

CUTLASS

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JAMAICAN LEADER TO VISIT BRITAIN

Dr. Trevor Munroe, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Jamaica, President of the University & Allied Workers' Union, and a member of the academic staff of the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), will be visiting Britain for about a week towards the end of this month (March).

During his visit sponsored by the Communist Party of Great Britain, Dr. Munroe will undertake a number of speaking engagements in London and elsewhere.

The London meeting at which Dr. Munroe will deliver the main address and to which members of the public are cordially invited, will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday, 28th March next, at the Haringey Community & Trade Union Centre, 2A, Brabant Road, Wood Green, N22 (tube to Wood Green or buses 29, 67, 123, 141, 221, 298, 243 and 243A, W3).

This meeting will also be addressed by speakers representing the African National Congress (South Africa), the Afro-Caribbean Organisation, the Communist Party of Great Britain and Caribbean Labour Solidarity.

During his stay in London, Dr. Munroe will also be attending an informal social evening organised for his visit, which will commence at 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 27th March at 4 Windus Walk, Stoke Newington, N16 (tube to Seven Sisters or buses nos. 67, 73, 76, 106, 149 and 243).

Members of the public and organisations interested in being represented at this function, are invited to contact its organisers, Caribbean Labour Solidarity, at 138 Southgate Road, London N1 for further details of admission tickets.



General Secretary, Dr Trevor Munroe.

JAMAICA TODAY

The importance of Dr. Munroe's visit cannot be overemphasised. It comes at a time when the toiling masses of Jamaica have begun to reap the bitter fruit of the elections held in October, 1980. The extremely violent atmosphere in which those elections were conducted, the open support of the US for the Jamaican Labour Party led by Edward Seaga, and covert manipulation by agents of reaction contributed in large measure to the outcome of those elections. Not surprisingly, the mildly progressive government of the People's National Party under Michael Manley was replaced by the openly aggressive, regressive and reactionary government led by Seaga. Even less surprising was the indecent haste with which Seaga set out to score another hollow victory by being the first foreign leader to run to Reagan.

Today, all sectors of the Jamaican society have begun to feel the impact of the open-door policy which Seaga's ascendancy was designed by his masters in Washington to establish. Many of the local big boys, having resurfaced from Miami under the illusion that they would have it all their own way under Seaga, are now realising that his policies are bringing increasingly severe competition for local industry from US imports which the IMF insists must be allowed freely to enter the country. But, as always, it is the toiling masses of Jamaica who are having to bear the brunt of the new oppressive economic forces now at work in the society. As an example of the pitfalls awaiting those naive enough to be taken in by the blan-

dishments of Reagan's economic plans for Central America and the Caribbean, Jamaica is well on its way to outrivalling Puerto Rico.

Within the last few days, Seaga has scored another first, this time by banning from the playing fields of Jamaica, the cricketing mercenaries of England now in South Africa. Progressive forces everywhere will no doubt welcome this move, but it must be seen for what it is: an attempt by Seaga to improve his tarnished image both inside and outside Jamaica.

No amount of cosmetic surgery can disguise the true nature of the present government of Jamaica. This is more accurately reflected in its deplorable decision to pander to US whims and fancies by severing diplomatic links with the patriotic government and people of Cuba, a relationship from which the people of Jamaica had gained much practical benefit.

It is against this background that the growth of the Workers' Party of Jamaica under the leadership of Dr. Trevor Munroe must be assessed. Dr. Munroe's proposed visit to Britain comes shortly after his party's second congress held in December last year, which was attended and addressed by the General Secretary of Caribbean Labour Solidarity. With no less than 3,000 committed Jamaicans playing an active part in that congress, the international delegates in attendance could not but recognise that it was a resounding success. Regrettably, the Cuban delegation was not allowed to attend. Seaga again!



GRENADA: MAKIN' FREEDOM

By contrast to the worsening situation in Jamaica and elsewhere in the region, the patriotic people of Grenada continue to make steady progress under the enlightened guidance of their People's Revolutionary Government. Indeed so marked has been their progress that we are tempted to wonder whether this could account for Reagan's decision to exclude Grenada, together with Cuba and Nicaragua, from the so-called benefits of the US economic plans for the Caribbean basin.

Whatever the reason, and there are certainly others, the people of Grenada must count their exclusion from those dubious plans as a blessing. No doubt they would wish that Reagan would be somewhat more consistent by excluding them from all his plans, overt or covert!

The fact is that, as the patriotic peoples of Cuba have been demonstrating, Grenada is certainly not short of friends who are ready and willing to provide her people with no more nor less than the help which they decide they need.

C.L.S. MONTHLY MEETINGS

The next monthly meeting of CLS to which the public is invited, will be held as usual at 11a.m. on the first Sunday of the month, in this case 4th April, at "The Factory", Chippenham Mews, London W9. Chippenham Mews is off Marylands Road, which is opposite St Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, W9.

Included on the agenda will be a brief review of the visit by Dr. Munroe to Britain (see above) and a more extensive report on the situation in Guyana, with particular reference to the recent conviction of Donald Rodney, the brother of the late Dr. Walter Rodney — a conclusion to this bewildering case which has been widely condemned by progressive forces. Look forward to seeing you there.

EL SALVADOR: "THE PEOPLE WILL WIN"

El Salvador, on the other hand, is a recipient of what passes for US economic assistance. Indeed, if Reagan has his way, it will be a major "beneficiary" under his grand economic design for the region. Unfortunately, in spite of appeals from friend and foe alike, this so-called economic assistance continues to be more in the shape of guns than butter.

And so we take this opportunity to endorse the call by the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and Liberation for a

"... march and rally to condemn the fraudulent election plan that has been engineered by the US in blatant disregard for the United Nations position, and the support they are being given by the British government which is considering sending 'observers' to lend legitimacy to the electoral fraud. We are also calling for an end to the increasingly aggressive moves by the US in the Caribbean and Central American region, and demanding that the right of nations to determine their own future without outside intervention be respected."

The march is to be held on the very day of the elections in question: Sunday, March 28, assembling at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, at 12.30 p.m., thence to Trafalgar Square for 2.30 p.m. and addressed by a wide range of speakers, among whom, we are pleased to announce, will be Dr. Munroe of Jamaica (see above).



THE STATE HARASSES BLACKS IN BRITAIN

As the recession bites, pushing unemployment in Britain to new heights, the rulers of the land and their supporting agencies continuously seek scapegoats for the deep crises. The struggles of the Caribbean and other racial and ethnic minorities who face the brunt of the wicked policies of the regime and the dominant system of social relations centre around the struggles against class and race oppression.

It is not enough to deal with the institutions and Governments in Britain by simply looking at how they treat people at home. The policies which develop and maintain oppression inside Britain are closely linked to the practices overseas and it is in this context that we must view the British support for the

murderous regimes of South Africa, Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala among others. We must also see the links between these and the racism being practised right here in Britain and the general oppression of all those who do not own or control property.

Further, this is not the first time Blacks have felt the brute force of the British State's oppression. We can recall the strong resistance to African colonisation and Slavery, Slave rebellions, colonial rebellions in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and other instances of revolt too numerous to mention. As one commentator has said: "This is not the first time; we have seen them before".

But what is significant about the racism and oppression faced by Blacks today is that for the first time we are in the den of the lion and it seeks to devour us. The lion is ferocious and full of hate — and fear — but it is clear that "one day..."

The growing attacks on Black and other ethnic communities reflect the desperation of the State. The racist Nationality legislation, the moves towards pass-law type practices which force Blacks to produce passports and photographs for almost every official encounter; the racist attacks on our very small institutions, and many, many more inhumane acts backed by the police brutality; racist bias in the judicial system and the rest of the State all seek to totally destroy our resistance and recreate Slavery or genocide within the belly of the monster.

There is increasing unity within the Black communities and support for the struggles they face intensifies. It is important that we all recognise the importance of the creation of independent organisations and support the dual struggle against class and race oppression. In this context we must also recognise the importance of the observation and seek guidance.

Like they did not hear the rallying cry:

**Forward Ever!
Backward Never!**



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