

BRITAIN'S COLONIAL WAR IN THE GULF.

One of the most important changes in foreign policy made by the new Tory administration is the decision to accept the principle of selling arms to the racial regime of South Africa. Another no less important change is their clear intention of escalating the colonial war against the people of the Gulf. The Tories seem to be much less ashamed to come out in support of extremely reactionary and oppressive rulers than Labour was. The Labour government had for five years conducted its inhumane and barbaric war in Dhofar where the R.A.F. has recently been carrying out almost daily bombing raids on villages and towns.

Dhofar is the south-western region of the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman which has the most reactionary regime in the world. The Sultan privately owns 5,000 slaves and imposes high taxes and strenuous laws on the impoverished people of the country. Until the fight for liberation started five years ago there were no schools, hospitals or any other social services in the country. The use of medicine was banned and also the use of irrigation canals, and all symptoms of civilisation. The Sultan allowed no-one, except those close to him, to leave the country, lest they learn something of the outside world. Not even transistor radios were allowed. The country was ruled by the Sultan's orders which are implemented by a mercenary force with British officers. Those officers also supervised the arrests, tortures and murders of anyone who opposes the Sultan. The Sultan cannot rule without the help of British colonialism to which he is completely subservient.

The new Tory government seems to be determined to escalate this colonial war in defence of the most reactionary regime in the world. It is increasing the British military commitments in the Sultanate. The talk of withdrawal of troops from the Gulf does not include the two R.A.F. bases in Masirah and Salala or the officers seconded to the Sultan's army by the R.A.F. and the British army. The withdrawal which the Labour government had planned is only from bases in Bahrain and the Trucial states and it is no more than a trick. The Tory government may even reverse that decision. However, even if it takes place, withdrawal means that regular troops be replaced by a large number of seconded British officers leading another mercenary army in addition to so-called 'defence' agreements and regional military pacts. The imperialists create problems and threats and use them as excuses for 'defence' pacts. The real threat they are worried about is that of the people of the Gulf (Arabs and Iranians) taking their destinies into their own hands and removing the reactionary Sheikhs and Kings and their masters in the 'City' and 'Wall Street'.

British and U.S. imperialism is trying to use the Gulf Sheikhs and Sultans and also the oppressive rulers of Iran and Saudi Arabia to suppress the armed popular uprising of the people of the Gulf which started five years ago under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf. The liberation fighters have been scoring successive victories which are worrying Heath and company. They have liberated all of DHOFAR'S countryside in addition to three towns. The people in the liberated areas, for the first time ever, are now getting medical services, education and their rights as human beings. They are at last free from the Sultans' exploitation and the oppression of his rule. However, they are still having to suffer from R.A.F. and artillery bombing of their towns and villages, and the killing of their livestock, their main source of living, by the British officered mercenaries.

The people of the Gulf are determined to continue their struggle against imperialism and reaction. They see the fight waged in Dhofar only as a start to a struggle throughout the Gulf aimed at the liberation of their country from the grip of the oil monopolies and their lackies. In fact, armed struggle has already started in the Omani hinterland (another province of the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman) this time under the leadership of the Democratic National Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf. This group aims at linking up with the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arab Gulf (P.F.L.O.A.G.) and escalating the armed struggle into a people's war of liberation throughout the Gulf.

The revolutionaries of the Gulf have called upon progressives throughout the world and particularly Britain, to support their just struggle.

CONDEMN BRITAIN'S COLONIAL WAR IN DHOFAR AND THE GULF.
VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF.