

Scoreboard

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE ON RACIAL EQUALITY IN EUROPE



UNIT 303
BRIXTON SMALL BUSINESS CENTRE
BON MARCHE BUILDING
LONDON SW9 8EJ
TEL. 071 274 4000 X 303
FAX. 071 924 0107

EDITORIAL

History will correctly judge 1992 as a year of set-backs for racial equality in Europe. This situation was made worse by what can only be described as a wasted Presidency of the European Community. All the British government could offer during its six months' Presidency of the European Community is the racist Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill (Anti-Black Family Bill) and, in respect of the free movement of persons under Article 8a of the Single European Act, the government still maintains that "...checks are needed on non-Community nationals to catch criminals, drug traffickers and terrorists and to control illegal immigration."* To make matters even worse, the British government "does not accept that the European Community (EC) has competence in matters of race relations."** So where do we go from here? What is certain is that the attacks against the 13 million Black and minority ethnic people living in the EC have dramatically increased as we move into 1993.

In order to assist with the fight against the rising tide of racial violence, SCORE's Alternative Summit held in Edinburgh on 9-11 December 1992 urged the Governments of the EC to adopt the following:

- (a) The immediate appointment of a Standing Committee and an EC Commissioner with the responsibility for the elimination of racial and cultural discrimination and the promotion of racial equality.
- (b) The development of an inter-governmental Convention or an EC directive to back this initiative.
- (c) An eventual amendment to the Treaty of Rome to outlaw racial discrimination in the EC.
- (d) The right to family reunion for all those legally resident in the EC.
- (e) The right to freedom of movement for all those in the Community.
- (f) Freedom of establishment (ie.. secure permanent residency) for all residents of the Community.
- (g) Equality of opportunity in education, employment, housing, health and social services, and equal treatment under the law for all members of the Black and migrant communities.
- (h) The formulation of asylum policies in accordance with the spirit of the 1951 Geneva Convention.
- (i) The adoption of a code of good conduct by European politicians and the mass media on matters relating to Black and migrant communities.

*extract from "Britain and Europe : The European Community and Your Future" November 1992, published by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office

**letter from John Major to SCORE, 24/12/92

SCORE has always recognised the importance of building a permanent pan-European networking structure and our second Alternative Summit in Edinburgh took this objective a major step further.

BERNIE GRANT M.P., Chair: SCORE (UK)

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Contents:

1. Editorial
2. & 3. Newsroundup
3. Focus: The Committee on Civil Liberties & Internal Affairs
4. Publications & Coming Events

Newsroundup

- Around 50,000 youths in black shirts turn out for the march organised by the neo-fascist Social Movement (MSI) and the national youth front in Rome. (European 22-25.10.92)
- Jewish leaders accuse the German authorities of trying to cover up a neo-Nazi firebomb attack on a former concentration camp. (Guardian 26.10.92)
- Over 700 people join 237 homeless African families in a demonstration calling for proper accommodation in Paris. (Weekly Journal 22.10.92)
- Over 50,000 young people including 500 from Britain march through the streets of Brussels protesting against the rise of racism in Europe. (Weekly Journal 29.10.92)
- Police detain 51 young German skinheads after petrol bombs and stones are thrown at flats housing foreign families in the eastern state of Mecklenburg. (Independent 28.10.92)
- Hundreds of police seal off a Paris suburb at dawn to dismantle an encampment set up by homeless African families. (Guardian 30.10.92) The police raids demonstrate a change in the French public's attitude from sympathy to intolerance for the citizens of the former French West African colonies. (Guardian 2.11.92)
- Left wing extremists mar a powerful protest by over 300,000 Germans against racial violence by hurling stones and eggs at Chancellor Kohl and President Richard Von Weizsacker. (Guardian 9.11.92)
- Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky leads a vigil at a desecrated Jewish cemetery yesterday to warn against anti-Semitism and increasing racism amongst Austrians. (Independent 9.11.92)
- Germany agrees to pay hundreds of millions of pounds in compensation to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Eastern Europe who previously received minimal or no reparations. (Guardian 10.11.92)
- Over 180,000 Germans hold national vigil to commemorate "Kristallnacht," the night 54 years ago when Nazis looted and burned Jewish businesses and synagogues foreshadowing the future for Jews in Europe. (Guardian 10.11.92)
- Six Ukrainian sailors are charged with murder by a judge in Rouen for dumping eight Ghanaian stowaways at sea off the Portuguese coast. (Guardian 10.11.92)
- A black South African refugee is brutally assaulted by neo-Nazis brandishing clubs in the town of Wolgast, Germany. (Weekly Journal 12.11.92)
- Three German soldiers are investigated for possible manslaughter as ministry confirms that it received 24 reports of right wing radical offences by soldiers. (Independent 12.11.92)
- Over 200,000 people march through Bonn to protest against racial violence and the German government's plans to tighten asylum laws. (Independent 15.11.92)
- The European Trade Union Committee

on Education launches a pamphlet encouraging all European countries to take equal opportunities in education seriously. (Asian Times 24.11.92)

- Greenpeace calls on the European Community to stop toxic waste dumping in third world countries. (Voice 17.11.92)
- Thousands of demonstrators march in a suburb of Madrid to protest against the racist shooting of a Dominican woman. (European 19.11.92)
- Demonstrators lead a march through Berlin to protest against the racist murder of three Turks in an arson attack on two houses near the former East German border. (Independent 25.11.92)
- 52 grave stones are overturned at Stockholm's Southern Jewish cemetery with some daubed with Nazi insignia. (Independent 25.11.92)
- About 20 right wing extremists attack a caravan park of refugees in Germany chanting "Sieg Heil" and "Germany for the Germans." (Times 26.11.92)
- Spanish police arrest four skinheads suspected of the racist murder of a young Moroccan in a Madrid suburb in November. (Independent 30.11.92)
- Left and right wing extremists clash at a march in Stockholm commemorating the anniversary of the death of Charles XII, the warrior king idolised by neo-Nazis. (Guardian 30.11.92)
- EC immigration ministers sign agreement to simplify asylum procedures which will risk sending genuine refugees back to their countries to face life-threatening situations. (Guardian 1.12.92)
- Two right wing extremists confess to carrying out the firebombing which resulted in the death of 3 Turks in Germany. (European 3-6.12.92)
- A 33-year-old Algerian man facing the "double penalty" of deportation back to Algeria after serving a prison sentence in France completes his hundredth day of hunger strike against the deportation. (European 3-6.12.92)
- Both sides in Hungary's first significant racism trial lodge an appeal against the conviction of 48 skinheads for crimes against minorities. (European 3-6.12.92)
- Germany announces new constitutional clause allowing the government to turn back asylum seekers entering the country from other European countries or from other countries where it is judged there is no political persecution. This could lead to an 80% cut in refugees allowed into the country. (Guardian, Independent 8.12.92)
- Clause 9 of the British Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill is agreed in Committee with only minor safeguards to allow would-be visitors "in exceptional compassionate circumstances" a possible review. (Independent 9.12.92)
- The Swedish Director of Immigration Christina Rogestam resigns bowing to criticism that she had "wasted" taxpayers' money on housing for refugees. (Independent 10.12.92)
- A Prague weekly newspaper publishes a virulently anti-Semitic article under the headline "Jews and Half-breeds in the Current Culture" - naming 168 Jews active in

Prague theatre and television. (European 10-13.12.92)

- Germany announces the introduction of the "Automatic Fingerprint Identification System" (AFIS), a computerised filing system designed to hold 400,000 fingerprints of foreign asylum seekers. (Weekly Journal 10.12.92)
- Paris appeals court fines French academic Professor Robert Faurisson for having written that no Jews were gassed to death by the Nazis in the Second World War. (Guardian 10.12.92)
- Over 300,000 anti-racist demonstrators hold a candlelight vigil in Munich to protest against racist violence in the largest demonstration there since the Second World War. (European 10.12.92)
- Over 150,000 people attend anti-racist rock benefit concert in Frankfurt. (Guardian 14.12.92)
- Poland and Czechoslovakia announce that they are set to receive thousands of refugees and asylum seekers rejected by Germany because of tighter asylum laws. (European 10-13.12.92)
- Germany bans neo-Nazi groups after right wing violence. (Guardian 11.12.92)
- Germany's European Commissioner Martin Bangemann says that Germany's new asylum laws should pave the way for a pan-European asylum policy. (Times 11.12.92)
- British Guardian Angels visit Berlin to protect victims of racial violence. (Weekly Journal 10.12.92)
- A homeless Somali man is set on fire as he sleeps near the Coliseum in Rome. (Voice 15.12.92)
- Over 100 Arab youths riot in the Southern French town of Beziers after police shot and killed a Moroccan teenager who was arrested for driving a stolen car. (Guardian 22.12.92)
- World-renowned author Gunter Grass resigns from the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) in protest against the SPD's agreement with the government's restrictions on asylum. (Times 31.12.92)
- Moroccan families protest in the streets of Strasbourg to demand their rights as Europeans. (European 30.12.92)
- Over 200 homeless African and North African families occupy the lobby of the exclusive "George V Hotel" in Paris to demonstrate the lack of decent housing in and around Paris. (European 30.12.92)
- Over 200,000 anti-racist protesters hold a Christmas vigil in Berlin. (European 30.12.92)
- Masked men hurl petrol bombs into a synagogue at Villepinte, a Paris suburb. Another synagogue near Strasbourg is also damaged by vandals. (Times 5.1.93)



LEFT-WING
"Stop racist violence"
"We are organising another demonstration"

• Germany is to use radar and night vision devices to monitor its eastern borders as part of a crackdown on illegal immigrants. A super computer to register the fingerprints of all asylum seekers has also been introduced. (Guardian 4.1.93)

- New York City's pension fund writes to Chancellor Helmut Kohl expressing concern about anti-semitic and racist violence by neo-Nazis and right-wing gangs. (Independent 6.1.93)
- German bankers and businessmen voice fears that right-wing violence could harm foreign investment and damage the export sector. (Independent 6.1.93)
- The EC Migrants Forum urges the Community's citizens to stop showing their passports as they travel between member states. (Guardian 6.1.93)
- The number of people seeking asylum in Germany reaches a record 438,191, an increase of 71% over 1991. (Times 7.1.93)
- Hundreds of taxi-drivers take to the streets of Stuttgart in their cabs to demonstrate against neo-Nazi violence. The protest is the latest in a series of demonstrations in cities throughout Germany aimed at showing solidarity with foreigners. (European 7.1.93)
- More than 50,000 people participate in a candlelight vigil along the Rhine in Cologne to protest against neo-Nazism in Germany. (Times 11.1.93)
- The British House of Commons approves the Government's controversial plans to crack down on "bogus" asylum applications and speed up the handling of genuine cases, by 50 votes. The Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill is given a third reading by 293 to 243. It now goes to the House of Lords. (Guardian 12.1.93)
- Romania's small Jewish community rallies in defence of its chief rabbi, Moses Rosen, who has been the target of attacks in ultra-Nationalist newspapers. (Independent 12.1.93)
- A House of Lords report on migration from Eastern Europe and Africa says that the Community should outlaw racism and xenophobia and adopt UK laws on racism. (Weekly Journal 14.1.93)
- A survey conducted by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism and published in CARF magazine gives details of 59 cases of killings and murders, by the extreme right and the police and deaths by official maltreatment or neglect over the past year. (Weekly Journal 14.1.93)
- A German government minister triggers protests from the opposition and a human rights group by suggesting that some foreign asylum-seekers undergo a mandatory AIDS test. (Weekly Journal 14.1.93)



RIGHT-WING
"Get lost"
(VISA cartoon extract IPF, Germany)

FOCUS ON THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The European Parliament deals with most of its workload within specific specialist committees which play a key role in Parliament's work in the formulation of reports and amendments which later come before Parliament during plenary sessions in Strasbourg. Of these 20 or so committees, including the Social Affairs Committee, the Development Committee and the External Relations Committee, a new committee was recently established and its work is of increasing relevance to organisations and individuals involved in race equality issues.

The Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs was set up in January 1992 to look at issues arising out of the Maastricht Treaty which relate specifically to the formulation of Community policy on human rights and civil liberties in the Community, the fight against racism and xenophobia, asylum, immigration, external border controls, "third country nationals," drug addiction and fraud, prisons, customs, policing and EUROPOL. Under the Committee's Chairman the British Conservative Amedee Turner and his Vice-President Constantinos Tsimas, the Committee of 30 members convenes during 2 days in Brussels prior to the Strasbourg session to debate the reports to be put before plenary sessions and before the various party groups. Active British MEPs on the Committee include Eddy Newman, Michael Elliott, and Christine Crawley. Current issues debated in Committee include the Cooney Report on the Harmonisation of Asylum procedures in the EC, the De Piccoli Report on the Upsurge in Racism and Xenophobia, the Tsimas Report on External Borders and Freedom of Movement, the Van den Brink Report on a European Immigration Policy, and the 2 Van Ouirve reports, one on Schengen and one on EUROPOL.

The Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs of the Parliament is at the very heart of the current issues decision-making about race equality. Although the Committee has had a very limited role in controlling the work of the secret and unaccountable Schengen and TREVI working groups, it is a body that can serve as an influence to national parties and as a powerful lobby for policies affecting Black people in Europe today.

SORAYA USMANI MARTINEZ

Publications

UNITED for Intercultural Action has published a Directory of Internationalism. This brochure, contains the addresses of major organisations active in the struggle against nationalism, racism and fascism and can be purchased by sending DM 10 (or equivalent in other European currency) to: UNITED for Intercultural Action, Postbus 413, NL 1000 AK Amsterdam.

The Commission for Racial Equality has published its second review of the 1976 Race Relations Act. At £5, the Second Review of the Race Relations Act 1976 is available from the CRE, Elliot House, 10-12 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EH.

The Commonwealth Institute has published the report of its seminar "Human Rights: The Commonwealth and Europe" which was held on Thursday 4th June 1992. The report and the seminar were sponsored by the European Commission and the European Human Rights Foundation and was organised with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. For information about how to obtain copies of the

report contact Rebecca Jewell, Conference Organiser, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ (Tel: 071-603 4535)

"EC Direct" A comprehensive directory of EC contacts provides up-to-date contact names, telephone numbers and details for EC funding. The directory costs £25 and is available from Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 United Kingdom.

EUROPIL has published a detailed analysis of housing projects for "migrants" which were co-financed by the EC in five member states. "Experiences in Housing for Migrants" is available from EUROPIL, 180 bis rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris.

The British government has published a booklet on its version of Britain's future role in Europe entitled "Britain in Europe." The booklet is published by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and is available free of cost. Send your name and address to "Britain in Europe" FREEPOST, Box 1992, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8QY.

The Local Government Management Board has published a paper which chronicles the threat to local government from closer European union. "Local Democracy and the European Community - Challenge

and Opportunity" costs £6 and can be purchased through the publications section of the Local Government Management Board, Arndale House, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TS (Tel: 0582-451166).

NCVO has published a guide to European voluntary organisations, entitled "Networking in Europe." The guide costs £10.95 and is available from NCVO, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints St., London N1 (Tel: 071-713 6161)

The British Refugee Council and the Danish Refugee Council have published an informative eight page leaflet entitled "Refugees and the New Europe." The leaflet contains facts, figures, and brief articles on the position of refugees and asylum seekers as the Single European Act comes into effect. If you would like to receive a copy of this leaflet, please write to: Jill Rutter at the Refugee Council, 3 Bondway, London SW8 1SJ.

EDITORIAL CORRECTION: In the last issue of SCOREBOARD, we incorrectly informed our readers that copies of Cities and Social Policies can be obtained through Birmingham City Council's European Task Force. These are not available through the Council.

Coming Events

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), in conjunction with the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), and the Group for Ethnic Minority Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) have organised a seminar on immigration and family reunion policy in the European Community to be held on Saturday 20 February 1993 at SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1 from 10.30am - 5.00pm. For further information about this seminar, contact JCWI; Tel 071-251 8708.

The Consumer Congress is holding its Annual Conference at the University of Dundee from Friday 2 to Sunday 4 April 1993. The theme will be "Charters - a way forward?" They will be discussing how well current charters meet the needs of the following groups: patients, benefit claimants, council tenants, court users, passengers, jobseekers and trainees, fuel and water consumers, and applicants for citizenship. For further information about the conference contact Consumer Congress, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1V 0DH; Tel: 071-730 3469.

Wages for Housework Campaign is sponsoring a National Conference entitled "Scrap the Child Support Act" on Saturday 20 February 1993 from 10am - 6 pm at Kingsway College, Sidmouth Street, London WC1. For further information contact the Kings Cross Women's Centre; Tel: 071-837 7509.

A Pan-European Black Women's Conference is being held on 15-18 April 1993 at Goldsmiths College in London. The conference is being held to set up a permanent Black Women's Network to act as a forum from which to develop strategies to resist racism and the oppression of women. The event will be attended by Black women

from all over Europe and is open to all Black women of African, Asian, Latin American, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, etc... origin. The conference organisers urgently require volunteers to help with the various tasks. For more details please contact: Nilgun Canver or Umran Beler: c/o Islington Town Hall, Upper St, London N1; Tel 071-477 3133.

The Forum Bantes Deutschland SOS Rassismus are holding a meeting of European anti-racist organisations in Berlin from 19-21 February 1993. For further information contact: National Union of Students - NUS (Martin Lindsay); Tel 071-272 8900.

MRAX and United for Intercultural Action are sponsoring a Worldwide UN-Day Against Racism in remembrance of the Sharpeville massacre and European anti-racist action day throughout the week of 21 March 1993. For further information contact MRAX; Tel 32 2 2182371.

The Council of Europe Minority Youth Committees have organised an international seminar entitled "The new look of Islam of Europe" which will be held in the Netherlands from 11-18 April 1993. Contact CEMYC; Tel 31 2550 37438.

The Refugee Council Rijnmond (RCR) in Rotterdam has organised an international congress for everyone involved in refugee issues. The Congress will take place in the World Trade Centre in Rotterdam on the 24th and 25th March 1993. The congress aims to make concrete recommendations for pan-European policies regarding refugees and asylum seekers. For further information, contact Mrs. B. van Zoggel (Project Manager), VWR, Postbus 3000, AA Rotterdam, Nederland. (tel: 31-010-452 3911)

Statewatch Bulletin has organised a conference in conjunction with CARF, the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, London CRS Political Committee, Newham Monitoring Project, ILPA, and Liberty to

provide information and analysis on the emerging European state in the areas of racism, immigration, policing, civil liberties, security and intelligence etc. The conference will be held on Saturday 27 March 1993, from 10am - 6pm at the University of London Students Union, Malet Street, London WC1. Registration for individuals & community groups £6, unwaged £2, funded groups £10, institutions £20. For further information contact Statewatch, PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW, Tel: 081-802 1882

The European Trade Union Confederation have organised an international seminar entitled "Racism and xenophobia - How young trade unionists can respond to the rise of this problem in Europe" which will be held in The European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 18-25 April 1993. Contact ETUC; Tel 32 2 2183100.

SCORE (Italy) has recently opened its new office in Rome and has organised a public manifestation in support of Somalians which is scheduled to take place in late February. They are also planning a fundraising pop concert for July 1993. For further information contact SCORE (Italy), via Farini 16, Roma (tel: 064881010).

SCORE (Cymru) is holding its AGM in March. For further information contact SCORE (Cymru) c/o South Glamorgan Racial Equality Council, 8 Williams Court, Trade Street, Cardiff CF1 5DQ Tel (0222) 224097 Fax (02220 229339)

SCORE (Scotland) is launching the publication of a leaflet in March which will outline the effect of the Single European Act on the lives of Black people in Europe. The leaflet will also be available in several different Asian languages. For further information contact SCORE (Scotland), Dharmendra Kanani (Convenor), c/o Westerhailes Management Agency, 86 Dumbryden Gardens, Edinburgh EH14 2NZ.