## Colonialism cause of Mideast crisis

by Michael Dennis Skeet

The roots of the current Iran-Iraq crisis lie as much in past Department of Religous Studies. colonial mismanagement as in religion, so says a British expert on the Middle East.

Stephen Day, British Consul-

the U of A last Wednesday. His visit was sponsored by the

Day has been a diplomatic advisor to the former British protectorate of Aden and the assistant head of the Middle East General in Edmonton, spoke at Department of the British Foreign Office.

It is too easy, Day said, to view religion as the cause of troubles in the Middle East, just as

One of these misconceptions concerns religion and its effects on it is simplistic to view the various daily life and international arab states as one homogenous relations. What corruption and Arab World. Westerners, he said, inefficiency exist in the middle hold some astonishing mis- east are legacies of the decaying

ference said self-defense is the

only way to combat this racist and

fascist violence. One delegate

criticized the non-violent stand of

you, what are you going to do, - just lie there and take it?" he

were based on the Marxist-

Leninist philosophy that the rich are to blame, and that violent

actually were, one Marxist-

people that own the big cor-

porations, and people like univer-

resistance is necessary.

'If a cop is laying the boots to

The speakers' arguments

When asked who the rich

passive resistance.

asked.

conceptions about the Middle Ottoman empire and the Euro-pean imperialism of the 19th and 20th centuries, Day suggested, not of Islam.

> Nor is, Islam the primary cause of discord in the field of international affairs, he said. An example is the current conflict between Iran and Iraq.

> On the surface, the longstanding differences between the Shiite and Sunni sects could be seen as the motivating force behind the war, but this is not the The European whole story. colonialists also played their part,

The border between the two countries is a purely arbitrary one. It was drawn up not according to natural or ethnic considerations, but according to the whims and desires of the British and Russians.

Day was frank in his assessment of the results of colonial administration in the Middle East.

The British, he said, made "a terrible hash" of the situation, with the result that Europe lost Leninist replied they are "the free and uncontrolled access to the Suez Canal. What was left was a 'legacy of ill will, of bitterness, that we still have to contend

> Day foresees no easy solution to Middle East problems. He disagrees with contentions that the Middle East is the world's most volatile area, however. The Middle East, he said, is no more dangerous than parts of Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa or Northern Ireland.

The major difference is that events in the Middle East affect every consumer of petroleum products - in other words, nearly everybody.

**Pipeline** 

Continued from page 3. Wells Pipeline are not so much economic (it will only supply one per cent of Canada's oil needs) as

It is granted that the native

The oil companies also have rights, and co-operation between

Rather, each group should

peoples of the north have rights to

the land and should have some say

the two is possible. However, if each side continues to fight the other, nothing is accomplished.

try to pressure the government into action to settle the dispute about aboriginal rights. The land claims issue could be settled in a

two-year period, says Francois

moral.

in how it is used.

## racist evil

The rich are responsible for racist and fascist violence!"

This was the view expressed by the Marxist-Leninists at the Alberta Conference against Racist and Fascist Violence, held November 3rd at the Kinsman Sports Centre.

Speeches were given by the Communist Party of Canada Marxist-Leninist (CPCML), the East Indian Defense Committee, The Alberta Council of Canadian Workers Association, and others.

The main target of the conference was the Ku Klux Klan. Organizers claimed the KKK should have no right to speak and organize. The pamphlet dis-

tributed states that allow "the KKK to organize is to "deprive the people of their basic rights and freedoms.

The group is circulating a petition to ban the KKK. They are organizing a people's front against racist and fascist violence for November 22nd in Vancouver.

In an hour-long speech to about 50 spectators at Sunday's CPC ML leader conference, Hardial Bains said "it is the rich and not the people who are responsible for racist and fascist violence.

He said the rich coerce the workers into being racist to divert them from uniting and overrunning the government by armed

Mr. Bains said our government encourages this violence by not suppressing it.

The government wants the KKK to be organized so they are prepared when the government needs them for armed fascist action, said Bains.

Racism is a product of capitalist bourgeoiste society, said Baines.

He blamed the Canadian government for being fascist and supporting these acts of violence. He called Trudeau a "fascist" who is actually working with Lougheed and all the other polititians to cause strife.

sity presidents. The speakers at the con-

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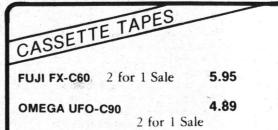


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