

socialist newsletter

Number 23

Paper of the Socialist Labour Group

20th May 1982

20p

Force a General Election now Return the fleet to Britain The Islands are Argentine **NO U.N. DEAL!**

"The Prime Minister spoke with restraint and put her case in a way that I found unexceptionable. Indeed I support much of what she said."

These are not, as you might think, the words of some right wing Tory backbencher. They are the words of James Callaghan, once leader of the Labour Party, spoken in one of last month's debates on the Malvinas-Falklands' crisis. They are just one example of the way that the entire Labour front bench lined up with the Tories, Enoch Powell and every other Great British Empire drummer who was given the chance to crawl out of the woodwork by the war in the South Atlantic.

Denis Healey called the first bombing raid on Port Stanley "common sense" and a "proud moment" for Britain. Michael Foot, who not long ago was speaking in favour of the struggle of the people of El Salvador to overthrow the US backed junta there, gave full support to the diplomatic manoeuvres of Alexander Haig, the man directly responsible for the arms which go to prop up the junta in El Salvador. It was only when it became clear that Haig's mission in support of imperialist rights in the South Atlantic was going to fail

that Foot switched neatly onto support for the UN to intervene directly. This he backed up with quotations from Admiral Woodward, in charge of the task force, who had expressed his misgivings about the war - and who then went on to bomb the airport at Port Stanley, apparently killing some of the islanders he had been sent to 'rescue'.



In no sense does the support which Foot and Healey are now giving to an intervention by the United Nations, mark a change from the support which they have given the Tories over the sending of the fleet in the first place. Both the Tory and Labour front benches have maintained an unbroken solid wall of support for the right of Britain to make war on the Argentine people. The support which Labour is giving to an intervention by the UN is merely another option for imperialism, and not one the Tories have ruled out either.



SUPPORT BENN ON FLEET

Tony Benn has called for the withdrawal of the fleet and was supported in this by seven other members of the Labour Party National Executive. Socialists should support Benn's call without reservations, but must also be aware that Benn, like Foot, is keeping options open. In the House of Commons debate when Foot spoke of United Nations intervention Benn called for "strong support" for Foot. He also voted in a subsequent meeting of the Labour Party National Executive in support of Michael Foot's resolution to this effect.

Will the UN act in the cause of a just peace?

The role of UN troops in Korea in the early 1950s was a far cry from peace-keeping. One of the main commanders of the UN army then was MacArthur, who wanted to carry the war until the destruction of the people of North Korea and to drop nuclear bombs on China! Since then, as further proof of the role of the UN there has been the carnage in the Congo, UN activity against the aspirations of the Palestinian people, UN troops overseeing the partition of Cyprus and the total failure of the UN to get South Africa out of Namibia. This is the brutal

record of UN intervention - it is one of support for the interests of imperialism.

TRIBUNE SPLITS

The Tribune Group split down the middle on the Malvinas-Falklands issue. Like the NEC however it was united on support for United Nations involvement. Tribune itself, in its edition of April 9th, said, "Only the UN can now save the Falkland Islanders from Argentine aggression." The difference within the Tribune Group in parliament arose over the withdrawal of the British task force.

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WITHDRAW THE FLEET!

From Front Page

Socialists should give absolutely no support to a 'solution' which places UN troops on the Malvinas but build the broadest possible front for the immediate withdrawal of the British task force.

The recognition that the islands are part of Argentina is being called treacherous by some right wing Tory MPs, and there are some Labour leaders who go along with this. Alan Roberts MP called for a Special Conference of the Labour Party to discuss the party's line on the dispute. This is the only way to see where the bulk of Labour Party activists stand on the question of sovereignty.

This call has not been taken up by any of the leading Labour lefts, who have preferred to stage events which do not offer a direct challenge to the line of Foot and Healey.

Many of the soft lefts are hoping that Healey has done himself some damage within the party by too open a support for Thatcher at the beginning of the crisis. The soft left refused to make any direct challenge to Healey's position within the Labour Party, preferring instead to argue behind

closed doors for negotiation as opposed to war. As the *New Statesman* was quick to point out, Judith Hart was opposed to war on the basis of having used diplomatic means in previous Labour Governments to 'defuse' problem confrontations over Hong Kong and Gibraltar, which of course remain under the direct control of the ruling class of Britain. Labour Party members who believe in peace, but a just peace, should make their views known to the national office of the Labour Party at Walworth Road and in resolutions.

We can have no truck with the 'diplomatic solutions' being touted by the Labour leaders as an alternative to Thatcher's warmongering. The fleet must be totally withdrawn and Argentine sovereignty over the Islands recognised. Foot and Healey must break with Thatcher and demand an immediate General Election. The government has no mandate to spend millions of public money on imperialist war. The Labour leaders should be inundated with resolutions demanding a mass campaign, not just against the war, but to bring down the Tory government that is waging it.

**Stop the
collusion
-oppose
the war!**

Towards Labour's Conference

A low profile will not stop the Right

The time is again here when Labour Party activists must consider what resolutions they will try to get onto the agenda of the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool. Many will follow the guidelines of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, which now has over 120 Constituency Labour Parties affiliated.

The latest issue of the Newsletter of the CLPD reveals the usual meticulous approach to questions concerning party democracy. There are proposals on mandatory reselection of MPs, the need for recorded votes at conference, democracy in the Parliamentary Labour Party and for conference decisions to be reflected in election manifestos.

The problem arises when we look at the abnormal character of many of the events in the Labour Party since the last conference. First, Michael Foot, using the House of Commons, announced his intention to veto Peter Tatchell's wholly normal selection as the prospective Labour candidate for the south London area of Bermondsey. This was followed by the secret talks between union leaders and the NEC at Bishop's Stortford. For the left this seems to have been a surrender rather than a truce. It resulted in Benn not running this year for leader or deputy leader, Pat Wall, another duly selected Labour candidate and well known supporter of the Militant, not being endorsed by the National Executive and lately Bob Mellish, who Michael Foot personally asked not to leave the Labour Party, calling for votes against Labour in the recent local elections. Above all Bishop's Stortford endorsed the right wing plan have an 'Inquiry' into the workings of the left. Some truce!

The right wing in the Labour Party has declared war and a routine reply by the left would be no answer. In throwing out Tatchell in the Commons Foot has shown what he thinks of the constitution. It is a black comment on the purely constitutional approach of some leaders of the CLPD that Neil Kinnock, who backed Foot on the NEC against Tatchell was a CLPD nominee for the last conference.

A combination of constitutional and campaign work is now needed to defeat the right. If the left does not challenge every move of the right it will see its own downfall and leave the Labour Movement with leaders who will not challenge Thatcher.

Some members of the CLPD have been arguing over the past months for the adoption of a 'low profile' in the battle with the right. Of course the lowest possible profile is when you grovel on the ground. This is also an excellent position from which to act as a doormat.

The CLPD are rightly proposing a resolution against witch-hunting, for the right of local parties to select their own candidates and to make their own decisions on the eligibility of people who apply to join the Labour Party. The latter arises from moves by the National Executive to block the membership of Tariq Ali, even though his local party wants to admit him.

The CLPD motion does not make any mention of what has happened to Pat Wall or Peter Tatchell, or the role of Michael Foot in these affairs. If this is a result of bending in order to find a concensus with such as Neil Kinnock it will not work. Those who back any form of erosion of what has been gained in Labour Party democracy over the past few conferences will not be appeased. They will move further to the right and enable the right to make sharper attacks.

The right wing are out to proscribe ban and witch-hunt. The moves by Duffy and Weighell to use their unions to bring back the bans are as clear as clear can be. There is no meaningful 'low profile' possible in the face of this. Bans have to be fought with all the power at the disposal of the left. A recent claim by a member of the CLPD executive that the CLPD unites right and left takes on new meaning when we read in the CLPD bulletin that, "To pursue reforms at this stage, of a more divisive kind, would be disastrous, however beneficial they may appear in the long term." This can only mean that the author of those lines and his co-thinkers now accept the terms of the right, and the right are out to take back all the reforms of the last few years.

Labour Party members need to act now to commit their conference delegate to oppose any bans or exclusions and to defend all aspects of Labour Party democracy through a sharp fight. This is the only way to defend the gains of Wembley and the last two conferences.

NEXT ISSUE

From this issue on Socialist Newsletter will be changing its format and frequency. We will be going over to a magazine appearing five times a year. Subscribers will have the residue of their subscription made up until the money runs out.

**Duffy's
answer:
more defence
spending**



Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW, seems, on the question of the Malvinas-Falklands, to be slightly to the right of Thatcher. He has issued a statement in which he says that the war in the South Atlantic reveals the folly of cuts in naval spending! Using the excuse of 'fighting fascism in Argentina' he called for the stepping up of British imperialist war spending, in the sure knowledge that this would go to defend imperialism.

Members of the trade unions in Britain share a common struggle against capitalism with the trade unionists of Argentina, who have been repressed by various military governments. There is no evidence, prior to this war in which a wave of right wing patriotism has been stirred up, of Duffy and his ilk using their positions within the TUC to make the Tories break off relations with the Argentinian junta.

AFTER THE LOCAL ELECTIONS No more cuts No Coalition

In the local elections on May 6th, a classic mid-term swing against the government should have taken place, with the Labour Party making the gains. This did not happen, even though the Thatcher administration is one of the worst hated governments in 25 years. The blame for this cannot be pinned onto the emergence of the SDP, which did not take seats from Labour in large numbers. It lies at the feet of the Labour right wing leaders, who refused to raise the call through the elections for the bringing down of Thatcher and who tailed the Tory war mania in the House of Commons.

Labour lost most in Birmingham, where the Tories grabbed control of the city. The leaders of the Labour council in Birmingham were quick to make cuts on Heseltine's orders.

The Labour vote, on a national level, held up well in the working class areas.

Up to May 6th it was predicted that Labour would lose hundreds of council seats to the SDP but this did not happen anywhere. The class vote for Labour held up, seen most spectacularly in the London Borough of Islington where an SDP council majority, made up of Labour defectors, was turned into a Labour council, with 51 Labour members and one SDP member.

Before the elections sections of the Labour left, around **London Labour Briefing** for example were talking about the prospect of 'majority opposition' after the elections, as a way of opting out of having to implement cuts. **Socialist Newsletter** always opposed this. Labour is voted in to take power and this is what it must do where possible.

NO DEALS WITH THE RIGHT

Predictably, the left pundits who were talking about the need for 'majority opposition' up to May 6th are now taking part in the scramble for committee chairs.

The left has not won control of many of the councils which Labour won. In Manchester the left has nearly half the seats on the council but has been excluded from every single office in the council. The right wing apparatus will not give up a single one of its positions and will be pressing for 'deals' with Liberals, SDP and Tory wets. Equally, the kind of deal with the right which Ted Knight



Ted Knight

has done to hang onto the leadership of the Labour Group on Lambeth Council will only rebound against the left when the Tories resume the pressure for cuts and Foot and Healey decide it is time to go ahead with a full-scale witch-hunt.

The SDP did not make its expected gains from Labour, but the threat of coalitionism which the SDP represents has not been removed. Now it will take different forms, with the right wingers who stayed in the Labour ranks taking the lead.

MANDATE THE COUNCILS

The local elections did not give Labour a solid step forward from which to challenge and bring down the Tories. This result suits the right and prolongs the period that workers will have to bear Thatcher. But a crushing blow was not dealt to the Labour Party and it is for rank and file members of the Labour Party and affiliated trade unions to fight for the mandation of Labour councils to:

* Refuse to implement any more Tory cuts.

* Refuse to implement any more cuts.

* Refuse all coalition deals whether open or secret.

* Join with the public sector unions to fight Heseltine and Tebbit

1982 CPSA Conference

Broad Left sweep in Now to make them lead a fight

The 1982 CPSA Conference was marked by a major victory of the Broad Left over the union's 'Moderates'. Right-wing full time General Secretary Alistair Graham is now left with a mere three fellow right-wingers on an Executive of 26. This decisive shift to the left was also reflected in the Section Conferences of CPSA members in the Department of Employment and the DHSS. This overwhelming defeat of the right is undoubtedly the product of two years of betrayal on the pay front.

The right-wing were censured for their role in the 1981 pay campaign and the incoming NEC is pledged to call a pay conference for the 1983 in November despite the fact that Graham said that it would be "an irrelevant bore."

RIGHT WING NEC CENSURED

Another key issue confronting the union is that of job loss in the face of new technology. The right-wing agreed a New Technology Agreement with the government without consulting the membership and sought ratification for their decision from Conference. It was rejected however and the NEC was instructed to reopen negotiations based on the principles of no job loss and a shorter working week.

Last year, Conference voted overwhelmingly to affiliate to CND but the 'Moderates' pointblank refused to implement the policy. Two weeks before this year's Conference Alastair Graham obtained some legal advice which apparently denied the right of CPSA to affiliate to any political body. The decision to censure the NEC and reaffirm affiliation was carried with a massive majority.

BALLOT ON LABOUR PARTY

Equally unpalatable for the 'Moderates' was

the decision to ballot the membership on affiliation to the Labour Party. This was achieved in the teeth of fierce right-wing opposition.

PROBLEM OF MILITANT

On these issues and in the election results the right suffered a major defeat. But what of the new Broad Left leadership? The incoming Broad Left leadership is heavily influenced by the Militant tendency and this has already revealed a number of problems - including their conscious obstruction in the Poland debate of resolutions which called for a political and financial campaign in aid of the Polish workers.

This failure to relate to real movements in struggle is perhaps best highlighted on Ireland. Refusing to back the anti-imperialist struggle of the Irish people, Militant pushed through CPSA Conference a motion calling for the setting up of a Labour Party in the North of Ireland. This is nothing but a reactionary acceptance of the bastard state in the North and in no way challenges the blood-drenched role of Britain in Ireland.

An important Conference fringe meeting was

held by the Civil Service Women's Rights Group relating to sexual harassment at work. The Conference later passed a motion condemning this and pledged an investigation into it.

It is on the issues of pay, cuts and Tebbit that the new Broad Left leadership of the union will be tested. Their record of organising against the old right-wing leaders is a poor one. Their passivity facilitated the right's betrayals.

SOCIALIST CAUCUS

It is this political problem which the Socialist Caucus addresses itself to. The Socialist Caucus fringe meeting at Conference discussed the problems involved in fighting to make the Broad Left launch real national initiatives on cuts and pay instead of operating simply as an electoral machine.

In the context of a decisive shift to the left in the union, the Socialist Caucus intends to build itself as the force within the Broad Left which can take a campaigning lead in the fight on cuts, pay and affiliation. The Socialist Caucus will be holding a conference later this summer to prepare for the tasks ahead.



Palestine on the brink

The Middle East is on the verge of a war that could engulf the entire region. For more than a month the Israelis have been amassing troops and armour in the North of Israel with the purpose of invading either South Lebanon or Syria or both. It is the unstable and deteriorating economic and political situation inside the siege state of Israel, which now combines with unbearable pressure from the Palestinian youth on the occupied West Bank, that are underpinning the moves towards war.

The state of Israel can only exist by maintaining the partition and brutalization of the people of Palestine by armed force. It acts as a front-line strike force for imperialism in the Middle East - which is the condition on which the US and European capitalist powers sell it arms. But the re-

pression of the Palestinian people has always been resisted by armed struggle. This creates an explosive situation throughout the region, since the demand of the Palestinians for their homeland can only be won by revolutionary means.

YOUTH FIGHT BACK

Israel has withdrawn from the Sinai and removed the immediate threat of armed confrontation with Egypt. At the same time Begin's government has stepped up police and military pressure against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian youth have responded by taking to the streets in thousands and fighting. Israeli troops opened fire, killing one boy and wounding 21. From then on the West Bank and the Gaza have seen continuous confrontation between Palestinian youth and the Israeli forces.

In the Lebanon, fighting has been continuing in Beirut, involving many factions. Since the last Israeli invasion of South Lebanon in 1978 the PLO have improved their weapons and positions. Some PLO leaders believe it is time to strike. This led to the first missile attack across the Israeli frontier for years.

MILITARY BUILD UP

The PLO was driven to establish its main base in the Lebanon. Here too, once its attempts to take the war to Israel went beyond a minimal level, it was crushed by the intervention of a Syrian 'peace-keeping force' - which still occupies most of the north and centre of that country. The Syrian occupation provided an excuse for Israel to establish an artificial enclave of extreme right-wing Christians as a buffer against the PLO.



Israeli troops attack Palestinian

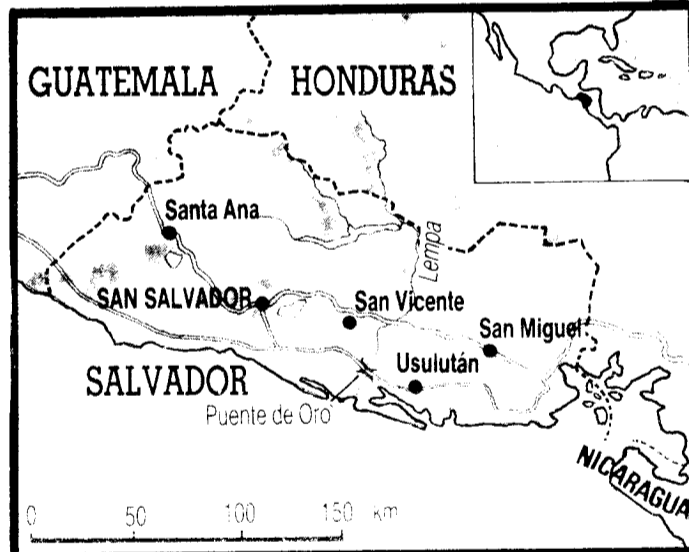
The Begin-Sharon government in Israel would like to strike a devastating blow against the PLO, whatever the risks. Only great pressure from Reagan has held Begin in check. But all the signs are that troop reinforcements continue in the North of Israel.

REUNIFY PALESTINE

The whole Middle East is hanging on the edge of a political and military precipice, which is the result of the way the region was carved up by the powers who drafted and endorsed the Teheran-

Yalta-Potsdam agreements after the war. None of the peoples of the Middle East, including the Jews, have an interest in maintaining the imperialist dictated boundaries. The economic and social development of the region is hamstrung and by the way in which capitalism forces oil profits into Western banks.

The Palestinian people are fighting for the reunification of their own country and the re-establishment of their state. These are just demands that every socialist must support.



Central America a simultaneous eruption

The assembly which emerged out of the fake elections in El Salvador last March 26th had its first meeting on the 16th April. A coalition of extreme right parties has 36 seats and the Christian Democrats of Napoleon Duarte, the ex-president, has 24 seats.

Duarte was the Reagan government's choice to win in the March elections. He makes use of a so-called liberal bias, based on weak proposals for land reform.

The majority of the five right wing parties will mean that those who call for a war of 'extermination' of the guerillas must have a main say in the new government. The strong man of the right is Major D'Aubuisson who threatens to use napalm against the guerillas. Haig and Reagan are trying to enforce a coalition with the support of Duarte, using a threat to withdraw some of the 225 million dollars in aid promised to Salvador.

Reagan would like the hard line elements of Arena and the Party of National Conciliation to stay more in the background. The US is trying to recreate the image of D'Aubuisson, described by one American ambassador to Salvador as a pathological killer. In fact he is the man behind the rightist death squads which kill and torture thousands of poor people in Salvador.

He is a member of one of the old landed families of Salvador and it was this layer which paid up for his campaign.

THE WAR IS SPREADING

Alexander Haig claims that the elections were 'a major achievement in democracy'. This is a completely absurd idea. Throughout the areas where the guerillas are strong an almost total boycott was effected. In the principal towns the middle classes voted for the nearest thing to their own parties.

The army in any case made voting compulsory. Workers had to choose between going to vote for a right wing party or punishment exacted on their families. 10% of the ballot papers were spoiled.

The FMLN was unable to stop the voting in the big towns and failed, after a 3 day battle, to capture the provincial capital of Usulután. The situation, in a military sense, is similar to that in VietNam in the late 1960s. The popular forces are able to operate in $\frac{2}{3}$ of the countryside and control up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of it. The bourgeois government controls cities, towns and main roads, with the massive firepower which Washington provides, and an increasing number of US 'advisors'.

The effects of the war are spreading to Honduras and Guatemala. The FMLN guerillas use bases in the border areas of Honduras, a fact which has prompted the US government to increase

military aid to the Honduran regime, beginning a cycle of repression and resistance, leading to another revolutionary wave. In Guatemala the army is killing not only those who take up arms but even attempts at liberal opposition by intellectuals.

The White House tries to explain the spread of revolutionary feeling in Central America by reference to the 'domino theory', by which it means a conspiracy to artificially spread the armed struggle. On the contrary, it is the similarity of the economic and social conditions in all the countries of Central America which leads to a simultaneous eruption of revolt and repression.

The fight to free Central America from repressive regimes which are the puppets of American imperialism is one which should be backed by the Labour Movement in Britain. Our support should be wholeheartedly behind the FMLN in El Salvador.

Behind the hypocrisy

The Malvinas, known as the Falkland Islands in Britain, have been a colony since January 1834. At that moment four sailors and an officer landed and put up the British flag. Just prior to this an 18 gun British ship chased off a boat from Argentina. Before 1834 the islands had momentarily been occupied by Britain, Spain and France. In 1829 and 1831 an American ship tried to land there but was driven off by the Argentinians. It was as a result of this dispute, between the US ship and what was then called the Republic of Buenos Aires, that Britain saw its chance and sent a gunboat.

It is utterly wrong to say as *Socialist Organiser* does, that Britain has displaced "no-one, oppressing no other community", by taking these islands. It was Argentina, which had not long thrown off the colonial yoke of Spain, who was displaced. The Argentinian presence was tiny, but it was that of a young nation and the British force which took its place, by force, was equally tiny.

It is equally wrong to say that the islands have not been used as a military base. One of the largest naval battles in the First World War was fought from the harbour of Port Stanley, in order that Britain could hold the supremacy of its imperialist navy over the south Atlantic - to make sure that the profitable British owned railways, docks, factories, cattle ranches and other interests in Argentina were not under threat.

FALKLANDS A NATION?

The Falkland Islanders are British. They want to stay British. No-one can deny them that right, if they exercise it in Britain. They went as colonists from Britain, backed by a navy which made it impossible for Argentina to push the claim to the islands it has held for 160 years. It is absurd to try to cover up the colonial nature of the British settlement of the Malvinas by talk of 150 years of community.

A nation cannot come about from 1500 people, based on a subsistence economy of sheep-farming, which requires huge amounts of aid from Britain.

Michael Foot spoke on April 13th about the task force making "a contribution, not only to the safety, security and well being of the Falkland Islanders, but to many small nations throughout the world." Perhaps Michael Foot ought to try that one out on several small nations - the Irish for example.

The spurious argument that Britain is acting to defend the rights of a small nation against aggression is only a very crude cover for British imperialism. Most of the scant resources on the Falklands-Malvinas are under the control of the Coalite Company and the British government would not let Argentine interests take over a majority share in the Falklands Islands Company, a subsidiary of Coalite.



The British capitalists are also thinking about the exploitation of oil, minerals and gas in the Antarctic. Claims to these untapped riches in ten years time will have a lot to do with which bits of land are occupied now. Little good from these oil and mineral deposits will go to the working class.

IMPERIALIST INTERESTS

An equally important reason for the war, and a main reason why every imperialist nation supported Britain is the need to maintain the world economic and political domination of imperialism. Even though Britain is now a second rate power she still occupies a major place in the world order, too important to have her position overturned by a nation like Argentina, which is a semi-colonial nation. Because of the threat of social unrest at home, the junta in Argentina took matters into its own hands and occupied the Malvinas-Falklands.

Decadent British imperialism had to show it would use force to retake the islands.

Whatever the outcome of the war in military terms, British imperialism will act to safeguard its interests. War and negotiation, whether through the UN or some other body, are but two methods of achieving this end. Negotiations which result in the Argentine forces pulling back to the mainland are not a better outcome for justice than fighting. Foot and Thatcher are not being honest when they say that the lives of the islanders and British forces are uppermost in their thoughts. Whatever the cost in lives it will be paid. The cold blooded sinking of the General Belgrano, well



IN DEFENCE OF TROTSKYISM

Beyond the confusion

The war over the Malvinas dramatically reveals the instability of the Tory government, now further weakened by the departure of Lord Carrington. True to form the Labour front bench joined the chorus of support for the imperialist adventure. In the last international crisis faced by Thatcher - the Irish Hunger Strike - it was No Surrender! all the way from Foot and Healey.

Today the front bench toadies queue up to call for a negotiated settlement, backed by the fleet armed to the teeth. Foot only changed to calling in the UN after Alexander Haig had flopped.

This view is also that of the Communist Party. It calls for UN mediation along with the pulling back of the fleet and "full consultation with the inhabitants and protection of their interests." Their statement goes on to call for "a negotiated settlement based on recognition that Britain's claim to sovereignty is untenable, but that the interests of the inhabitants must be respected!" The Communist Party knows as we all do that what they call "inhabitants" are British settlers, who want to stay as a British colony. The CP seem to want to have it both ways on the sovereignty issue.

THE MARXIST METHOD

This evasion of the issue was also the case with *Socialist Organiser*, which called correctly for the withdrawal of the British fleet "and the repudiation of any rights

outside the war zone, which British gutter newspapers greeted with yells of approval showed that.

Already the war has cost £1,500 million pounds. As a result more cuts are certain in social welfare and education, and special taxes must be levied. Every one of the islanders could have received

for the British ruling class in the region" and then proceed to negate this by calling for Argentinian troops to "withdraw from the Falklands and the right of the islanders to determine their own future." Come on now *Socialist Organiser* you know as well as we do that the islanders are colonial settlers who talk about "the Argies" and see Britain as having a right to the islands, through their residency.

What a mess! Where is the Marxist method?



"The class character of a war, that is the fundamental questions which confronts a Socialist."

So said Lenin.

The class relations involved in the Falklands dispute concern a semi-colonial client state, a ruling class which is not allowed to act outside limits laid down by imperialism, and one of the oldest and most powerful of imperialist powers.

£400,000 and been resettled in Britain for less than the cost of a war which will leave them destitute.

The Argentinian claim to the Malvinas is just and recognised by all the nations of Latin America. Thatcher is making the British working class and the islanders pay

ARGENTINE MALVINAS YES
THE JUNTA NO!

The ruling class of Argentina was pushed into war through an effort to defuse an upsurge against the junta by workers in its own country. This was the impetus towards the war, but it is not enough for us to determine its class basis. The working class in Argentina gives unreserved support to the national claim that the Malvinas are Argentinian. This is the same working class which fights the junta. It has not gone mad. The demand for the British to get out of the South Atlantic is a profoundly democratic demand supported by the working class of Argentina. The road to the overthrow of the junta lies through the defeat of Britain and not the tightening of an imperialist grip on Argentina.

OUR PROBLEM IS THATCHER

Those on the left who hedge around this, using as an excuse the fascist nature of the junta in Buenos Aires deliberately obscure the fact that the junta is a tool of imperialism - including the Thatcher government. This is the case even though Thatcher and Galtieri are for the moment at war.

The main problem for socialists in Britain is not the Galtieri junta but the right wing wave of so-called patriotism which is being whipped up to cover the war.

The Malvinas are known all over Latin America by that name and not as the Falklands. They are indisputably part of that sub-continent. The fact that the vast majority of Latin America is ruled by military dictatorships does not justify an imperialist war. It is the working class of Latin America which is fighting to get rid of military juntas and it is the Tory government which supports those juntas. Workers in Britain can help by organizing material aid for Latin American sisters and brothers.

Not by backing the fake war for democracy being fought by Margaret Thatcher.

One last word on the Militant newspaper, which has called for a trade boycott against Argentina - a worthy addition to past betrayals on Ireland and South Africa.

for the interests of her class in blood. Meanwhile the Bank of England has no such problems and is acting to stop a collapse of the Argentinian economy, brought about by the war and the freeze on assets. Capitalist interests in both countries at war come before those of the working class - or the rights of the islanders.

Brazil: Millions of workers say LULA TO POWER

In Brazil the past two years have been marked by an upsurge from the working class, trying to put an end to the dictatorship of Figueiredo.

In 1980 there was a long building workers' strike, which resulted in a well supported independent building workers trade union. Most of the so-called trade unions in Brazil are in fact controlled by the state. The movement for independent unions then continued through the steel workers of 'ABC', the local name for the giant industrial area around Sao Paulo. Out of these strikes came a movement to form an independent political party of the working class, a Labour Party.

Last August a delegate conference of the independent unions met, and some 5000 delegates decided to form a committee to build a federation of trade unions.

The dictatorship was forced by the pressure of the working class to legalize the new Labour Party, but it tried to stop its growth by jailing its leaders. The best known of these was Luis Ignacio da Silva, known popularly in Brazil as Lula. Lula and his comrades were put in jail for their part in the ABC strikes. At the trial sentences of



Brazilian police beat a striker

up to 3½ years were handed down.

A massive campaign in support of Lula was launched and this led to the sentence against him being thrown out, more out of political expediency than legal considerations.

ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

The regime now plans to hold elections in November, in the hope of giving themselves a breathing space behind a screen of 'democracy! The dictatorship hopes to hang onto government with the aid of an alliance of ruling class parties. In particular

they will be leaning on the official 'opposition' party, the MDB.

The government tried to ban workers' leaders like Lula from the election by introducing a law stopping anyone who has been convicted of crimes under the 'security' laws from standing.

It was this which made the campaign for the dropping of charges against Lula so important. Lula announced his candidature for the governorship of one of the provinces in Brazil.

The OSI, Brazilian section of the Fourth International (ICR) has been campaigning within

the Labour Party for it to stand its own candidates in the upcoming elections. This is in marked contrast to the position of the Brazilian Communist Party, which is calling for a vote for the MDB. The Labour Party will now stand candidates in the elections, with Lula at the head of the list.

OSI STATEMENT

To carry the fight for workers' candidates forward the OSI set up a Committee against the conviction of the ABC trade unionists, which drew widespread support and organized meetings all over the country. In Sao Paulo more than 1000 people attended a meeting called by the Committee for a Central Trade Union Federation.

The OSI sums up the political situation as follows:

"In the new situation created by the formation of the Labour Party, the main preoccupation of the regime is to prevent the working class from using the election campaign to develop its own struggles. The government is obliged to act to prevent the candidature of the leading Labour Party figures becoming a lever in a movement towards overthrowing the dictatorship.



Lula

The masses support the candidature of Lula because they want to end the dictatorship. The campaign to throw out the charges against Lula must be centred on him being allowed to stand as a candidate in the elections.

A mass campaign must be developed around the slogans: No to Lula's indictment! For Lula's right to stand as a candidate! Down with the dictatorship!"

These slogans raise the need for the working class to put up a united front against all the parties of the ruling class, which is the way to bring down the regime. The Communist Party of Brazil is totally opposed to this policy and reveals its support for the regime when it calls for votes for the MDB, a ruling class party which poses as a popular party. The Trotskyists in Brazil the OSI, stand at the centre of a wave which threatens to sweep away the dictatorship.

Generals butcher Turkish people

The military regime in Turkey has sentenced over 100,000 people to terms in prison. 47,000 were sent to jail by military courts where only army officers presided. The death sentence was asked for in the cases of many Kurdish nationalists, showing both the degree of repression inflicted on the Kurds by the military government, which refuses even to recognize their existence, and the massive resistance being put up by the Kurdish people.

Added to this the junta has asked for the death sentence in the cases of 52 leaders of the left wing union DISK, and for 64 miners.

SOLIDARITY WITH THE TURKISH TRADE UNIONISTS

500 people have died at the hands of the army out on the streets and at least 100 have died under torture. 13 people have been 'legally' hanged.

These facts show in some detail just how the generals are

hanging onto power in Turkey. It is a regime of mass repression of the trade unions and national minorities. It is in the interests of the working class all over Europe that the generals be thrown out of government in Turkey as soon as possible. Every resolution and statement of solidarity from a union branch or Labour Party is important to Turkish workers in their bloody struggle for freedom and should be sent to the Turkish Embassy.

Demonstrate against Reagan visit!



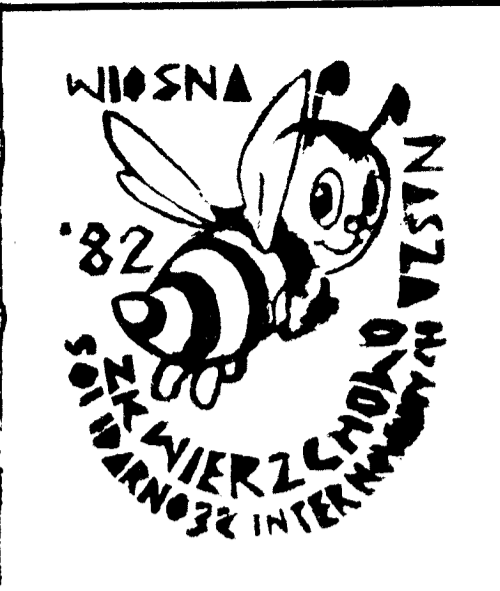
At the beginning of June Ronald Reagan, imperialist leader, arrives in Britain. The man whose military advisers keep a third of humanity beneath the iron heel of military repression and who deals with trade unionists in the United States itself with iron chains and fetters is

DEMONSTRATE

SUNDAY JUNE 6TH
12.30PM
Speakers Corner
Hyde Park

coming to hold discussions with his underling Margaret Thatcher.

The Reagan Reception Committee is organising a mass demonstration in Hyde Park at 12.30pm to coincide with his visit. Every anti-imperialist and socialist worthy of the name will be there.



May 1st in Warsaw

Solidarnosc stamps made by internees in the camps

SOLIDARNOSC FIGHTS ON!

International Workers' Day, May 1st, saw the strongest demonstrations in Poland since the proclamation of Martial Law last December.

As the official May Day parade took place in Warsaw, official flags and posters lay in tatters on the streets, torn down by Solidarnosc supporters. Elsewhere in the city over 50,000 people, in a demonstration led by Solidarnosc, showed their defiance of the military and displayed banners demanding the freeing of Solidarnosc leaders held in jail and the ending of the state of war.

Thousands more took part in similar protests in other towns across Poland.

On May 2nd there was a second demonstration, which resulted in brutal assaults on the demonstrators by the police and the use of water cannon, tear gas and batons. The sharpest clashes were in Gdansk and Warsaw, where many were arrested and fighting continued for up to five hours.

This latest revival of fighting must come as a shock to those believing that the coup last December had smashed Solidarnosc. It rocks the attempts of the Catholic Church to find a "political settlement", which would be a means of guaranteeing the bureaucracy continued power without the bloody repression so far necessary. Poland's Cardinal Glemp, has called

for people to stay off the streets and not to be "manipulated".

In reality, the 1st May events are new testimony to the continuing wish of the Polish workers to fightback against their oppressors. April also saw smaller demonstrations calling for the ending of military rule.

The latest instance of this opposition is a 15 minute strike called on May 13th, which was answered by the military occupation of factories by the military rulers.

Even in the camps the spirit of resistance is strong, as shown in the production underground of stamps and emblems, including postage stamps which are being smuggled out.

The military coup has not overcome the collapse of the economy.

RESISTANCE HARDENS

Politically the coup has only resulted in the hardening of the will to resist. In a document smuggled out of Bialoleka camp, Jacek Kuron, a veteran in the campaign for political liberties in Poland, says that time is running out for the government. Kuron is not a Trotskyist and his politics do not begin from the need to completely break up the Stalinist state. Yet his record as a fighter for democratic rights over twenty years makes this latest statement all the more significant.

He argues that whilst it is still necessary to seek a compromise with the Polish bureaucracy in order to hold off a Kremlin intervention all means should now be considered to enforce this. "For many years", Kuron writes, "I have argued against all violence. Now I feel obliged to say at the present time the preparation of collective action against the occupation seems to me the lesser evil."

A CALL TO ALL WORKERS

Renewed outbreaks of fighting between Solidarnosc and the Stalinist bureaucracy reveal that the will of the working class in Poland to throw the Stalinists off their backs remains unbroken. This should act as an inspiration to socialists all over the world. It is a call, from the workers of Poland, echoing what was said in the 1st Congress of Solidarnosc, for the working class internationally to take up support of the fight for free trade unions and democratic rights in the countries dominated by Stalinism.

LABOUR PARTY INACTIVE

So far the official response of the leaders of the Labour Movement in Britain has been pathetic. The Labour Party has organised a meeting, with 80 people present! After six months of military rule there has still not been a demonstration called by the Labour Party or TUC. At the Labour Party conference later this year we can expect the sickening spectacle of Britain's Labour leaders offering a 'fraternal' welcome to the leaders of parties which deny trade union rights to the working class in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

All out on June 5th!



In a recently published report the Low Pay Unit showed that women still occupy the lowest paid jobs and work mostly in

Women make up 30% of the labour force, but occupy 60% of the low-paid jobs. Many women wanting to work are not even able to get jobs in the recession. In this case they suffer the blunt end of Thatcher's welfare cuts. It is the low-paid and worst unionised sections of the working class, in which women workers figure heavily, who are most hit by the attempts of the union leaders to try to compromise with the Tories.

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

The Labour Party has been made to sponsor a women's festival on June 5th, after a campaign by women members. This step is a small one and has taken some time to achieve. The Labour Party leaders would not sponsor a demonstration based on the slogan 'For a woman's right to right to work', so the organisers went ahead and called the demonstration anyway with the support of the London regional Labour

The fact that the Labour Party National Executive have not been forced to sponsor the march should not be an excuse for the London Labour Party and the SERTUC not to put their considerable clout behind the aim of the march - a woman's right to work - in the manner of the People's March and build a programme of meetings, lobbies and ultimately a strong national demonstration on an issue of concern to the entire labour movement.

BRING DOWN THE TORIES

We know that the Labour Party and union leaders do not put the interests of women very high on their list of priorities. The march on June 5th will be only a small step towards putting the strength of the unions and Labour Party behind women's rights in more than a token way.

All active members of the labour movement should come out on June 5th. The whole day should be aimed at the main enemy of women's rights at this moment, the Tory government. Under this government there can be no progress in the fight of women to have an equal right to work outside the home. This must be clearly spelt out on the 5th. The right of women to work demands the bringing of a strong message

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All-out war on Tebbit

The Tebbit Bill has been significantly amended since it was first introduced into Parliament. The new changes provide for the instant dismissal of strikers, the sacking of workers taking any kind of industrial action and the right of the boss to dismiss selectively and discriminate between plants. In all the cases there will be no legal basis for a claim for unfair dismissal by victimised trade unionists.

These new provisions fundamentally alter the bill. Besides overturning gains won by the workers' movement over the last eighty years, they qualitatively intensify the divisive way this government is dealing with the struggles of the working class. Undoubtedly the new clauses will be used against the weaker sections of the trade union movement. Small groups of workers taking action as part of a larger campaign will be picked off at will with no redress. This will make selective industrial action a non-starter.

This will have a particular effect on disputes in the public sector. The government will be able to choose the terrain on which disputes are fought. By carefully selected sackings of militants the Tories are looking to turn every struggle over wages and conditions into a full-scale battle on their terms - whilst demanding a total surrender from union leaders.

The TUC has set up a million pound fund to fight the bill. All it has done so far is authorise the production of 100,000 leaflets.



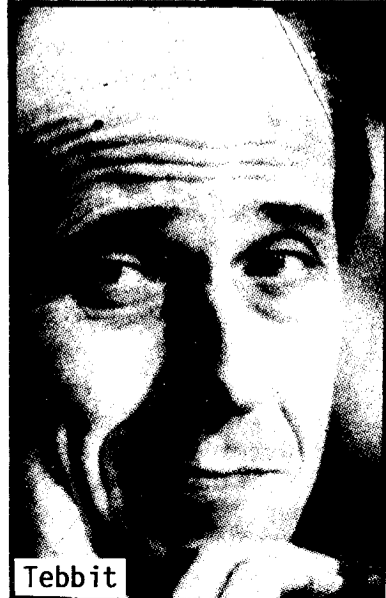
This bill is more dangerous than ever. It demands an immediate and united response from the workers' movement. The TUC must withdraw from all the government bodies on which it sits. Labour MPs must disrupt Parliament to block the passage of the bill.

It is necessary to declare war on this government! The entire trade union movement has now to prepare for the general strike action necessary as soon as the new laws are used against us.

Only a General Strike will stop this attack. Committees against the bill need to be built up and down the country to unite the labour movement for the forthcoming battle. We have the strength, it must be used to sweep the Employment Bill away as we did the Industrial Relations Act before.



Murray



Tebbit



Rail workshops

THEY MUST NOT CLOSE!

The NUR executive voted unanimously to fight the closure of railway engineering workshops, "with the full industrial strength of the union, including strike action if necessary." Right winger Sid Weighell has taken the unusual for him step of saying, "There comes a time when we have to say enough is enough. I am not going to tell these men that they are going to lose their jobs, I am not going to co-operate any longer."

The British Railways Board will not bend to persuasion, especially when the real authors of the closures are the Tory government.

The financial situation in British Rail is critical. Investment this year will drop to £250 million, as against the £400 million of three years ago. BR needs to spend something like £500 million a year for essential renewal of its trains and tracks and an extra £100 million for an electrification programme. Weighell says that "somehow we have to work out the strategic demands which would prevent the industry from collapse." But it is his strategy of co-operation with the bosses which has led to the loss of thousands of jobs up to now. A means of stopping the rail industry from collapse does

not exist in conjunction with Parker and the BRB.

The situation within the workshops now stands at the centre of fighting to save rail jobs as a whole. The closures and cutbacks in the workshops can only be based on a plan to slash the whole service. By 1986 for example, diesel and electric locomotives will have declined in numbers from 2,957 to 2,605, a cut of 12%. The High Speed Train programme is drawing to a close and the Tories have not yet promised any investment towards the fleet of 60 APTs.

Only industrial action on a national basis can stop the workshops being closed. Weighell has the power. Words must now be translated into action and quickly. If Weighell does not pull out the stops on this one then he is not the person to lead the NUR and must be replaced.

Is it not to deal with such an emergency as this that the 'Triple Alliance' of rail, steel and coal unions exists? Should it stand idly by while thousands of jobs go it will stand condemned. It must be brought into play now and the TUC called upon to save these jobs before the Tebbit laws add yet another weapon to the arsenal of the Tory Party.