

STUDENT LEADER CHARGES POLICE WITH
'ASSAULT CAUSING MALICIOUS INJURY AND/OR ACTUAL BODILY HARM'
& 'THREAT TO KILL'.....

R.S.S.F. APPEAL FOR FIGHTING FUND
AND MOBILIZATION AGAINST FASCISM

Comrade Edward Davoren, Secretary, London R.S.S.F, was granted summonses on Tuesday 21st by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate against three members of the Special Branch and two uniformed police officers for 'assault causing malicious injury and/or actual bodily harm' and in one case with 'threat to kill'.

On Sunday, 12th January, after the militant demonstration against the fascist regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa and against the racist policies of the Wilson government was over, Davoren was, according to his summonses, without warning set upon by a number of policeman in plain clothes and uniform and punched, kicked and kneed continuously. He was flung onto the steps of police coach and a police officer kicked him in the face, splitting his forehead. As a result of these assaults, Davoren suffered serious injuries, resulting in damage to one eye, continuous and severe headaches and dizziness. He spent two nights in Westminster Hospital under guard and was later transferred to a cell in the hospital wing of Brixton prison.

Many independent witnesses have, on their own, volunteered to substantiate these charges against the police.

With the ever-deepening crisis of British monopoly capitalism the ruling class, whether represented by the Labour government or the Tories, is panic-stricken at the rising militancy of the youth, students and the working class in their struggle in support of the heroic people of Vietnam and against the reactionary, racist policies of the British government.

This reactionary government, in order to defend the profits of the bosses, has been on the one hand attacking the living standards of the working class by freezing wages, causing massive unemployment, while on the other it is increasing fascist oppressive measures. How long will it take to replace the fining of workers, who correctly insist upon their right to strike, by imprisonment?

The whole state machinery is geared to viciously repress the inevitable workers resistance and the growing militancy and unity of the working class and students. The police are wielding their truncheons, the courts are imposing heavy fines and long prison sentences against the militants.

This only illustrates the desperation of the decaying, dying British imperialism, which can never succeed in cowing the revolutionary spirit of the students and young workers.

Now more than ever it is vital to expose and fight the increasing police brutalitists.

While the victims of police assaults sometimes got legal aid no such help can be obtained for prosecuting the police thugs. This is a test case against the police and a challenge to the revolutionary student movement and the working class.

This case will cost some £600 / £700. Hence the London R.S.S.F. calls upon all militants and democrats to contribute and raise funds thus strengthening the revolutionary movement against the assault of the storm-troopers of the reactionary state.

The High Court judge realeased Comrade Davoren on a bail of £1, 000 and banned him from organising or participating in any demonstration. He is forced to report to a police station twice a week.

Revolutionaries can clearly discern in this banning order a pattern for the future intimidation and victimisation of militants in order to prevent them from political activity. Prevention from organising demonstrations today will quite certainly be confinement to a geographical area, bannings from public assemblies, and even house arrest in the near future. In short, we can see the application of exactly the type of techniques as being used in South Africa. With the rapid development of the fascist coporate state in Britain even basic democratic liberties will be denied.

Comrade Davoren has challenged this outrage.

The London R.S.S.F. calls upon all revolutionaries, students and workers, to unite for the defence of democratic liberties and the struggle for socialism.

In this situation the position must be quite clear. Our only means of defence is to intensify our attack against the forces of reaction on a nation-wide scale.

The Executive Committee,
London R.S.S.F.
c/o Regent Street Polytechnic,
London, W.1.