

Brixton Socialist Workers' Party PUBLIC MEETING



BRIXTON BURNS -BUT WHAT NEXT?



Photographs by Peter Murphy

Wednesday 29 April

7.30pm

**Stockwell Hall
Buckmaster House
Stockwell Park Estate**

Speakers:

TONY CLIFF

(Socialist Worker)

**plus speakers from Bristol,
Southall and Handsworth**

- **POLICE OUT OF BRIXTON**
- **DROP ALL CHARGES**
- **JOBS NOT PIGS!**

If you want to know more about the Socialist Workers Party or want to help us with organising support for those arrested during the street fighting, please write to: Brixton SWP c/o PO Box 82, London E2.



BRIXTON FRONTLINE FIGHTS BACK

IT WAS a magnificent way for Brixton to fight back. For three days the black and white youth of Brixton took its revenge for all those years of police brutality. They took their revenge for the lost jobs and lousy housing.

The Tories have rushed to strengthen the forces of law and order. Police wages increased by 75% during the past two years. Millions of pounds have been spent on equipping the police with the latest crowd control techniques. Thatcher wants a police force that can brutalise ethnic minorities and smash strikes. Whitelaw cares nothing for the black communities. He, Whitelaw, is pushing the infamous Nationality Bill designed to allow the police to crack down on the black communities in an effort to crush any spark of resistance. The Tories seek to divide black and white workers. The racist attacks by the National Front and British Movement go unpunished.

Rats breed in rotten conditions and like the rats they are the fascists are using the street fighting in Brixton to peddle their filthy propaganda. They are looking to use Brixton as an excuse to whip up right wing hysteria and will no doubt be on the streets with petitions and leaflets. We believe that it is crucial to drive the Nazi rats off the streets.

The local Anti Nazi League will be organising to counter the activities of fascists and we urge you to get stuck in and give full support to the initiatives of the Anti-Nazi League.

It took a massive demonstration to publicise the New Cross Massacre and even now the police have failed to catch the firebombers. Brixton has been used as a training ground in police brutality.

The press, politicians and television are clamouring for an inquest. But we don't need the experts to tell us the causes of the conflict. It was a protest against police harassment, high unemployment and slum housing. It was a protest directed against a society that cares more about fat bank balances than the needs of people.

The events of last weekend cannot be attributed simply to the particular situation in Brixton. Street fighting has also happened in Bristol, in Soweto and in America. The police have to be confronted every time workers organise a picket. Brixton is not a special case.

There are over 12,000 registered unemployed on Brixton dole. On Monday there were only 13 jobs on display at the Brixton Jobshop. One out of every two young black workers is unemployed. Thatcher's policies have destroyed millions of jobs. Hospitals, factories, offices, schools are all closing. All this has been done so that 'Britain can get back on its feet'. Our future has been sacrificed

for the sake of some bosses' profits.

Brixton has been due for redevelopment since 1928. There are already 18,000 on the housing waiting list and 400 join every month. It is virtually impossible to get essential housing repairs done let alone obtain decent accommodation. One third of all housing in Lambeth has been declared sub-standard. Mayall Road, Railton Road and Atlantic Road look like a bomb site. In short, Brixton is a slum area born out of decay and neglect.

Of course the police caused the conflict last weekend. But getting rid of the racist pigs in Brixton nick will not solve the problems. For every police bus we burn there are ten to take its place. Street fighting in itself is not enough to defeat racism, high unemployment and bad housing. When the dust clears we still have to face a Tory Government hell bent on smashing the organised power of the working class. We have to use the events of last weekend to show that people are prepared to fight back. We have to use the leadership shown by the young blacks and whites to encourage other workers to resist the Tory offensive.

Over the coming weeks the Socialist Workers Party will be sparing no effort to raise support for all those arrested during the street fighting. We shall be approaching every workplace in the immediate area asking workers to collect money and to invite speakers to specially organised meetings. We shall be organising street meetings and petitions. We shall be giving full support to the Defence Campaign.

As long as there is poverty, unemployment, lousy housing, a police force there will always be aggravation. The answer to the Brixton conflict is not just another inquest.