimbabwe between the Africans and the white settlers, though the white settlers are less than a quarter of the population. This meant that by 1970, 90 per cent of the land suitable for growing crops and raising cattle was in the area reserved for the whites.

Army

One third of the white settlers work for the State either as civil servants in the police or the army. Whatever sort of black government majority rule brings, the white settlers think they would alter the distribution of land in favour of the Africans. This is not necessarily the case. In countries like Kenya and Zambia the black governments have allowed the settlers there to more or less control the majority of the agricultural land. So what the white farmers in Zimbabwe fear most—losing their land—will not necessarily happen.

Industrial

South Africa is the only advanced industrial country in Africa. Of all the wealth produced in Africa 22 per cent of it is produced in South Africa. It also produces 40 per cent of all goods manufactured in Africa. It has vast mineral wealth, like iron and uranium. It is the largest

producer of gold in the western world and it pays starvation wages to its black workers. Because of all these things people like Barclays Bank, ICI whose subsidiary in the Transvaal makes tea gas, Plessey, Thorn Electrical, Hawker Siddeley and British Leyland find it more profitable to invest in South Africa.

Up till recently the suggestion of black Africa having anything to do with South Africa had seemed like madness. But the drive for profits of the imperialists changed that. The only way for South Africa to gain access to the rest of Africa was by making concessions over Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Unrest

Inside South Africa the unrest of the black population was forcing the South African government to think again. This, along with the victory in Mozambique and Angola, makes the threat of large-scale civil war within South Africa more real. This is the reason for so-called detente.

The African country most receptive to South African's policy of detente is Zambia. Zambia has suffered from the drop in the world price of copper, her main export.



The conditions of many Africans, this is what the freedom fighters are struggling against

Before the drop, Kaunda was able to use copper money to make certain reforms.

Detente with South Africa would mean South Africa would invest in and sell goods in Zambia thus lessening the economic crisis. It would also mean a settlement in Zimbabwe and the reopening of the border.

It was the collaboration of apartheid South Africa with black Africa in the guise of detente together with increased guerrilla activity which finally

forced Smith into agreeing to the Kissinger deal which entailed the acceptance of majority rule within two years. It is the backlash of his supporters to this which is now causing him to backtrack. In the final showdown the armed struggle in Zimbabwe of the oppressed will defeat Smith and his allies, not round-table discussions and paper governments.



Tennyson 6 Defence Committee takes to the streets.



Youths who saw the police riot.

Defend the Tennyson 6



Mr Nehemiah Shand indicating where he and his sons were handcuffed by the police

The march in defence of the Tennyson 6 took place in Nottingham recently. 6 black youths have been framed up by the police. A Defence Committee has been set up by the Black community. On September 9 the youths will appear in court. Again these pictures show that the Black community is not sitting back and allowing the muggers in blue to batter us. Support the Tennyson 6.

REVIEW

RAPP (Radical Alliance of Poets and Players) is a dynamic group of artists playing soprano saxophone, guitar, drums and other African instruments, and chanting powerful poems which reflect the Black Experience. Since their performance at FESTAC, the Second Black Arts Festival, held in Nigeria earlier this year, RAPP has appeared in several places such as the Metro Youth Club, Chat's Palace, Birmingham's African Liberation Day, and the Lyttleton Theatre, Southbank. They are now planning a Caribbean tour. This interview reveals some of their views.

R.A.P.P. with twenty-two people taking part in a B.B.C. 2 T.V. programme called 'Black Feet in the Snow' in 1973. The production was originally held at the Keskidee Centre in London. 'The reason for the programme and the reason for R.A.P.P. being in existence is educational because a lot of black people are not aware of certain situations, so we try to put over those situations in artistic terms so they can be understood.

The programme was based on the story of different people coming to this country and the different exploitations that they had to undergo. R.A.P.P. now consists of only the four of us but we have kept on trying to make people aware'



RAPP (from left to right): Judith Prescod, Archie Pool, Winston Speede and Shenko Baku.

Rastafari—the locks are in your head.

There are a lot of misconceptions about Rasta in England. A lot of people wear locks but they are not Rasta. People tend to identify Rasta with the locks—but the locks are in your head. Rasta is a very strong religion—a way of life. Rasta is Orthodox Christianity and it's been around for a long time.

'Rasta is in your head, it's what you believe. Rasta is belief in good in yourself and then you extend that good to other people. Rasta is saying: you must love yourself first as a human being and then extend that love to the human beings nearest to you—which are black

people—and then you embody the whole of mankind.'

Rasta women

'It might appear that Rasta women are submissive but a woman is less open to corruption if she's at home with her husband and family than out on the streets. With Rasta, the man appears to be the dominant figure, but the woman is the creator of the nation as she breeds the children. To be at home with the children is better than sending them to nurseries or schools which are just brainwashing them.

The Rasta woman plays a very important role because she looks after the Rasta off-spring and the Rasta man himself.'

For the wicked carried us away....

'Rasta gives the blackman the identity he needs. It gives him unity. It's a oneness. The whiteman took our God and painted Him white. But in the Bible is your history as a blackman. The Bible says that for 400 years we will be in slavery and after that we shall be free. Being a slave is no crime—the wicked shall pay. We are a peaceful people. We have to fight for peace!

For the wicked carried us away how can we sing our song in a strange land? Have you seen the big black master-plan? So let the words of our song and the dedication in our hearts be acceptable in thy sight—Jah! Rastafari!

Go back Now

'The basic idea of Rasta is that all black people should go back to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is all of Africa. Haile Salassie is the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, direct descendant from Solomon. He is a blackman. Haile Salassie is not dead. His body is gone, but his spirit lives on—you can't tell a Rasta that Haile Salassie is dead.

Flame does not agree with the arguments that R.A.P.P. put forward. We invite our readers to send us their views on topics like the divinity of Haile Salassie. And the other points made by the R.A.P.P.

FLAME

Black workers paper of the Socialist Workers Party



Pig.



Victory. Workers united will never be defeated.



Rampage.

SMASH THE NAZI FRONT



Mugger in Blue.



See the babylon dem a run

Police frame-up in Moss-side

'I'm going to take this as far as I can go, because Trevor didn't do it,' said Mrs Bell of 4 Postbridge Close, Longsight.

'Trevor is in Borstal, because he never had a fair trial. He is supposed to have knocked down and robbed an old lady. But the story in court was all lies and victimisation. It's all prejudice. The moment you're black, you're capable of doing any crime according to those dirty police in Moss Side.'

The judge did it all. Even saw the jury, the court barrister and the police all laughing and talking before the case. What's more, the barrister admitted in private that their case was weak, for the woman had no real evidence. As she was asked in court, 'How you could be sure to pick out who robbed you when it happened at night? Everywhere you look in Moss Side you see black people, so how come you're so sure it was the right one?'

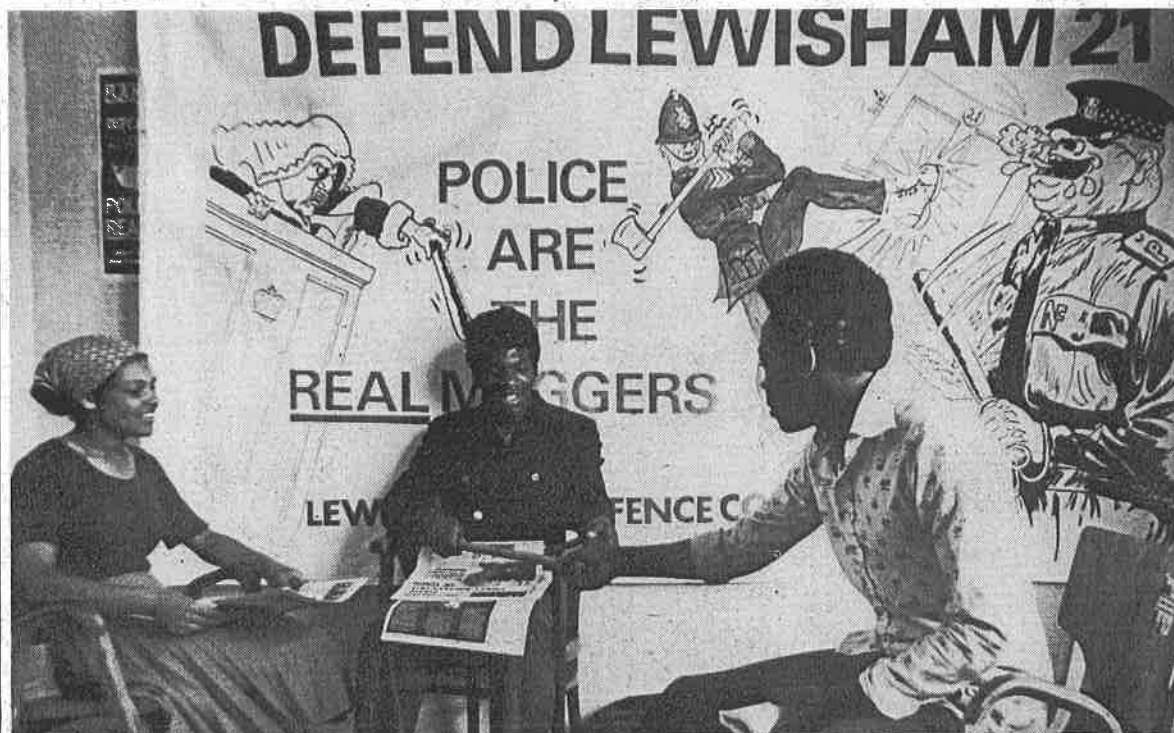
'Hundreds of black kids appear in court knowing nothing of what they're supposed to have done. Trevor never saw the statement he is supposed to have made. In Moss Side they pick black kids up one by one to beat them. They pick them up bulk in London. It's no different here. The ones who are guilty of these crimes are the police. They sit on their backsides and push black people into prison.'

If you can help, please contact Mr and Mrs Bell at 4 Postbridge Close, Longsight, (off Lauderdale Crescent Manchester).

Trevor was picked up in October, yet didn't come to court till May. His case is not the only one. Every day there are similar frame-ups or incidents of youths picked up, given a beating and let go. Don't keep quiet—come forward. Tell your friends, tell your *Flame* or *Socialist Worker* fellow, watch out for meetings. Act now.

Flame is sold in Moss Side, Longsight and Cheetham precincts, in clubs and at Murrys Record Shop.

CHAIRMAN SPEAKS OUT



Members of the Lewisham 21 Defence Committee in our headquarters in New Cross.

As Chairman of the Lewisham 24 Defence Committee I think it is time I let the people know what is going on in Lewisham. I have lived and worked in this borough for the past 20 years. I have been a governor of a special school in Southwark and I have also been a manager of a school at Clifton Rise for over five years. I know all the communities in this area.

Harvest

I have given all my spare time to the community over the years. We have built up a good community relation and just as we were about to harvest the fruit of our effort there comes a dawn raid on about 60 black people's homes. In this raid decent black people's homes were ransacked by police as if they were dangerous habitual criminals. We saw our children dragged out of bed, manhandled, stripped, searched and beaten in the presence of their

parents. Seeing all this one parent, Mrs Charlton, fainted.

Our children were fingerprinted and photographed, without the permission of their parents or a magistrate. Finally they were charged two days later. This is what has caused Lewisham's 'bloody Saturday'. The parents and the community protest against the police behaviour on July 2. We marched as a protest through the borough of Lewisham against the police behaviour. With the support of the *Flame*/SWP.

Attacked

We were attacked on that day by about 200 National Front supporters. They threw missiles of every description at us. They even broke a young girl's jaw, and they threw acid in the face of a young teacher. They also pulled a bunch of hair out of a young teacher's head. Then, slammed her head into a wall,

kicked her, leaving her lying unconscious in the gutter. I personally pointed out the person who did it to the police.

Refused

The police refused to take any action against the National Front thugs. When a black person complains against any National Front supporter you can guarantee the police will take no action and now the blacks have decided to fight for their rights, whatever the cost. The Community Relations have gone out of their way in helping to maintain and create a good race relation, but the police do not want to support good racial harmony. They try to make all the black youths criminals.

If anyone doubts this, go to Camberwell Green Court any day of the week and this will be proven. I have seen National Front break the law in the presence of the police

by stirring up racial hatred, insulting and provoking racial tension without any arrest being made. Black people do not encourage violence or dishonesty, but we refuse to turn the other side of the cheek to the National Front nor the police. We refuse to allow ourselves or our children to be treated as inferior and we have decided to fight until the bitterest end in support of our rights. We are very grateful to the Socialist Workers Party and all other political parties that are helping us on our struggle.

Fight

I am glad that the first coloured generation in this country have come to realise that they must fight for themselves and their children; because no police will fight for them nor protect them from anyone as they protected the National Front on Lewisham Bloody Saturday.

SUPPORT FLAME! FIGHT BACK!

- ☐ Please send me more information about *Flame* and the Socialist Workers Party
 - ☐ Please rush me my monthly copy of *Flame*
- I enclose £1.50 for one years

NAME

ADDRESS

Send to: *Flame*, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN



MORE than 200 people were arrested on Saturday. Many of them are black youths who live in the Lewisham area. Some are still in custody facing serious charges. It's essential that we raise money now to defend the brothers and sisters. It's essential that we build a fighting defence campaign to stop police victimisation of these brothers and sisters.

Send donations to: Lewisham Defence Campaign, c/o 6 Bowden Street, London SE11.

PROFILE

ISLINGTON 18



A street meeting of the Islington 18 Defence Committee.

After three months the trial of the Islington 18 is over. To the displeasure of the police and the judge, the jury threw out the charge of conspiracy and most of the other charges. The cost of this farce was £250,000. Nevertheless Judge Campbell saw fit to commend the police on their efforts and the vicious way they operated.

The victory of the 18 is however tinged with defeat. Two youths are now in prison, five in Borstal and one has been ordered to leave the country for at least five years.

WHO WERE THE 18

The 18 were like any other group of black youth. The housing conditions in Islington are the worst in London. Youth unemployment runs at 15 per cent. Several of the 18 were unemployed and working in community industry at the time of their arrest.

The arrest of the 18 was a direct result of last year police riot at Carnival. The conspiracy charge was the cover. Even so the police plan misfired when it was discovered that one youth was out of the country and another was on remand at Stanfrod House.

On one occasion a fight broke out with a racist on a bus. Michael McIntosh and Clive Whitely who did not then know each other or the youths included were downstairs. The prosecution claimed they were guilty because they were providing cover. On the carnival mere presence implied guilt. As one mother said, 'The police will not be happy until I dig a big hole and put my son in it.'

THE STATEMENTS

The first arrested were Denzil Binn and Willoughby. They were stopped in a block of flats on 'sus', and went voluntarily to the police station. They were held for four days, before going to court. Statements were extracted from them. All of the other arrests focussed on Carnival. One youth was threatened by the Notting Hill police if he refused to cooperate. Willoughby was interviewed by Notting Hill police who were conveniently in Islington and whose time of arrival was conveniently left off.

The police were bent on getting statements and used considerable violence to get them. They refused access to parents and failed to tell them their sons had been arrested. Mrs. Marsh went to the station three times to see her son, and was refused each time. They took her sons keys and searched her home in his absence.

The youths were treated as guilty from the start. All except two were held in custody. They were held in different places which made the tasks of a united defence a difficult

operation. The magistrate at Highbury Court was already biased (he had previously had his fingers chopped off by some youths). Bail was denied because they said the 18 were dangerous and might leave the country. By April when the trial started 8 of the 18 were still in custody. For those who got bail it was often ridiculously high—£3,000 for one single parent and three sets of £500 each for another.

NOT GUILTY

All the youths have already done time. Desmond Riley, who was found not guilty, spent six months in the nick. He was arrested and kicked out of his bed at the Black House in the early hours of the morning. No attempt was made to contact anybody since. The Police did not regard the organiser of the Black House as reliable.

The police don't defeat. Desmond and his brother had been hauled in by the police before on 'SUS' and their cases had been thrown out.

Several of the youths had been known to the police before and one had been asked to turn informer and refused. The police thought they had sitting ducks.

HOW IT WAS FOUGHT

To fight the case parents, youth and sympathisers joined together in a united campaign. They found that they were fighting not just the police, but their own lawyers and barristers as well. The lawyers ignored or refused to take

instructions from them. Most of the parents were not called as witnesses and the youths were pressured to plead guilty.

But the biggest failure was the refusal of the barristers to attack the racist nature of the charges, the arrests and the racism of the police and the courts. The real question is never asked: Why is black youth so angry? The answer is in our history. Several of the youngsters had been on the streets since they were 14. As soon as they showed any spark of rebellion they were stamped on, thrown out of school, into community prison, into special unit. Hauled before court for petty offences—stealing 4p, a bottle of milk, dishonestly handling 40 cigarettes.

When they work, they earn barely enough to keep them, £20-£30 per week. What sort of law is it that condemns a whole generation to poverty and hopelessness and then attacks those who try to break out?

UNEMPLOYMENT

But the saga is not over yet. The police have threatened to get back at the youth. The conditions of unemployment racism and police mugging still exist. Our task is to organise ourselves into a mighty stream to sweep away these conditions. For this we need to build an organisation, like Flame. This is where our future lies.

A workers' inquiry was held into the case on 23 July. That report tells the real story of the Islington 18. Copies can be got from Flame at 25p.

Comrades,

While the battle of Lewisham was being fought, a local fascist group, the 'British National Party' decided to use the absence of socialists from this city to further their own aims. A group of about 40 stood in the precinct where the *Socialist Worker* is usually sold. Decorated with union flags and sun wheel emblems, they started to hand leaflets to shoppers. From this apparently innocent activity they then began to parade round the area in groups, shouting abuse at and jostling coloured people.

At about ten minutes to midday five or six of these patriotic Englishmen set upon a Pakistani woman who was with two small children. She was knocked to the ground, kicked and cut. Her clothing was torn and jewelry torn off, the

remainder of the BNP standing round in a half circle shouting and jeering. Many of the people in the precinct were terrified as two police constables stood watching. When approached by a Labour member of the Sheffield City Council about the incident he was told to 'F... off' or be booked for obstruction.

However, when a van arrived with more police the BNP ran away. The police then departed also leaving the poor woman semi-conscious and bleeding on the ground. She, and the two terrified screaming children were helped into a shop by passers by, including a vicar, the councillor and myself. She could speak very little English, but very soon some of her fellow country people came and took her and the kids home in a car.

Isn't this a wonderful country?
Thomas Nuttall, SWP member, Leeds.

Letters

Write to:
FLAME,
6 Cottons Gardens,
London E.2 8DN

DON'T STOP THE CARNIVAL!

CARNIVAL IS here again. It has become the black cultural and political festival of the year—a time when we as black people enjoy ourselves, listen to our music, eat our foods, display our

art. It is one of the few times that we are allowed to be ourselves without apologies. Most of all it is a time of enjoyment, of music and dancing, when we 'forget' for a moment that we live in a

racist society which attacks us at every turn. At least it was until last year, when the police ran riot.

Last year was the final set up. Not content with forcing us into low paid

jobs, tightening up immigration controls, locking up our children and offering them only the dole. The police waded in to break up Carnival. 1,500 police deployed against a crowd no

longer than the average crowd at a fair.

Council

For months before last year's carnival the police and local council had tried to stop it taking place. A local residents' group was complaining, and, at one point attempts were made to shift it to the White City Stadium. Popular pressure was too much and Carnival went ahead as planned. But if the police could not stop it, they would try to undermine it—show the world that there would be no 'no-go areas' in London. Their attack last year was an attempt to push Carnival and with it the black people who support it off the street. They must not succeed. Carnival will go on.

Riot

This year, we can expect more pressure than last. The press and the police have done their utmost to present all black youngsters as pickpockets. The government has continued in its politics of compromise and cuts to make black youth bear the brunt of unemployment. The police—in Islington, Peckham, Kensal Rise, Lewisham—have continued their task of harassment. Black youth is ever more angry and bitter than they were last year. And, the country still needs to use black people as a scapegoat.

Pressure

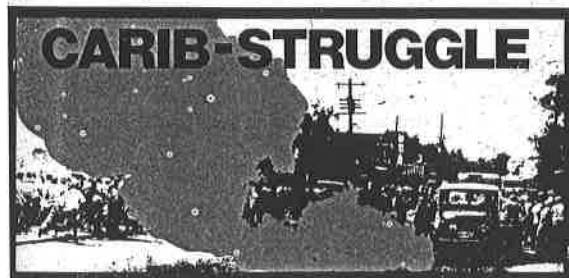
The police are already preparing for a confrontation. Riot shields will be available. Will it be rubber bullets next?

Why are we under such attack? The answer is simple. We have as a community taken all that has been dished out at us. But there are limits. Saturday's NF march through Lewisham was such an example. No community can live without hope—if you have your back against the wall, the only way out is to fight and if we fight we might just win. It is that threat that the government is trying to avert and that is why they will go on battering us—if we let them.

Don't stop the Carnival. Police muggers out!!



Don't Stop the Carnival



Grenada

7,000 PEOPLE were fired upon by soldiers as they marched to protest, the Government's ban on Peoples Alliance to use a microphone at a public meeting. The meeting was called to discuss human rights in Grenada. Men, women and children were beaten up. One brother from the progressive New Jewel Move-

ment jumped into the sea in trying to escape from the police. He was fired upon upon several times by the police and was killed.

Incident

This incident only demonstrates the fact that Gairy is the 'Pinochet' of the Caribbean. It would be remembered that in January of this year the general sent Gairy a present, it was a platter representing the 'Heart of

Chile'. It is also known that Chile is supplying Gairy with arms under the guise of 'military aid'.

The Peoples Alliance has filed charges against the Police Commissioner and Prime Minister. However, filling charges is not enough. We must remember that only recently Gairy had to rig the elections to get back to power. Only the organised working class, unemployed and small farmers can get rid of the 'pinochet' of the Caribbean—Gairy.

Jamaica

OVER THE last three months a mini-strike wave has been taking place. There have been strikes at Caribbean Cement Company, Antilles Chemicals, Tia Maria, Barclays Bank and Esso. All the strikes have been about overtime pay, and general struggling for better working conditions. It has been the ESSO workers however who have come under the brunt of

the PNP 'democratic socialist' attack.

Refusal

When the workers struck over the refusal of the bosses to pay workers double time for Sunday work the government ordered the workers back. The government used the LIRDA—the Labour and Industrial Disputes Act—to force the workers back. The workers stood firm. The PNP government called in the army. The army threatened workers. Because of union misleaders the workers were isolated and the strike broken. The workers of Jamaica now learn another lesson about Democratic Socialism. This 'democratic Socialism' not only means unemployment rises, it means PNP Ministers sending soldiers to attack workers. Fighting for the right to strike. It shows once again that in a crisis situation the PNP comes down on the side of the bosses and the capitalist.

Sir Alexander Bustamante died recently. Busta, as he was popularly called, was the founder of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union. His death however will not be mourned by the workers of Jamaica. It was Busta who in 1938, after the working class riots, developed the undemocratic union structure that exists today in Jamaica. It was he who in 1962 sold out the country to US imperialism. It was he who signed a treaty with the US in 1963 after his 'famous' 'Weare with the West' Statement that gave the US the right to invade Jamaica if they thought their investments were in danger. That treaty still operates. It is Busta, then, who has led the Jamaica workers, small farmers and oppressed into the danger of neo-colonialism and imperialism. We do not mourn his death. We say we will struggle ourselves, develop our own independent workers organisation, so that the like of people like Busta will never again sit on our backs.