

THE WORKER



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CONTRACT REJECTED

T&G for unfettered collective bargaining

THE 2 million-strong Transport & General Workers Union has resisted all threats and cajoling and has voted NO to the Social Contract. At their biennial Conference in the Isle of Man, delegates from all over the country decided on a return to "unfettered collective bargaining" from the beginning of August.

Rejecting the urgings of the platform, the delegates asserted their right to make policy. The union so long described by Fleet Street as "Jack Jones' Union" gave the lie to the idea that a trade union can belong to one man.

This 'emperor' of the labour movement, an architect of the social contract, was arguing that his once-new clothes needed only minor alteration, stylistic changes, while the mass had already come to see that he was wearing not a tattered suit but no suit at all.

The transport workers now line up with the miners behind

the solid ranks of the engineers in rejection of shackles on their right to reject wage restriction. The die was cast by the National Committee of the Engineering Section of the AUEW in May, raising the standard they had so shamefully let fall, the engineers provided, as so often in the past, the rallying point for the whole working class.

Delegates saw only too clearly that without rejection of the 12-month rule there could be no return to collective bargaining, orderly or not. Neither did they accept that their sole concern was the maintenance of a Labour Government at all costs, though some delegates argued for "unfettered" bargaining on the basis that only then could the Labour Government stay in power. This sort of self-deception, while not detracting from the fine stand taken, must disappear in the struggles to come if it is not to destroy them.

Miners nail contract

THE decision taken by the miners during the NUM Conference at the beginning of July was yet one more nail in the coffin of the Social Contract. Miner delegates rejected the Social Contract and decided to seek new rates of pay up to £135 a week. The pay resolution also called for the implementation of new pay rates in November, thus bringing the NUM into conflict with the Government's 12 month pay rule.

As soon as the decision had been made Labour Ministers, obviously in a dither, made their usual pleas, begging them to continue to support the Labour Government by not pressing their legitimate pay demands. The Government is running scared.

What will the miners do? Will they abide by the decisions taken at their sovereign body, Conference, or will they be seduced by sweet words into helping to prop up once more this Labour Government, whose anti-working class record of wage restraint and cuts in public expenditure is increasingly being rejected?

This is not a time to be faint-hearted, and sweet words do not pay the rent. The miners know that the gains of 1972 and 1974 have been whittled away due to their stubborn loyalty to a Labour Government. And as for the scare-campaign being employed by the Labour Government - "Press your claim and you'll let the Tories in" - the miners know better than anyone that changes in capitalist government between Tory and Labour make no essential difference: the attack on the working class goes on. The miners' struggles in 1972 and 1974 helped bring a capitalist Government to its knees, and they can do it again whether their adversary be Labour or Tory.

The NUM Conference also rejected plans to introduce a pit-level productivity scheme and went on to reaffirm the 1974 ballot which came out against such arrangements because it would set miner against miner. Unity has been preserved.

Such principled decisions will require principled action in the future to back them up.

Mass support for Grunwick

OVER 20,000 trade unionists gathered at Grunwick film processing laboratories in North London in support of the ten month strike for union recognition. As early as 7.00 am on the morning of Monday, July 11th the roads leading to the entrance of the firm were blocked with thousands of demonstrators from Kent, Yorkshire, Merseyside, Scotland and almost every other part of Britain. In spite of the 4000 policemen on duty the demonstrators remained orderly and disciplined and after four and a half hours began a march through the streets of Willesden to a mass meeting at Roundwood Park.

The police, a fifth of the Metropolitan police force, attempted a large scale confrontation, using horses for the first time in the dispute. All these attempts were foiled by the determination and discipline of the demonstrators.

The Government, by staging the ugly scenes of violence outside the gates in the past four weeks, is now trying to use the dispute to outlaw mass picketing, one of the basic forms of trade union solidarity. This is echoed by the press and TV calling for a change in the law on picketing to restrict picketing only to those directly involved. No mention is made of course of the mass picket of the police who were drawn from all parts of London and surrounding areas.

The task now is to translate and elevate the mass support for the Grunwick strike into industrial action. So far the Post Office workers are bearing the brunt of such solidarity action. The Cricklewood postal workers are defying the law and the management lock-out by refusing to handle Grunwick mail. They have no illusion on where the law stands and to where their solidarity belongs. Their example has already been followed by other Postal workers.



Part of the mass meeting at Roundwood Park, London, in support of the Grunwick strike.

(Picture by John Sturrock, Report.)

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Liberated Cambodia is doing well

THE imperialists have no fury like that which they reserve for those countries which reject their domination. But their hate campaign against Cambodia oversteps their normal limits. When you add up the numbers of people supposed to have been "eliminated", fallen dead on "forced marches", or just plain "starved" you might wonder if there is anyone left in that country to bury the dead.

In fact, Cambodia is getting on well. She has not collapsed, but is thriving, as any country will once the people throw off the yoke of capitalism and institute their own revolutionary dictatorship - socialism.

With a successful rice harvest in December under their belts, the Cambodian people have set out to achieve their aim of building up a modern industrial base. Agriculture is the foundation on which that industry is based.

A new generation of workers has been rapidly trained to restore industry. Hundreds of workshops and factories are back in production, including textile

and tyre factories and power stations in Pnomh Penh and the machine-building plant at Kbal Thnal.

Cheng An, a liberation war veteran and Chairman of the country's Industrial Committee, told a visiting group of Chinese journalists: "Before liberation, Cambodia was a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country with an industrial foundation so weak that it was dependent on foreign countries for almost any manufactured goods. Most of the negligible industry was destroyed by the traitorous Lon Nol clique during the war. Once the people became masters of the country, they took the initiative into their own hands."

The same spirit of self-reliance and revolutionary determination pervades Cambodia's foreign policy. Recent attempts by the USA to get their finger back in the Cambodian pie under the spurious guise of discussing 'diplomatic relations' have received a sharp snub from the Cambodian people.

matched by NATO's superiority in guided anti-tank missiles. Similarly, propaganda about the Soviet naval build-up neatly fails to mention that the Russian navy has the same number of ships as it did in 1958. It is their power and deployment in the oceans that has changed as the revisionism of the Soviet Union has sought a new empire. No mention is made of the much greater size and power of the British and US navies, which, in conjunction with their land and air bases ranged around the world, can destroy whole populations.

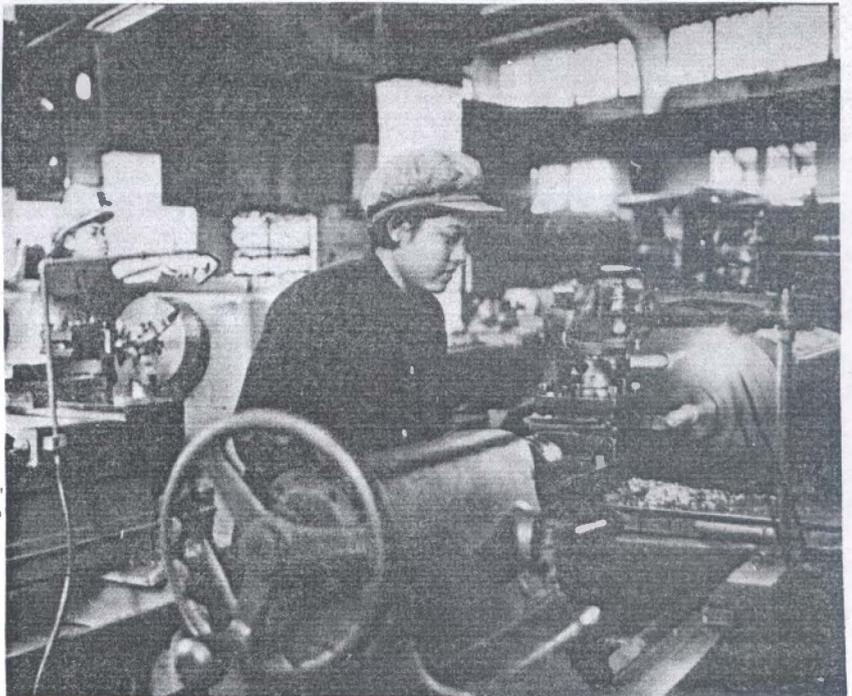
Yet to play the counting game, so beloved of press and TV commentators, is to forget politics altogether and fall into the philosophical trap set by all warmongers.

Not only does the sheer scale of human slaughter render many of these calculations abstract and meaningless, but the utter callousness of such arithmetic merely underlines the obvious: that after two world wars the workers of Europe, East and West, have absolutely no interest in yet another and infinitely more horrific mutual slaughter. The only war we have to fight is against capitalism.

With Britain now contributing a higher proportion of its national product to NATO than other member countries, and with US forces making our country a prime target for nuclear attack, the new war propaganda calls for a clear response from our labour movement: to quit NATO, and declare for socialism as the only guarantee for peace, freedom and independence for the British people.

IN THE period leading up to the just-concluded Japanese elections, which left everything exactly as it was before, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Japan (Left) "The People's Star" denounced parliamentarianism as an attempt to mislead the people and stir up national chauvinism.

It called instead for organisation of the people to denounce the Japan-US Security Treaty. In the struggle against the Japan-US Security Treaty, it called for a revolutionary mass movement for the liberation of the Japanese people.



Women take full part in the building of Cambodian industry.

No third World says Albanian paper

A MAJOR statement on the world situation and revolution was published on July 7th in the Albanian paper Zeri i Popullit (People's Voice). Quoted below are excerpts from this document

"At present, there is a great deal of talk about the division of the world into the so-called 'first', 'second' and 'third' worlds, about the 'non-aligned world', the 'world of the developing countries', the 'north-south world' etc. Each of the supporters of these divisions presents his own 'theory' as the most correct strategy, which allegedly responds to the real conditions of the present international situation. But as Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed at the 7th Congress: 'All these terms, which refer to various political forces acting in the world today, cover up and do not bring out the class character of these political forces, the fundamental contradictions of our epoch, the key problem which is predominant

today on a national and international scale, the ruthless struggle between the bourgeois-imperialist world on the one hand, and socialism, the world proletariat and its natural allies on the other.'

"To speak in general terms about the so-called 'third world' as the main force of the struggle against imperialism and the revolution, without making any distinction between the genuine anti-imperialist and revolutionary forces and the pro-imperialist, reactionary and fascist forces in power in a number of the developing countries, means a flagrant departure from the teachings of Marxism-Leninism....

"Lenin and Stalin always considered the revolutionary task of the proletariat of a socialist country, not only as making every effort to develop socialism in its own country, but also as supporting the revolutionary and liberation movements in the other countries in an all-round

way. "The objective conditions are becoming ever more favourable for the revolution in the developed capitalist countries. There the proletarian revolution is now a problem taken up for solution.

"The other major trend of the world revolution in our time is the national liberation movement of the peoples, which is spearheaded against imperialism, neocolonialism and colonial vestiges.

"Europe, too, must and will pass through the proletarian revolution. Whoever loses sight of this perspective, whoever fails to make preparations towards this end, but advocates that the revolution has moved to Asia and Africa and that the European proletariat must join its own 'wise and good bourgeoisie' on the pretext of defending national independence, he is in an anti-Leninist position and is for neither the defence of the homeland nor the freedom of the nation. Whoever 'forgets' that both the Warsaw treaty and NATO must be combatted, that both the Comecon and the Common Market must be rejected, takes their side and becomes their slave."



Delegates to the Conference of Albanian Trade Unions admire the achievements of socialism in Albania. The banner reads Long Live Comrade Enver.

Peace through revolution

NEWS of the US Government's development of the neutron bomb and its decision to proceed with the manufacture of the 'cruise' missile, have re-emphasised the utter savagery of the arms race and the charade of the NATO/Warsaw Pact SALT talks. As the latest development in weapons of mass destruction, both the 'cruise' and the neutron bomb exemplify capitalist military thinking. The neutron bomb has been designed to kill people through the release of massive doses of radiation, but with the minimum damage to property. "Cruise", on the other hand, has been conceived as a 'low cost - high yield' weapon, designed to achieve maximum destruction at the lowest possible cost.

As the coming round of SALT talks aim to formalise the military domination of Europe by two competing armed camps, a carefully orchestrated propaganda campaign has been mounted to camouflage the real issues involved. On the one hand the legitimate desire of the peoples of Europe for peace is being equated with an achievement of a 'fair' balance of terror between the two armed camps (both of which are anti-people). On the other hand, especially in Britain, every effort is being made to distort facts in an attempt to show a growth of Warsaw Pact forces which threatens to engulf the whole of Europe. What is conventionally forgotten in all this, however, is any mention of the destructive power of an equality, if not more, predatory NATO.

For instance, NATO military spending is substantially higher than that of the Warsaw Pact. NATO has about 5,700,000 men under arms as opposed to the 4,300,000 in the Warsaw Pact. On the central European front, (the focus of all modern wars) NATO's disadvantages in men and aircraft are more than offset by other factors. Thus while much is being made of the great Russian tank threat, this is more than

EDITORIAL

PRIME Minister Callaghan, in a fit of optimism about the future of the country and, what matters to him much more, the future of the Labour Government has called for a Programme of National Recovery to guide Britain's social and industrial regeneration in the 1980's.

As far as the future of the Labour Government is concerned he was basing his optimism on the effect of North Sea oil on the balance of payments, on the continuation of the Lib-Lab alliance and on squeezing a third round of voluntary wage cuts out of the unions.

The last of these conditions is looking pretty shaky and that could affect the alliance which the Liberals have made conditional on the Government's being able to negotiate a third year wages contract.

We workers say here and now that, while we have the liveliest concern for the survival and regeneration of an industrial Britain fit for workers to live in, we don't care a damn for the survival of this or any other capitalist government. If our organised working class, in rejecting a social contract we ought never to have agreed to anyway, brings down one capitalist government to allow another to take its place, then as soon as that next capitalist government begins legislating chains for our class, as it did before, we shall smash it too.

North Sea oil bonanza?

The Prime Minister's optimism for Britain is also based mainly on North Sea oil which in five years' time is expected to benefit Britain to the tune of £7 billion a year.

Benefit Britain! It will benefit the multi-national oil companies whose profits will soar astronomically. It will benefit the international financiers who will take advantage of Britain's surplus position to pour hot money into the country for a quick kill. For Britain it only means the wasteful squandering of a limited source of energy for immediate profits. In capitalist hands the Great North Sea Oil Bonanza will do no more for the British worker than the South Sea Bubble.

When the Prime Minister says that the income from North Sea oil can be invested in revitalising British industry he lies in his teeth. It is not a shortage of funds that explains the starving of British industry of investment: not when Britain is the world's second largest exporter of investment capital. The only way British industry could become an attractive investment possibility for capital would be if it were manned entirely by unpaid, unorganised slaves,

No recovery under capitalism

In fact, the Prime Minister practically admits this when he sets forth his Programme for National Recovery. Is there any mention of an expansion of education and health services to provide healthy, trained workers for these "revitalised" British industries? There is not. Instead he says that "dependence on the welfare state needs to be rethought. It is no substitute for individual and family responsibility. There should be more voluntary aid and help since there is a great pent-up stream of voluntary good will available to be used to supplement the basic structure of state aid." This idea of replacing social services by charity is also Mrs Thatcher's line exactly.

Is there provision for the proper recognition of the unions, the mass organisations of the workers who will man the "regenerated" industries? There is not. Instead he talks about the need "for individual rights to be protected against the great bureaucracies", presumably a scab's charter for places like Grunwick.

And what are the proposals for "revitalising" British industry? More power is to be given to the National Enterprise Board whose chairman, Lord Ryder, has just resigned because he saw no future for it: state industries which have already been turned into profit-making concerns at the public's expense and which can be used to enforce a government pay code even without a contract are to be expanded and diversified; and, in spite of the proof that co-operative ventures cannot thrive in a capitalist climate, a new agency is to be set up to develop workers' co-operatives which will bear about as much resemblance to real workers' co-operation in their own interests as the Bullock proposals do to real workers' control.

Our only future is socialism

Callaghan's future prospect may delight capitalists but it holds out nothing for workers but a continuous slide into poverty and destitution while Britain is turned into a kind of fascist workhouse.

But we have our own Programme of National Recovery. What is needed are workers with the will and the skill to develop further the industries they built to begin with and a country rich in potential wealth, mineral and agricultural, which those workers are free to transform. Both we have in abundance. Capitalism cannot find work for millions of workers and misuses the efforts of the rest to satisfy greed for profits rather than to meet people's needs. Capitalism is incapable of developing and preserving natural resources for the good of the people. It can only waste and destroy in its insensate rush for quick returns.

Our Programme of National Recovery: Get Rid of Capitalism!



Chairman of the Cricklewood branch of the Union of Post Office Workers outside the locked gates of Cricklewood sorting office. (Picture by Derek Speirs, IFL.)

Hands off Zimbabwe

INTERNATIONAL monopoly capital, spearheaded by two of its most aggressive and extensive predators, the USA and Britain, is trying desperately to retain one of its more profitable bases, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), in the face of an upsurging people's guerrilla war.

The latest ploy to save Zimbabwe for capitalism is the proposal of a three-point plan: a plan which clearly shows the contempt of those putting it forward for the national independence to which

they pay lip service. There are to be tripartite negotiations on an independence constitution; but a properly independent nation, after winning its freedom, will make its own constitution without eager 'advisers'. There is a proposed fund for an independent development; but this would put the nation in debt to the USA and Britain at once and tie the future development to the schemes of capitalist countries. And, finally, there is a proposed peacekeeping

force. May we ask what peace there is to be kept under Smith's racist rule? Africa will not have forgotten the UN "peacekeeping force" of 1960 in the Congo and its efforts to make Patrice Lumumba rest in peace.

The Zimbabwe people will reject this plan and its insulting threats of dependence, repression and continued fascism and will continue their just struggle for national integrity and independence.

Fight Holland report

With the acceptance by the Government of the main principles embodied in the Holland Report, the fight is now really on to defend skill and technical education.

The Report concerns the "rationalisation" of the Government's various job programmes, training courses and opportunity schemes. Soon to be rigidly centralised under the control of the Manpower Services Commission, the various "ad hoc" organisations and agencies will be united in their attack on technical skill.

The philosophy behind the Report is that youth unemployment will become a permanent feature of the "Golden Decade" of the '80s. It seeks to ensure the rundown of industry and its skills by undermining both the established stan-

dards of industrial and commercial training and the educational institutions in which these are achieved.

The falsely-named "skill centres" are to increase their encroachment on the Further Education sector, providing shorter courses with less-skilled and overworked instructors instead of properly qualified and trained teachers.

As an incentive for children to leave school, the Report proposes a payment of £18 per week for young people on any of these Manpower Services courses - bribing children to give up full time further and part-time education.

TUC cooperation with the Government on the Holland Report in order to "help the unemployed"

is as dangerous and misguided as their general collaboration with the Government over the "Social Contract" in order to "maintain standards of living". For this Report, with its attack on apprenticeships and the hard-fought for traditional training methods, will only be implemented to the extent that the Trade Unions permit it.

In the face of Government acceptance, the unions must take up the fight to protect this vital part of our industrial future. Our resistance must be based on opposition to Holland's premier assumption, that the young are a problem and that they are surplus to requirements. If the ruling class no longer offers a future to our children, we must no longer offer a future to the ruling class.



Engineering workers on picket duty outside Desoutters in North London. The six week old strike by toolmakers is for the recognition of the AUEW. (Picture by Andrew Walrod, Report.)

Workers must defend Britain's integrity

DEVOLUTION is a recent weapon of attack on the British working class to divide the class into three segments. In this way it becomes easier to exploit the class in the name of so-called different sovereign nations within the British Isles. This is a deliberate attack on our class since the ruling class finds British working class organisations thorns in their flesh. Their evil plans are to weaken the working class so that they can get away with the destruction of industry and skill, carry out cuts in public expenditure and export their capital abroad.

United Struggle

The working people of Scotland, Wales and England have over 400 years of united struggle against the employers. The first red flag was flown in Wales, and in 1830's Scottish workers took a leading role in the founding of a union for the cotton industry for the whole of Britain. During the 1840-50's, a sense of belonging to national unions was expressed through the Grand National Union of Spinners, the Grand Consolidated Trade Union. The same outward-looking attitude was extended to the political field, from the reform movement to the early 19th century, such as solidarity demonstrations after the Peterloo Massacre, to the consolidation of the labour movement at the end of the century. The Chartist Struggle was waged all over the country.

In the 1960's, North Sea oil had become the salvation for the

Scottish National Party; when the oil has only less than 15 years' life. To international monopoly capitalism the oil is seen as a gift horse, to whom the SNP has offered virtual free rein in investment and control. Already, (outside Canada) US investment is greatest in Scotland and double that in the rest of Britain. More jobs were lost due to redundancies in the electronic and power industry than were created by North Sea oil or related industry. There has also been a complete failure of oil companies to set up oil-related industry such as petrochemicals. Another feature is the shift of capitalist investment away from socially useful but less profitable manufacture, to oil production. An American financial journal was quoted a couple of years ago as saying that the oil multinationals are "standing in the forefront of the fight against socialism in Britain". It would seem that they have quite an interest in the dismemberment of Britain. Archetypal Scot, Sir Hugh Fraser, when introducing 200 businessmen to the SNP, said that the Scottish Council for Development and Industry supports devolution as an antidote to Scotland's "shocking record of industrial relations".

Devolution lie

As oil could delude the Scots workers into believing the promises of wealth from the oil, so in Wales devolution feelings are aroused by groups called

'Cymdaithas Yr Iaith', the Welsh Language Society, and Plaid Cymru. Their devolution Wales will be as the feudal period prior to the Tudors. At the same time they are very proud of the Welshness of the Tudors. The recent corruption trial of Labour councillor Julian Hodges, an owner of Commercial Bank of Wales and Reliant Car Company, along with others give Plaid Cymru a chance to show that they are an alternative to the Labour Party as they are 'pure socialist'. It is not surprising that the literal meaning of 'devolution' in Welsh is 'over-abundance of lies'.

Class Destruction

The role of imperialism is to divide nations such as Germany, Korea, Palestine, Congo, Cyprus and now Britain on the pretext that these countries were always divided into two or more parts.

Devolution, like the EEC must not be taken by our class as merely an increase in bureaucracy but as a passport to the destruction of the British working class by the multinationals. As Stalin put it, "It means that support must be given to such national movements as tend to weaken, to overthrow imperialism, and not to strengthen and preserve it."

If we have devolution today, there will be separation tomorrow and annexation the next. Opposition to devolution is to save Britain for British workers, for the socialist Britain where the culture and language of the people will be preserved and developed without the exploitation of the capitalist class. The working class is the only custodian of our national sovereignty, which can only come through the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Medway meeting

A LIVELY meeting took place on July 6th in Rochester, as local workers discussed the implications of the day's news. The Miners and the Transport and General had just thrown out the Social Contract; the Cricklewood postmen, suspended for refusing delivery to Grunwick, had continued work. With such strength and principle in our class, why had we ever accepted wage restraint in the first place? And what would come next, now the major unions had thrown it out of the window? Many contributions were made on these questions.

During the 1st World War, when it was clear that the women of Russia wanted their sons and husbands back from the front, the Government issued the call: "Hand in your pots and pans, we'll melt them down into bullets and soon win the war". The Bolsheviks alone said, "That's the way to make the war last longer. Only a mutiny, a Revolution, will stop this war." Two years ago our people were alarmed at the prospect of the biggest lockout in history, the closing down of a whole industrial nation, and were ready to listen to the voices in their own ranks who claimed, "Only by ceasing struggle, only by accepting a cut in your standard of living, will you save Britain and woo back capitalism to invest here." Our Party was alone in its headline, "Revolt against restraint. Only socialism will save Britain." Wage restraint was a false answer to a real problem, like handing in pots and pans to end a war.

WORKER INTERVIEW

Occupation at Weir

WEIR Maternity Hospital stands in the front line in the defence of health service jobs in South London, and in the refusal to accept the destruction of our health service. The Area Health Authority in their attempts to close Weir as a hospital and use it as administrative offices have been met by an occupation, a refusal to accept redundancies or 'reorganisation' which is a disguise for an attack on workers. The latest development in the Weir dispute is the suggestion by the AHA that Weir may rather be used as a geriatric hospital. This would mean that some of the existing staff might be maintained in employment but this is not good enough for those in occupation. THE WORKER interviewed a NUPE member at Weir Hospital who is deeply involved in the dispute.

Question: It is NUPE who have principally made a stand in resisting the closure of this hospital - who amongst those now working here are NUPE members?

Answer: A great many. Take the nurses for example. When the AHA first threatened closure without a guarantee of jobs for those employed at Weir, a number of non-NUPE nurses took fright and left. Many of those remaining joined NUPE. The occupation now has the support of nearly all workers in the hospital, including internal administrative officers and doctors, but excluding AHA staffs.

Q: There are already AHA staffs working here?

A: Two wards full. Make no mistake about this: two recently upgraded and modernised wards were taken over as AHA offices at an early stage before even we were warned that Weir was to be closed as a hospital. We are in no way opposed to AHA workers, but we must continue to refuse them access to canteen and other facilities since we know that the continued transfer of AHA staffs to this hospital is the means by which the AHA hopes to ensure the disintegration of our services and loss of our jobs.

Q: You will only be able to continue the occupation effectively as long as the patients are here; what does this mean to you?

A: Unlike EGA, where geriatric patients may be nursed for years to come, Weir depends on a continuing turnover of short-stay patients - pregnant women. As long as there are patients here we are in a strong position, but if they stop arriving, if they are discouraged from having babies here or GP's are discouraged from referring them, we will be occupying an empty shell against the AHA. At present though there are plenty of patients, so many that - ironically and disturbingly - non-union agency nurses are being employed in place of those who left at the first threat of closure. The support of patients, however, is tremendous and invaluable. Nobody is fooled by red herrings about decreasing birth rate, especially in Balham.

Q: This seems to be a case of those employed in the service, those who use it, and the local community united in outrage at an explicit and calculated attack on themselves. Is there a lesson to learn here?

A: We can't fight, any of us, once our service is destroyed. We have to outrightly refuse cuts as and where they are threatened or announced. We should have learnt from the mistake of originally accepting the social contract that we can only fight on our own terms.

An independent Britain - No to EEC

THE following resolution was passed by the Brighton Branch of the electricians' and plumbers' union, the EEPTU, and sent to Brighton Hove and District Trades Council. A similar resolution was also sent to the Executive of the EEPTU.

"For an Independent Britain. No to the EEC.

THIS Trades Council believes British membership of the Common Market has been a disaster in economic terms and more importantly is a threat to the Independence of Britain as a Nation.

We believe this question should be raised again within the Trade Union movement and that we should have our own referendum to decide the issue."

Public Meeting

CAMBRIDGE

The Fight for Health

To be held at the Portland Arms, Mitcham's Corner, Chesterton Road, Cambridge on Tuesday, July 26th at 8.00 pm.

Bookshops

FOR THE INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY by Kim Il Sung. Hard back 30p + 30p post.

Can be obtained at:

Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5

Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton

Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road St. Philips, Bristol

Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, Leeds

For list of books, pamphlets, cards etc. from Korea, write to the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London, NW5.

'The Worker' 155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5
£2.50 for 24 issues (including postage)

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

Initial success for Kent teachers

FROM the first day of their Sanctions campaign, Kent teachers have shown that industrial action can lead to improved education for our children. NUT members in Gravesham Association began operating "No-cover" and "Class size" action on June 1st. Immediately, the Kent County Council gave the go-ahead for supply teachers to be employed in action schools with classes over 35. Thus the action has led directly to the employment of 8 extra teachers.

Along with this success, other NUT Associations in Kent are due to begin sanctions from September. Medway, Thanet and Gillingham, in particular, are ready and waiting, and feeling in these Associations is running high.

The Kent NUT action is being fought on two immediate grounds. Firstly, against a specific cut in staffing provision in Gravesham and Medway, amounting to £65,000. Secondly, for an across-the-board improvement in staffing levels in schools throughout Kent, which are at present among the worst in the country.

Also, despite this action being taken to improve staffing levels, Kent schools have already been attacked by the twin evils of 'natural wastage' and 'redeployment'. Last year 44 teaching posts were lost from Kent primary schools and this year the Authority aims to cut another 92. These cuts are less

dramatic than sackings, but pose just as great a threat to our education service in the long run. To its credit, Gravesham Association has passed a motion by a massive majority, firmly opposing any reductions in staffing at present, whether rolls are falling or not. And it has implemented this to the full. The Authority tells us that 15 schools in Gravesham are 'overstaffed'. Yet despite all the threats and cajoling by KCC, not one teacher (in any union or none) has volunteered for transfer. Similarly, in schools where staff are leaving and not being replaced, the Association is attempting wherever possible to treat the post as an unfilled vacancy for the purpose of the sanctions campaign.

This approach has now to be adopted throughout Kent, to show that our determination to fight for improved staffing means first, and at the very least, maintenance of every single teaching post - falling rolls or not!

No comment

"NO 41 Royal Commando, now withdrawn from Malta, is not to be disbanded. Reversing the Government's decision in the 1975 Defence Review, Mr. Mulley, Secretary of state for Defence, announced in the Commons yesterday that the commando will be stationed in the United Kingdom and made available to Nato. It will also be used in the infantry role in Northern Ireland."