

British Press Pushes Military “Solution”

June 29 (IPS) — The British press has officially declared democracy dead in that country and is now prescribing new-style military operations based on the “politically explosive ideas put forth by Brigadier Frank Kitson” as the cure for Britain’s crisis.

The widely read and respected *London Times*, after counting up the cracks appearing daily in the crumbling facade of parliamentary rule (including the literal destruction of an entire wing of the House of Commons by a rigged “IRA” bomb last week), carried articles on its Op Ed page twice this month which openly advocated the “Kitson theory” of troop requirements for Great Britain. Counterinsurgency methods tested and perfected in Northern Ireland are now surfacing in Her Majesty’s realm as **British Intelligence**, with assistance from its CIA overseers, surreptitiously orchestrates the “anarchic situations” necessary to bring low-intensity military rule to Britain — to be implemented smoothly and at the urgent request of the working class.

Violent clashes between so-called “fascists” and “reds” of an intensity not seen in Britain in the last 50 years, modelled after Ireland’s phony civil war, coupled with terrorist bombings, kidnappings, and “natural disasters” have already been staged for the sole purpose of provoking public outrage and priming the troops for their new police role. A close look at the recent confrontation between left and right extremists in London’s Red Lion Square, a brawl which left one dead and many injured, leaves no doubt that this was a dry run: a set-up from one end of the political spectrum to the other, with **British Intelligence** pulling the strings.

An LEAA Scenario

Early in May Enoch Powell’s fascist National Front, headed up by two former members of the British Nazi Party, submitted its plans for an anti-immigration rally to Scotland Yard. Specialists in the Yard’s crowd control unit A8 examined the proposed composition, timing and route of the National Front march in detail and nodded approval.

As soon as the word got out via MIS’s agents, a little-known leftist front group called the London Committee for Liberation surfaced and announced **its** plans for an anti-fascist counterdemonstration, culminating in a rally at Conway Hall, the precise spot of the National Front meeting. Representatives such as International Socialists (IS), International Marxist Group (IMG), the British Communist Party and various Maoist sectlets, participated in a similar “full discussion” of their plans with Scotland Yard’s A8, and a route which would bring the two opposing groups into open confrontation was **directly mapped out by British Intelligence**.

On the spot from start to finish was Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Gerrard, the Yard’s most experienced crowd control officer, who gleefully took over as soon as Liberation’s plans to hold a counter-demonstration became known. Responsible for handling every major London demonstration since the anti-war protests of 1968, Gerrard gave his personal approval to the proposed march route. He received his graduate training in such provocation at the CIA/LEAA Senior Officer’s Disturbance Orientation Course (SEADOC) at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

A longtime Kitson disciple, Gerrard learned his lesson well at SEADOC. He prefers low-intensity maneuvers to “huge contingents of police” and likes to keep to a minimum the number of uniformed men on a site, backing them up with a group of highly mobile reserves. His deployment for that day’s demonstration also included the controversial use of two specialist arms of the Metropolitan Police: the mounted police as a second (rather than the usual fourth) line of defense and a newly created crack counterinsurgency unit, the elite Special Patrol Group (SPG). The SPG provides a pool of volunteer policemen, not attached to any particular division, who can be mobilized at a moment’s notice — an old Kitson concept, doubtless refined at SEADOC.

The Special Patrol Group, to their credit, has not been singled out as responsible for the violence which broke out at Red Lion Square. When the leftwing demonstrators approached the Square, they were met by police barricades blocking the agreed-upon route. Rather than turn off in the other direction, Tariq Ali the British left’s favorite immigrant, who was just awarded British citizenship, (presumably for services rendered) gave the signal to his band of agents in the IMG and their Maoist crazy co-provocateurs in the Communist Party of England-Marxist-Leninist. What happened next is clear. In fact, according to one reporter, it “looked pre-arranged.” The phony leftist fringe group broke away from the march and lunged at the police. Immediately, police reinforcements arrived in 13 Ford transit vans, used by the SPG. The mounted police together with foot police wielding truncheons and the two prongs of reinforcements steamrolled all the demonstrators back up the narrow street. Although there was never any danger of the two “political” groups conflicting, in the melee which ensued 39 policemen were injured, several demonstrators were seriously battered, and one young man was killed.

“Let’s Do This More Often”

With “anarchic situations” like this one brewing and the defense budget being slashed, the *London Times* was quick to make the connection. Why not use Britain’s

part-time soldiers, the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserves (TAVR) as the crack counterinsurgency corps? Already playing a major role in NATO defense, the TAVR are small, highly mobile units with simple weapons and equipment, eminently well suited for "what is loosely known in military circles as the Kitson theory" of modern requirements for army troops in this period.

The *London Times* author, "having seen at close quarters regular units operating in such theatres as Aden, Borneo and Northern Ireland" (where Kitson's men cut their teeth) feels sure that "a good TAVR unit would need little more than a fortnight to bring itself up

to full operational standards." Their role is now that of an "uncommitted reserve" but, lest anyone doubt their suitability to carry out "low-intensity operations," a TAVR unit recently turned out voluntarily to help with evacuation and resettlement on the night of the devastating Nypro chemical plant explosion in Flixborough.

Disasters like the Nypro blast, the Westminster bombing, and the staged confrontation between "class-conscious" countergangs are the military's means to test and overhaul counterinsurgency units for the final offensive against the British working class.