

# **We Are All Illegals — We Are Proletarians — We Have No Country**

## **— We Have a World to Win —**

The Immigration Act which was initiated by the Labour government as early as 1971, nowadays has been given a boost by the Tory government. The Act is being promoted and was pushed through under specific historical conditions. The workings of the system have dragged the wrath of the world right into imperialism's home base at a time when the stakes are very high, a time when British imperialism as part of the western block is faced with a desperate struggle to "unite the nation" for a world war against the Soviet block. The Immigration Act serves a double need here. On the one hand it aims to suppress potentially disloyal sections of the people, surround them, isolate them and put them in a defensive position ideologically and practically. On the other hand the Immigration Act seeks to unleash and embolden those who are British citizens, to promote patriotism and allegiance to the flag.

The immigration laws passed by parliament open the door to unlimited deportations, creating the permanent risk of deportation of immigrants and attempting to instill fear into the tens of thousands of them.

The immigrants are among the lowest paid and most intensely exploited workers in the country, most of these immigrants and refugees are from former British colonies such as India, Pakistan, Jamaica, etc., where imperialist domination has forced their immigration to the more "prosperous" countries of western Europe.

In opposition to the chauvinist proclamations of the Labour Party and reformist schemers, the Marxist-Leninists should struggle to point out that the immigration laws are not just racist laws, but that suppression and domination of national minorities is inseparably connected to the suppression and domination of nations and peoples by imperialism throughout the world, and these laws represent the maneuverings of a bourgeoisie in crisis. The bourgeoisie fears the influence of these immigrants and their descendants who are often class-conscious and represent a rebellious force in this country, and who have spearheaded some of the most militant battles of the 80's in Britain. The bourgeoisie also seeks to divide and rule, by using these laws to divide and weaken the British working class as a whole.

The British government knows that historically immigrants have represented a key section of this country's dispossessed, a critical part of the social base for revolution. This is even more the case with immigrants from those nations that are brutally oppressed and plundered by British imperialism, especially those with concrete experience in fighting against it. The government knows only too well that the urban centres are full of precisely these kinds of immigrants driven here from "homelands" by the British and their made-in-Britain death squads, helicopter gunships, death-to-the-tiller land reform programs. So it is hardly surprising that the government has responded so brutally to these immigrants, secret interrogations and media campaigning in a massively escalating attempt to deport Iranian, Sri Lankan, Jamaican, Turkish immigrants etc back into the hands of the death-squad regimes, they fled. Hence Britain's desperate need to have absolute command and control over its subject population, most especially the need for control over immigrants is growing. Neither should it be surprising that the class conscious proletariat welcomes the immigrants with open arms and calls on them to join in the preparations for proletarian revolution right in the belly of the beast!

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## THE CLAMPDOWN ON IMMIGRANTS.

### U.S.A.

October 1986 the Immigration Reform and Control Act (also known as the Simpson-Rodino Act) was passed. This Act offers the possibility of "amnesty" as an inducement to persuade millions of "illegal" immigrants to "come out of the shadows" to apply, only to later be rejected and then deported, if it suits the government. There is much deliberate vague wording of the law, with a great deal left to the discretion of the Attorney General, who is responsible for coming up with the rules and regulations of the laws application. In order to even be considered for "amnesty" there is a long and complicated procedure to go through and many conditions to be satisfied. The authorities seek to compile updated computerized lists of the names, addresses, recent histories, family members of, and all other pertinent information, which they can hold and use whenever it suits them. The passage of this law signals not only a new round of attacks on immigrants but another major step toward America's much-needed clampdown in preparation for war.

Those supporting an amnesty in Britain should keep all this in mind.

The Simpson-Rodino Act has made it illegal for firms to hire foreign workers who are without proper papers. Yet prosecution of firms has not happened. Instead, immigration officials, without warrants, are entering factories and farms and taking black workers away for questioning. In one city 2,300 workers were deported in one week last month. The militant black workers have been a particular target.

The British government has used the police here to carry out similar raids. Terrorism does appear to be international!

### France

In 1980 a series of anti-immigrant laws were passed through the French parliament. The Bonnet-Stolaru laws opened the door to unlimited and random deportations for reasons ranging from disturbing the peace to failure to pay taxes.

Now the "land of asylum" is really gearing up for the times, tightening up on entry into France for persons of non-EEC origin, and government expulsions have picked up speed, French imperialists have seen the acuteness of the political crises and awakening of the masses in Germany and Britain and want no interference in their global imperialist interests of world war, hence the increasingly fascist crackdown. For example: in late July 1986, legislation was passed in France giving the power to expel immigrants to administrative personnel such as local police chiefs rather than judges. This means that the police can pick up immigrants for supposed irregularities in their papers and throw them out of the country without even going through the motions of a court hearing. Further, any foreigner sixteen years of age or more who is a "potential threat to the public order" can be expelled from France.

### Germany

East and West Germany have recently agreed to tighten control of the East-West Berlin border blocking the transit of asylum seekers and refugees from the third world.

August 1983 Jamel Alton, a Turkish activist sought by the Turkish government committed suicide by jumping out of a 6th floor window of a West Berlin court, because his application for political asylum had been refused.

### Britain

October 1986 Hamid Desfuli, an Iranian student living in London committed suicide for the same reason as Alton. His sister had been executed in Iran.

The acceptance rate of refugees into this country has dropped from 55% in 1970 to 23% in 1985. The new visa system makes it even more difficult to gain entry into this country; and refugees seeking asylum here are, in some cases, being detained for unprecedented terms of 6 months or more. Deportation rates are rising, Britain at the moment is considering whether or not to fly a group of more than 100 Iranians back to Iran where they would probably face prison at best, or execution. Also, immigrants who are forced to have "recourse to public funds" such as health care, welfare benefits, housing etc., can be deported.

### Sweden

The Swedish Government has started a massive deportation campaign against Peruvian nationals.

### Pakistan

In Pakistan the United Nations office which is supposed to represent and help refugees from Iran, is actually collaborating with the Iranian regime in conjunction with the Pakistani authorities by passing on any information they are given.

All these examples show that we cannot rely on governments, this imperialist system is rotten to the core and must be smashed.

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