

UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS STUDENTS APPRENTICES
UNEMPLOYED IMMIGRANT AND SCHOOL YOUTH

KEEP LEFT

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THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS
YOUTH SECTION OF THE
WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY



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WE DEMAND



Jobless youth from Liverpool demonstrating against unemployment on the 25,000 strong march through London last week called by the north west TUC. They were part of a big delegation brought by the Young Socialists from Merseyside. The fight for the Right to Work now faces hundreds of thousands of young and older workers and students as the capitalist slump deepens. The London area Young Socialists will be holding a demonstration for the Right to Work on January 3—advance details are on page 2.

JOBS

Founding Conference of Revolutionary Youth

Four pages of reports, pictures and interviews from delegates from some of the 18 countries who attended the conference in London last week. See pages 3-6. More interviews in Keep Left next week.

KEEP LEFT SAYS TERRORISM CANNOT BEAT TORIES

THE killing of right-winger Ross McWhirter has been the signal for every reactionary to scream for 'shooting on sight', the return of hanging and even more sweeping state powers than the anti-terror laws.

Home Secretary Roy Jenkins has stated that he would feel no sympathy for terrorists 'shot in the act'. He added, 'It would not be right for me to announce all operational plans that the police may have in hand.'

Jenkins' statement is not only the clearest hint that more extensive arming of the police is on the way — with 'shoot to kill' instructions; it is also a virtual invitation to right wing vigilantes to take to the streets.

What happens if someone is shot dead by an enthusiastic policeman or patriotic individual because they thought he was 'in the act' of terrorism?

Ross McWhirter was the most reactionary Tory. But shooting him has only played into the hands of his right-wing allies. The Young Socialists stand opposed to such acts of terrorism for this reason. Terrorism can never defeat Toryism.

Anti-terror laws

The McWhirter killing comes also as the Prevention of Terrorism Act is being renewed in Parliament. The so-called anti-terror laws were passed last November in the midst of the hysteria created by the Birmingham pub bombings.

The Birmingham bomb case revealed a National Front sympathiser and an informer — a man who was harbouring Kenneth Littlejohn who robbed banks in Southern Ireland in order to discredit the IRA on behalf of British intelligence.

There was also the case of Kenneth Lennon who told the National Council for Civil Liberties that he was employed by the police to encourage Irishman to commit acts of terrorism in Britain. Soon after he was found in a ditch — shot in the head.

The question of who killed McWhirter and who lets off the bombs remains unanswered. The capitalist papers such as the 'Sun' and the 'Daily Express' have carried blazing headlines accusing the IRA but no evidence exists for this.

One thing is certain, whoever is carrying out these acts, they aid only the Tories and their allies. The Tories always intended the anti-terror laws to be permanent and to extend their scope to cover left-wing groups. Their allies in the Parliamentary Labour Party have aided and abetted them in this task.

Roy Jenkins at the time the original Bill was passed said: 'I shall certainly add to the list of political organisations of whatever complexion, if necessary.'

Since the passing of the anti-terror laws, unopposed by any Labour MP, there has been a consistent campaign by the authorities to link legitimate working class organisations with terrorism.

By far the most serious incident has been the raid, the biggest political raid since the war on the WRP education centre. The raid was part of an attempt to frame-up the WRP and associate it with terrorism.

The scope of the anti-terror legislation must not be forgotten. People who have nothing to do with Irish politics can and have been picked up.

Southampton

In Southampton a fortnight ago the house of a docks shop steward was raided and he was taken at gunpoint.

These are the kind of the absolute powers the police have been given and want to consolidate. Terrorism in the act is described as 'violence for political ends'. Are strikes and picket lines then also to be added to the list?

The Shrewsbury Two were described by the Tory Press as 'vicious-arrogant thugs' for picketing — were they terrorists?

Raising money or holding meetings 'or any other form of support' for people so defined as terrorists would make you liable for six months jail.

The Young Socialists warn that these laws are not separate from the other preparations of the state. The increased harassment of the youth, the use of the Special Patrol group against so called muggers and the introduction of identity cards at football matches.

The conspirators of the Labour government must be forced to resign to make way for a new general election to be fought on socialist policies. Part of the programme for uniting all sections of the working class must be the immediate repeal of the anti-terror laws, the conspiracy laws and all other anti-working class legislation.

STUDENTS BAN FRONT THUGS

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

LAST Sunday a gang of about 40 National Fronters violently broke up a meeting of the National Council for Civil Liberties in Manchester.

NCCL solicitor Tony Casson has described the attacks as 'well planned and vicious'. The Front assault, he said, was made before the meeting had really got under way and when only 30 genuine members of the audience were present.

The meeting at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) had been called to discuss 'The State, the Law and Ireland'.

The NF thugs opened their assault on the meeting shortly after Tony Casson had started speaking.

Assaulted

They threw bottles at the platform and then assaulted members of the audience, throwing chairs and breaking windows. One of the first to be hit was the 60-year-old mother of NCCL member Rock Tansey, a barrister.

At least six people were injured. Two of them, Malcolm Peach and Graeme Atkinson were taken to hospital. Mr Peach suffered a severe eye injury and broken arm after being viciously assaulted, thrown to the ground and kicked about the head and body. Mr

Atkinson was hit in the face with a bottle—he had to have 19 stitches.

Final damage to the hall has been assessed at more than £1,200.

Thirty of those taking part in the assault were arrested as they marched to their coach chanting NF slogans. They have not been charged with anything yet.

This attack on the NCCL raises serious questions about the activity of the police and the extreme right wing.

Trouble

Mr Bill Watson, one of the organisers of the meeting said they had sensed there was going to be trouble when these 40 or so people came in a body into the hall and we decided to phone for the police. At that time only about 30 other people were present.

Yet the police apparently did not arrive until the Front thugs were on their way back out of the building, their attack completed.

The self-styled 'anti-terrorists' and liberty lovers of the capitalist Press have made no hysterical outcry about this savage and apparently premeditated attack on the rights of a civil liberties organisation to hold its meetings.

Had any organisation in the working-class movement or left-wing political organisation made an attack

like this the outcry would have been blazoned across every front page and in every news bulletin. Charges would have been made at once and bail refused.

Another question is the huge publicity and outcry last year after the National Union of Students had resolved at its national conference to ban all fascists and racists from campus, college and universities throughout the country. Great play for the freedom of speech for the Front were heard from all corners.

The Front has no intention of allowing freedom of speech for working class or civil liberties organisations. Police statements after the attack claimed that none of the victims of the attack was seriously injured. This is completely untrue.

Banned

The UMIST students' unions has now decided that all National Front members and all fascist and racist organisations will be banned from the union building.

Peter Wragg, students' union president, said that the union has been contacted by other universities and colleges about the incident.

Wragg added that the incident should be published through an inquiry throughout the trade union and labour movement to

expose what the NF is up to. 'There must be a campaign to create awareness of the growth of fascism.'

There will quite rightly be renewed calls from students at their conference this weekend in Scarborough for the ban of fascists and racists to be reimposed nationally.

The executive committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union has deplored the attack on the NCCL. They have supported the NCCL's demand to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins for an inquiry into the attack.

Support

The Young Socialists fully support this demand. We have fought all along with the Workers Revolutionary Party to demand an inquiry by the labour and trade union movement into the circumstances of the raid on the WRP education centre on September 27.

Now this latest attack makes it more urgent that the fight to defend basic democratic rights of all working-class organisations is stepped up. We appeal to all young people to join the Lobby of Parliament on December 9 to demand an answer from Jenkins (see page 8).

The cover-up of these activities must not be allowed to take place. They must be investigated and exposed to warn every worker and young people of the new attacks now being launched.

Young Socialists
DEMONSTRATION
WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK
Sunday January 3
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Delegates singing 'The Internationale' as the final conference session ended

Conscious fight to overthrow capitalist class

Found world party of socialist revolution!

THE collective singing of the 'Internationale' in the languages of the 18 countries represented at the first World Conference of Revolutionary Youth closed a historic week of preparation for the building of the World Party of the Socialist Revolution.

The last day and a half of the conference was taken up with detailed discussions on the lessons of the week's work and the task ahead — building powerful youth sections which will become the revolutionary leadership of the working class.

Each delegation worked out a perspective for this work and reported it back to the entire conference. In many countries plans were laid to bring out Young Socialist papers and campaign with the use of social events, propaganda and sport for mass youth movements. In some cases, like Spain, the work will have to remain underground—but nevertheless it will go ahead, delegates heard.

Before the conference closed an international youth committee was elected which will act as the leadership of the youth movement. A manifesto will be issued on the conference — it will be the result of a wide and searching discussion on the political fight ahead.

THE FIRST World Conference of Revolutionary Youth brought together all the historic achievements of the international working class since World War II, said Workers Revolutionary Party general secretary Gerry Healy in a closing address to the young delegates and visitors from 18 countries.

This conference is a great step forward," he said, "because it is a conference of young people that brings together the lessons of the past history of the international working-class movement and in doing so outlines the way forward for the future."

Healy said it was necessary to appraise the conquests of man throughout history. Philosophy from the ancient Greeks through to Hegel had been idealist philosophy.

"It remained the task of Marx and his close collaborator Engels in 1842 to bring together the idealist philosophy of Hegel into the practice of the class struggle itself. This became known as standing Hegel on his feet."

Marx discovered that the relation between theory and practice was one of unity and conflict — but that before the establishment of conflict there had first to be unity.

"Marx stressed that man changes history and that history changes man — that there was an inseparable unity between man and nature, and in the conflict between man and nature we find the source of development," said Healy.

Marx's great contribution was to bring Hegel's studies of movement of appearance into the practice of the struggle of ordinary men.

In 1848 in his 'Communist Manifesto' Marx described the two main classes in society and declared that the working class was the only progressive class.

This became the basis for the entire modern Marxist movement led and developed by Lenin and Trotsky.

Turning to the development of the Bolshevik Party and the first socialist revolution Healy said:

"In 1902 Lenin in his 'What is to be Done?' said there are only two ideologies in the world — socialist ideology and bourgeois ideology. There is no third ideology."

Conflict

"In the class struggle it is necessary to take socialist theory into the working class who are educated in bourgeois ideology and begin in the working class a conflict between socialist and bourgeois ideology."

Lenin took the 'Communist Manifesto' and brought it into the task of building the revolutionary party itself.

Healy said that a year after 'What is to be Done' the split between the Mensheviks and the Bolsheviks occurred. Menshevism had since represented class-collaboration. Bolshevism the revolutionary forces represented in the conference.

Lenin explained in Rule 1

that it was necessary to accept the authority not only of the national body, but of all local bodies of the Party, to take experience and the theory of the Party into practice.

"Therefore the Bolshevik Party was a unity and conflict of theory and practice, this is summed up in the dialectical procedure of democratic centralism."

"In 1917 the long drawn-out process begun in 1842 was carried forward into the practice of the first socialist revolution in all history."

Lenin, said Healy, saw the success of the Russian revolution resting on the actions of the international working class due to the crisis brought about by World War I.

It was over this central issue of internationalism that Stalin broke from Leninism after Lenin's death saying it was possible to build socialism in a single country.

In this way Stalinism subordinated the strength and independence of the working class throughout the world to the parasitic bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

Usurped

Stalin usurped the rights won by the Soviet working class in the October revolution and built throughout the world caricatures of his own

bureaucracy — now the closest collaborators with the bourgeoisie under the slogan of the peaceful road to socialism.

Therefore the long battle between Trotsky and Stalin was over the highest political conquest of Leninism and the October revolution i.e. internationalism.

The building of 'socialism in one country' ran contrary to the interests of the internationalism of the world working class. The essence of this conference was based upon the most decisive understanding of Marxism, in the development of the international class struggle.

Internationalism

The struggle for internationalism was continued by the early Trotskyist movement. In September 1938 the Fourth International was founded.

Trotsky insisted against reformism and centrist revisionism that there must be a world party of the socialist revolution — for the political revolution in China, Russia and Eastern Europe, which would hand back to the working class their revolutionary gains and rights; and a social revolution in the capitalist countries.

This has been the fight over the last quarter of a century against all those people who try to belittle the decisive role of the

Fourth International — people who are now prostrate before the great revolutionary events that are in front.

Healy said that the last struggle on this question had been at the Essen youth conference in 1971 when the British Young Socialists had insisted that the unity and conflict of Marxist theory and practice must be established as the basis of the revolutionary international of youth.

This was rejected by the French OCI. On that basis a split took place — a split that remains as unbridgeable as that between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks.

This conference represents the highest point of the development of the international revolutionary youth and it is important that we should establish the stage we are at — we are simply at the unity stage. It is the negation of 1842-1845, 1902, 1903 and 1917.

"It is a conference produced out of the struggle against the class enemies and their revisionist allies in some of the most important countries in the world, a struggle that has elaborated the richness of Leninism and Bolshevism, since Trotsky was assassinated in 1940."

"This conference I repeat is a unity. Marx could not have written the 'Communist Manifesto' in 1848 without having completed his break in 1842 from the idealist

philosophy of Hegel and the half way house of Feuerbach going forward to establish the unity and conflict of theory and practice."

"Now we have arrived at the important point of unity — there are many political aspects at this conference that are, taken by themselves, inadequate."

"Now we go back to our countries from this conference and establish this unity in the practice of the class struggle."

"Within a year we must have another conference. We shall organise the most intensive preparations at our cadre schools over the next three weeks for this conference."

"I want finally to stress that the success of this conference is not a coincidence. It comes from the conscious struggle we have undertaken in all the countries to overthrow the rule of the capitalist class."

"Into this struggle we bring all the richness of the lessons of 250 years of class struggle — into the socialist revolution will come all these lessons of class struggle, including the lessons of the great bourgeois revolutions of the 17th century."

"Comrades, we feel that our next conference will not only establish a unity on a higher plane, but that it will be a unity representing all the sections of revolutionary youth all over the world. This second conference is really the founding of the world party of the socialist revolution."

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH

FIGHT FOR REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP IS D

THE BETRAYALS of Stalinism, social democracy and revisionism and the burning need for alternative leadership in the working class all round the world, were the themes of the resumed discussion at the first world conference of revolutionary youth.

Delegate after delegate hammered home the task of building a leadership to prepare the working class for power.

From New Zealand, a student told the conference that the country was in a deepening economic crisis.

The New Zealand Labour government and capitalist class know that the boom is at an end. Their armed forces are cavorting in South-East Asia, training with the repressive armies of Indonesia and Malaysia.

The government is girding for war, internally and externally. It is the task of the youth to prevent this. This can only be done by leading the working class to power, guided by Marxism.

An unemployed Australian youth told the conference how the Whitlam Labour government had allowed dictatorship to occur.

The Labour government was elected three times in recent years. But unemployment rose to 350,000 and inflation to 18 per cent. There is no future in industry and over 500 firms have closed in the last 12 months.

The Labour Party has no policies to defend the working class and youth. Unemployment is the highest since the depression and it could rise to well over 500,000 by Christmas.

The bourgeoisie is desperate. That's why they were forced to instal their man and put the burden of the crisis on the backs of the working class.

Labour leaders and their Stalinist henchmen in the trade unions have held back the working class from a General Strike against the dictatorship. The question of state power and of alternative leadership is posed sharply.

Decisive

A Japanese comrade with the German delegation said: 'I am learning Marxism in this movement to build up a revolutionary leadership in Japan because the Japanese working class, an important part of the world proletariat, has from the start been isolated from Marxism and suffered worst from the betrayals of Stalinism and bloody defeats.'

Today, in conditions of international crisis, the Japanese bourgeoisie is heading for collapse. A Marxist party is decisive for the victory of the Japanese revolution.

Exports have fallen drastically. Thousands of firms have gone bankrupt, including some of the biggest trusts.

Suppression will not be enough for bankrupt capitalism. They are forced to abolish democratic rights and impose direct and total dictatorship and fascism.

The first Spanish delegate in the debate said to cheers and applause: 'In Spain the situation has undergone an important change — the assassin Franco is dead.'

This has happened in a situation of total economic collapse on a world-wide basis. In Spain, the economy is very weak.

The bourgeoisie tries to load the crisis on our backs through wage freezing and an enormous rise in the cost of living and through mass unemployment. There are now 1 million unemployed.

It is precisely the economic crisis and the enormous strength of the working class which has forced the fascist dictatorship into crisis.

'Franco's government was



Audience at the International Conference sing 'The Internationale'

formed over the blood of tens of thousands of workers and maintained by savage repression which it has increased through so-called anti-terror laws.

Through this law, five youth were murdered for being anti-fascist. Hundreds of youth are in jail for months without charges. They are tortured in police stations and many die.

In Spain, the working class has demonstrated its will to fight through political general strikes. But Stalinism has refused consciously to organise the working class independently.

They are trying to destroy the workers' commissions, in order to drive the vanguard of the working class into fascist institutions. They have refused to call a General Strike to bring down the fascist government.

They again try to form Popular Fronts with the Spanish bourgeoisie. But conditions are finished for the domination of Stalinism and social democracy and for this reason the bourgeoisie finds itself in a crisis.

Fundamental

'At this time, when socialism is the only solution for the working class, the construction of an international of revolutionary youth is fundamental.'

'It must be the basis all over the world of a new leadership of the working class which can take the working class to power.'

A young worker from Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, said it was not the 1930s and youth were on the offensive. 'It is not a working class tired through war or depression. It's the complete opposite.'

'But the fight and militancy of workers and youth is not enough to smash the capitalist state machine. The essence of the conference is that we must train youth in dialectical materialism, in the theory of knowledge of the working class.'

The betrayals of Stalinism were analysed by a young comrade from Spain. 'Stalinism tries to cut down all the

struggles of the workers and youth against the fascist dictatorship.'

'But we must not forget that Stalinism world-wide is in crisis and is losing its domination of the working class because of its inability to answer the problems of the youth under conditions of capitalist crisis.'

'That is why this week we are launching the construction of the international of revolutionary youth to prepare the working class for power.'

A delegate from Sweden said the country was held up as a model for social democracy and of neutrality. But the country was run by 'Big Brother' computers with TV cameras manned by police watching everyone's movements.

Repression

'Sweden has a very vicious secret police which collaborates with the CIA. Under these conditions of repression, the government supplies arms to Chile.'

A bank worker from Spain said the sharpening of the economic crisis had brought new layers into the fight, uniting trade union and political struggles, despite the betrayals of the Stalinists and centrists.

'Now they try and channel the mobilisation of the masses behind the demand for a so-called democratic junta, claiming it is a necessary step to go through.'

'It is up to the revolutionary Young Socialists to win workers behind our banner. This conference will give us the understanding with which we can fight in Spain to make possible the socialist revolution.'

'The Chilean comrade was in error when he said the counter-revolution was made possible by lack of security.'

'It was the lack of a revolutionary party which made it possible. With revolutionary leadership there would have been proper security.'

From Canada, a young worker told the conference that the Canadian economy was being

ripped apart by the crisis. It had led the Trudeau government to impose a wage freeze.

'It has led to a tremendous reaction inside the working class, with calls for a General Strike. The role of the revolutionary party is essential at this point.'

'In Canada, like elsewhere, the reformists line up with the capitalist class. We're here to learn how to throw them out and give leadership in these struggles.'

A waitress from Portland, Oregon, said that the revisionist Socialist Workers Party had degenerated to a new stage. It was clearing its political house of every last shred of revolutionary principles.

'Our campaign for a General Strike to force Ford out has left the SWP miles behind. They are forced to resort to lies and slanders against the International Committee.'

'The SWP has taken no stand against the infiltration of its party by police and oppose an investigation into Trotsky's death.'

'All they can see is the strength of capitalism. Because they long ago abandoned dialectical materialism, they cannot see the strength of the working class.'

The Young Socialists had recently been founded in Peru, a power worker from that country told the conference.

Offensive

'The offensive of the working class is headed by the youth who are mobilising the forces of the revolution.'

'The centrists and the Stalinists alike use the real dangers of the CIA as an excuse to try and terrify the working class.'

'Only by training ourselves in the foundations of the Trotskyist movement can we prepare for socialism.'

Monica Feeney of the British Young Socialists said the working class was not prepared to accept dictatorship.

'In Britain we must not be complacent and underestimate the situation. The boom is over

and Britain is one of the weakest links in the capitalist chain.'

'The attack on the WRP is made because the bourgeoisie see the Trotskyist movement as the real leadership of the working class.'

A comrade from Puerto Rico, living in New York, and a member of the American delegation, said the conference posed the need to build a section of the international in his country.

'Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States for 77 years. But the working class is entering new revolutionary battles.'

'The revolutionary party in Puerto Rico must fight against nationalism and reformism which prepares the defeat of the working class.'

Peasantry

A farmer from Greece brought the conference revolutionary greetings from the peasants who were battling with the Karamanlis government.

'The Greek peasantry is up to its neck in debt and is viciously

Talent contest provides e

EXCITING performances from Young Socialists across the world made the international talent revue, held on Wednesday night, highly successful.

Unique

Comrades provided a unique spectacle of entertainment. A Greek comrade (well over six feet tall) gave a dancing exhibition while a comrade from New York (under five feet) showed her skill in gymnastics.

Ju-jitsu was practised by one American comrade on another to loud laughs and applause.

Carl, Korim, Hermann and Derrick of the London Young Socialists performed soul dancing and the 'shuffle' — and were challenged by two New York comrades who also gave a dancing exhibition.

The revue, compered by John Aitkenhead of South London YS and a comrade from New York, included a number of songs.

From America came a moving performance of the Beatles song 'Michelle', two piano-accompanied duets and a solo.

An Australian comrade sang 'House of the Rising Sun', accompanying himself on the guitar.

Singer Maggie Nichols from Britain drew a huge

round of applause when she sang about revolution.

Raid

Paul of Tooting YS was also cheered when he sang a song he had written about the police raid on the Workers Revolutionary Party education centre.

Revolutionary songs from Portugal and Peru were enthusiastically cheered as well as those by the Greek Young Socialists choir.

The German YS choir sang two songs from the revolutionary struggles at the beginning of this century and presented words and

NARY DECISIVE



Above: German delegates at the conference with copies of their new paper 'Links Voran'; below: a section of the British delegation in discussion



exploited by the banks and the middlemen.

The Stalinists, who are terrified of the mass movement, call the peasants anarchists and provocateurs. It is now clear to many peasants that their problems can be solved only in unity with the working class to nationalise the banks, big industry and the middlemen.

Another delegate from Greece spoke of the dangers of war with Turkey. All the capitalist papers attacked the Turkish people as an imperialist enemy.

The world economic crisis had sharpened the conflict between the Greek and Turkish bourgeoisie.

'We are ready to mobilise the youth against all the forces of the Karamanlis government, against a war, for the bringing down of the government and for a workers and peasants government.'

The first delegate from Portugal in the debate said: 'The political situation in Portugal goes forward at a tremendous speed. The capitalist economy is in a deep crisis.'

'Since the overthrow of

fascism we have had six bourgeois governments. The tremendous strength of the working class defeated the last one.

'But for the working class to take power it is necessary to build a revolutionary leadership. The present leadership of the working class is tied to the armed forces. The Socialist Party is for the disarming of workers and the defence of the capitalist state.'

'The Stalinists of the Communist Party want reunification of the armed forces and a military government. The Stalinists, reformists and revisionists prepare to smash workers.'

'Only by building a section of the International Committee of the Fourth International will it be possible to smash the military regime and its reactionary plans.'

'The youth are in the forefront and will fight to the last drop of blood. We recently held the first revolutionary conference of youth in Lisbon and it was a great success.'

xciting entertainment

pictures on a screen at the same time.

Delegates from Australia, Greece, Canada, Sri Lanka, Ireland and Scotland also performed. A Maori fishing song was presented by New Zealand comrades.

Two comrades from Chile performed a dance. They were loudly cheered when they paid tribute to the writer of the dance music — who is now jailed under the Pinochet dictatorship for his beliefs.

Backing

Sharon Dunne of Kilburn YS had backing from electric guitar and organ for an exciting rendering of 'Blue

Suede Shoes

An American comrade played the mouth organ, kazoo and guitar simultaneously!

Fire

The final acts were also exciting. Billy Colville of East London YS defied death, eating and blowing fire.

The Spanish delegation were warmly applauded for a joke about the dictator Franco and a song from the Spanish Civil War.

The evening ended when the Spanish comrades led the singing of the 'Internationale' from the stage.



German delegates perform at the talent contest



American YS ju-jitsu routine

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH

Interviews by Keep Left
Editorial Board

Fight against US imperialism

IN preparation for the First World Conference of Revolutionary Youth the American Young Socialists conducted an intensive campaign on the east and west coasts.

Thousands of dollars had to be raised for our charter plane. This was the biggest challenge we have ever faced. From the struggle we waged 129 young workers, students and unemployed youth were brought to London.

This included a delegation of English and French-speaking youth from Canada.

Huge sums of money were raised from our supporters and activities such as discos and talent shows. Regional conferences were held to discuss the main resolution and prepare amendments on US imperialism, revisionism, Marxism, Spain and Puerto Rico.

The following are interviews with American youth attending the conference.

Paul (17) goes to Denev High School, Brooklyn, New York. He told Keep Left about the conditions in high schools.

'For most high school students the classes are completely overcrowded. There's not enough books so you have to either buy your own or get them from the library.

'We had to sell Stella D'oro cookies to get money for our science classes. The science teachers would decide how it would be used.

Mainly it was put for audio visual equipment but even with the cookie sales, there's still a tremendous shortage of equipment. In my science class there's about 50 kids and some students have to sit on the floors, bookshelves and the tops of desks.

Just for the teachers to get students calmed down takes about 10 minutes out of class time. Then the class has to be taught most through lecture because to discuss with 50 or 60 students is ridiculous.

Destruction

'These conditions get the students bored and fed up with going to classes and then they start cutting. In this way these conditions lead to destruction of the right to education.

'These conditions in the high schools which were present after the teachers were sold out by their union leadership, caused the

students to walk out several times.

'The Young Socialists intervened in these schools with our policies. Although the walkouts were led by students, they lacked any conscious political direction.

'We fought for the students to turn to the teachers for citywide strike action and for the teachers to take the lead for a general strike.

Slump

'The reason for these attacks on our basic rights is due to the whole world slump in capitalism. They can no longer give jobs and there's no reason to educate youth for jobs they don't have.

'The YS in Denery and all the other high schools have been fighting to build the YS in order to build a mass campaign against these layoffs and budget cuts, by using the strength, energy and determination of these students, by turning them to the trade unions and demanding a general strike and building a Labour Party.

'In this Labour Party we would constantly fight for socialist policies and for the working class to take power. We'd have to nationalise the banks, all basic industries so that we have money for education and jobs.'

Dave Kephart is a furniture worker from Portland, Oregon. He told us. 'This conference is vital. It is the first time youth of the world can take the future in their own hands by fighting to take the working class to power.

'It is a conference by youth to defend the rights of youth and to fight for their future.

'In Portland, the unemployment is now about 20 per cent. The police have stepped up a big campaign of terror against the youth.

'Already four unarmed youth have been shot in the back by police. In the smaller towns the unemployment is even worse.

Unemployment

'There has been a complete destruction of the construction industry. In most of the small towns the unemployment is around 25 to 30 per cent.

'Loads of people are flooding to the bigger towns like Oregon to find work.'

'The schools are becoming more and more like prisons. Police wait outside the schools and watch the youth coming into school.

'They are also harassing youth on the streets. It is part of a military practice

against the youth. And it is for these reasons that the conference is so important.'

Shannon Johnson, an economics student said:

'Our campaign in Oregon to throw out Ford is getting a lot of support. Everyone hates Ford. It's not like when they threw out Nixon. Ford is threatening their lives by closing factories and letting the cities like New York go bankrupt.

Jail

'When Ford came to power he announced an amnesty deal for draft dodgers. Thousands gave themselves up and were thrown in jail. He didn't say how they had to complete their term and so they all went to jail.

'He is also trying to blame the crisis on the working class and every worker knows this is nonsense. All workers are outraged in New York as they are allowing it to go bankrupt and many people face unemployment.

Police

'Every day it is becoming more and more apparent that police are stepping up a campaign against the youth.

'In Los Angeles youth face massive

unemployment. Among black youth the unemployment is about 50 per cent.

'The new governor of the state, Brown, is carrying out policies worse than those of Ronald Reagan.

'He's cutting back finances for education and social services. It is becoming clear that the Republicans and Democrats are putting through the same policies.

'The conditions in schools are ridiculous. Police agents dressed up are planted in schools to inform on the students. Any youth under 18 not in school between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. can be picked up and taken to a referral centre.

Blames

'Brown wants to cut education and blames the deteriorating conditions on the teachers. It is now getting very difficult to get money for students.

'They are cutting back special programmes and are no longer encouraging students to go to college.

'Young people are being thrown into enormous struggles and the enormous importance of this conference is to train a leadership in the whole international working class.'

This conference
—absolutely
necessary
for all youth

A delegation of Australian youth travelled over 14,000 miles and before that took part in a fight to raise over \$50,000 to attend the First World Conference of Revolutionary Youth.

The determination that this showed to come to the conference came from an understanding that this conference was absolutely necessary for youth and all workers around the world.

For Australian youth capitalism is providing a future of unemployment and roaring inflation. The capitalist class in Australia has also showed very clearly that it is determined to take away basic democratic rights when the Governor General sacked the legally elected Labour government.

The Labour Party and trade union leadership have shown that they will do nothing about unemployment and inflation.

New we can see that they are not even prepared to defend basic democratic rights.

This is what has made this conference so urgent to build a new leadership internationally. Several members of the Australian delegation spoke to Keep Left about the preparation of the delegation to come to the conference and of what they see as the importance of the conference.

Chris Radford, a student from Sydney said:

'There was a tremendous fight for the money to get to the conference. The bulk of the money was raised in the last three weeks before the conference. This money came because we turned out to the working class.

'Wherever we sold our

papers we sold our bonds, in pubs, at factories and shopping centres and the response was always good.

'On the journey here we found many aspects of the crisis and how it affects working class and poor people.

Shock

'In Bombay we found beggars in the toilets. For someone arriving from a country like Australia this was a real shock.

'At Leonardo da Vinci airport in Italy we had automatic machine guns trained on us and soldiers waiting for us — all under the excuse of protecting people from Arab terrorists.

'The conference is an absolute historic necessity. This is the period for the

world socialist revolution and to build an international leadership.'

Another Australian YS member told us:

'On November 11 the Governor General in Australia sacked the Labour government in Australia and replaced it with a minority bourgeois party, as a "caretaker" government.

'This power grab by the bourgeoisie now opens a new chapter in Australia's period of the post war boom.

'The revisionists' and reformists' philosophy of "exceptionalism" that said that Australia would never be part of the world crisis, now shows the bankruptcy of their theories.

'The world recession is what pushes the Australian capitalist class to

dictatorship and since November 11 the army has been on full alert and all police leave has been cancelled.

'Immediately after the sacking of the Labour government thousands of workers went on strike and demonstrated in the capital cities.

Witch-hunt

'In the last week prominent Tories have been letter bombed — in the right wing's campaign to create the witch hunt against the left through the introduction of the anti-terror laws similar to those in Britain.

'During all these developments the revisionists and the reformists have headed off

the calls at factories and demonstrations for a General Strike and instead have called for public meetings and one-day strikes, which on their own, can only strengthen the dictatorship and lead the working class to defeat.

'Over 215,000 youth leave the schools this month, only 100,000 will be able to find employment.

'This will further lengthen the unemployment queue to half a million jobless.

'But youth and workers are fighting back and raised \$50,000 to send a delegation of 44 youth to the International Youth Conference of the Fourth International to train a leadership that will fight for the World October in Australia.'



Former CIA agent Philip Agee addressed the conference on Thursday night exposing the agency's operations in west Europe.

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE OF REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH

Interviews by Keep Left Editorial Board

Build revolutionary leadership in New Zealand

THE effects of the world economic crisis are now being felt in New Zealand shattering the illusions of all working class youth in the reformist politics of this Labour government.

These Labour Party traitors showed that they are the complete servants of the capitalist class when they threatened to deregister the Auckland Builders' Labourers Union in their dispute over redundancy payments.

The heads of the trade union bureaucracy have now been 'in conference' with the Master Builders Association throughout three months of sackings of carpenters, apprentices and labourers.

In their effort to lay the full cost of the crisis on the backs of the working class and especially the youth, the Labour Party of Bill Rowling attacks not only the trade unions but also the social services fought for and built by the working class during the post-war boom.

Spending on education has been cut over the last three years by 30 per cent, and spending on public transport cut by 25 per cent in the last year. And a crippling 40 per cent in government spending on Auckland hospitals was made this year.

The huge borrowing programme has been used

to prop up the rotting capitalist system and put off the threat of mass sackings until after the elections on November 29.

Now that the loans from the international bankers have reached nearly a year's gross national product, the flow of money has been cut off at its source — the bankers are now crying for even more vicious attacks on the trade unions and on the basic rights of the working class.

Broken

The capitalist class insists that the strength of this working class must be broken and the Labour Party bureaucrats seek the quickest way to carry out their orders.

Two large government departments are cutting back on their intake of school leavers by 50 per cent.

Bill Rowling is preparing even tougher anti-union laws than those devised by the National Party Tories. The setting up of labour camps for the unemployed has been announced.

But this Labour government has been set a task impossible to carry out without the assistance of the trade union leadership.

These traitors within the working class movement now must lie and mislead

constantly in order to hide from the working class the knowledge of its strength.

In a wave of strikes throughout the country — in the freezing works, in the banks, in the transport and related industries and in the merchant navy — the working class is now coming forward determinedly to fight to defend the right to work, the right to decent housing, the right to a decent standard of living and to a full education for all.

But in all these struggles it has been the crisis of leadership which has been most clearly demonstrated.

Through the splitting of struggles into isolated disputes, through the lowering of wage demands and through the direct opposition of combined union leaderships against a militant rank and file, the Stalinists and reformists sell out the struggle at every turn.

From the need to build and train a leadership

dedicated to the fight for socialist policies and for the overthrow of the capitalist system the working class of New Zealand has sent a delegation of six youth to the International Conference of Revolutionary Youth.

We must fight to learn the greatest possible lessons from the comrades present at this conference from all over the world.

We must fight for an understanding of the significance of this

conference and of the sacrifices made to build it.

We must participate actively in making this the founding conference of the World Revolutionary Youth movement.

And we shall go forward from this conference able and determined to build the Young Socialists and to build new sections of the International Committee of the Fourth International and to lead the working class on the road to the world socialist revolution.

Irish YS—fight against capitalism is international

MEMBERS of the Irish Young Socialists explained why they fought to bring a delegation to the IYC and how they raised the funds and the reasons why it was possible.

'We saw that by sending a delegation of youth to this conference the Irish working class was taking a tremendous step forward by uniting with other youth of the world.

'It would bring about the realisation to the Irish youth that it was not only themselves that were living in a crisis but also youth from every country in the world.

'From that then they would see that the only way in which this crisis would end was by uniting with another and fighting together against it.

'This was particularly important to the youth of Ireland. With the threat of civil war in the north, a lot of youth tended to separate their own problems from the whole. This left them open to all sorts of traps that would only betray them and never bring them forward.

'The working class in Ireland when we pointed out the need to unite workers internationally, we found that workers came forward

and made contributions.

'Most of the money we collected was from both young workers, and old, also from many school students.

'As it is always being pointed out, it is the youth who bear the brunt of the crisis, unemployment, through the lack of youth facilities and the cut backs in education.

'Over the past few years, the crisis has been going from bad to worse and workers everywhere feel this and are ready to fight against it.'

Mick Keenan explained, 'I came to the IYC because

the capitalist system is international. It is decaying internationally and so it has to be fought in an international way.

'I also think it's necessary for youth to bring their experience of this system together and turn out to build a mass YS movement internationally.

Pat Jennings said, 'I came to the IYC because in the period in which we are living today, a period in which capitalism is in international crisis, the only means we have of fighting back is through the building of an international revolutionary movement to take the working class to power.'

POST BAG



LETTER OF THE WEEK

Meaning of education cuts—youth forced to pay for crisis

Fight for jobs in Australia

IN AUSTRALIA, as in every other capitalist country, the fight for the right to work has been the first and hardest struggle taken up by the revolutionary movement since it was launched.

It has been the first and hardest casualty of the economic crisis.

In Australia now unemployment stands at least at 316,000. If people think that is a joke then we all have another think coming to us — because I think that the official

estimates after Christmas will rise over 600,000.

This will mean that school leavers in Australia will flood the labour market.

Many of the unemployed in Australia are Young Socialists. Recently the Young Socialists held a very successful march in which they walked 16 miles.

Not only in London, but in Sydney and Melbourne we have led marches demanding the right to work.

I think the unemployment figures are very disgraceful and something has to be done about it — because capitalism is not going to stop the rate of unemployed.

That's why most of the world was there at the International Youth Conference — to do something, to halt capitalism in its tracks.

This is something I have learnt at the conference.

**Rocky Johnson,
New Cross YS.**

Basic rights — building the YS

IN Huddersfield on Thursday November 27 we held the first of our regular YS discos in new premises.

The basic rights demonstration has encouraged a large increase in our branch where the youth at first simply opposed the police raid, have now realised the importance of the attack and have joined the party.

Due to the Common Market sell out, textiles, the main

industry in west Yorkshire is being run down, throwing thousands of youth out of work.

Many of them, lured by the promise of learning a trade joined the army as the only alternative to the dole, a tendency which must be campaigned against uncompromisingly.

Contacts are now being made for the setting up of a branch in Halifax, a town suffering from the same problems as

Huddersfield, as the rest of west Yorkshire.

Youth are realising the capitalist crisis offers them no future and that they must stand up and say no to the ruling class cuts and demand full education and full employment.

This is why we must strengthen the branches and build a mass YS movement with revolutionary leadership without delay.

Huddersfield YS.

STUDENTS, as with all other sections of youth and workers today are faced with the withdrawal of one basic right after another.

New cuts in the education field are announced week after week. The effects of these cuts are felt in all education institutions, from nursery schools to universities to adult education.

For the first time since the 1930s teachers and university graduates are faced with the very real and widespread threat of unemployment.

During the post-war boom period, under the extension of the welfare state, education in all its aspects was won for the working class through

their struggle with the bourgeoisie.

But it was only the perspectives of the Young Socialists that foresaw the inevitable and complete collapse of capitalism. Despite all the claims of the revisionists and Stalinists, the boom was based on the extension of credit.

Industries were built with fictitious capital and beyond a certain stage the extension of credit can no longer hold any meaning.

Nixon's nullification of the Bretton Woods agreement in 1971 was the reflection of the stage that capitalism had reached.

Since then the whole capitalist system has become more and more

bankrupt. The crisis facing the ruling class placed them in the position of throwing the system onto the backs of youth and workers.

That is the meaning of cuts in education—the working class are being forced to pay for the crisis of capitalism.

But this situation has also created its opposites in the class struggle—the movement of the working class and youth against the ruling class.

A situation of enormous battles is developing with the fight of junior doctors, Chrysler workers and many other sections of the working class. But the question of leadership is of paramount importance.

Only the analysis and perspective of the

Young Socialists provides the basis for building a revolutionary Marxist party.

On the question of leadership, the International Conference of Revolutionary Youth held this week represents the tremendous steps forward being made in the international revolutionary struggle.

It is to this conference that the youth of today should look.

No other political tendency of any variety can offer the revolutionary leadership necessary to advance socialism and the protection of democratic rights that the policies of the IYCFI offer.

**Andrew Higson,
Bath YS.**

International Conference

I CAME to the conference for mainly the same reasons that I joined the Party. I believe that the working class needs to see the building of a new leadership to lead it in the struggle for social revolution against the ruling class.

I believe that this

conference is a major step towards the building of the international socialist leadership for the youth because the fight is an international fight for leadership within the working class.

**Martyn,
Crawley branch.**

CAN YOUR BRANCH write the letter of the week? Send your views to Post-bag, 186a Clapham High St. London, SW4 7UG, or phone 01-720 5661-2.

GREATEST EVER RALLY CELEBRATES SIX YEARS OF WORKERS PRESS

SIX years of production of the world's first daily Trotskyist newspaper, the 'Workers Press', were celebrated last Sunday at the Hammersmith Palais by 3,000 workers, housewives and youth, including the delegates to the International Revolutionary Youth Conference.

The audience showed its determination to build the 'Workers Press' with a collection of £669 for the crisis fund. Big donations from the foreign delegation were also made, along with pledges amounting to the impressive total of £10,200.

Workers Revolutionary Party general secretary Gerry Healy told the rally:

'As Jack Jones said in a speech this weekend, big business is taking money out of this country in millions. Because of this flight of capital the working class is being forced to pay the price through the falling value of the pound, which increases the cost of living.

'This Labour government is openly reducing the living standards of the working class and is allowing an economic crisis to develop in which big business is taking money out of this country in enormous quantities.

'We have therefore a Labour government continuing where a Tory government left off.'

Stormy and prolonged applause greeted a pledge that not one inch would be given in the fight against the building of a police-state in Britain.

Healy warned: 'This is a time

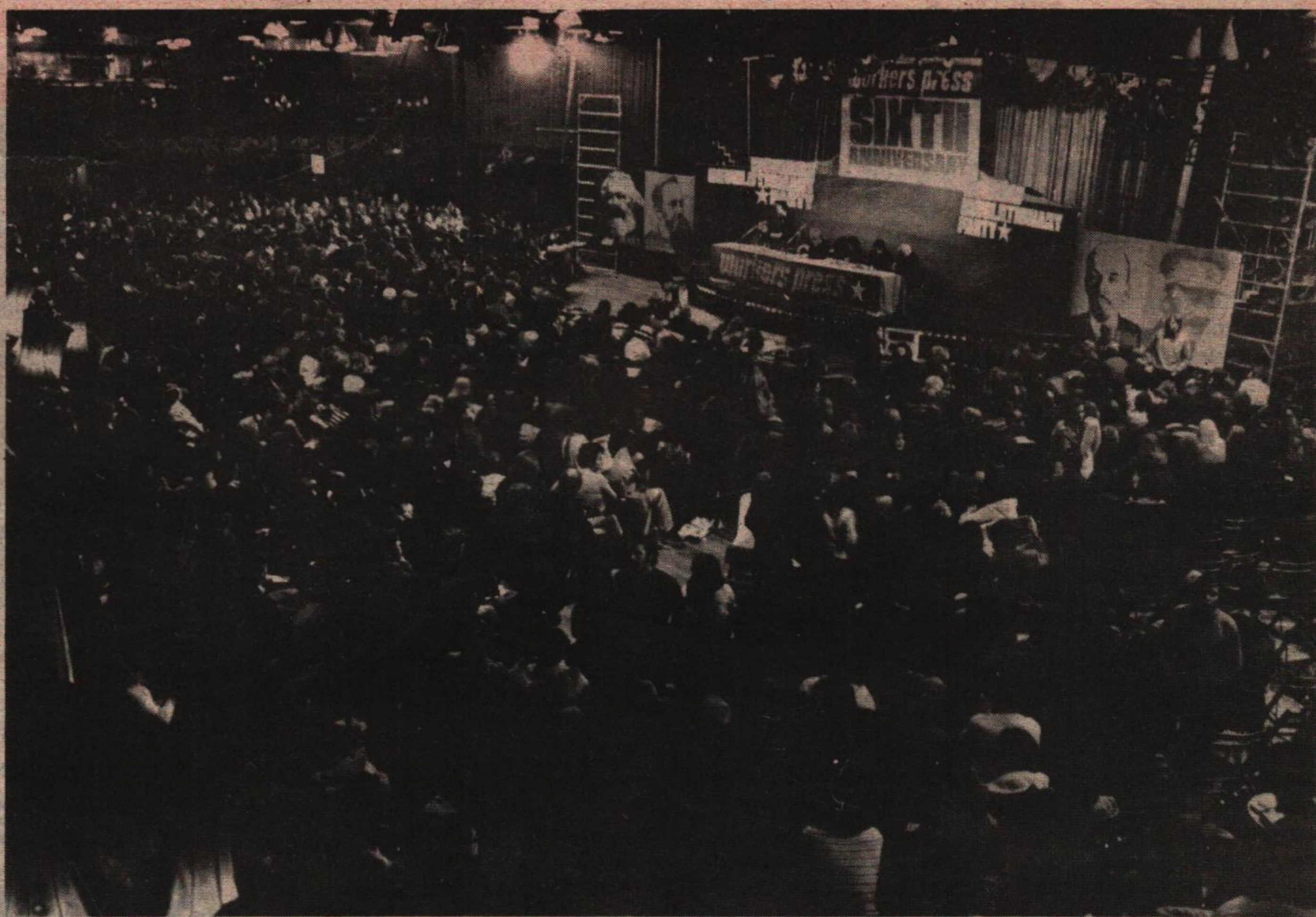
for plain speaking. Police conspiracies, army conspiracies, reactionary politicians' conspiracies — all this is the life of Britain today. Consequently the working class must not be deluded into thinking the fight in front can be avoided.

'We say our party and our Press is dedicated to defend the basic democratic rights of the working class, dedicated to defend living standards and jobs.

'But these rights cannot be defended under a capitalist system. It requires the smashing of the capitalist state machine and the building of a new form of democratic government resting on the ownership of the wealth by all those who produce the wealth.'

To more applause Healy said: 'Let those idlers and all those who take capital out of the country, let them go to their funk holes in Spain, we don't care a damn. It won't be long before they are kicked out there either. Let them go to their funk holes in Greece, because they will be chased out of there as well.

'All we can say to them is that if you wish to stay, you can get your coat off and you can have a job like everyone



Part of the 3,000-strong audience at Sunday's rally

else. But one thing is certain. We will not tolerate the police state you are trying to build in Britain. Let Scotland Yard know this.'

Workers Press editor Alex Mitchell said it was fitting that this Sixth Anniversary of the paper coincided with the world Conference of Revolutionary Youth.

'Workers Press has always stood for internationalism, and internationalism stands as a bedrock on which we have to build our movement.'

He continued: 'I remember vividly the day I joined Workers Press. It was May 1971. That month our party held a May Day march where we insisted that what was necessary was a General Strike to defeat the anti-trade union laws imposed by the Tory government, and to work for the mobilisation of the working class to get rid of that Tory government.'

'What happened in 1974 was that the miners brought down the Tories, and the engineers held a national strike and buried the National Industrial Relations Court.'

Mitchell said the WRP articulated policies and

fought relentlessly every day in the struggles of the working class.

'Workers Press articulates the requirements of the hour and what the working class must do. Today our paper says the Labour government must be brought down and that the working class must be mobilised to do this.'

'Each hour, each day this

government is betraying. It works completely on behalf of the Tories and in the interests of the bankers.'

Simon Pirani, Young Socialists national secretary spoke on the tasks of the movement following the International Revolutionary Youth Conference as did many other leading members of the overseas delegations.

In the evening a great cabaret was held. The Mike Westbrook Jazz Brass Band opened followed by Larry Adler whose virtuoso harmonica playing won him tumultuous applause and an encore was demanded.

The Edgar Broughton Band ended the set with some very exciting hard rock.

Keep Left Editorial Board invites all readers and supporters to celebrate

25th ANNIVERSARY OF



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday January 11

Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Road, London, E17.

Starts 2 p.m.

Dance in the evening to top line groups

Tickets 75p

Lobby parliament

Tuesday, December 9

6.30 p.m.

JOIN the lobby of parliament to demand a meeting with Home Secretary Jenkins.

Raise these urgent questions to clear the Workers Revolutionary Party of the stigma surrounding the police raid of the education centre in Derbyshire:


- WHO authorised the police raid on September 27 and 28, the biggest political raid in Britain since the war?
- WHERE is a copy of the search warrant issued under Section 46 of the Firearms Act?
- WHY won't the police disclose the time the warrant was issued?
- WHY won't they give it back? Is it because a conspiracy charge is being prepared and/or another raid?
- WHAT did the police do during the first one-and-a-half hours of the raid

when they swarmed over the building and grounds unaccompanied by WRP members?

- WHY were the WRP general secretary Gerry Healy and leading members detained under room arrest during the raid?
- DID the police leave anything behind, like listening devices?

The lobby will urge Labour MPs to join us in demanding a meeting with Jenkins to clear the air on these vital questions. While they remain unanswered, the threat of further attacks on basic democratic rights remains.

Deluge the Home Office with your protest resolutions. Become sponsors of the trade union inquiry into the police raid and give it your full support in unmasking those responsible for conspiring against basic rights.



THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT LEADS THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES.

KEEP LEFT

£200 MONTHLY FUND

COMRADES, so far we have received £10.23 for our monthly fund. This is a start but the money is not coming in nearly fast enough.

Every branch of the Young Socialists is now working out their plans for bringing the biggest ever delegation of youth to the Keep Left 25th Annual General Meeting.

Celebrate a quarter of a century of Keep Left in the best possible way, by giving us the finances to make Keep Left a better, more powerful tool for the Young Socialists.

Keep Left Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.

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Post to: YS national secretary, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG