

# CUTLASS

BULLETIN OF CARIBBEAN LABOUR SOLIDARITY

2p

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## Texaco to the people

Trinidad & Tobago

"Texaco," says Vanguard, the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) newspaper, "has railroaded nations, financed the overthrow of governments, stamped contemptuously on the dignity and integrity of people throughout the world without mercy." This is multinationalism.

Claiming that its Trinidad operations are unprofitable, a claim disputed by the OWTU, Texaco has begun to run down its facilities. This has resulted in a loss of tax for the government and has enormous implications not only for employment but for safety standards as well.

This places Prime Minister Eric Williams in a difficult position. He must tackle Texaco on the issue but this does not mean, says Vanguard, that he has suddenly become anti-imperialist. He and his Ministers are trying to resolve the present conflict of interest with Texaco by way of a new 'partnership' arrangement or supposed 'takeover' (i.e. full compensation at book value, etc.) While using the workers in the fight against Texaco, Williams will seek an outcome that will a) be acceptable to Texaco, and b) strengthen the position of the national bourgeoisie over the workers.

The OWTU's campaign for democratic nationalisation (which would involve the T.B. in the running of the oil industry) is being conducted through mass membership meetings, efforts to ensure that a Commission of Enquiry conceded by Williams holds public hearings, and through the sale of jerseys bearing the slogan: "Multinationals Must Go!" The campaign includes a grand demonstration on March 17 - Zimbabwe Day.

Jamaica

## PROGRESSIVE

Since January we have seen a stepped-up campaign from the right, aimed at bringing the Manley government to its knees. It reached its high point with a \$31,000 award for libel damages and costs against Trevor Munroe, President of the JAWU and General Secretary of the WPU. This is clearly a judicial device to weaken the leadership of the movement at this crucial time.

### Resistance

In January, the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), masquerading under the name of Jamaica Freedom League, continued its open policy of civil disobedience by organising an islandwide demonstration against a proposed increase in the price of gas. People were fooled the first day but by the second day the Jamaican people realised what the real aim of the demonstration was and started taking down the barricades from across the streets.

In February, the JLP called a capitalist one-day strike. The workers saw who is really behind this disobedience and what is its final aim. Most workers responded to the call of the government and the progressive movement to come out to work, only to find that their big bosses had closed down the factories and shops and locked them out.

Yet resistance increases even when life is getting harder and harder for the Jamaican people, when the monthly sliding peg devaluation and the criminal theft of large sums of money from

The working people of Jamaica and the progressive movement are not taking things sitting down.

# FORCES FIGHT BACK

Grenada

### BARCLAYS CONNECTION

Since September 1978, Barclays Bank employees have been locked in industrial action aimed at securing union recognition and improved conditions and wages. Workers in the dispute belong to the Bank and General Workers Union, a T.U. independent of Gairy's all-embracing Mental, Manual & Maritime Workers Union.

Information has been received from the New Jewel Movement via David Michael of the Caribbean Human Rights and Legal Aid Co. in Surinam, showing detailed collaboration between Barclays Bank and the Gairy government to break the strike, and victimisation and police harassment of strikers. Support for the workers has come from the New Jewel Movement, various T.U.'s in Grenada, all the major churches there, plus international solidarity from, amongst others, Britain's National Union of Bank Employees.

STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!  
STOP PRESS! Pro-fascist Gairy ousted in Grenada. Recognise the new Government! No Intervention! CLS analysis available.  
STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

See P.2 for fund-raising appeal

Newsflash!

PUERTO RICO

Miguel Cabrera

acquitted

**CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION CLS IN ACTION CLS**

CLS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - DECEMBER 2ND 1978

The following organisational structure has been established to implement the policy and decisions of the AGM:

- Executive Committee (EC) - President: Cleston Taylor - 138 Southgate Road, N.1.  
 Committee for Labour Movement Work - Convenor: Buzz Johnson  
 Social Events Committee - Convenor: Ann Hodges  
 (incorporating a Cultural Group)  
 Membership Committee - Convenor: Ken Campbell  
 Literature Committee - Convenor: Stephen Hodges  
 (The work of the Literature Committee has been sub-divided into the following sections  
 1. Subscriptions 2. Bookstall 3. Publishing and Bookshop distribution  
 4. Cutlase production 5. Finance and Stock-keeping 6. Convening meetings)

THE AGM PASSED TWO RESOLUTIONS 1. ST VINCENT - welcoming the moves towards Independence but calling for widespread discussion and amendment of the draft constitution.

2. PUERTO RICO - supporting the National Liberation struggle and calling for the release of political prisoners and an end to harassment of the trade union and independence movements.

The AGM was followed by speakers on recent developments in South Africa, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent and Jamaica.

NEW AREAS OF WORK IDENTIFIED BY THE EC 1. CLS resolved to actively encourage support from progressive movements in the Caribbean for struggles currently being waged in Britain eg the anti-SUE Law campaign and work of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Union.

2. The AGM's recommendation of an internal education programme for CLS members now adopted. The Membership Committee has asked that as a preliminary step all members should familiarise themselves with "CLS: AIMS & CONSTITUTION" (10p from CLS LIT - 21 VICARS HILL, LONDON SE13 7JB).

3. A CLS Womens Group has been constituted.

**For your diary.....**

APRIL 1ST - CLS Monthly Meeting - Report from Trinidad & Tobago at the Abeng Centre (Side entrance) 7 Gresham Road, Brixton SW9 11 a.m.

APRIL - Public Meeting to hear a tape of Comrade Trevor Munroe's speech to the open session of the WPJ founding Congress

Public Meeting on Jamaica Abeng Centre, Brixton

MAY 6TH - CLS Monthly Meeting The Eastern Caribbean 11 a.m. at the Abeng Centre

MAY - Fund raising concert

JUNE/JULY - Caribbean event with the Latin-American Centre

WATCH OUT FOR MORE DETAILS

**APPEAL FROM CLS WOMENS GROUP**

This newly formed group is attempting to establish links with progressive women's movements in the Caribbean and in Britain and would appreciate any information on current struggles of special concern to women. It is hoped that publicising these will lead to increased solidarity by emphasising the international dimension of all struggle.

INFO TO CLS Womens Group  
138 SOUTHGATE ROAD, N.1.

**ADDITIONALLY CLS.....**

Invites affiliation from bona fide Labour Movement organisations\*... offers speakers (expenses borne by applicants)\*... offers a wide range of political literature published by CLS and its associates in the Caribbean - a small collection of these is available on a sale or return basis for your events\*\*... appeals to readers for generous donations to a Trevor Munroe Fund launched in Jan (see story p.1)\*\*\*

\*Details from CLS 138 Southgate Road, N.1  
 \*\*Price list from CLS Lit 21 Vicars Hill SE13  
 \*\*\*Donations to Ann Hodges 4 Lordship Park, N.16

AFFILIATIONS: The LCS Political Committee has affiliated to CLS

MEETINGS The January monthly meeting featured Pinnis Augustine on the current situation in Grenada... Millicent Gordon, CLS delegate to Jamaica, reported to a lively February meeting on the Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) founding congress and her contacts with the progressive movements in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. A written report is being prepared for publication... the March meeting discussed "Jamaica: Challenge from the Right" introduced by Richard Hart... the EC met Errol Hanchard, a comrade from the Communist Party of Jamaica (CPJ), who brought CLS up to date on the development of that party. Their paper "THE FIGHTER" has now resumed publication on a monthly basis... the EC briefed Buzz Johnson, convenor of the Committee for Labour Movement Work before he left to visit Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent and Barbados...

REPRESENTATIONS CLS has been represented at three meetings organised by the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, reflecting the EC's decision to develop solidarity with the liberation struggle there: Heroes Day - December 16th; anniversary of founding of ANC - January 8th; and Battle of Isandhlwana - January 22nd... sent delegates to the bi-monthly meeting of the London district of LIBERATION and the Liberation Trade Union Conference on Iran... had bookstalls at a Caribbean evening organised by the Latin-American Centre featuring Unified Force; and at a Caribbean day in Reading organised by the Caribbean Society there... supported a fund-raising social for the St. Vincent Society... sent messages of support to Barclays Bank employees on strike in Grenada; to the Jamaican dockworkers congratulating them on their courageous action in exposing and refusing to handle illegal imports of South African pineapple; to the Puerto Rican local of the Teamsters Union in their struggle for the release from prison of their organiser Miguel Cabrera. An additional telegram to the Judge in his case demanded that the trumped-up charges against him be dropped; to the Seminar on "The Non-Aligned Movement and Peace" convened in Jamaica by the World Peace Council, recommending the struggle of the Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards Committee as worthy of international solidarity...

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