

[1975]

STOP BRITAIN'S WAR AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF OMAN



Roy Mason, Britain's Defence Minister (centre), gives on-the-spot approval to British officers conducting the war against the Omani people. His Parliamentary Private Secretary and Labour M.P. for Sheffield (Attercliffe), Patrick Duffy, is on the left.

Why is the Labour Government supporting a tyrannical Sultan?

For over ten years now, the people of Oman have been fighting the tyrannical regime of Qabus, the Sultan of this small Arab country. Their struggle has been led by the Peoples Front for the Liberation of Oman (P.F.L.O.). The Qabus regime is propped up by the British Government, which has sent armed forces numbering over 2,000 to crush the P.F.L.O. Britain is waging this almost secret war in close alliance with the U.S. and the local reactionary rulers, notably King Hussein of Jordan, and the Shah of Iran. The object is clear: to protect Western oil in the Gulf area and provide a secure base for U.S. military activity in the Indian Ocean.

In Oman there are no political freedoms of any kind. All trade union activity is banned. Sultan Qabus has had many of his opponents killed and has packed the jails with over 800 more. His regime keeps the Omani people in a state of misery, depriving them of essential medical care and educational facilities.

The British troops lead a dirty counter-insurgency campaign modelled on U.S. tactics in Vietnam:

- British army officers and ex-regular mercenaries are engaged in burning villages and forcing the population of Dhofar, Oman's southern province, into concentration camps.
- R.A.F. pilots are flying missions for the Sultan in which they strafe the flocks of people burn their crops and bomb their villages.
- Navy officers are directing a campaign of shelling from the sea of any inhabited positions outside the control of the Sultan.

Despite these vicious attacks the P.F.L.O. has liberated large areas of Dhofar. Schools and hospitals have been provided for the people in these areas. Democratic governing bodies have been set up and women's equality is far advanced.

In December 1974 84 Labour MPs called on the government to reconsider their support for the Sultan of Oman. A motion along similar lines was submitted by the International Department of the Labour Party to the 1975 Labour Party Conference. Groups and individuals active in solidarity work for Oman have organised the Oman Solidarity Campaign in order to carry these initiatives forward and to support the struggle of the Omani people. We call on all members of the labour movement and all those who oppose imperialism to support the Oman Solidarity Campaign.

We say:

ALL BRITISH AND FOREIGN TROOPS OUT OF OMAN!
 SUPPORT THE PFLO'S STRUGGLE FOR A DEMOCRATIC AND INDEPENDENT OMAN!
 RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM SULTAN QABUS'S JAILS!
 SEND DESPERATELY NEEDED MEDICAL AID FOR THE OMANI PEOPLE!

If you agree with these demands and want to know what you can do to support them, write to

The Secretary,
 38 Burngreave Bank
 Sheffield S4 7HL

Public meeting:



Oman, at the mouth of the oil-rich Gulf, which contains 60% of the world's known reserves.



*Sheffield
 30th January
 3-00 pm meeting
 Sheffield.*

Sultan Qabus of Oman
 British-backed,
 Sandhurst-trained
 military dictator.

OMAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN