

suspended. It would be the height of folly to brand such people as collaborators. Folly of this nature is bound to lead to a division in the ranks of committed people. It would lead to witch-hunting and name-calling without real justification. The term "collaboration" will lose its sharp definition and become meaningless abuse.

If prolonging a boycott leads to a division amongst committed people, then that boycott is doing the work of the ruling class.

We must bear in mind the boycott being a tactic can be called off and on with flexibility. But once the unity of committed people is broken, the damage cannot be easily repaired.

CONCLUSION

The student boycotts have demonstrated, in no uncertain terms, that the struggle for a democratic system of education can only be attained in a democratic society.

Therefore, the priority is the struggle for a democratic society, free of oppression and exploitation.

This lesson has been written out in bold letters with the blood of the hundreds of students who have laid down their lives for the cause.

IT IS A LESSON WE DARE NOT FORGET!.

SUPPORT THE STUDENT STRUGGLE!

DOWN WITH THE COLLABORATORS!

UNITY YES! DIVISION NO!

IMPERIALISM AND THE FAMINE IN AFRICA

In an interview published in "Newsweek" of 24 June 1985, EUGENE WHELAN, the President of the World Food Council, and for 12 years prior to that, Canada's Minister of Agriculture, makes a dreadful prediction:

"Some 34 million people could die from malnutrition, exposure and disease because of drought and famine in Africa over the last three to four years"

Africa is reaping the bitter harvest of centuries of rape, pillage and plunder at the hands of countries which, today, parade as enlightened democracies.

There was the Slave Trade in which millions of African men, women and children were captured and forcibly removed forever to distant lands to slave and die in plantations and mines. There was the wholesale marauding of an entire continent of its precious metals, riches, natural resources and its wildlife.

Those who escaped slavery fared no better. Genocide was the name of the grisly game. For example, in a matter of 20 years the population of the Congo (Zaire) was reduced from 20 million to 8,5 million. It was the greed for rubber and ivory which caused the Imperialists to depopulate that hapless country. Mr Clarke, an American missionary was moved to write:

"This rubber traffic is steeped in blood, and if the natives were to rise and sweep every white person on the upper Congo into eternity, there would still be a fearful balance to their credit" (E D Morel: "The Black man's Burden").

Today the Imperialists are fully aware of the plight of Africa. They shed crocodile tears at the sight of the grotesque figures of starving children. They set up Relief Agencies. They complain about the fact that if relief does not arrive timeously, it is the fault of inadequate ports, poor roads, etc. But Eugene Whelan is not impressed:

"If it was a war, you'd see how fast we'd mobilise. We'd build those ports, railroads and roads if we had to move war material . . . We knew the drought was coming. We had the evidence from satellites but we weren't paying enough attention . . ."

Weather, crop failure or lack of modern technology are not the real causes of the famine. The Imperialists are continuing to bleed Africa to death. Super Exploitation, the propping-up of puppet regimes which are renowned for graft, corruption and shameless extravagance. Last, but by no means least, is the international racket of the arms race and the profitable trade in weapons of destruction. Whelan estimates that in 1985 the world will spend over 900 billion dollars on arms and a mere paltry 18 billion dollars on food aid.

Then Whelan drops his bomb-shell. The U S paid its own farmers 19 billion dollars NOT to produce wheat and corn. No statement of fact can be more devastating than that. When the lives of 34 million people are threatened, common humanity dictates that the rest of the world rushes to give help. Instead U S Imperialism pays its farmers to do the exact opposite.

Whelan rounds off his indictment:

"There is no way we can say we are civilized if we let Africa starve. This is worse than any genocide, worse than the Holocaust, because we are aware of what is going on and we can stop it if we want to"

The point about Imperialism is that it does NOT "want to" stop the dreaded famine. If it did, then it would not be Imperialism.

Between the forces of humanity and those of imperialism it has to be a fight to the finish. It is only when that abomination is wiped off the face of the earth that wealth and resources of the earth will be used, not to destroy people, but to ensure that famines become a nightmarish thing of the past.