

GUTGLASS

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CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

From the Right...

What common factor links the Pegasus Hotel in Guyana, Sandy Bay Hotel of Barbados, Nassau Lodge Holdings or Forte in the Bahamas and Jamaica's Pegasus? All are part of the business empire controlled by Tory Party Chairman, Lord Thorneycroft. He is director of Securicor, the protection firm and chairman of Pye, Perelli and Trust House Forte. With Forte's major stake in about six Caribbean hotels and associated enterprises, you can forget the myth that leading Tories no longer depend on the Caribbean for their wealth.

And from the Left

The British Labour Movement saw two memorable days in May. The less successful "TUC Day of Action" on May 14 got all the bad publicity. Significantly the capitalist press did not report on one of the most impressive rallies of the day - held by the South East Region of the TUC in Southall with a strong representation of Asian and Caribbean workers. However, at two separate events on the 31st, the Movement demonstrated its capacity for firm action. On that day at Wembley, the Labour Party Special Conference struck a blow for rank and file power. And in central London at a conference on "Southern Africa After Zimbabwe", called by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Labour and Progressive Movement confirmed that international solidarity is imperative in the struggle against the bosses who are themselves employing multinational solidarity as they vainly seek to stem the tide of history. And so...

---The conference on Southern Africa resolved that the resumed, international campaign to free Nelson Mandela must be supported unflinchingly -- colleagues in the Caribbean please note and take appropriate action.

---In Britain notice is now served that Black people expect the Thatcher government to repeal the sinister "SUS" law -- the Vagrancy Act. It is generally accepted that the law is being used by the police to victimise young black people. A Labour motion in the House of Commons on Thursday June 5 calling for its repeal was defeated by 283 votes to 228. Now the "Scrap SUS" campaign will have to be internationalised, perhaps starting with action in Britain's remaining dependencies in the Caribbean.

For details of campaign material please write to:
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CLS HALF YEAR
REVIEW OF WORK
Sunday July 6th 11AM
The Factory, Chippenham
News, London W9

STANDING UP FOR JAMAICA

The decision by the Jamaican government to negotiate no new agreements with the IMF, Michael Manley said recently in Kingston, "is the first step in re-establishing the continuity of the PNP's programme and policies." This means that after three years of IMF "manners" the state is once more seen as the leading sector in the economy. "we have always been very clear," Manley went on to say, "that there is a role for the private sector, and we would like it to be a dynamic role, but in the light of our experience it has to be on our terms."

The fruit of that experience is clearly visible on the streets of downtown Kingston, where factories have been abandoned by the owners usually after the workers have negotiated improved wages and conditions. Manley says some people "have shown that when the chips are down they are not prepared to put the national interest above their own. Some migrated, they took out some money illegally, they did all the things which the classical analysis says they are likely to do."

But the main enemy of Jamaica is still imperialism. Its tool, the IMF has caused untold hardship for the island's poor. Under the IMF conditions, the dollar has been devalued by half, wage increases pegged to a level half that of prices and government subsidies removed. Even then, it loaned only \$201 million of the \$504 million it had promised, due to Jamaica's failure of the IMF's strict financial tests.

The PNP's alternative to the IMF path, launched on March 30th, is based upon the rescheduling of debts, new loans and oil agreements from OPEC countries, further development of the bauxite-alumina industry and a strict monitoring of the economy, drawing on the participation of the people. This last is particularly important for two reasons. First, the measures can work only if the people are involved at all levels, checking areas of waste, rooting out corruption and policing prices. Secondly, the people need to be mobilised on the widest possible scale if the PNP is to win the election this year.

CLS, along with other Caribbean groups, will be doing its part to ensure a victory for progress in that election. For information, contact Hazel Gibbon (JAG) 183B Brondesbury Park, NW2 5TN (telephone: 451-2444).

CLS at work

(CLS AT WORK to April 1980)

A new Executive Committee was elected at the second session of CLS AGM on 2nd March 1980. Office holders are President Lionel Jeffrey General Secretary Cleston Taylor, Assistant Secretary Ken Fuller, Treasurer Ann Hodges. As well as elected members, the EC has representatives from the CPRI, P.P.P. (U.K.), SPSV&G and NJM support Group. The Membership and Literature sub-committee have been reconvened. The Literature

Committee is very short of members this year and appeals especially for help in distributing periodicals round London bookshops. An ad-hoc sub committee is busy producing a pamphlet on Puerto Rico.

CLS was represented at the 1st anniversary celebrations of the Grenada revolution in London; at the inaugural meeting of a broad-based West London Peace group; at a memorial meeting on 2nd April organised by ANC (S.A.) for their comrade Lillian Ngoyi; at the meeting of the central council of 'Liberation' on 26th March 1980; at a meeting between the Political Committee of the London Co-op and the Treasurer of the Guyana Agricultural Union on 10th April 1980.

CLS jointly sponsored two meetings - with the Political Committee of the London Co-op, a session on 19th March 1980 with D.K. Duncan, General Secretary of the P.N.P. exploring the possibility of a summer tour by a Jamaican team including trade unionists; with the P.P.P. UK branch and WPA Support Group, a public meeting on Trinidad on 9th April 1980.

CLS sent a delegate to the Grenada anniversary celebrations; a telegram to D.K. Duncan congratulating the PNP led government on its stand against the IMF on 28.3.80; a bookstall to a conference of Sinn Fein the Workers Party on 29.3.80.

CLS published and distributed the 1979 annual report as amended by the AGM and with the addition of six resolutions passed. Further copies available at 25p each + postage from CLS