

BRITISH BOMBINGS SPARK LEFTIST REPRESSION

Dec. 25 (IPS)--Although it no longer makes front-page headlines, Britain is rapidly being turned into another Northern Ireland. thanks to increasingly frequent "IRA" bomb attacks in major city centers. Two explosions rocked London's major shopping areas only hours before the IRA Christmas truce was to go into effect.

Already London stores are adopting systems of surveillance that are reminiscent of those currently employed in Belfast and other Irish towns. Said one London store manager: "If you succumb to this kind of treatment, where do you finish? God forbid that we should have the same security measures as they have in Belfast."

This holiday season, children in Belfast are still talking to Santa...after being thoroughly frisked twice, once at the steel stockade that seals off the city's shopping area, and again at the entrance to the store itself. Commented one British newspaper: "No one runs in Belfast any more. They file in weary, orderly fashion" to be searched by soldiers at the iron gates.

Escalate Red Scare

This mass terror sets the conditions for the real objective of the government's military campaign: the destruction of the British Left and any possibility of working class militancy. Daily, items appear on the round-up of suspects throughout Britain: six houses here, 10 there, another 20 being questioned somewhere else. No names, dates, addresses are ever released, but the police sweeps continue.

The Daily Express, leading mouthpiece for CIA leaks in Britain, charged last week that the IRA was controlled from Moscow, with the intent of wrecking Britain's "free society." These charges were made earlier this year by General Sir Walter Walker, retired Tavistock agent who successfully led counterinsurgent operations in Burma and Indonesia. This charge is now being investigated by Parliament.

Already, terrified by the apparent disintegration of the fabric of British society, workers are reacting with hysteria. Auto workers have walked off the job, demanding police action against IRA (left-wing) operatives in their plants, thus giving the authorities the only excuse they need to openly watch "subversive" trade union activities as well.