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Race Today

BRITAIN'S LEADING BLACK JOURNAL MAY/JUNE 1985 70p

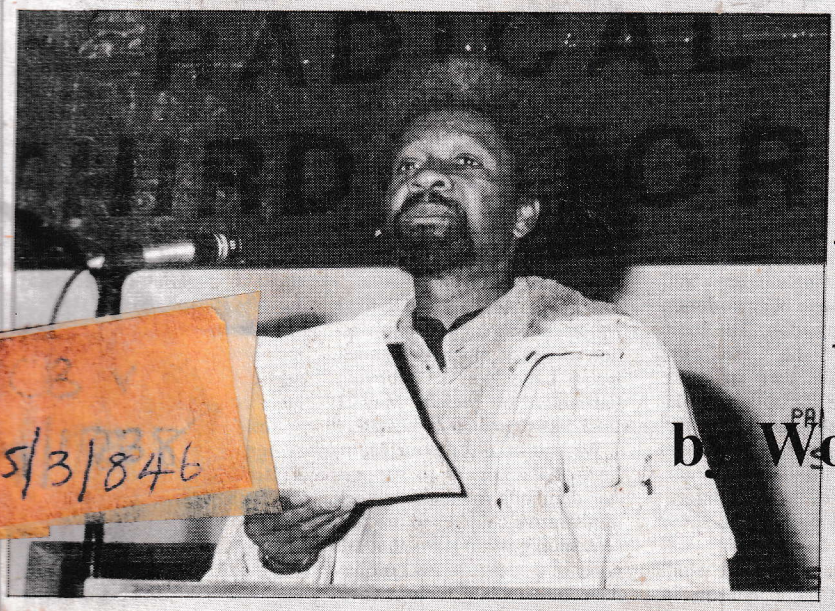
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The Trials of JACKIE BERKELEY



GUYANA The Issues Behind The PNC/PPP Coalition



The NKOMATI ERA

by Wole Soyinka

CBS/3/846

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All poems copyright of the poets



Mrs Berkeley addressing demonstration on 3.5.85.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Race Today Collective has appointed Leila Hassan as Editor of the journal *Race Today,* Lorine Stapleton as Assistant Editor and Darcus Howe as Managing Editor of Race Today Publications, effective from Janaury 1985.

Editorial Board

Managing Editor: Darcus Howe
Editor: Leila Hassan
Assistant Editor: Lorine Stapleton
Arts Editor: Akua Rugg
Poetry Editor: Linton Kwesi Johnson
Jean Ambrose
Michael Cadette

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Letters

OFFENSIVE ARTICLE

Dear Race Today
I refer to the article "Without Malice" by Leila Hassan in the December issue of *Race Today*. It appears that your reporter takes a delight in predicting the downfall of black people. I notice that Trevor Phillips, Alex Pascall, Fennis Augustine and I are all due for the chop.

In my case, the so called indictments are not factual. I enclose a copy of BTUSM minutes of September 30 where it states that I was authorised by the BTUSM Coordinating Committee to speak on their behalf at the Labour Party Conference fringe meeting on Black Sections. Perhaps, in future, your reporters would contact me before printing inaccurracises.

Your facts on the RAPU matter are also wrong as I did *not* support RAPU doing a course for the police. However, I am also against the way in which BTUSM has chosen to deal with this matter. I hope this clarifies the position and that you correct the offending article.

Bernie Grant
High Road
London N17

(**Editor's note:** see Without Malice page 19).

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMEROON

Dear Race Today
We are writing to inform you of the initial stages of the forming of a Committee For Human Rights In Cameroon.

The decision to form this Committee arose out of our increasing awareness of the violations of Human Rights in the West African country of Cameroon and the realisation that, apart from minority press interest and concern among organisations involved in Human Rights on a global scale, very little attention was being given in Britain to events in Cameroon.

For many decades arbitrary arrests, torture, killings, asphyxiation, internment and mock trials have been common place in Cameroon. The basic objectives of the CHRC are that we shall work to make known to the world these violations and seek redress from the powers that be in Cameroon. The Committee shall co-ordinate its activities with all organisations working for the same goals.

In practical terms we shall need to publicise conditions in Cameroon through the media and by organising public meetings and printing information. We shall also require assistance from other organisations and individuals who might have the power to lobby or apply effective pressure on our behalf. We shall need to expand and keep up to date our own information and data on detainees in Cameroon.

We would like to incorporate a body of interested sponsors onto the Committee and we are therefore inviting you to join us. We would appreciate your support and help.

F. Russell
CHRC
314 Brownhill Road
London SE6

THREATENED DEPORTATION

Dear Race Today
For nearly one year, Viraj Mendis has been threatened with deportation to Sri Lanka. Despite his public support for the Tamil people and opposition to the Sri Lankan regime the Home Office has not granted him the right to stay in this country. Despite the fact that he has lived in Britain for over 11 years and has the support of 13,000 people including 32 MPs the Home Office has not yet conceded.

On Wednesday May 8 between 12 noon and 12.30 Viraj, together with his MP Bob Litherland, other Manchester MPs and many supporters of Viraj will be handing in the 13,000 signatures supporting his right to stay. This will take place at 10 Downing Street the campaign members coming from Manchester will assemble at the Whitehall end of Downing Street at 12 noon.

Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign
Box 38
434 Corn Exchange Buildings
Hanging Ditch
Manchester M3 4BN

DIVIDED FAMILIES

Dear Race Today
The West Midlands Divided Families Campaign, in conjunction with the Campaign Against Racist Laws, will be Lobbying Parliament on Tuesday May 21 1985, between 3.30—5.30pm.

We will be urging our Members of Parliament to support our demands for legal and administrative changes in the present Immigration Laws that are racist and sexist. Many families have been trying to join their husbands and fathers in the United Kingdom for many years. These people have an absolute right to be together, yet the present laws are causing tragic heartache for those families who are being kept apart deliberately and totally unnecessarily.

We will be putting forward the 'Charter for Change' that was discussed and finalised at our very successful National Conference of Divided Families Campaign.

Several Coaches will be leaving for London, three of which will be leaving from the following pickup points; all coaches will travel together from Adderley Square, Adderely Road, Saltley, Birmingham B8 at approximately 11.15am.

West Midlands Divided Families Campaign
2 Alum Rock Road, Saltley, Birmingham B8 IJB Tel: 021-328 1272

BLACKS AND IRELAND

Dear Race Today
I would like to hear from any black, anti-racist, and/or anti-imperialist groups who want to find out more about the conflicts in N. Ireland or who want to support activities on the issue. I have just been elected to the task of liasing between the Troops Out Movement and such groups.

The Troops Out Movement is a broad-based organisation of people in England, Scotland and Wales campaigning for the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination, and the immediate withdrawal of British forces from Northern Ireland.

We believe that the Irish people have suffered centuries of British imperialism and racism. Therefore, we feel that anti-racists and anti-imperialists in England, Scotland and Wales have a common interest in finding out more about the conflict and in opposing the continuing British presence.

At the same time, we would like to learn more about other people's struggles. If people send me details I can circulate them throughout TOM's many local branches.

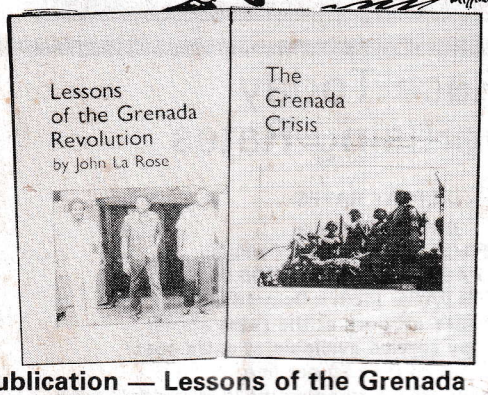
If groups (or any interested individuals) can send me their address I will send them a package of material.

Solidarity with everyone struggling against oppression.

T. Harris
Anti-Racist/Anti-imperialist Liason
Troops Out Movement
PO Box 353
London NW5 4NH.

BOOKS by POST





New Publication — Lessons of the Grenada Revolution by John La Rose. First printed as *Comment* in July/August and December 1984 issues of *Race Today*. Price 40p (p&p 20p).

CLR James's
80th Birthday Lectures
Price: £2.50 (p&p 45p)

Brickbats and Bouquets Akua Rugg
Price: £2.75 (p&p 45p)

The Struggle of Asian Workers in Britain
by the Race Today Collective £1.95 (p&p 36p)

Walter Rodney and the Question of Power
by CLR James £0.95(p&p 30p)

The Black Explosion in British Schools
by Farukh Dhondy, Barbara Beese and Leila Hassan £1.75 (p&p 36p)

Voices of the Living and the Dead
by Linton Kwesi Johnson £1.75 (p&p 30p)

Inglan is a Bitch
by Linton Kwesi Johnson £1.75 (p&p 30p)

The Road Make To Walk On Carnival Day
by Darcus Howe £1.00 (p&p 30p)

The Race Today Review 1984 £1.25 (p&p 36p) Reviews for 1982 and 1983 are still available

Alliance Publications

New Publication — The Grenada Crisis
Statements issued by the Alliance of the Black Parents Movement, the Black Youth Movement and the Race Today Collective. 40p (p&p 20p)

The New Cross Massacre Story.
Interviews with John La Rose, Chairman of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee. £1.50 (p&p 45).

ORDERS TO: RT Publications 165 Railton Road Herne Hill London SE24 OLU
Telephone: 01-737 2268

Creation For Liberation

3rd OPEN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ART BY BLACK ARTISTS

12th July — 3rd August 1985

If you would like to have your painting, drawing, sculpture, paper collage, textiles considered for the exhibiton write to Creation for Liberation Open Art Exhibition, The Basement, 165 Railton Road London SE24 for an application form.
closing date 24 June 1985

Venue for exhibition: GLC Brixton Recreation Centre, Brixton Station Road, SW9.

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