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The recent outbursts of leading Tories Pym and Thorneycroft against the policy of Margaret Thatcher dramatically highlights the crisis of the Tory Government.

Despite the massive increase in unemployment and significant blows against social services, the Tories have failed to do what the bosses most urgently need to do, that is defeat the working class. They failed to defeat the steel workers in early 1980. They were forced to retreat by the dockers in September 1980. They were humiliated by the miners in February. They failed to drive back the civil servants in the twenty-week-long dispute this year. On top of this Thatcher's policy on Ireland has totally failed to tame the Irish people, borne out by Owen Carron's great election victory, and in fact has drawn a storm of international protest against the Tories' murderous intransigence.

On September 19th yet another unemployed march, this time in Birmingham, will doubtless raise the now familiar cry of Tories Out. In October the Peoples March for Jobs will reassemble in Sheffield to converge on Tory Party Conference. Labour Party Conference begins on September 27th. This conference must be swamped with demands on the Labour leaders to start the offensive to finish with the Tories.

The Conference will decide on questions such as withdrawal from the EEC, unilateral disarmament and Labour's policy on Ireland. Ever since Thatcher took office the Labour leaders have condemned cuts and the rise in unemployment. But all this is just so much rhetoric unless the campaign to return LABOUR TO POWER begins now.

Central to this is the fight to elect Tony Benn against Healey as Deputy Leader. Benn is committed to the withdrawal from the EEC, unilateralism and the repeal of all anti-Trade Union legislation. Everywhere the call must go out: *Support Benn against Healey. Now force a general election.*

A number of rank and file Labour Party and Trade Union figures have issued an appeal for a lobby of the electoral college on September 27th in support of Benn. At the same time a Conference of Labour Party members on July 25th issued an appeal for a lobby of Conference demanding an end to the bipartisan policy on Ireland. These appeals should be taken up on the Birmingham march, and both lobbies must be supported to the hilt by every Labour Party member. Trade Unionist and every unemployed worker who supports the unifying call for a campaign to force a general election now.

Defend the Electoral College!

Benn for Deputy Leader!

Break with Tory murder in Ireland!

March on Blackpool to throw out the Tories!

LABOUR TO POWER!

FORCE A GENERAL ELECTION NOW!

LEADERS RESCUE TORIES

Giving his assessment of the outcome of the twenty week long civil service pay dispute CPSA General Secretary Ken Thomas concludes by saying "It became clear that the Government were determined to treat a normal industrial relations issue as a major political issue and would have fallen rather than make further concessions in their currently politically weakened circumstances".

The majority of members in all but on union, the IRSF, voted to accept the Government's revised 7% plus £30 offer, with arbitration for 1982, the findings of which are subject to Parliamentary approval. The claim was for 15%, and almost £10 million was shelled out in strike pay.

It was the continued loyalty and determination of the members that forced the Government into the small but significant concessions. When the members were called out at Department of Employment, Watford, normal supplies of girocheques were stopped by pickets. Members in local unemployment offices responded magnificently and in their thousands blacked any giros reaching offices through scab labour.

This escalation was called partly through an attempt to deflect support for an all out strike, and was partly an attempt by the leaders to escape from the dispute with a few concessions. Further escalation of the action was frozen once the new offer had been made and the leaders had decided to put it to the vote, thus avoiding the strong possibility of all out strike action in the Department of Employment and Social Security.

Although the popular press tried to present the outcome as a defeat for the civil servants, the facts completely deny this.

While tearing up the civil servant pay agreement the Thatcher Government announced its intention of axing a further 100,000 jobs; destroying the trade union facilities agreement by withdrawing recognition from shop stewards on probation or disciplinary charges; replacing automatic wage increments with 'merit' awards; and even sweeping away national pay scales in favour of 'regional' pay - which means the wages for civil servants would be dependent on the current level of unemployment in each region.

Instead Thatcher has had to compromise and promise pay arbitration for 1982 - which directly cuts across her cash limit strategy - and set up the Megan Inquiry, which will be the focus for further pitched battles during this Government's lifetime.

For anyone to talk of a defeat would be spreading pessimism amongst trade unionists and illusions in the strength of this Government.

Throughout the dispute *Socialist Newsletter* bulletins argued the case for an all out strike. We did not view this as a panacea for the problems of civil servants in isolation - we rejected the leaders' garbage that it was just "an industrial relations issue". On the contrary, an all out strike would have had to harness the support of the whole TUC and as the dispute ensued, side by side with the Peoples' March, the ambulance workers' fight, and the Labour Party mobilisation against unemployment would have posed the need to sweep the Tories from office.

Indeed one of the main unions, the SCPS, issued a leaflet to the 250,000 strong Peoples March mobilisations in London on May 31st, pointing out that public sector workers, the civil servants, the unemployed, had a common fight against a common enemy - the Tory Government. But the union leaders did nothing about their own statements and avoided calling for a campaign of unity against Thatcher. Unity, that is, *in action* by drawing the power of all organised workers around the civil servants dispute to make it a battering ram with which to smash this Government once and for all.

Like so many conflicts before it in the life of this Government, the civil service dispute has been left unresolved. Neither side has succumbed to the other - a weak Government has been saved by a treacherous trade union leadership. But it would be wrong to take a static view. The civil service union bureaucrats have paid a high price. They have ensured that the tactic of selective strike action has been completely discredited in every important section of the civil service and, short of a decisive pushing back of the members, it can never be used in the same way again. Historic gains were made at the CPSA Conference 1981, in particular the decision to elect senior fulltimers. When Ken Thomas retires in 1982 the sparks will fly over his succession for a long time.

The outcome of the dispute was not inevitable, and one of the tasks of the CPSA Broad Left Conference in November must be to challenge the Communist Party and 'Militant' stronghold of the left. It was these two organisations that provided the rightwing with the strategy of selective strikes. Similarly, the IPCS Left Conference in October should set itself the task of building a large regroupment amongst the members.

Immediately the following demands must be taken up:

1. For a public sector trade union alliance to fight cuts and cash limits. Force the TUC to organise the alliance.
2. No victimisations, defend existing trade union facilities.
3. Boycott the Megan Inquiry.

Rail jobs in the balance



Buckton

When Syd Weighell and Ray Buckton allowed the railworkers' pay deal to go to arbitration, it became obvious to most shop-floor workers that another sell-out was on the way. The outcome, despite preparations for a strike, was a repeat of last year's settlement which gave British Rail management a free hand to make as many cuts in staff on the freight side as they thought fit.

Basic pay in the rail industry is extremely low. An increase of about 100 per cent would be required to bring railworkers up to the national average, so a strike for the original claim would have been

totally justified. In going to arbitration, the union leaders have exposed their unwillingness to take the radical action required to win the claim. The management are aware of this and are exploiting this weakness in an effort to get agreement on the proposed 38,000 redundancies they are seeking. Formal agreement with the union leaders on the loss of these jobs will serve to dissipate the opposition at shop-floor level, thus allowing B.R. to freely make cuts where they like.

It is clear that Weighell and Buckton do not intend to wage any serious campaign in defence of jobs, which will be negotiated away in

return for the 11 per cent. It is therefore vital that all railway workers prepare themselves for future battles on both fronts. These preparations must centre on the struggle to strengthen union organisation at shop-floor level in order to build unity against all cutbacks in jobs. At the same time it will be necessary to take on the union leaders, whose willingness to sell their members' jobs brands them as an *obstacle* to a successful fight in defence of railworkers' interests.

Kevin Hope



Jobs not YOPS!

The recent strike by young workers on the misnamed Youth Opportunities Programmes highlighted the need for the labour movement to take up the struggle of youth against cheap labour and youth unemployment. School leavers with no chance of a job are paid £23.50 a week to work as cheap labour for employers not prepared to pay a full wage. Only one in five YOPS workers obtain permanent jobs, and while on the schemes have none of the rights of permanent workers. This strike for improved pay and trade union rights coincides with developing opposition in the trade union movement to YOPS.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants has submitted a motion to the forthcoming TUC conference calling on all unions to withdraw support for the scheme. As the scheme depends on cooperation from the unions, this motion poses a serious threat to the government's way of dealing with the 50% of youth unemployed in Britain. At the CPSA Conference earlier this year opposition to work experience programmes attracted a larger num-

ber of resolutions than any other subject.

NUPE have drawn up a charter which includes calls for an increase in wages, fair disciplinary and complaints procedures and proper training. NUPE and other unions are starting a recruitment drive among the YOPS workers who have already saved the Tory Government £46 million through low wages.

It is necessary for the TUC to translate these initiatives into a national campaign for the unionisation of all YOPS workers and for trade union wage rates. However this can only be seen as the immediate defence of young workers suffering super-exploitation. The TUC must also come out against these schemes, which are cynically used to conceal unemployment, altogether. The struggle against youth unemployment has now become central to the fight to bring down the government. It is the responsibility of the trade union movement to recruit young workers on these schemes and advance their needs as a component in the struggle to kick out the Tories.

POEU: Stop Tory Privatisation!

The POEU executive has finally reacted to the Tory Government's breaking up of the post office and called a special conference on this question in November. This is like shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. The Telecommunications Act takes effect on October 1st setting up two separate corporations, British Telecommunications and the Post Office. The letter monopoly of the Post Office will be ended and from January private concerns will be able to compete with BT in supplying services, using BT's network!

Already the Government has agreed on a plan by Cable and Wireless, Barclay's Bank and BP to set up a £50 million inter-city,

office to office telecommunications network. This is just the first step of their plan to sell off all the profitable sectors of the industry.

The Stanley leadership of the POEU has totally ignored Conference policy which called for action, including strike action against the breaking up of the monopoly. Instead they have unveiled a plan which focuses on the need for public sector unity and the commitment of the next Labour Government to restore the monopoly and which urges BT "to compete aggressively to hang onto existing business, get new business and resist any attempted link between private and public networks".

Such a collaborationist approach

offers no way forward at all for workers, as rail workers have seen only too clearly. The implementation of the act will be used by management to begin a programme of rationalisation, i.e. speed-up, job loss and the tearing up of agreements with the union. Already long standing parity agreements such as that at Swindon stores depot, are under threat.

Clearly the special conference must condemn the refusal of Stanley and co. to implement conference policy. It must vote for all actions necessary in defence of jobs and existing agreements. The paper coalition of public sector unions must become a fighting alliance that can challenge and defeat the Tories. Such decisions by the special conference would prepare the ground for kicking out the likes of Stanley who, whether through his support for management's point of view or for Denis Healey's candidature in the Deputy Leader election, has trampled underfoot the democratic rights of the POEU membership for too long.

Martin Richards

LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST DEFEND

Youth Against the State

by Winston Carr

Attacks on two police stations in Liverpool on August 15th and a full scale battle between hundreds of youths and police in Sheffield's Castle Market shopping centre on the same day demonstrated once again the refusal of youth in Britain exploded against repression and became a dynamic factor in the national opposition to the Tory Government. British youth have taken their place in an international upsurge of youth against repression. The last two years have seen youth enter into direct confrontation with the forces of oppression in Miami in April 1980, Kuanga (South Korea) in the same month, Kosovo (Yugoslavia) earlier this year and of course in Ireland around the issue of the hunger strikers. What began in Bristol in April 1980 and Brixton in April this year exploded into a nationwide rebellion in July.

The breadth and intensity of the rebellion demonstrates very clearly the deep tensions which exist between the working class and ruling class in Britain today. Despite any amount of lies propagated by the national press, this uprising was one with political roots in the widespread hostility to the Tory Government and their henchmen in the police. Even the press and the police have had to recognise that this summer's events were not race riots but the united upsurge of black and white youth no longer prepared to accept unemployment and police harassment.

The rebellion clearly foreshadows more determined opposition from the labour movement against Thatcher. But the rebellion was also significant in itself. The willingness of the youth to engage in systematic assaults on police stations, vehicles and personnel represents a complete break with traditional deference for the state. The looting revealed an utter contempt for bourgeois property with repeated attacks on big department stores.

Inevitably the Tories tried to dismiss the rebellion as a wave of criminality. In this respect it is worth recalling what triggered the uprisings in the different towns. In the storm centres of the July events Toxteth, Moss Side and Brixton trouble began as a direct result of particular incidents of police harassment. In Southall and Woolwich the youth organised in response to attacks from fascists.

It is important to clarify the political roots of the upsurge because the Tories campaign against the youth has found moralising echoes within the labour movement. None clearer than a leaflet put out in Brixton by the 'Militant' tendency which said:

"The little Hitlers of the fascist groups like the NF offer no solution, but neither does looting and rioting".

This staggering statement once again demonstrates 'Militants' method, seen many times in relation to Ireland, of putting equals signs between the violence of the oppressor and the violence of the oppressed. The violence of the youth in Toxteth, Moss Side, Brixton, and Southall etc was above all self-defence and an attempt to throw back the oppressor, the police. It is downright reactionary to equate it with fascism. Others, like Michael Foot said they could not support marches like the one in Toxteth on August 15th which



Confrontation in Brixton

called for the sacking of Merseyside police chief Kenneth Oxford.

It is crucial that the leadership of the labour movement is forced out of this cowardly position and made to actively take up the defence of the youth against police brutality. Michael Foot and co. must not be allowed to sit on the fence as the police murder working class people like David Moore in Toxteth.

How should socialists proceed in this situation? Firstly we must campaign for intransigent boycotts of all these government or so-called independent inquiries. The Scarman Inquiry in Brixton has been used by the police to gather more information and make more arrests. The Greater Manchester Council inquiry concerning Moss Side is clearly of the Scarman ilk. The inquiry chairperson Benet Hytner QC defined his brief as finding out:

"who rioted, were outsiders involved and were they organised or inspired?"

The decisions of the *Brixton Defence Campaign* and the *Moss Side Defence Campaign* to boycott Scarman and the Hytner inquiry is absolutely correct and should be extended to all further inquiries of the same type.

Should we support labour movement inquiries? The experience of the labour movement inquiry into the Bristol uprising revealed that this activity is essentially about publishing what everybody already understood perfectly well. It in no way focused a campaign to actually fight police harassment.

Should we campaign for the democratisation of the police? Whilst it is necessary to relate positively to the growing hostility to the police inside the Labour Party, the call for the democratisation of the 'armed bodies' of the state is utterly utopian. Worse, it passively delegates responsibility for fighting the police to local government watch committees.

The key to the whole question is the fight for the mobilisation of the labour movement and the youth against the police around specific issues as they arise in the course of the struggle.

The march in Toxteth on August 15th called by the *Liverpool 8 Defence Campaign* was extremely important. It was the first political demonstration organised in response to police brutality since the recent upsurge began. It was organised around the specific call for the sacking of Chief Constable Oxford whose policy led to the murder of David Moore. This is the way to mobilise the youth on an explicitly political basis which cannot be achieved with abstract calls for democratising the police.

In Brixton the police raid on Railton Road on July 15th resulted in the destruction of dozens of shops and working class homes. The Railton Road community have stated they want the officers responsible for the raid sacked. This is a specific question around which people can be mobilised.

At a more general level the TUC must be made to launch a national campaign around its official policy for the disbanding of the SPG. Related to this it is now necessary to demand the banning of the police tactic of ramming police vehicles at crowds, the tactic which killed David Moore.

Many activists in the labour movement unaccustomed to the degree of violence witnessed in the rebellion will argue that the youth are too anarchic in their response to police brutality. That they must learn to join forces with the organised labour movement. It is necessary to state that the largely unorganised youth will not recognise the shortcomings of their methods and turn to the labour movement until the Labour Party and the trade unions take up a campaign in defence of the youth around which youth will be attracted.

The first responsibility of the labour movement is to mount a massive campaign against any new repressive legislation. The Labour Party NEC and the TUC must call mobilisations to oppose any new riot act, with specific instructions to the Parliamentary Labour Party to obstruct any legislation going through Parliament, including disrupting Parliamentary proceedings if necessary. There must be total opposition to army camp

detention centres, the use of rubber and plastic bullets, CS gas, water cannon or special riot vehicles. The murder of David Moore is one death too many. On top of this it is necessary to obstruct any attempts to 'repatriate' blacks arrested in these rebellions as has been proposed by some Tories.

The Labour Party membership must insist that the next Labour government repeals any repressive legislation or new powers for the police which the Tories do force through.

The responsibility of the TUC centres on vastly expanding its work for unemployed youth. Trade unions must be made to set up unemployed workers branches, such as the IGWU have organised in Liverpool. The TUC centres for the unemployed must be used by the unemployed as they think fit and not constrained by the political limitations currently imposed by the TUC. The young workers on the YOPS schemes must be given maximum support in their struggle for trade union rights. These are the concrete measures which can integrate unemployed youth into the ranks of organised labour.

If the official labour movement is to win the support of the thousands of youth involved in the rebellion it is necessary for the CLPs and trade unions to take up the call for a general amnesty for all those arrested in the uprisings. They are victims of an exceptional situation and police provocation. CLPs and particularly LPYS branches must organise the youth to flood court rooms where cases are coming up, demanding the dropping of the charges and highlighting the role of the police and the consequences of the Tory government's policies. The South East Region of the TUC has agreed to give financial support to the defence campaigns. This is an excellent example which should be taken up throughout the movement.

The youth rebellion this summer is a dramatic and violent restatement of the very deep desire in the working class to finish with the Tories. We cannot tolerate the Tories a day longer. But we also cannot tolerate the dithering and

empty rhetoric of Labour and trade union leaders. We demand that they begin the campaign to bring down the government. Such a campaign would undoubtedly enroll the active support of the thousands of youth who took to the streets this summer and are now being condemned to jail by the Tories.



MORALISING 'MILITANT'

At a meeting of a Labour Party Young Socialist branch in Brixton at the height of the youth rebellion in July, supporters of the 'Militant' tendency and *Socialist Newsletter* crossed swords about the way socialists should approach the upsurge. *Socialist Newsletter* supporters were infuriated by an LPYS leaflet being distributed in Brixton which at one point says: "The little Hitlers of the NF offer no way forward but neither does rioting and looting". *Socialist Newsletter* supporters argued that to equate the rebellion of youth with fascism was to put an equal sign between the violence of reactionaries and the violence of the oppressed. This liberal moralising would drive away and alienate youth rather than win them to the LPYS.

However 'Militant' supporters were not to be silenced by such arguments and spent the entire meeting ranting about looting and petty theft as if anyone was arguing that these activities in themselves posed a way forward. When the meeting ended one of the 'Militant' supporters discovered her car had been stolen! Poetic justice?

BRIGHTON

LEFT ORGANISATION

The months since the special Labour Party Conference at Wembley, in January, have seen the most intense struggle within the Labour Party since the struggle around Nye Bevan in the 1950s. The Wembley decision marked a great victory for the left. The response of the opponents of this victory has taken many forms. One component of the right wing promptly walked out of the Labour Party to set up the SDP with the explicit aim of preventing a majority Labour Government.

A second component, around Denis Healey, calling itself 'Solidarity' and tacitly supported by Michael Foot, has set itself the task of reversing the democratic reforms. They have shamelessly used the national press to fight the supporters of the Wembley decisions. Michael Foot has gone so far as to issue attacks on Tony Benn in effect demanding he stand down from the Deputy Leadership fight. The national press has gleefully published all these attacks as part of its hysterical campaign against the Labour left.

Another block of opposition to the Wembley decisions centres around John Silkin. This block has operated in such a way as to split the Tribune Group of MPs to erode support for Tony Benn. They too have used the national press with open letters in the Guardian attacking the left.

The left organised behind Tony Benn in the *Rank and File Mobilising Committee* have pursued a campaign in defence of the Wembley decisions. This has involved Benn himself fighting on the NEC to put a stop to the local apparatchniks using one-name short lists in their attempts to block genuine discussion.

The tension between left and right was heightened when Benn had the unforgivable audacity to exercise his right to run for the deputy leadership. It is instructive to compare the campaigns of Benn and Healey. On the one hand Healey has relied on his friends in the media to denounce Benn, many of his statements on such questions as disarmament have flatly contradicted Labour Party Conference policy.

On the other hand Benn enjoyed considerable success in taking his campaign to the Peoples March in May where he received a tremendous reception. The degree of support for him amongst the trade unions has clearly disturbed the national press who had hoped Healey could depend on the support of trade union bureaucrats to coast home. These setbacks for Healey have been highlighted by his unsuccessful attempts to jump on the band wagon of the unemployment marches. At both the Peoples March rally in London on May 31st and again in Cardiff on July 4th he was booed off the platform by thousands of marchers.

However it is evident that Healey will receive the support of a significant number of unions, the leaderships of which are increasingly anxious that the democratic reforms inside the Labour Party could catch on inside the trade unions. Denis Healey is seen as the man who can best put a stop to a situation where pressure from the rank and file can effect changes in the party. Healey is also recognised by the ruling class as the man they must support to stabilise the Labour Party before it next forms a government.

There is increasing concern amongst the most craven backers of capitalism in the labour movement, like Duffy, Jackson and Basnett, that policies such as unilateral disarmament will seriously threaten British capitalism's alliance with US imperialism and other capitalist powers.

It is clear that Healey and his powerful capitalist backers will go to great lengths to roll back the gains made inside the Labour Party. A great deal is at stake in this struggle.

However Benn heads a radicalisation in the labour movement with considerable mass appeal. He recognises the great electoral potential of withdrawal from the hated Common Market and a commitment to unilateralism. It is for these reasons that Healey has recently attempted to make sufficiently ambiguous statements on the EEC and disarmament

in an effort to improve his image in a working class which remembers all too well his spending cuts and policies of wage restraint in 1976-1979.

This struggle centres on the nature of the next Labour government. Is it to be a government that follows in the footsteps of Wilson and Callaghan? Or will it be a government that struggles to carry through conference policy such as withdrawal from the EEC and begin to break with the demands of the bosses? Although the battle between Benn and Healey is at the level of Deputy leadership, everybody knows that the issue is all about the leadership of the Party. Michael Foot looks increasingly impotent and in fact his leadership is barely a leadership at all.

For all these reasons the Electoral College election just prior to the Labour Party Conference is amongst the most crucial questions to be decided.

It is vital that every Constituency delegate, every trade union delegation and every MP who genuinely wants to consolidate the recent democratic reforms, who wants to advance the battle to withdraw from the EEC and who wants to pursue unilateralism must vote for Benn against Healey.

However all these questions are meaningless unless the Labour Party leadership immediately addresses itself to the problem of the Tory Government. Although Benn has made promises about the policies of the next Labour government he is silent on precisely how Labour will take power and when. It is useless talking about unilateralism and the evils of mass unemployment unless a national campaign is launched to force an immediate general election, and put Labour into office. The message from the rank and file must be clear... *Elect Benn! Now start the campaign to bring the Tories down!*



The Conference resolutions document reveals a dearth of material linking the battle against unemployment and cuts etc to an offensive to bring down the Tories. Indeed in the original resolution document only two motions refer to 'bringing down' or 'removing' the government. There is a great welter of material interpreting the 'alternative economic strategy' but no plans proposed as to how to achieve power. This is a fundamental question which makes the

lengthy resolutions on the economy just so much abstract rhetoric. It is crucial that delegates carry onto the rostrum the urgent need for the Labour leadership to face its responsibility and mount the campaign to finish with the Tories.

Once again the question of who has the final say on Labour's manifesto will come up. Resolutions from a number of constituencies advance the position that the NEC must have that final say. This remains one of the unresolved battles which have occurred at conferences in the last two years. For obvious reasons it is one of the most important issues in the Labour Party.

This battle to ensure that the NEC has the final say on the manifesto, basing it on Party policy, is an integral part of the reforms already won such as reselection and a more democratic form of electing the leader of the party. It is crucial that success on these two issues should not lead to a deprioritisation of the question of the manifesto. Every effort must be made to win this third democratic reform and further the struggle against the right wing who, as Callaghan's regime so clearly demonstrated in the 1979 General Election, have no respect whatsoever for Party policy.

The position of the *Rank and File Mobilising Committee* is related to this struggle. Even before the outcome of Brighton the *Labour Coordinating Committee* has announced its intention to argue for the disbanding of the RFMC. **It is crucial that delegates attending the various fringe meetings fight to preserve the organised united-front of all those forces who want to fight the Healey wing of the Party.** Whether the right wing win or lose in the electoral college and on the manifesto they will continue to fight against

Reagan on the neutron bomb puts the debate on disarmament at the centre of the Conference. A mass of resolutions have been submitted called for unilateral disarmament, the closing down of all nuclear bases in Britain and the redistribution of civil defence funds into housing, education and the NHS.

Reagan's announcement shows quite clearly that multilateralism has totally failed. The development of nuclear arms has become fundamental to the preservation of capitalism. Yet it also poses the destruction of capitalism. More particularly the neutron bomb is a weapon designed to destroy people but not property. Nothing could express more clearly the plans of the capitalist class to despoil with the millions of unemployed workers across the globe than to use a bomb that destroys people but not capitalist property?

Healey and co. *in their anxiety to preserve capitalism* wish to perpetuate the myth that disarmament can be achieved through persuasion while each negotiating nation continues with a massive build up of arms. **There is a logic to continued development of nuclear arms, the end result of which is to use them.**

The Labour Party and the next Labour government must be made to enter into a struggle for unilateral disarmament. The working class has absolutely no use for nuclear arms. What possible advantage can the labour movement derive from supporting negotiations which conceal a massive arms build up? The only way the interests of the international working class can be served is to strike a blow at the nuclear arms build up by forcing the next Labour Government to unilaterally disarm.

Crucial to this whole discussion is Britain's membership of NATO. It is important to recognise the role of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Together they form an alliance of western capitalism and the stalinist bureaucracy against the international labour movement.

Membership of NATO draws British labour into the nuclear arms race, the defence of capitalism and the unceasing desire of capitalism to put maximum pressure on the economies of eastern Europe where capitalism has been expropriated. The defence of the interests of the workers in Britain lies in the mobilisation of the labour movement and not support for the totally reactionary NATO. **Delegates to Labour Party Conference should support wholeheartedly the resolutions of Basingstoke and Manchester and Blackley CLPs calling for the next Labour Government to withdraw Britain from NATO.**

Withdrawal from the EEC and NATO and unilateral disarmament would mark a tremendous step forward for the British and international working class in the struggle against the nuclear holocaust plans of capitalism.

H Block Victory

The election of anti-H Block candidate Owen Carron in Fermanagh highlights the significance of over 50 resolutions submitted to Labour Party Conference on Ireland. At the centre of this debate is the question of bi-partisanship. A resolution from Leeds North East CLP condemns Foot's support for Thatcher at the moment of Bobby Sands' death. This raises the most burning question of Labour's relations with the Tories.

The continued struggle of the Irish people against the Tories is Thatcher's weakest point. Yet precisely on this question the Labour leadership provides her with most support. **If Foot and co. argue that the Tories are wrong on unemployment, wrong on cuts and wrong on trade union legislation, why is it that she is right on Ireland?** Thatcher's criminal intransigence has resulted directly in the death of Bobby Sands and his fellow hunger strikers. Labour must break with this murderous policy.

British workers have nothing in common with Thatcher on ANY question. We have absolutely nothing to gain in standing united with Thatcher against anyone and especially not the Irish people historically oppressed by British imperialism.



All forces within the Labour Party Conference opposed to Thatcher's policy on Ireland should form a united-front to break Labour's bi-partisan policy. Concretely that means breaking from Thatcher's policy of condemning the hunger strikers to death. There are resolutions tabled calling on the Labour Party to campaign for the hunger strikers' demands. Such a campaign must become an integral part of the struggle to force an immediate general election and boot out the Tories. This would open the way forward for Labour to organise a total withdrawal of Britain from Ireland. For the withdrawal of troops, the repeal of the PTA and the right of the Irish people to self-determination.

Vague support for a united Ireland must not be used to block a real campaign to save the lives of the hunger strikers

MUST RISE TO WIN!



THE HARD LESSONS OF LAMBETH

by Frank Irvine

This autumn Tory axeman Michael Heseltine intends to force through legislation to prevent Labour authorities from increasing rates as an 'alternative' to cuts. *Socialist Newsletter* has said all along that the rate rise strategy was bankrupt and posed no way forward. However, Heseltine's legislation is not intended to protect people from rate increases. On the contrary it is a measure designed to force Labour councils to cut jobs and services at the expense of working people. Heseltine's plan must be opposed. But such opposition can only be successful if waged on a national scale.

The line of least resistance through rate rises has proved fatal for a whole number of Labour authorities. It has dissipated a nationally unified campaign against all attacks on workers at the local government level. Perhaps the best example is Lambeth where the Labour Group stood firm against cuts right up until spring of this year, but completely undermined that stand by making huge increases in rates and rents. It was only a matter of time before Lambeth would be forced to cave in and make cuts. Today the Lambeth Labour Group is making £11½ million worth of cuts as well as increasing rates.

The Lambeth example is particularly instructive. In November 1980 Lambeth Council called a national Conference on the struggle in local government. That conference which was attended by some 800 labour movement delegates from all over Britain, decided to oppose all cuts and rate increases. For this policy to work in action it was necessary for Lambeth Council itself to take a stand not only on cuts but against rates. It was vital for Lambeth to lead by example.

Unfortunately Lambeth leader Ted Knight and his supporters ignored the policy of the Conference he had organised. The immediate effect of this was to dissipate the enormous potential represented at the November 1980 Conference.

Consequently the second Conference called by Lambeth in January of this year was much smaller and much less representative. In effect Ted Knight used the conference to wind up the movement that had developed behind Lambeth's anti cuts position. The week of strike action which followed in Lambeth, and supported by Ted Knight, was in the end an isolated initiative. Very shortly afterwards Ted Knight announced plans for £11½ million of cuts. Knight's concession on rates turned into a retreat on cuts.

In this type of situation the role of Labour Left groupings is very significant. The Lambeth Left which came into existence to make Ted Knight change course on the rates question and which won wide support in the Lambeth CLPs and from Lambeth Trades Council is today totally defunct. Its failure is to be found in its refusal to launch a campaign to unify council employees and tenants with the Labour Left and to take the necessary action to force Knight to reverse his rate rise strategy.

At a whole series of meetings from summer 1980 right through to the spring of 1981 *Socialist Newsletter* supporters argued for the Lambeth Labour Left to launch a London wide campaign directly on a no cuts and no rate rise position. The Lambeth Left stopped short of this necessary development at every critical moment, even when London wide meetings were called and were attended by Labour Lefts from all over London.

This failure to break in practice with Knight's retreat has led to the disintegration of the Lambeth Labour Left. The mistakes and now the collapse of the Lambeth Labour Left has had dire consequences for the labour movement in Lambeth. In November 1979 17,000 Lambeth workers and tenants followed Ted Knight to Parliament in a march against the cuts. The Council had the full backing of the people of Lambeth.

Today Ted Knight is one of the most hated people in his own borough precisely because of huge rate increases.

Recent by-elections in North Lambeth have ended in victories for the SDP and the Liberals in traditionally rock solid Labour seats. Labour Party canvassers were repeatedly haranged by tenants furious about the rate rises.

In the Labour Group itself Ted Knight has staged a mini witch hunt against left councillors who continue to oppose cuts and rate rises. Shortly after Knight announced his programme of cuts in the spring, left councillor Steve Stannard distributed an appeal to Lambeth shop stewards and tenants leaders calling for unity in action against Knight's anti working class measures. Knight responded by making moves to expel Stannard from the Labour Group. It was only the opposition of Lambeth Trades Council, Vauxhall Labour Party and Knight's very own Ferndale Branch of the Labour Party, who supported Stannard, which forced Knight to back off and settle for a severe censure of Councillor Stannard.



Ted Knight

This scandalous episode is the inevitable consequence of the rate rise strategy. From a position of opposing all cuts Ted Knight finds himself witch hunting councillors who continue to fight against the cuts.

Lambeth's failure to provide a real national lead has resulted in the dissipation of the national anti cuts movement and the isolation of other councils faced by Heseltine's axe.

Labour controlled Lothian Council has just recently abandoned its anti cuts stand in the face of isolation before Heseltine. Lothian leaders say they will make cuts which will not affect jobs or services. This is what Ted Knight said in Lambeth. But it is clear that if Labour Councils concede on the principle of cuts it is so much easier for Heseltine to force Labour Councils to concede on jobs and services. One of the largest parts of any council budget is wages. It is jobs therefore that Heseltine will do most to see cut. Already Lothian has announced the sacking of 1,100 teachers and non-teaching staff employed on annual contracts.

Heseltine has threatened to stage referendums against rebel Labour councils. To their shame Coventry Labour Council have announced their intention to hold a referendum asking the question - cuts or rate rises? This is a criminal dereliction of responsibility to the workers who elected the Labour Group in Coventry. The Coventry Labour Left has launched a campaign against this referendum.

Recent statistics published in 'The Times' reveal that despite cave-ins by local Labour Councils the Tory Government has failed to achieve its public expenditure cuts targets. The Tories desperately need to make even greater cuts. Heseltine's legislation designed to block rate rises is the first step in this offensive.

The response of the labour movement must take on a national character if Heseltine is to be stopped. The lessons of Lambeth, Lothian, Coventry and Camden etc have revealed that a fresh national initiative is an urgent necessity. A national conference of Labour Councils must be called to unite all Labour authorities in a campaign defying instructions to cut. This must be the bed-rock of an offensive to unite local government trade unions and council tenants against the Tories.

Obviously many Labour Councils dominated by the right wing, or left wingers in name sliding to the right, have proved unwilling to take a stand and lead the fight by example. This makes the role of Labour Left groupings so important. Labour Left alliances of necessity must stand on a no cuts and no rate rise position. But more than this, they must be prepared to build themselves as campaigns which unite council employees and tenants, which requires direct appeals to local government unions and tenants organisations for support in action. They must be prepared to go to the end against Labour Councils who refuse to take a stand. If necessary fighting for the replacement of Labour Councillors with those who will fight the cuts.

GLC

Labour has been in control of the biggest Local Authority in Western Europe since May 7th. It was returned to power after four years in opposition. Its manifesto the first to be endorsed by a special Conference of the London Labour Party, pledged a new Labour GLC to policies such as reduced transport fares, reduced school meals prices, a halt to the council house sales, resistance to the transfer of GLC housing stock to borough councils, the creation of 10,000 new jobs in London, the rebuilding of the direct labour force and a housebuilding programme more ambitious than anything seen before.

However, it is outside of the administration of Government that Livingstone and the Labour Group have broken with the traditions of the GLC. Their action in opening the doors of County Hall to the People's Marchers in May, the reception and accommodation they gave was the most significant recognition of that march given by any Labour-controlled authority. For the first time the massive resources of the local state in London were used for the benefit of the labour movement, practically and politically. *The most important action so far however, has been Ken Livingstone's support for the Irish Hunger Strikers.* Livingstone has spoken at rallies, marches and meetings all over London supporting the demand for the withdrawal of British troops from the north of Ireland and more urgently, supporting the demands of the Republican Hunger Strikers. This support culminated some weeks ago when Livingstone played host to the family of dead hunger striker Thomas McElwee. Livingstone has called for the fight to be carried into the Labour Party to break the bipartisan policy of the Parliamentary Labour Party. There can be no doubt that Livingstone's stance on this question has boosted the struggle inside the Labour Party.

However, Livingstone and the Labour Group continue to believe that the fight against Tory cuts in council spending can be dealt with by rate rises. They are preparing to inflict a £50 supplementary rate rise on London workers in October. Livingstone recently let slip that next April's rate rise would have to be 120%.

If Livingstone is not to rapidly lose working-class support in London it is crucial that he reverses this rate rise strategy. The road forward against the Tories is to fight for the broadest campaign against all cuts, and all rent and rate rises. In other words against all attacks on the basic interests of the working class.

It is now imperative for Ken Livingstone and the GLC to use the power they have to mobilise the labour movement to resist, at all costs, the Tory offensive. This campaign necessitates a call for the mobilisation of every Labour Party and Trade Union branch in London, and in the light of the Lothian experience, a call for the unity of all Labour-controlled authorities across the country for a nationally unified stand against Heseltine. What is at the heart of this question is the struggle to bring down the Tories. Is Ken Livingstone prepared to begin the battle on cuts and rates as a crucial component to forcing the Tories out of office? That is what is needed - not just speeches at County Hall or on the People's March - but concrete action NOW!

Simon Banks

School students oppose closure

200 West London school students of all ages packed into a recent Inner London Education Authority public meeting to protest against the threatened closure of their school.

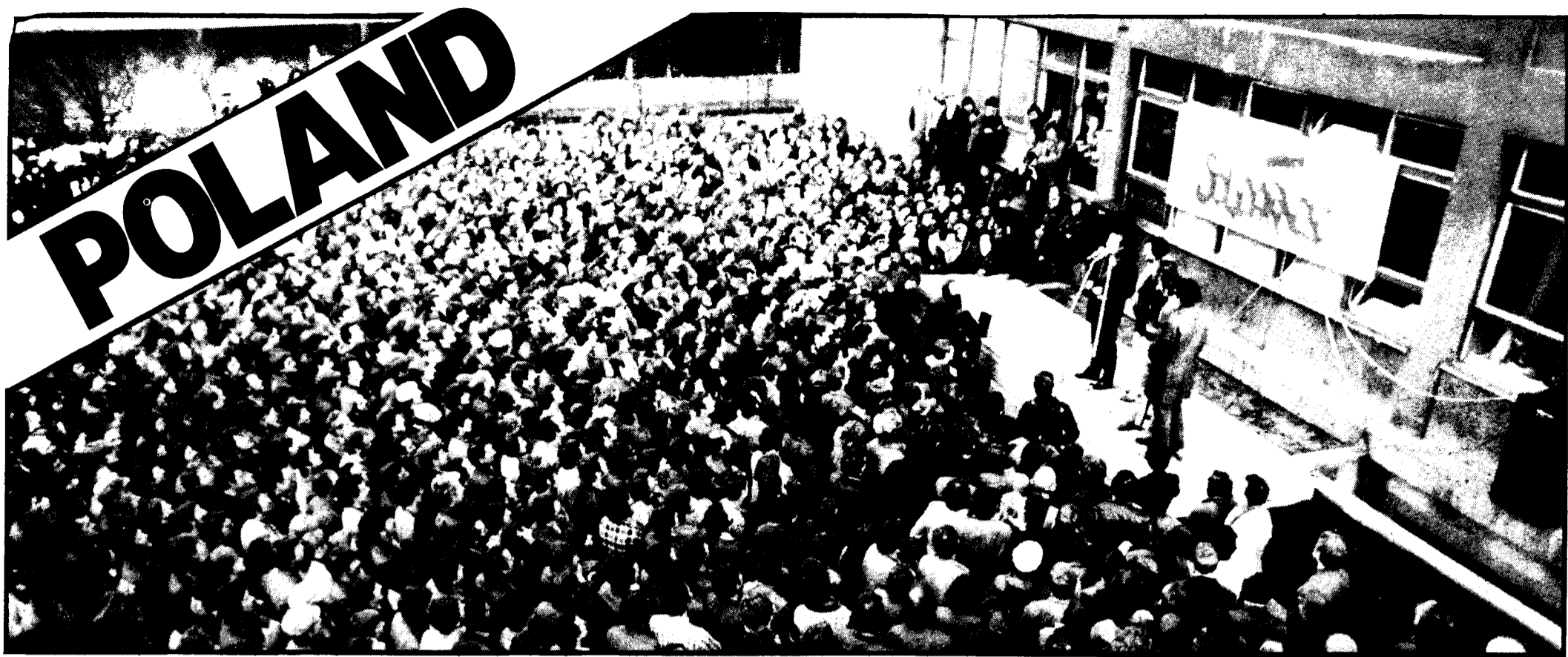
In line with their reorganisation programme and as a result of their decision not to build a new school at North Kensington, the ILEA are proposing to amalgamate three schools in the area, namely Ladbroke Grove, Isaac Newton and Holland Park. The amalgamation is for supposedly educational reasons, but the move will undoubtedly be used to cut staffing levels and restrict the curriculum, as school students and teachers are only too

well aware.

Just ten days before the decision was to be finalised, the Authority held a public meeting in North Kensington to hear the views of those who would be affected and to ask for alternative proposals. A flustered Margaret Morgan, right-wing Labour chairperson of the Education Committee, scarcely expected the influx of school students from Holland Park school, and made several attempts to keep them out on the grounds that they were not accompanied by their parents! But the mood of the meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of the children's right to put their case, which, to Morgan's dismay, was

exactly what they did for the next 2½ hours.

At its subsequent meeting, the Labour Group was so closely split on the issue that the Chairman had to use his casting vote three times in favour of the amalgamation scheme. So Margaret Morgan, notorious for her opposition to a reduction in the price of school meals, has struck another blow at education in London. Now the attempts made immediately after the GLC elections to remove her from the Chair of the Education Committee must be redoubled, before she has a chance to do any further damage.



ONE YEAR OF SOLIDARITY

by Peter Lane

A year after the Gdansk Accords legalised the emergence of independent unions in Poland, what have the workers gained? The simple answer is: only what they have taken by force.

Every single one of the 21 points signed last August have been subject to attack, whether on food prices, political rights or media censorship. Walesa has called upon his members to 'serve the nation' and consolidate past gains. But how can Polish workers 'consolidate' their right to run an independent trade union without using it in their own interests?

A year ago the Polish bureaucracy was falling over itself to atone for its past 'mistakes'. This year the tune has changed. The communique from Brezhnev's luxury villa in the Crimea turns reality on its head by alleging that Poland's crisis is the result of *Solidarity's* activities, rather than the cause of them. Poland's printworkers answered that slander by occupying their plants, demanding *Solidarity* have regular access to television and radio, and sufficient supplies of newsprint to produce its bulletin and newspapers.

Although 70% voted to continue the occupations until the bureaucracy gave in, Walesa persuaded them to return temporarily. However they are pledged to strike again in the second week of September, which promises a deep crisis, possibly surpassing that of last summer.

What the Polish workers have achieved is what the Hungarians were crushed and died for in 1956 — the right to free, independent organisations. This situation is intolerable for the Kremlin, which cannot indefinitely allow an independent power bloc to exist in its 'sphere of influence'.

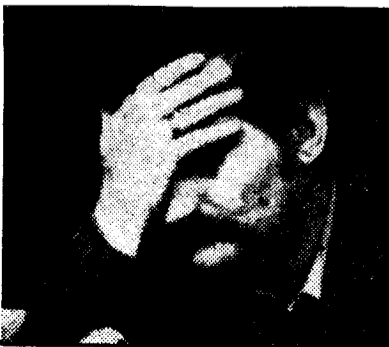
What frightens Kania and Brezhnev is not just the demonstrations demanding food, but the creeping realisation by the Polish masses that the root of their problems lies in the management of the economy itself. At the end of July when the women textile workers of Lodz led the famous hunger marches, we can be sure the eyes of the bureaucracy were on the banners which read: "A hungry nation can eat its authorities". A creeping political revolution is coming to boiling point. *Solidarity* with that political revolution by the international

workers movement is an immediate task for trade unionists and Labour Party members in Britain.

In June an appeal was sent out in Paris by Wladyslaw Sulecki and Andrzej Spyra to French workers. Spyra is a *Solidarity* militant from Silesia, who travelled to canvass support for the Polish workers. The appeal asks that workers in the west make direct links with specific factories in Poland in order to organise support. This is important, he said to organise an exchange of information about *Solidarity's* history and present difficulties with the authorities, as well as to organise practical aid with supplies of medicine and printing equipment.

Sulecki was hounded out of Poland after setting up a peasants' union in Katowice and is now attempting to return. The appeal was distributed by the *Liaison Committee for Free Trade Unions in USSR and Eastern Europe*, set up after a conference in April 1980. An example of such solidarity was mentioned from Dusseldorf, where *Liaison Committee* supporters made contact with the *Solidarity* branch in the Maltex textile plant in Lodz. German trade unionists have already provided holidays for the children of *Solidarity* members.

This example should be followed in Britain, by the setting up of "Committees of solidarity with *Solidarnosc*" in Labour Party and Trade Union branches. Polish workers urgently need supplies of sugar, medicines and other items, and it is within the power of the Labour Party and TUC leaders to provide this help.



The actions of the Polish people led to a virtual freeze on food prices for ten years. But now the Polish authorities, with a crippling burden of debt (£13,000 million is owed to western creditors alone) are making attempts to reverse those gains. Huge price rises are being enforced, including 300% on sugar, 350% on

ham, and 200% on bread. The incompetency of the Polish authorities, which leaves people hungry in a country that was once a net exporter of food, has now led to even Vodka being rationed!

The Stalinists attempt to bludgeon the people with threats and slanders, and major military manoeuvres by the Warsaw Pact began on September 4th as further 'persuasion'. But while Walesa calls not only for restraint but even gives back gains so dearly won — he has called for a resumption of Saturday working — his own members are increasingly impatient.

After huge hunger marches at the beginning of August, national *Solidarity* negotiators proposed they be allowed to set up "food supply control commissions". These were rejected out of hand — Kania knows that whoever controls food supply controls power in the country. Immediately a million workers closed all industry, including the mines, without waiting for Walesa's backing, and have demanded a national general strike. In Gdynia dockers have refused to load canned and processed meat for export, arguing that it was needed at home.

Only the desire for unity holds Silesia and other regions back. A clear expression of this was the resolution passed by members in the Mazowsze region, which we reproduce on this page, after they saw on television that the general strike planned in response to the beating up of members of Bydgoszcz was cancelled. They are not fooled by talk of a 'socialist renewal', a phrase used by Gierek before Kania. The question is how such a 'renewal' can be made possible. Walesa's betrayal consists in not offering his members the confidence in themselves to begin a genuine renewal, against the wishes of the bureaucracy. Instead he talks as if *Solidarity* is just a trade union that can 'peacefully co-exist' with the bureaucracy. The last people to be convinced of this is the bureaucracy itself.

By rescheduling debts Poland owes — £7,000 million of which should have been paid back last Christmas — the western banks are seeking to give the Polish stalinists time to destroy *Solidarity*. The international workers movement must therefore make the 1980 Gdansk Accords its own, by organising massive political and economic aid to *Solidarity* now.

After members of *Solidarity* were beaten up by the police in Bydgoszcz last March, for demanding the right to set up an independent farmers' union, a general strike was announced. The national Strike Committee issued a number of communiques, including the following.

INSTRUCTIONS IN CASE OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

"A state of emergency will probably mean an attempt to arrest several thousand members of *Solidarity* and of the democratic opposition in the country. For this reason it is necessary to form

INSTRUCTIONS IN THE EVENT OF AN INVASION

"Factory workers should:

- inform the largest number of people of the invasion, using every available means — sirens, church bells etc;
- take down all road signs, street signs, house numbers, and destroy lists of those living in apartments;
- false information must be given to the invaders;

RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDIUUM OF THE INTER-FACTORY COMMITTEE IN MAZOWSZE, WARSAW 30/3/81

1. It is in flagrant violation of all democratic principles that the decision to call off the strike was taken by a mere handful of negotiators and not by the KKP (*Solidarity's* National Executive), which could have been convened by Monday.

2. The practice of having large numbers of experts in negotiations is extremely complex because their views can replace those of militants and trade union members. We should consider as absolutely unacceptable that third parties

groups to act as strike committees and lead the organisations in case members of factory committees are arrested. The committees should then form an overall Strike Committee representing all factories in a town. We must reply with the General Strike if the authorities announce a state of emergency."

d) women and children must stay at home.

It is necessary to dislocate activities of the occupying force by every possible means and especially their penetration into the interior of the country;

e) producers of food are to prevent requisitioning, e.g. of corn, cattle, pigs, forage. We do not think an invasion inevitable, but we must be prepared for this eventuality."

brought in by members of our delegation take part in the negotiations. The minutes of the negotiations must be made known to the members.

3. An important part of the strike demands has not been finally dealt with, particularly the problem of dropping prosecutions as well as the right of reply in the media. The question of free activity and registration of the union of farmers has only been partially settled and without sufficient guarantees. The results negotiated are inadequate. The leadership of Mazowsze region considers trade union unity today especially important and declares that it will submit to the authority of the KKP in its future activity, and calls upon other regions to do so.

Free Rudolf Battek!

DEFEND CHARTER 77



In July this summer Rudolf Battek signatory of Charter 77 and a supporter of independent trade unions was sentenced to 7½ years in prison by the Czech authorities. This is but a prelude to the biggest wave of mass political show trials in Eastern Europe seen since the late fifties. The repression of Battek represents an attempt by the authorities, who fear a spread of the 'Polish disease', to ruthlessly crackdown on the workers' opposition in Czechoslovakia.

In May some 30 signatories and supporters of Charter 77 and VONS were arrested. The pretext for the arrests was the detention of two French socialists, Giles Thonon and Françoise Anis, who were arrested and later deported for attempting to bring socialist literature into the country from the west. The authorities have attempted to link the arrested Czech oppositionists with the two French people. The 16 who will stand trial are accused of "subversion of the Republic in collusion with a foreign power". It is expected that some of the sixteen will receive sentences of up to ten years in prison. Eight of the sixteen have been detained in custody; Jaromir Horec, journalist; Eva Kanturkova, journalist; Karel Kyncel, journalist; Jan Mlynarik, historian; Jan Ruml and Jiri Ruml, journalists; Jirina Siklova, sociologist; and Milan Somecka, writer. Among the eight released from custody is Ivan Havel, brother of Vaclav Havel serving a 4½ year sentence. Vaclav Havel

was convicted with a number of other leading Charter 77 members in 1979, along with Petr Uhl.

The stalinists, clearly disturbed by the events in Poland, are intent on trying to prevent the growth of the workers' opposition groups in Czechoslovakia in the way that Gierke failed to prevent the development of the KOR in Poland. The authorities witnessed the guiding role played by KOR militants, like Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, in the massive upheavals in the past twelve months in Poland, starting with the historic strike in the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk. The authorities must be very concerned at the increasing proletarianisation of Charter 77 and VONS; 40% of the membership of Charter 77 is now comprised of workers. The trials are aimed at redressing the balance of forces in the Eastern bloc as a whole, destabilised by the victories of the developing political revolution in Poland, and haunted by the spectre of the Prague Spring of 1968.

Immediately socialists in Britain must demand the release of those detained and the dropping of all charges. Letters should be sent to the Czech Embassy in London. Labour Party members must demand that the leaders of the Party call for the release of Battek and all those recently detained in Czechoslovakia. This also means that the Czech ruling party delegation to Labour Party Conference must be thrown out of the conference hall.

ARGENTINA

5000 MARCH IN BUENOS AIRES

After five years of military government (installed on March 24th 1976) during which time Viola has replaced Videla as the dictatorship's leader, the Argentinian economy remains gripped by a catastrophic crisis. Added to this the repression has failed to stop increasing resistance. The struggle against the military dictatorship is marked today by a reorganisation of the workers' movement.

Under the military regime, inflation increases (118% in April and May 1981); unemployment increases; but the combativity of the workers has developed sharply.

This fighting spirit of the workers' movement creates conditions to do another "Roderigazo". In 1975 there was a general strike which forced the retreat of the Minister of Economy, Roderigo. Today's movement centres on resisting repression and fighting for large wage increases. But to wage these struggles successfully requires a leadership willing to organise. The PST, Argentinian section of the FI (IC), raises the demand that the CGT (General Workers Confederation) must call a general strike. The call for a general strike flows out of a concrete analysis of the last 5 years. Just six months after the military coup in 1976 there was a partial answer by the workers movement, with stoppages in many factories, mainly in the car industry (Peugeot, General Motors, Renault and Fiat). In 1978 there was a general strike in the ports, where the workers have a long tradition of combativity, and they won a partial victory. Also in 1978 there was the first spontaneous and total strike on the railways. In fact at this time the eighty biggest factories had been stopped, including one of the biggest foundries in the country, 'Santa Rosa', in which the Secretary of the Economy is a shareholder. The strike lasted thirty days and again the workers won a partial satisfaction of their demands.

But the most important development was the stoppage of April 14th, which was called by SMATA, a section of the trade union bureaucracy, and 35% of all industries were brought to a halt.

The military dictatorship bases itself on the support of the big and petty bourgeoisie. But today the devaluation of the 'peso', inflation and massive unemployment drives the petty bourgeois into increasing demoralisation. And today the military regime even faces criticisms from the bourgeoisie itself.

However despite permanent conflict between different wings of the bourgeoisie they continue to give the military dictatorship full support: For instance there is no call for elections. The main reason for this continued support is their fear of the advances of the working class.

The depth of crisis in the Argentinian economy demonstrates that the military dictatorship is completely incapable of resolving the economic crisis; indeed its continued rule deepens it.

Facing this generalised chaos the PST calls for the mobilisation of the working class for the following demands:

1. Nationalisation without compensation of all the monopoly enterprises.
2. Workers control of these enterprises.
3. Nationalisation without compensation of all enterprises which have been closed.
4. Nationalisation of foreign trade.
5. Cancellation of the foreign debt.
6. Nationalisation of the banks, financial and insurance companies.
7. General increase in all wages.

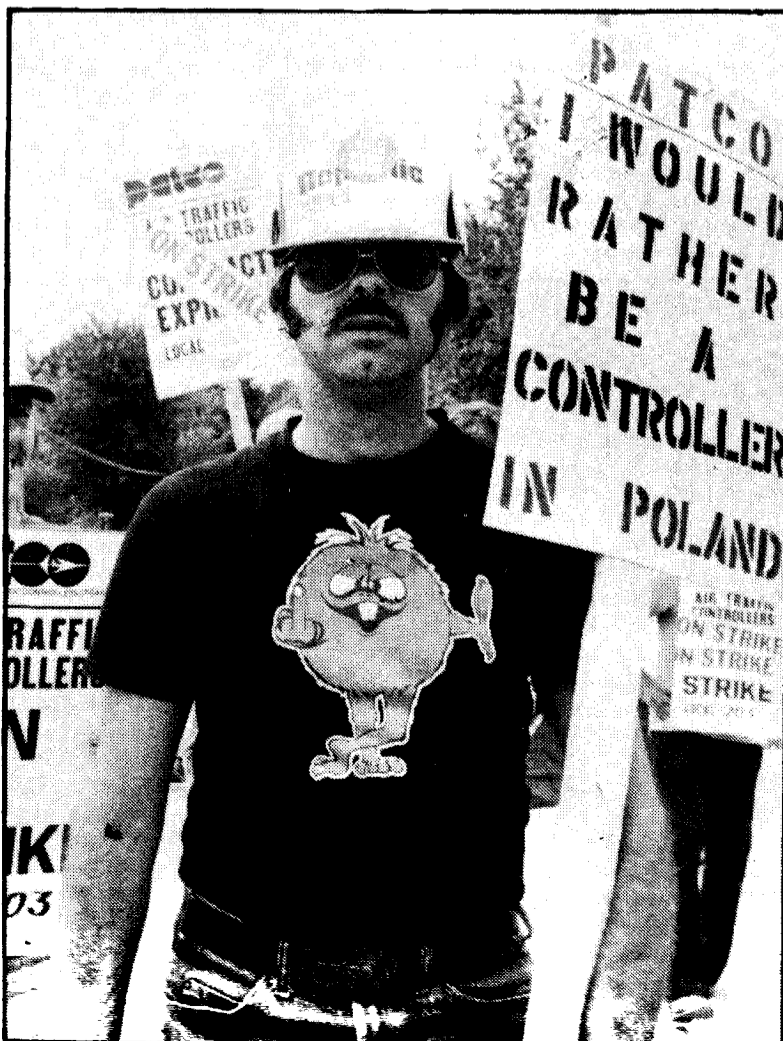
On April 24th, Horacio Alberto Castro, 36 year old militant and founder of the PST, was killed. He is the latest victim of the bloody dictatorship in the long list of assassinated Argentinian Trotskyists.

On May 28th, more than 5,000 people demonstrated on the Playa of May, in Buenos Aires, against this latest vile murder. The protest included intellectuals, artists delegates from factories and representatives of disappeared relatives groups, only the CP was absent.

From Britain every socialist says: "Until the victory Comrade Horatio".

US AIR TRAFFIC DISPUTE

British controllers must act!



While Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet dithers over how to effect so-called "Trade Union reform" her great friend across the Atlantic, President Reagan, has sacked 13,000 air traffic controllers for having the audacity to go on strike.

In what is clearly an offensive against organised labour Reagan has overseen the fining, sacking and even the jailing of the air traffic controllers. However the significance of this affair is that the strike has occurred in the first place. It expresses a deepening hostility in the American working class against the Reagan administration and coincides with a growing movement against Reagan's cutbacks, particularly in welfare programmes.

Reagan's response to the strike is a domestic expression of his blood-soaked policy in El Salvador. It is imperative that the workers' movement internationally takes up active support for the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organisation in the US just as we support the struggle of the Salvadorean people against Reagan's guns and helicopters.

Sympathy action has taken place in Canada, Portugal and Australia. But the onus is on the British air traffic controllers to take action. The London-USA air link is the busiest in the world. A total boycott on all traffic to and from the USA would represent a tremendous blow against Reagan and would be decisive in winning back the 13,000 jobs.

There is a great responsibility on the British air traffic controllers organised in the civil service unions to immediately take up:

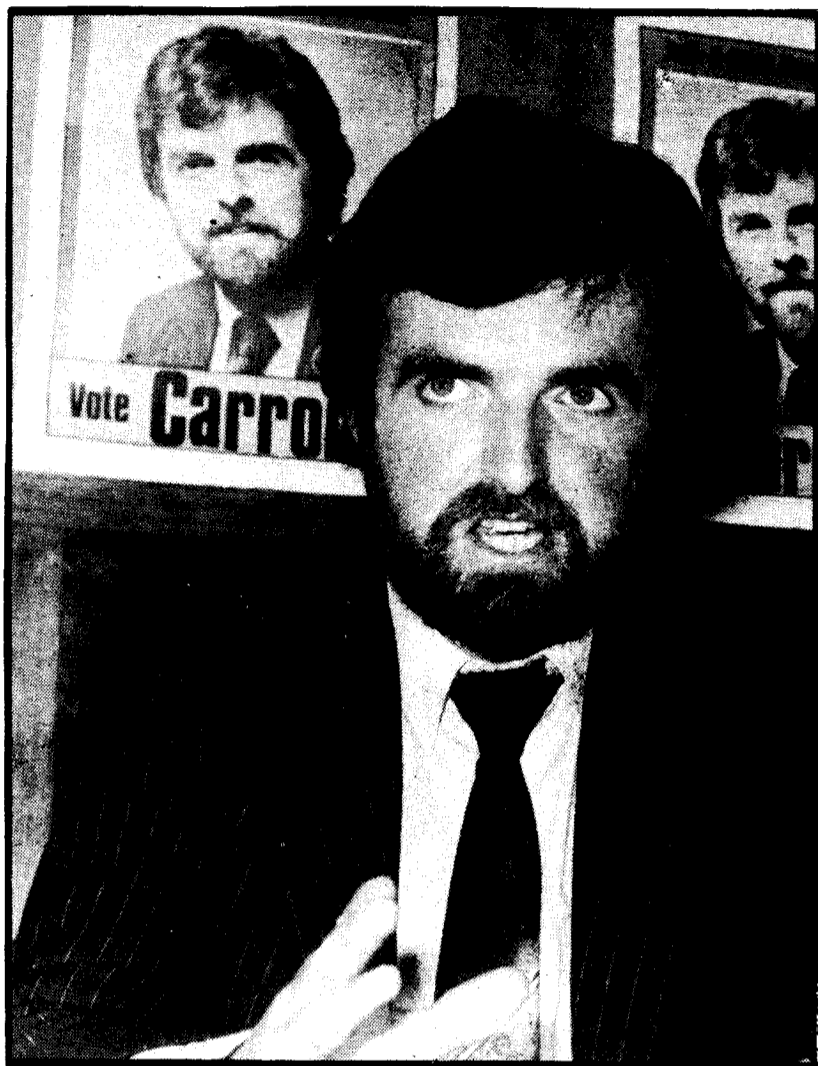
1. The release of Steve Wallaert, President of the Norfolk Virginia Local (jailed for 60 days) and the other four officials jailed.
2. Reinstatement of the 13,000 trade unionists sacked.
3. Reinstatement of all lost medical and life insurance.

British civil servants particularly in the CPSA should take this up with demands on the leadership to call for immediate solidarity action.

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On Thursday August 20th Owen Carron was elected Member of Parliament for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. After Bobby Sands, Kieran Doherty and Paddy Agnew he becomes the fourth candidate fighting on the H-Block issue to be elected to the Irish and British Parliaments. The significance of yet another victory for those committed to fighting British imperialism and Margaret Thatcher's intransigence on the hunger strike resounds across the world.

For those fighting against imperialism — in Central America, in Southern Africa — this victory will have been greeted with celebration. For the imperialist powers — in the White house, in France, in Britain — it marks another uncomfortable stage in the escalating crisis that exists for them in the North of Ireland.

No accusations of fraud, from the UDR man Ken Maginnis, nor those of "Hobson's choice" from the SDLP can deny the tremendous support that exists amongst the nationalist community in the whole of Ireland for the prisoners in the H-Blocks. The derisory vote of just over 1,000 votes for the Republican Clubs candidate — despite a call for support from Gerry Fitt — is evidence not only of the bankruptcy of Sinn Fein Workers Party but also that the solution of the H-Block issue, the question of the British occupation of the North and the struggle for national independence are the central concerns to the Irish people.

Also on Thursday August 20th Micky Devine died. The tenth striker forced to go all the way to his death by the murdering Tory Government of Thatcher. This death, like the others before sparked off some of the most widespread and well prepared attacks, especially by the youth.

These events together with the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of internment, show more graphically than ever before that the British state has been unable to crush the nationalist community.

Margaret Thatcher's response, along with those of all her spokesmen in the Northern Ireland office, has been to refuse to meet Carron and to restate their refusal to implement the 5 demands of the prisoners (despite the agreement reached in December 1980).

All this despite the crescendo of screams coming from all sections of the national and international bourgeoisie that some movement must be made by the British Government.

Cardinal O Fiach and Garret Fitzgerald's attacks on Thatcher at the beginning of August, the increasing interest being shown by France in the crisis in Ireland and even the doubts being expressed by a wing of the British bourgeoisie, through 'The Times', has been met by the Tories with a stony intransigence and a commitment to continue a policy of genocide in the H-Blocks.

In two consecutive leaders (August 16th and 23rd) 'The Sunday Times' has called for the eventual complete withdrawal of Britain from Ireland at every level — economic, military and political. Such is the depth of the crisis that exists for this Tory Government and British imperialism in Ireland. A crisis which cannot be solved for them in makeshift proposals for Advisory Councils (participation in which was refused anyway by the SDLP and the unionists) or extended emergency powers legislation, which is all that Atkins has to offer.

These events are a culmination of the most intensive and widespread activity by the Irish working class

32000 VOTES AGAINST TORY MURDER!

SMASH BI-PARTISANSHIP

and nationalist population since the hunger strike began in the Autumn of 1980. This situation has forced the debate in the British Labour Party.

In an attempt to solve the problem for the British bourgeoisie the leaders of the Labour Party have offered up a number of 'solutions'. James Callaghan has advanced the solution of an independent Northern Ireland with a special relationship with Dublin and London, Tony Benn has called for the replacement of British troops with those from the UN. Within the ranks of the rank and file however a different aspiration is being expressed. 53 different resolutions have been submitted to the Labour Party Conference, including motions calling for the hunger strikers demands to be met, repeal of the PTA, immediate withdrawal of troops and self determination for the Irish people.

At the centre of this debate lies the bipartisan policy. At a conference organised by Labour Party members on July 25th a call went

out for the end of bipartisanship. The conference called for a lobby of the Labour Party Conference along this line. This lobby should be supported by those who are fighting for an independent voice of Labour on the Irish question. We have nothing in common with Thatcher on any question, least of all the repression of the Irish people. Labour must break with the Tories on Ireland.

This must be made the central question at Brighton. Any attempt to adopt a formal position for a United Ireland (as was done at recent meeting of the NEC) cannot be tolerated as a substitute for the immediate demand on the PLP that they ditch their quiet acquiescence with the Tories on Ireland.

The lengths that the leadership of the Labour Party will go to in their defence of the bourgeois state must not be underestimated. Concannon's visit to the death bed of Bobby Sands to tell him that Labour supported Thatcher is not now the only example. Concannon was also responsible for organising

a reactionary anti-Irish demonstration, including fascists, against a demonstration called by the Labour Committee on Ireland in Mansfield. It must be made clear to Concannon that we will not tolerate him in our ranks. Concannon must go!

The historic victory of Owen Carron must not be allowed to pass by without response in the British labour movement. Everywhere this victory and its message that the Irish people will fight British imperialism and Thatcher to the end, must be carried into every quarter of the British working class.

We must build on Carron's victory as part of the campaign to break with bipartisanship at the Brighton Labour Party Conference. This must be seen as a crucial component in an offensive to force the Tories out of office and simultaneously to force Britain's total withdrawal from Ireland. Internationalists in the British working class have a clear responsibility to ensure that Bobby Sands and his comrades did not die in vain.