

Socialist Challenge

Don't Let the Irish prisoners die



SAVE THEM!

A SMUGGLED communication announced to the world on Monday: 'We, the undersigned Republican prisoners-of-war, presently incarcerated in the H Blocks of Long Kesh, firmly declare that from today, 27 October 1980, we shall embark upon a hunger-strike to demand that we not only be recognised and treated as political prisoners, but also as human beings.'

So began another brave but tragic chapter in Ireland's long and troubled history.

The seven prisoners — Brendan Hughes, Tommy McKearney, Tom McFeely, John Nixon, Ray McCartney, Sean McKenna and Leo Green — have pledged to fast until death. Unless the British government agrees to the demands of the H Block prisoners, coffins will be brought out of Long Kesh by Christmas.

The statement of the hunger-strikers explains that their action 'owes influence only to the perpetuation of four long years of British institutionalised torture and unprecedented barbarity within H Block and Armagh Jail'.

That torture has been affirmed by the European Commission of Human Rights, Amnesty International, and even the British

government's own Bennett Report into interrogation of the Republican prisoners.

All testified that the prisoners were treated to 'inhuman and degrading treatment' when they were arrested and interrogated, and that many were convicted on the sole basis of 'confessions' acquired by terror.

The prisoners further argue that it's the political conditions which exist in Ireland which have led to them being where they are today.

The move announced by the government last week to allow prisoners in the north of Ireland to wear 'civilian-style clothing' indicates that if the pressure is strong enough the Tories can be forced to drop their intransigent attitude.

For those in Britain the first major opportunity to exert such pressure comes on Saturday 15 November when the Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland is holding a national demonstration in London in

support of Irish unity and calling for British withdrawal.

Such a call is necessarily linked to the issue of the H Blocks. As the statement from the hunger strikers says: 'While the Irish nation remains unfree, partitioned and at war with an alien government, torture in the prisons and oppression on the streets will always exist.'

For the sake of the hunger strikers, the rest of the inmates of Long Kesh and Armagh women demonstrate on 15 November.

Activities

30 October: London School of Economics, student union meeting, 1pm, Old Theatre.

31 October: Central London Polytechnic students union, Cavendish site, 1pm.

1 November: East London TOM demo starting at Gelfrye Museum, Kingsland Rd at noon. National women's picket of Durham jail — assemble 1pm, Guildhall, Market Place, Durham.

7 November: Two-day solidarity fast outside Downing Street, 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday.

11 November: W London TOM public meeting at Nelson Room, Ealing Town Hall, 7.30 pm.

15 November: National demonstration for British withdrawal from Ireland. Assemble 1pm, Embankment.

Labour leadership: no support for Foot

THE Parliamentary Labour Party will go ahead with its phoney election of the party leader, showing a cynical disregard for the conference decision to extend the franchise.

The National Executive Committee took a stand against the election last week. It demanded that Labour MPs halt the election and 'suspend normal practice' until the January special conference.

On Tuesday, 56 left MPs responded to the NEC call for suspension of the election. But it is likely that their resolutions will be rejected by the PLP. Unfortunately the NEC has not begun to organise the party ranks to call the MPs to account.

Now the election goes ahead there will be a tendency for the left to 'make the best of it' and go for the compromise candidate Michael Foot to keep out Healey.

This is not a consistent position to take. Callaghan's resignation was designed to foist a leader on the party who will be acceptable to the bosses and the establishment.

Foot, although he is not the favourite of the right, is an acceptable compromise. He was Callaghan's main lieutenant, and can in no way be described as a candidate of the left.

Benn, the candidate of the left, has taken the only principled position by refusing to stand in this election. Both he, the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, the Rank and File Mobilising Committee and the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, together with the NEC must campaign for a continuation of the boycott and against support for Foot.

With or without Foot the election remains part of the right wing's stitch up.

***** Prison decision — attack on liberties

THE response of the government to the crisis in the prisons caused by the industrial action of prison officers, is predictably draconian.

In particular, the new power to remand suspects without having to bring them regularly before magistrates potentially condemns numerous people who have not been convicted of an offence to long periods in jail.

Whitelaw's Bill is a 'temporary', 'emergency' measure. So was the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which enabled prisoners to be held for seven days without being brought before a court — and that Act is still in force six years later.

'Temporary' attacks on civil rights have a nasty habit of being turned into a permanent suspension of liberties.

INSIDE POLAND

We interview Lech Walesa on the future of the struggle
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MISSILES

How 80,000 came to fight them
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GARDNER'S

Engineering occupation enters sixth week
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LABOUR LEADERSHIP

Our assessment of Michael Foot
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ALL OUT 15 NOVEMBER

Jobs Not Bombs! — Socialist Challenge's big campaign

THE NEW movement which burst on to London's streets last weekend is a giant slap in the face for the Tories' war plans.

Thatcher has backed to the hilt the campaign coordinated by the White House worldwide to defend profits abroad and at home.

Abroad, the imperialist powers are preparing a campaign aimed at American and European workers to support wars of intervention, in the Middle East and Central America and the Caribbean. Vast sums are being spent on a new armaments drive, both on nuclear and conventional weapons.

At home, the imperialists are attempting to force through austerity programmes and massive unemployment to jack up profits.

In both areas they are meeting resistance; from the workers and peasants of the third world and from the American, European and Japanese workers.

The campaign against the imperialist's defence of their profit system has to be taken deep into the labour movement by demanding that not a penny is spent on armaments and instead that the imperialists pay the whole cost of a programme of social expenditure that can meet social need and employ the jobless. Jobs not Bombs!

JOBS NOT BOMBS MEETINGS

Leeds	28 Oct
Edinburgh	5 Nov
East London	11 Nov
West London	12 Nov
Birmingham	12 Nov
Leicester	16 Nov

JOBS NOT BOMBS East London Socialist Challenge PUBLIC MEETING

With KEVIN COEN, AUEW shop steward from the Gardner's occupation
PLUS panel discussion

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER,
7.30pm
Stratford Town Hall,
Stratford Broadway

A new stage of the anti-Tory

movement EDITORIAL

THIS article is an edited version of the perspectives resolution adopted by the International Marxist Group's central committee at its meeting in October.

THERE was a decisive development at the Labour Party conference at the beginning of this month.

In the eyes of hundreds of thousands of working class militants, a political alternative emerged not only to Callaghan and the right wing of the Labour Party, but also to Margaret Thatcher's monetarism.

The name of this political alternative is Bennism.

Consensus

The reverberations of Blackpool will accelerate the breakdown of the social and political consensus established on the spoils of empire between the British ruling class and the bureaucracy of the labour movement.

It is possible to view the emergence of Tony Benn as the undisputed leader of a strong Labour left as the resumption of a process that reached its last high point in the winter of 1973-74.

At the October 1973 conference the Labour Party had adopted its most left-wing manifesto since the early 1950s; Benn was the architect of this triumph, and most importantly the trade union movement was on the eve of throwing out the 'lame duck' Tory government headed by Edward Heath.

Recession

The triumphal progress was interrupted. Events that followed Heath's downfall exceeded the most optimistic forecasts of Fleet Street's political correspondents and the most pessimistic forecasts of the left.

The onset of the deepest economic recession since the '30s found the working class without an answer.

Benn was removed from the key post of Industry Minister. The left as a whole began to suffer a series of reverses in the labour movement, most spectacularly in the Engineering Union.

Real living standards fell dramatically, unemployment doubled under the blows of the recession. The diagnosis



200 people attended the IMG's London rally against the war drive

Photo: Pete Grant (Socialist Challenge)

was unanimous in all quarters of the left — there was an absence of a credible political alternative, something to fight for. The revolutionary left fought alone.

This sentiment, not untypical of boardroom opinion, reflected a deep pessimism among the bosses that the 'sacrifices' that they are making now will not get their just reward in the future.

The economic policies of the Thatcher government are designed to ensure that when British industry pulls out of the recession it will be with higher productivity, higher profits, rationalised and slimmed down.

This is the reason for the ferocity of the attacks of the government on the working class. Now the bosses aren't so sure that those attacks will succeed.

Unity

The bosses' problems are the labour movement's opportunities. But unity of the whole working class is necessary to take the fight against the Tories forward. The theme of trade unions and the Labour Party uniting in action against the Tories is the first element of a strategy against Thatcher's government.

The greatest weakness of the Labour Party conference was the tendency expressed by Tony Benn in particular to counterpose winning the fight for socialism and democracy to the use of industrial muscle to get rid of the Tories.

The absent factor continued to exert an influence in the first year of the Tory government. But underneath a more persistent and enduring process was beginning to reassert itself — the continuing and growing strength of the labour movement.

Surprise

While the working class was bloodied by the experience of the Callaghan government it was not beaten.

Those on the left who, in despair of national struggles against the government, advised nothing less than the complete reconstruction of the shop stewards movement were taken by surprise as the steelworkers took on Thatcher's challenge and slugged it out for 13 weeks.

There were more tests. The aftermath of the steel strike saw closures at Consett and Warrington as part of a tide of redundancies that wasted over a third of a million jobs in the manufacturing sector alone in the first seven months of 1980.

When the TUC Congress met at the beginning of September unemployment figures revealed that the number of jobless had jumped by 20 per cent in August. The TUC leaders, easily intimidated and feeling little direct pressure from their members, attempted a deal with Callaghan.

Under the 'left cloak' of the Alternative Economic Strategy they falteringly pledged themselves to

Callaghan's strategy.

The tide started to turn with the dockers' victories against redundancy. Engineering workers in the important Gardner's factory in Manchester have occupied against redundancies, and with TUC support the Labour Party has called what is confidently expected to be the largest demonstration so far on unemployment, to be held in Liverpool at the end of November.

Fragile

At the Blackpool conference the fragile agreement around the TUC policy document broke up over the issue of Labour Party democracy, which had been studiously avoided at the TUC Congress, and over the policies which a future Labour government should adopt.

Unilateralism, withdrawal from the Common Market, and the abolition of the House of Lords were all greeted with gasps of horror by the establishment.

The victories on inner-party democracy also seemed to make it more likely that an election would be fought on these issues and be won. Meanwhile the difficulties of the Tories have become increasingly apparent. The £10m loss by ICI in the last financial quarter announced last week occasioned an ICI boss to declare that they had welcomed a bracing climate, but now they were freezing to death.

There will be no future Labour government, whether of the left or right, unless the struggle to remove the Tory government is taken forward by the whole labour movement.

In this context preparing for the coming confrontations with the Tories, and in particular preparing for general strike action, has to be a continuous theme of campaigns like those building up to 29 November.

Fraud

But there is no barrier between this struggle against the Tories and the struggle against the right wing inside the labour movement.

Benn has correctly denounced the present fraud of elections going on in the Parliamentary Labour Party. He is openly standing as the candidate of the left and, more importantly, the guardian of the decisions of the conference.

Campaigns inside the unions can start to compel the union leaderships to stand by the decisions on the conference and to use the block vote under the control of the rank and file.

The Labour Party conference is currently the best method of electing the leader of the party, and just as the left has swung behind the candidature of Bob Wright in the AUEW presidential elections, it should now with the same unity of spirit swing itself into the campaign to get Benn elected as the leader of the Labour Party.

Answers

The events in the Labour Party will probably not, in the short term, inspire large-scale recruitment of worker militants into the constituency Labour Parties, although there will be a marked increase in the number of trade union affiliations to the general management committees.

But more and more workers will be looking to the Labour Party for political answers, and especially to its left wing.

At the same time activists within the constituencies will start to look to a resolution of the problems that face them — whether in taking on the Tory government in the field of expenditure cuts or in winning the inner-party battle on democracy — to the decisive weight of the big unions, particularly the industrial unions.

More than ever the need to build a new left wing in the labour movement based on the policies of class struggle rather than the class collaboration policies of the traditional left is necessary to win these battles.

Industry

To achieve these victories that left wing has to be based within those sectors of industry which do decide; the big industrial concentrations of Britain.

This is why any revolutionary organisation which wants to relate to these momentous developments in British political life and play its part in resolving them will be an organisation based in the industrial unions, the organisation which the IMG is fighting to build today.

Socialist Challenge

Socialist Challenge is sponsored by the International Marxist Group and published weekly. Correspondence to Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Editorial and distribution phone 01-359 8180 or 8189. For further information about the IMG and its activities fill in the box below.

Name..... Age.....
Address..... Phone.....
Union.....

BUILD THE PARTY

AMBITIOUS new targets were set for the development of the International Marxist Group at its central committee this month. The object of the new party-building plan is to give the organisation a solid basis for expanding its campaigning work in the industrial unions, in the new stage of the anti-Tory struggle.

Target 1. A development fund drive for the £100,000 to buy and equip a permanent national centre for the organisation. Plans include the development of the press system of the IMG, installation of computer equipment saving valuable time and ensuring reliability.

Target 2. A 25 per cent increase in the newspaper circulation. *Socialist*

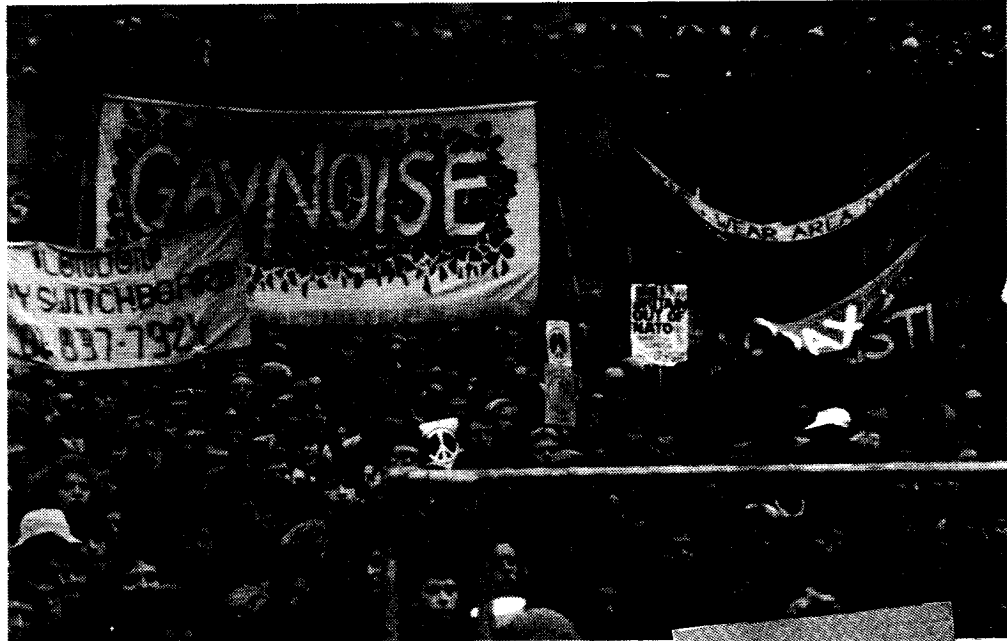
Challenge circulation department is launching an appeal for every supporter to sell one extra paper to meet the target.

Target 3. For 500 new subscriptions. All supporters are urged to take a subscription to the paper. That way you can ensure you get the paper every week, you pay for your own copy in advance and help the paper by providing a much needed cash boost.

Target 4. A 25 per cent increase in pledges to the IMG was appealed for by the central committee. The pledges which are donations given to the IMG on top of membership dues would meet the new target if every IMG member gave 50p a week extra.

* More details of the campaign in next week's Socialist Challenge.

Stop the missiles



80,000 AGAINST THE MISSILES

By Phil Hearse

WITH three years to stop the Cruise missiles, the campaign against them is already a mass movement. Sunday's demonstration through Central London of over 80,000 people showed the immense response that has been gained in the past nine months of campaigning.

From every part of the country, the demonstrators thronged Trafalgar Square to overflowing, while the tail of the march was still leaving Hyde Park. Prominent among the demonstrators were CND groups, Labour Party branches, a large women's contingent, and political and peace groups of every kind.

Even the police gave an estimate of 'over 50,000' on the march. Much of the press reported the figure as 70,000. Many of the marchers donated to the Gardner's occupation, as militants from Manchester rallied support for the engineering workers' fight for jobs.

So the demonstration was an undoubted and overwhelming success — a springboard for a truly huge campaign that can be built in the coming months.

But the problems of the future of the campaign, and the possibility of ensuring that it can win this time, were indicated by two factors — who was on the march (and who was missing), and who was on the rally platform (and what they said).

One of the most noticeable positive features of the composition of the demonstration was the huge proportion of young people. While many of the veterans of the previous round of CND activity were there, contingents of Youth Against the Missiles supporters contributed some life to the march.

A new generation has come into the fight against the bomb. Yet the trade unions were all but absent — the big battalions of the organised labour move-

ment, the forces who can actually win the fight against the missiles, had not been mobilised.

Conference

This was a grave weakness. To overcome it anti-missile campaigners in Manchester have taken the initiative in organising a labour movement conference against the missiles for the new year.

The weakness was shown by the sort of speakers on the platform. Tony Benn was there, rightly saying that Thatcher was using the supposed threat of an external enemy to divert attention from injustice at home. Yet there was only one trade union speaker, Ronn Todd, out of more than 20.

The CND organisers preferred to give a platform to a plethora of peace group speakers, including Brigadier Harbottle from the World Disarmament Campaign (which isn't even unilateralist), a Liberal MP, the United Nations Association, and famous personalities.

The composition of the

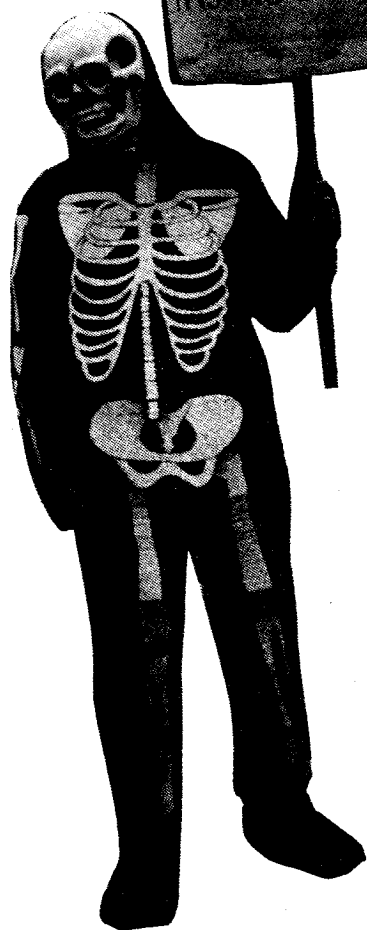
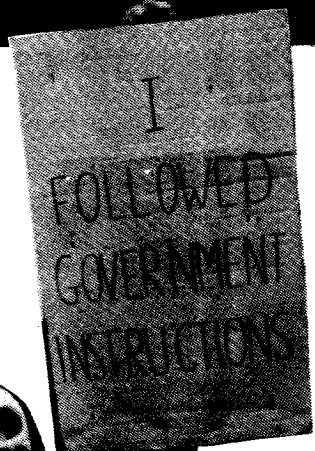
platform and the wooliness of the speeches were an insult to the tens of thousands of youth who had made the march so massive — not a single young person spoke from the platform.

This raises the question of the future of the campaign. It will also be raised by the forthcoming CND conference. Will CND make a decisive orientation to the trade unions and the youth? If it had done so, last Sunday's demonstration could have been 150,000.

At a meeting of the mobilising committee for the march, Socialist Challenge supporters strongly urged that the trade unions be more involved. We proposed that Arthur Scargill be invited to speak. This was turned down.

We believe that CND has to make a shift in direction, and that its structures must be opened out so that affiliated organisations can have more of a say in how the movement is run.

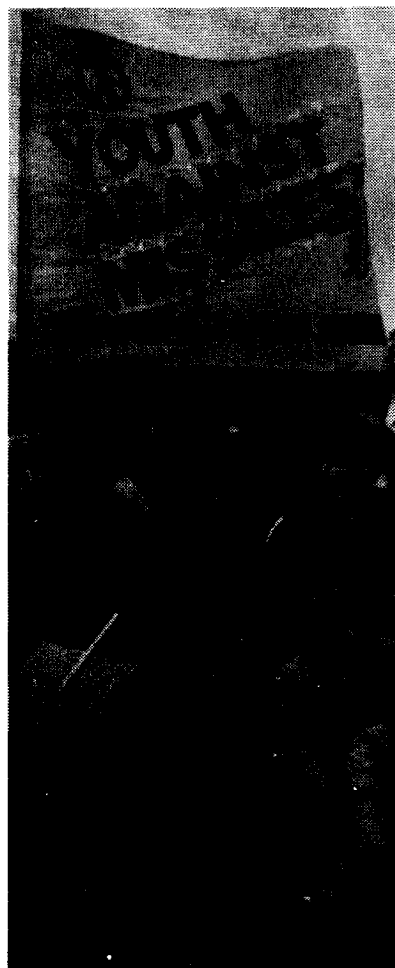
To capitalise on the success of Sunday's demonstration we have to ensure the maximum success of the labour movement conference, and the best possible turnout for the CND conference.



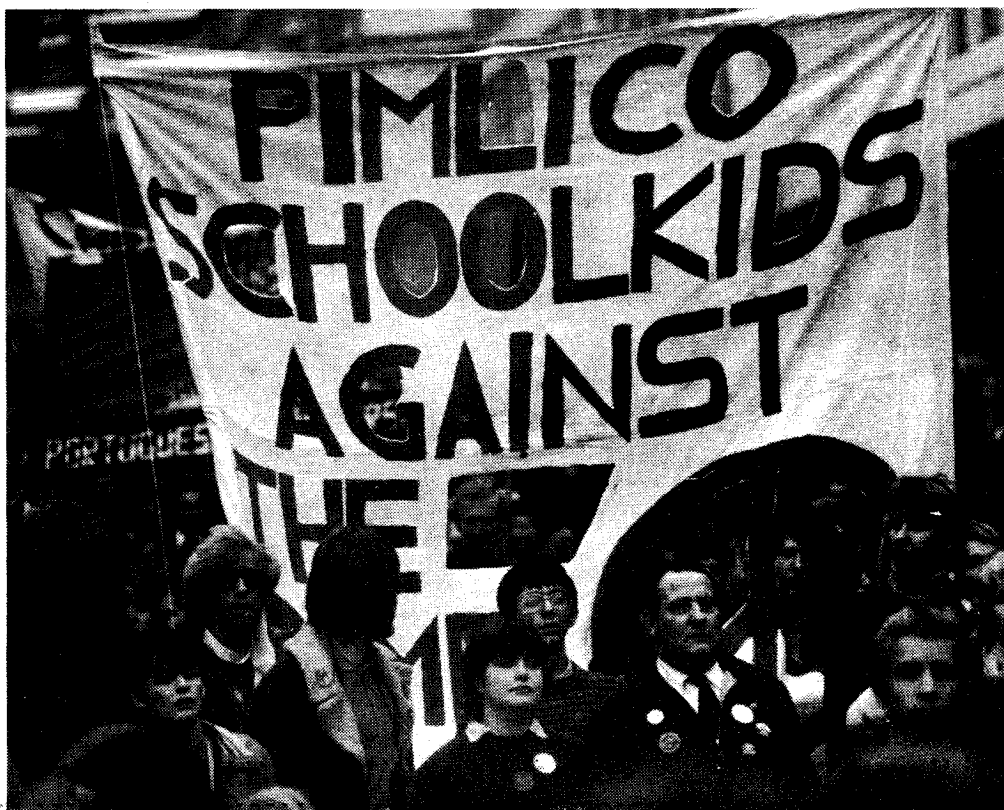
All pictures by Pete Grant (Socialist Challenge)



Edward Thompson



Thousands of young people turned out — but weren't heard from the platform



Ron Todd (TGWU) — sole trade union speaker.

Support grows across the country

By Pete Clifford

THE Gardner's strikers are working hard to get support. They've sent delegations to Liverpool, Huddersfield, Birmingham, Accrington, London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Sheffield.

Invitations are flooding in for Gardner's speakers. They've already visited local factories like Adamsons of Stockport, Lankro, Chloride, Massey's and GEC.

Support

Convenor Tom Macafee told Socialist Challenge: 'I'm expecting tremendous support because people can see that finally someone has said "Enough is enough" and taken some action.'

Stocksbridge steelworks in South Yorkshire, have sent £500 from the Joint Shop Stewards Committee and will be reviewing their donation weekly. Lambeth Trades Council, who are sponsoring this week's conference against the Tory cuts, have backed the occupation, along with other local unions.

The response from Huddersfield has been great. The local trades council has backed the strikers and set up a support committee. After the meeting delegates collected £50 for the occupation.

At the bus garage, the TGWU has organised support and collections: The 986 ASTMS Huddersfield branch sent a telegram and donation, and the AUEW district committee has given its support.

Fifty-five people attended a Manchester Socialist Challenge meeting last week to organise solidarity. Kevin Coen, a shop steward from the plant explained the Gardner's workers' case, and Ron Thompson, deputy convenor from JS Neils in Sheffield, examined the political significance of the Gardner's occupation.

Sponsored

The meeting sponsored eleven Gardner's workers to attend the CND demonstration. Jeff West, secretary of Stockport Boilermakers branch, who chaired the meeting, said: 'We're sponsoring them so that they can put the case of the Gardner's workers for jobs not bombs.'

Messages of support and donations to: Dave Marsden, Treasurer, CSEU Strike Committee, 187 Barton Lane, Eccles, Manchester M30 0MN. Tel 061-789 2202.

If your organisation agrees to support the occupation, give us a ring and we'll report it in Socialist Challenge. The number is 01-359 8180.

Shop stewards to discuss solidarity with Gardner's

THE Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions District 11, which covers the Manchester area, is organising an emergency shop stewards conference to discuss solidarity with Gardner's and the fight against unemployment.

GARDNER'S OCCUPATION GOING STRONG

By Paul Smith

WORKERS at the occupied Gardner's plant in Manchester are angry. Last week management went ahead and delivered 590 redundancy notices.

Tom Macafee, Gardner's convenor, had predicted this move the day before. 'They won't get anywhere with it,' he told Socialist Challenge. 'In fact the biggest problem is finding a peace formula which allows senior management back into the plant!'

The Gardner's management aren't popular around Eccles, where most of the workers live. This is despite the efforts of the local newspaper, the *Eccles Journal*. This rag does everything in its power to boost local management.

Press

In a front page article on 23 October the *Journal* attacked the occupation, with the headline 'No time for dominoes'. The article consisted of a long quote from Brian Davies, the managing director. The union case was given a few paragraphs, and buried away in its inside pages.

A community support committee for the occupation has been set up in the Eccles area. As well as organising practical aid, one of its first jobs will be to get out the truth about the workers' case.

What the local press can't even begin to understand is that ordinary workers, through their own action, can challenge the status quo and even defeat it.

The idea that occupying workers, fighting a desperate battle to save their jobs, are mainly concerned with dominoes shows the contempt in which the press views ordinary people.

The workers keep a picket on the gate; not that there is any

'Women say: 'We want jobs for everyone'

Paula Walton

'SOME of us just tried to get together to explain the situation properly to

all the women involved. Otherwise they only know what they're reading in the papers.'

Janet Brightman,

'SO FAR we've acted as if the situation of mass unemployment was inevitable. Gardner's is beginning to fight for

jobs. We're not just talking about Gardner's workers, but jobs for everyone on the dole, especially the young people.'

Mrs J Adams

'MY husband's on sit-in strike. As a wife I am finding it as difficult as all the other women. I've got a son and daughter. If the redundancies go through my son won't get a job here.'

In any dispute there's always hardship. That's the way they used to get the men back to work. I'm behind my husband and not the management.

It's very hard when you've got no money, to realise what you've got to do. But if you go back a century it was much harder.

Women were forced when they met to get the vote. Women on their own are under a lot of pressure, but as they say "a trouble shared is a trouble halved", I think all the wives should get involved and support their husbands.'

need for many more occupations against job loss to bring the government to its knees.

This isn't the talk of two dangerous subversives, as the *Eccles Journal* portray them. They are engineering workers who have decided that 'Enough is enough', and are doing something about it.

Network

Dominoes is not the main item of discussion at the transport and finance committee meetings, either. Across the country the occupation committee are building a movement of support for Gardner's.

They are not using the 'old boy network'. Instead they rely on the solidarity and support from other working people. Their strength is in the organisation of working people acting together. The results are impressive.

The occupation committee has organised solidarity trips to every part of the country. Each trip wins more and more support.

Their delegation to the CND demonstration sponsored by Manchester Socialist Challenge demanded 'Jobs not bombs'. Through their own experiences, the Gardner's workers are discovering the madness of a system that would rather spend millions on nuclear weapons than on jobs, houses, and schools.

Victory

The Gardner's workers show the way for all of us to follow. The victory of the dockers and the stand of the Gardner's engineers show that the tide is turning against the Tories.

The leadership of the labour movement has been outspoken about the plight of the unemployed. It has the power to make the Gardner's occupation the main issue in the fight against the Tories.

Everyone should demand that these leaders act now.



Gardner's women on the march

I support the Gardner's sit-in



Birmingham — Transport and Engineering unions join in solidarity

By Pat Hickey
TGWU shop steward, Rover SD1

A SUPPORT committee for Gardner's set up in Birmingham has received wide support from the labour movement in the area.

In a statement the committee says: 'We in the West Midlands are only too well aware that the anti-union laws are being pushed through by the Tory government to bring about the destruction of the labour movement.'

ON - 6 WEEKS AND



All photo's Kevin Coen, Gardner's shop steward.

'A determined fightback can change the situation. The committee is pledged to wage a sustained campaign throughout the Birmingham labour movement to support the Gardner's occupation'.

The statement is signed by eight members of the Engineering Union's Birmingham south district committee, three Labour councillors, members of the Transport Union engineering district committee, and the chairperson of the Lucas Birmingham area senior shop stewards, Larry Connolly.

Committee

At a public meeting on Monday called by the Communist Party to build solidarity for Gardner's, it was agreed to unite behind the newly-established Birmingham support committee.

To obtain speakers, publicity material, or collection forms, contact: Gardner's Support Committee, c/o 107 Hurstwood Rd, Erdington, Birmingham 23. Tel. 021-449 5418 or 021-384 4322.

The committee is asking all Birmingham trade union branches, shop stewards etc to affiliate.

Jobs not Bombs

GARDNER'S workers attended the huge **CND** demonstration last week. They collected **£1200** from demonstrators.

Now Manchester Against the Missiles has sponsored a labour movement conference for late February. Already the sponsors list includes 14 Labour MPs and many other national trade union leaders.

If you want your name/organisation added to the sponsors list write to: Labour Movement Conference, c/o 53 Crete Street, Hathersaw, Oldham.

The conference will be organised by a panel of leading labour movement activists from all over the country. All sponsors will be invited to participate in planning the conference.



Getting ready for a long stay

Action and policies for the right to work

By Patrick Sikorski

GARDNER'S occupation has shown that the labour movement needs policies that can tackle unemployment. The Labour Coordinating Committee conference for trade unionists will be discussing these policies in Leeds this Saturday, 1 November.

The conference comes at a time when the whole of the labour movement stands at an important crossroads. Can the unions repeat their 1974 success against Heath's government and once again throw out the Tories?

The fightback against the Tory offensive is now well under way. The dockers' victory, the Gardner's occupation, the massive CND demonstration, and the picket of the Tory Party conference are all signs of this. This next big event will be the joint Labour Party/TUC march against unemployment on 29 November in Liverpool.

Policies

What is lacking is a leadership that is willing to carry the fight to the Tories and to put forward policies — like worksharing without loss of pay — that can defend working people. This is why the issue of democracy is so important.

The Labour Party leadership has always made promises when in opposition and then ignored them in power. The left's victories at the Blackpool conference have to be defended and the parliamentary leaders made accountable to the whole movement.

But the issue of accountability, like so many others in the Labour Party, is largely decided by the union block votes. The majority of these votes are cast by unelected, unrecallable, full-time national officials. The fight for democracy is just as urgent in the unions.

The LCC conference is an ideal forum to take forward the fight on all these fronts. The conference should not simply discuss these problems, but give a lead in action.

This conference needs to make its maximum contribution to building solidarity with Gardner's. Socialist Challenge supporters will be arguing that the LCC should organise a big contingent on the 29 November demonstration to demand a 35-hour week without loss of pay, and for occupations against redundancies and closures.

Spring

This conference is only the beginning. We need a conference in the spring of all the campaigns against unemployment. This should include the Campaign against Youth Unemployment and the Right to Work campaign.

The spring conference should adopt a *Charter For Jobs* which every delegate can take back to their trade union and Labour Party branch. It is necessary to campaign for policies as well as action throughout the movement. We propose the charter below as a model.

A campaign throughout the labour movement is needed for action and policies for the right to work.

A Charter For Jobs

1. No job loss — the right to work is a right for all. For a woman's right to work — no discriminatory lay-offs or redundancies on the basis of sex, colour, or hours worked.
2. For a 35-hour week with no loss of pay.
3. In the event of short-time working or lay-offs cut hours not jobs. Share the work with no loss of pay.
4. Ban all overtime, increased mobility and flexibility of labour, and increased productivity and speedup.
5. Retirement for all at 60 with no loss of benefits.
6. Occupy against all redundancies, closures, and de-nationalisations.
7. Nationalisation without compensation under workers' control of all firms declaring redundancies. For the nationalisation of all the financial institutions and a crash programme of public works.

By Vanessa Wiseman

CUTS in public spending of over £2,000m; the probable loss of thousands of public sector jobs, and a complete ban on council house building are the grim background to the Local Government in Crisis conference to be held this Saturday.

It has been called by the Labour group, town hall unions, and trades council, and constituency Labour Party in Lambeth, and will take place at Camden Town Hall.

Delegations are coming from trade unions and CLPs across the country, together with most of the Labour groups from big city councils.

The organising committee will present a joint plan of action for Labour councils and trade unions. Unions are being asked to take industrial action next January, when the crunch is likely to come for those councils which refuse to make cuts.

Councils are being asked to play their part in the action by refusing to make supplementary rates and rent increases this year, by making no cuts in jobs or services, and by refusing to run down direct labour or sell council houses.

The organising committee feels strongly that it is only by councils taking a stand and letting trade unions see that they're not expected to carry out a fight on their own that there can be the sort of joint action which was supported overwhelmingly at the Labour Party

Local government conference to consider call for industrial action

ty conference.

As Lambeth council leader Ted Knight said recently: 'The options open to us have so narrowed that the only alternative is confrontation with this government to break its policy or oust it.'

He went on to say: 'It may be necessary for the labour movement to contravene legal instructions given by Heseltine. I don't think we can consider a law designed to punish the working class movement as sacrosanct and always to be obeyed.'

Conflict

Unfortunately Ted Knight's actions don't quite live up to his words. Lambeth council has decided to sell council houses and is presently in conflict with the local NALGO branch, which is refusing to co-operate with the sales and has won national backing from the union.

Socialist Challenge supporters at the 1 November conference will be arguing for councils not to continue this back-sliding, but to reverse their decision to sell council homes. Heseltine's moratorium on council house building adds to the urgency of banning sales.

Socialist Challenge supporters will also be supporting Liverpool NALGO's demand for

no rent or rate rises to compensate for government cuts. We have consistently argued that huge rate rises are just a different way of passing on the cuts to working people.

Ted Knight now says: 'Even if we raise rates again we cannot protect certain services, such as direct labour or engineering departments, and it would impose an enormous burden on working class families.'

We shall also be supporting amendments from Lambeth Trades Council, Lambeth NUT, and Lambeth NALGO, all of which strengthen the calls for action.

They call for a systematic campaign after the conference to win support in the labour movement for the plan of action, including a campaign for all-out strikes and occupations of workplaces as soon as any Labour council is penalised.

Barnsley CLP, which has the active participation of South Yorkshire miners, has put in an amendment urging the TUC General Council 'to prepare a plan for a general strike in protection of working class interests and living standards'.

The conference gives us a chance to build a strong movement of Labour councils and unions to fight the government's policies.

The best movements are built with strong leadership and we must fight for Lambeth



and every other Labour council to be prepared to offer it, even if it means taking a stand alone.

**Vanessa Wiseman is president of Lambeth Trades Council and will be speaking at a fringe meeting on 'No rent or rates rises, and No Cuts' during the lunch break at the 1 November conference.*

Foot - no friend of the left

By Dave Hudson

LABOUR MPs will decide this week to trample on the decisions of the party conference in Blackpool and proceed with the election of a new leader before the January special conference decides on a new procedure to broaden the franchise.

Michael Foot's belated decision to stand, after much arm twisting, is mainly due to divisions among trade union leaders.

Many union leaders feel under pressure to take a public stand on the direction of a future government and party leadership that will distance them from the record of the last one.

They are concerned, too, to have a Labour leadership with whom they can collaborate in a new 'social contract'.

For many of them Denis Healey is no such candidate. He was the cabinet member most responsible for the 5 per cent pay norm which put the lorry drivers and the public sector workers on the picket lines in the winter of 1978-79.

The union leaders knew that after Callaghan's decision not to call a general election in the autumn of 1978, the flood tide could not be contained. The result was the so-called 'winter of discontent'.

Courage

Foot's attraction is that he is an avowed compromiser with close links with the trade unions. He would be more responsive to their problems.

What are Foot's real politics? In the Labour government of 1974-9, he was the Leader of the House of Commons, an important position in the cabinet. A leading advocate of the Social Contract, Foot moved rapidly to the right.

There is no evidence that he ever opposed the right-wing politics of Callaghan and Healey. It was Foot who baldly told his constituents in

Ebbw Vale, who were faced with massive jobs-loss and the closure of the local steel plant, that they had to show 'courage' rather than fight back.

It was Michael Foot who was put up at Labour Party conferences to defend the Social Contract, and dress up defence of right-wing policies with talk of the 'red flame of socialist courage'. In short, Foot acted as a creature of the Callaghan-Healey leadership, defending their every move.

In office he sold his left credentials.

This should be no surprise. Despite his announcement on the weekend to oppose Cruise missiles, anyone who reads Foot's writings or hears him speak will appreciate his complete identification of socialism with parliamentary sovereignty; his slavish respect for the British constitution.

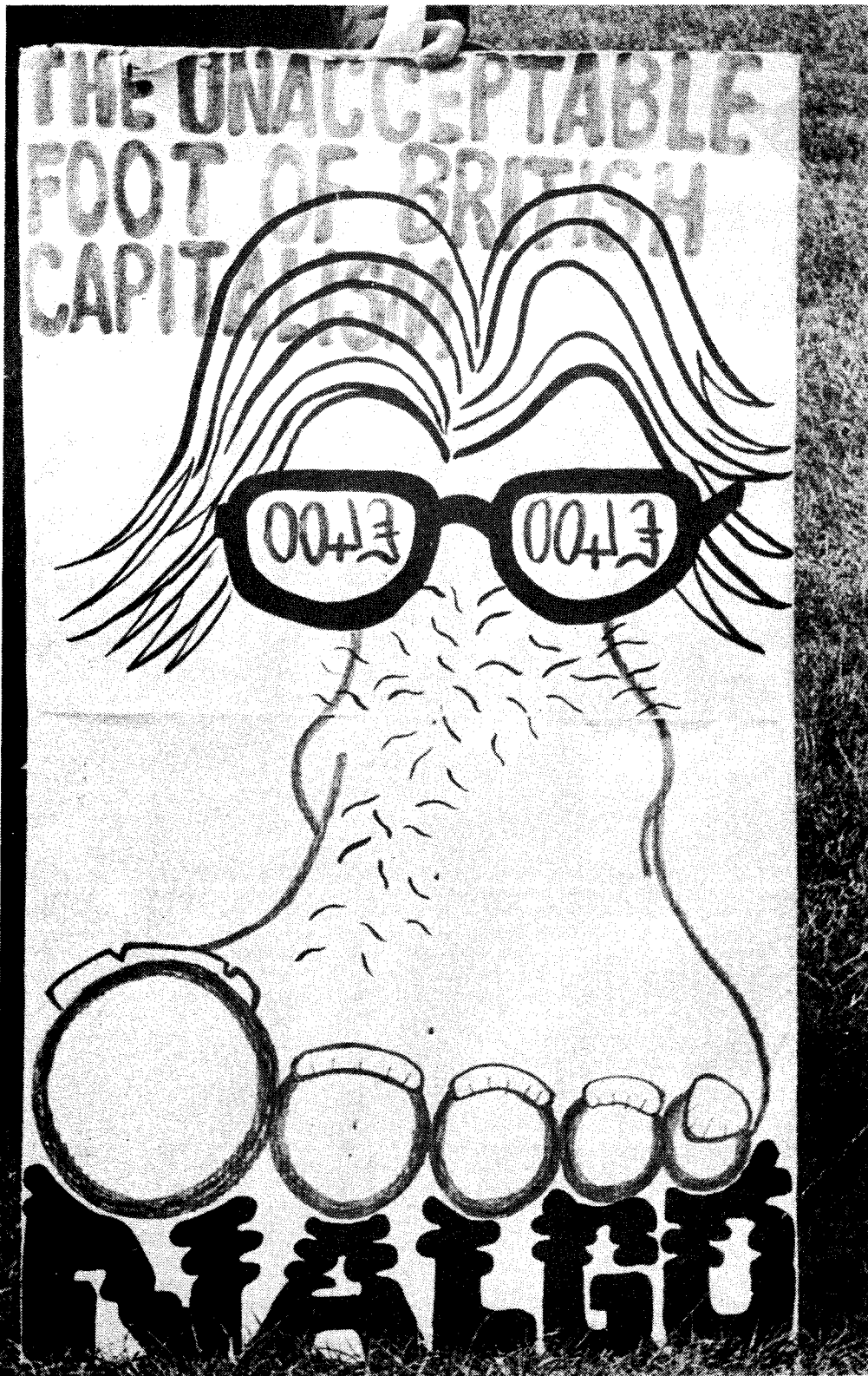
Michael Foot remains the choice of many 'moderate', centre-Labour MPs because they think he will be a candidate who can unite the party and marginalise Benn. They believe that Healey will be a provocation to the left, and more trouble than he's worth.

Giant

Since they also know that Benn would be utterly unacceptable to the bourgeoisie, and precipitate a huge political crisis if elected to the Labour leadership, many MPs may make the calculation that Foot rather than Healey presents the best line of defence against Benn and the militants who support him.

The pundits still mainly support Healey rather than Foot. Healey is more ruthless than the indecisive Callaghan, and the most ready to impose his will on the party and pursue anti-working class policies. Already the media are building him up as some intellectual giant and statesman.

Leaving aside the constitutional issues involved in this fraudulent PLP election, Foot cannot be seen as a candidate of the left now or after the special conference. This candidature is a compromise that the left must not make:



Michael Foot: a comment on his role in the last Labour government

Rodgers faces 'clarification' of his views

By Dave Carter

BILL Rodgers once said that he had received little criticism from his constituents over his stand against unilateral disarmament and in favour of Cruise missiles.

Labour's notorious shadow spokesperson on defence and member of the Gang of Three can no longer use that excuse for his defiance of Labour Party conference decisions.

Cleveland Peace Campaign organised a meeting on Peace and Disarmament in Rodgers' constituency of Stockton-on-Tees last Friday, with Rodgers as the main speaker. Over a hundred people turned up, and in a lively debate from the floor there was almost universal hostility to Rodgers' views on defence.

He was criticised for dishonesty in not pointing out that his pamphlet *The Case for Cruise Missiles*, published by the Labour Committee for Transatlantic Understanding, was directly financed by NATO.

He was attacked for stating that a nuclear deterrent was essential for our 'democratic' way of life, when in fact MPs were not even consulted over the Cruise missile decision.

Rodgers did claim to be against the Trident purchase, but only because it was too expensive and not a lot of use to NATO in his opinion!

Many floor speakers called on Rodgers to support the Labour Party conference decision on unilateralism. International Marxist Group speakers also demanded the withdrawal of Britain from NATO and the removal of Rodgers from office in the Labour Party.

Hopefully, with a special general management committee of Stockton CLP having been called so that Rodgers can clarify his views on everything from defence to the election of the party leader, his removal from office won't be long in coming.

Photo: Peter Harrap

25,000 DEMONSTRATE IN BELFAST

By Geoff Bell

MAURA McKearney told a packed press conference at the House of Commons on Monday:

'My son is a victim of desperate circumstances in our country. I suppose they have existed for 800 years, but certainly for the last ten years.'

'He is a well-educated young man. Someone, who has no right in our country, drove him to where he is today. I'm proud that he has the guts to be prepared to die for his beliefs and his country.'

Obstinacy

Maura is the mother of Tommy McKearney, one of the seven political prisoners in the H Blocks of Long Kesh in the North of Ireland who started their hunger strike for political status on Monday.

When Maura was asked at the press conference whether she was willing to 'appeal to your son to stop this action', she made clear that the only call she was going to make would be to the British government.

A statement from her and relatives of the other seven hunger strikers blamed 'the obstinacy of the British authorities in Ireland' for the hunger strike.

It continued: 'The hunger strike can be solved. All that is required is for the British government to end its stupid and illogical attitude.'

Maura was speaking in London the day after the streets of Belfast had echoed to the chants of the largest demonstration seen so far on the issue of the Irish political prisoners.

The organisers of the demonstration, the National H Block Committee, estimated that 25,000 took part in the show of solidarity with the hunger strikers — underlining the massive popular feeling that is building up behind the hunger strikers in Ireland.

Stunts

The large turn-out also showed that few in Ireland were fooled by the propaganda stunt announced by the Tory Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Humphrey Atkins, four days before the start of the hunger strike.

This allowed all male prisoners in the north of Ireland to wear 'civilian-style clothing'. This offer was described by the National H Block Committee as 'a calculated and callous deceit'. It did not even meet the first demand of the prisoners — to be allowed to wear their own clothes.

All that was on offer was a change to a more 'civilian style' uniform and possibly a more extensive choice of shirts.

The reaction of the prisoners to this 'concession' was furious. Reaffirming the decision to go on hunger strike a statement



Photos: Joanne O'Brian

Socialist feminists outside Rochester Road police station protesting against arrests under the PTA.

smuggled out of the H Blocks the following day declared:

'It is quite clear that the British are engaged in a cruel piece of teasing, and, to defuse the momentum of growing support for the Blanketmen, it hopes to deflect the widespread criticism from concerned Irish people, and give an erroneous impression that it is taking positive steps to solve the problem.'

'It knows that the resolution of certain issues will end the H Block crisis, but it continues to avoid them, and to us it remains suspect. It is more concerned with the loss of British face than with the loss of Irish lives.'

Neither the Atkins 'confidence trick', as the National H Block committee described the 'concession', nor the SAS raid the previous weekend on organisers for the committee in West Belfast's Twinbrook estate, have shaken the resolve of either the prisoners or their supporters.

On the contrary the SAS attack on two homes, when a 20-strong gang, wielding a wide variety of non-regulation firearms and using sledge-hammers, spread their latest variety of terror, once again emphasised who the real terrorists are — not the H Block prisoners, but the British Army and the bosses in London.

As the hunger strike proceeds all the evidence is that tens of thousands of people in Ireland will now willingly confront that army and its backers with more determination than at any time in the past ten years.

British Women take a stand on Ireland

By Sarah Roelofs and Valerie Coultas

THE Irish question dominated the third socialist feminist conference held in London last weekend.

Two women, Anne Boyle and Maire O'Hare, both members of the Belfast Women Against Imperialism, were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act on Friday night on their way to the conference.

An emergency plenary session was held to discuss the arrests, and it was decided to go to Downing St to protest.

The result was a 400-strong march on Rochester Rd police station, where, it was suspected, the women were being held.

The protestors chanted: 'Free our sisters — smash the PTA'.

Half the women at the

conference attended a meeting on Ireland where three women from Ireland talked about women's lives in the 32 counties.

Ginny, from the Relatives Action Committee, told of the rash of protests that had broken out throughout the north following the announcement that the H Block men were going on hunger strike.

Abuse

She also drew attention to the plight of Armagh prisoner Pauline McLaughlin, who, despite suffering from a kidney disease, has been refused medical treatment, and now weighs 4.5 stone.

An Irish woman from the floor made a passionate plea for women in Britain, 'regardless of their political views', to unite around the demand for the release of Pauline. It was suggested that if Pauline died the women in Armagh might also decide to hunger strike.

Marie Mulholland, a member of the Provisional

Sinn Fein and Women Against Imperialism, gave an account of the physical and sexual abuse to which women are subjected at Castlereagh detention centre.

Abortion

Anne Speed, from People's Democracy and the Contraception Action Programme, spoke about the more general effects of Irish partition — bolstering the Catholic hierarchy in the south and encouraging repression of the Catholic minority in the north.

She said that the best thing British women could do was 'to get your army off our streets.'

The debate has only just begun in earnest in the women's movement. What was most heartening for the Irish women who came was, as Anne Speed said, that British women seemed prepared to do something about Ireland, as the demonstration and picket the night before had shown.

Cops swoop on Irish campaigners

By Tom Marlowe

THREE arrests under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a number of arrests for 'criminal damage', cars stopped and searched and an instantly imposed ban on all demonstrations in London's heavily Irish-populated district of Kilburn — this is the catalogue of a weekend of solidarity in London with the H Block hunger strikers.

Highspot

But such harassment did not dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds who took part in a series of events over the weekend, the highspot of which was the 400 women from the socialist feminist conference who demonstrated outside Downing Street and Rochester Road police station on Saturday evening.

Other events includ-



H Block at CND demo

ed demonstrations and street meetings in East London, North London and Birmingham, as well as a token fast by members of the Belfast-based Relatives Action Committee outside Downing St on the eve of the hunger

strike.

One of those taking part in the fast, Rose McAllister, became the third victim of the Prevention of Terrorism Act when she was held at Heathrow airport as she was about to fly back to

Belfast.

During the short time Rose had been in London she had been under constant observation by the police.

The two other PTA arrests were of Anne Boyle and Maire O'Hare, guests of the

socialist feminist conference. They were held the minute they arrived at Heathrow.

Arrests

Maire was released after being held for 70 hours; Anne was still being held at Rochester Road police station as Socialist Challenge went to press.

Other victims of the weekend of harassment included participants in a Sinn Fein demonstration held on Saturday night. They were stopped by the police from marching through Kilburn and were told by a chief inspector: 'As long as I'm in Kilburn you won't be allowed to demonstrate.'

The arrests for criminal damage were a result of the spraying of various parts of London, including the National Gallery at Trafalgar Square, with the slogan 'Smash H Block'.



Feminists outside Downing St.

'It is not true that the strikes are anti-socialist'

Interview with Wojciech Gruszecki, Polytechnic lecturer and member of the Solidarnosc Praesidium

What are the main gains of the struggles of the last two months and what do you think are your first tasks?

Within the framework of socialism in Poland, the most important gain is the democratisation of our life. Today the problem is union registration. Tomorrow, we must perform duties for the union members and cooperate with the authorities in carrying on the economy.

We must take care of the levelling of the great disproportions in society especially in the areas of housing and agricultural life.

Do you think cooperation with the authorities is possible?

I can't say in relation to the whole government. Some members of the government don't understand the changes but the struggle there is still open. Changes have been announced and there will be more at the December plenum. They are now beginning to deal with thefts and corruption in the Communist Party.

The Polish economy is ransomed to the Western banks, how do you view these debts?

Poland is a very rich country, especially in raw materials. Industries like coal, we consider, should be self-sufficient. We can process coal into liquid fuels. Very large industries are retarded in some places.

Most importantly, we have people who want to work. But there is bad organisation of the economy and incorrect distribution of the Gross National Product. When the economy is properly organised, we can expect an economic miracle like Japan in the next three years.

Solidarnosc and co-operation will cure the ills. I am convinced the movement will help the government to solve the difficulties, but we will not, for the time being, be involved in ruling the country — despite requests.

The role of Solidarnosc is to point out the weak spots, the role of the government is to deal with

them.

The money invested in Poland brings many advantages to the West. It means that the West has no problems with raw materials — meat, coal, etc. The meat is there but it is being exported to pay off the national debt. At the same time, the interest on the loans is growing and capitalism is gaining further.

In Lublin, the workers discovered meat in cans labelled paint destined for Russia. That was the main reason for the strikes there.

In 1956, the independent unions created following the struggles were destroyed in two months. How is the movement today different from those previously?

I took part in these other struggles. Today it is different. The Solidarnosc movement draws in all classes. In 1956, the movement was uncoordinated. We were demanding money and improved living conditions. 1968 was a struggle of students and intellectuals without the support of the working class.

Conversely, in 1970, the workers were in struggle without the support of the intellectuals. There was no unity. In 1976, there were the first signs of unity between the working class and intellectuals, the fruits of which can be seen today.

What role has the KOR played in the strikes?

The KOR was formed in 1976 as a protest against the intimidation of the working class as an organisation to help the workers. They have played no role in the coordination of the movement, but have helped as individuals. The strike bulletin was printed by them and they have been important in talking to Western journalists. The role of the KOR lies in the awakening of the consciousness of the working class.

The Western press have portrayed the strikes as being anti-socialist. Do you look at them in the same light?

If this is the case, it is the same as the Polish press. We understand the intention, but it is not true.



HOW long will the Polish authorities tolerate the new independent unions? Will the Soviet Union invade Poland to halt the workers' revolt? KAY CARTER returns from Poland with interviews and pictures from Gdansk and Gdynia, the heart of the struggle.

By Kay Carter, Socialist Challenge reporter just returned from Poland

POLISH workers know the big tests are still to come. They have won independent trade unions. Millions of workers have joined them and the state-run unions have collapsed.

But the threat of Soviet military intervention remains. The Polish bureaucrats are trying to roll back the gains made through the victorious strike wave. They stalled for three weeks on the registration of the biggest union, Solidarnosc, which has the support of millions of workers.

I asked Lech Walesa, the best-known strike leader, what were the main problems that Solidarnosc had to deal with. 'There are serious faults in the building and agricultural areas,' he said.

'We must look at these areas carefully and solve them quickly. We have received no promises from the government in relation to the shortage of houses.'

Many of the official unions maintain their old structures but call themselves 'independent'.

'There is no other alternative open to them. In the next stage the old unions must be destroyed. A man is first ill then he dies,' Walesa remarked.

The former strike leaders are less clear on the next steps. They hope that the elections in the new unions will bring forward new leaders — politicians to lead the

'Every morning w out of the window are no tanks we'



GDYNIA workers see no contradiction between Catholicism

workers through the next struggles.

One Gdansk shipyard worker told me: 'All the unions are at present working side by side, but in the future we plan to organise a kind of workers' parliament representing all the unions within the shipyard.'

Lech Walesa would not be drawn on 'political' questions. What did he think of the reforms in the Polish Communist Party? — 'I am not a party member'. Is Soviet military intervention still a threat? — 'I can't say anything about this. We don't question socialism'.

What will the government do if it fails to block the development of Solidarnosc? — 'Ask the government'.

Probably 95 per cent of the Polish people are Catholic. They see no contradiction between this and fighting for their rights in this world. Divorce, contraception, and abortion all go on; the people merely go and confess.

Some look to the West and see that we have material things they don't. They feel they are fighting 'Russian communism', not socialism. The queues and the shortages are blunders of the government, not an evil of socialism.

Some of the shortages are unbelievable. Poland is one of the biggest producers of sugar, yet it has been on ration for three years! There were queues everywhere for meat, toilet paper, and potatoes.

The waiting list for accommodation is eight to ten years. There has been no renovation of old houses — and it shows!

Books are also limited. According to the statistics Polish people read on average just four books a year.

The tight censorship by the authorities over culture is being challenged. Jerzy Lapinski, leader of the actors' union, told me: 'The last congress of SPATIF (the actors' union within Solidarnosc) passed two demands. The first was to allow the performance of all plays and films independent of political orientation.'

'The second stated that registration in Solidarnosc was more important than reactivating the official actors' union. The official press at first reported neither of these demands. When we complained the press completely distorted our demands.'

Access to the mass media and information is a major struggle. Since the strike wave there have been televised sessions of the Polish parliament. But they have been edited by the authorities.

Polish workers want our support. Lech Walesa's closing words to me were: 'We are sure of our friends abroad. They know that solidarity is what we need.'



Collection for

The ne

STAGE two workers' revolt way, following success of the wave which forced concessions from ment.

The bureaucrats desperately trying these gains. Increasing workers are cor with the government's implementation of demands.

This conflict in hour general strike may well lead to over the statutes biggest independent

The Gdansk which brought to mittes across the ed 'an end to the police, security members'. A 'driv tion' in governmentist Party has rulers trying to fin to head off the v before it strikes a bureaucratic privi



The face of despair: Minister Jablonski concedes defeat to the Gdansk Soviet and workers' leader, Lech Walesa



and fighting for their rights in this world

When we look and there rejoice!



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The 21 demands included 'public circulation of all the facts on the socio-economic situation in Poland, and the granting to all social layers and currents of opinion the possibility to take part in discussions on a programme of reform.'

The new independent workers' organisations will begin to formulate overall alternative economic plans the more they are allowed to participate in such discussions.

The bureaucrats will defend to the last their exclusive right to such information and decision-making powers.

At every step the need for overall political solutions becomes more obvious, and it is clear that the Polish workers have started down the road to political revolution to overthrow their bureaucratic rulers.

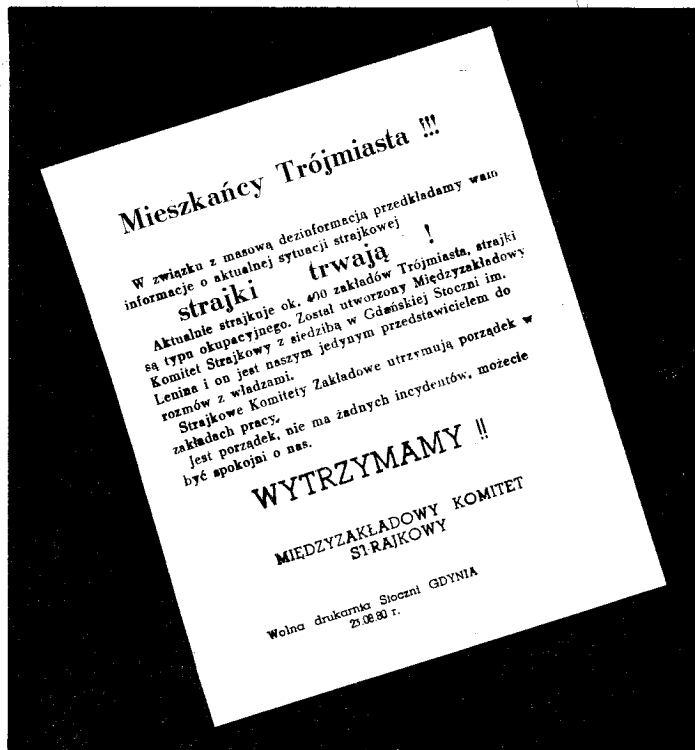
Solidarity

The Polish workers now face the twin tasks of strengthening and centralising the new workers' organisations independent of the state and the Communist Party, and the building of a mass revolutionary party fighting for their interests.

The Soviet and Eastern bloc rulers are still watching the Polish developments, terrified of the extension of the revolt. A military invasion, as in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, is by no means excluded. Workers in this country should step up solidarity with the Polish workers.

Letters to Poland

MESSAGES of support and solidarity with Solidarnosc should be sent to: Krajowa Komisja porozumiewawcza NSZZ Solidarnosc Gdansk-Wrzeszcz ul. Grunwaldzka 103. Poland.



Workers of the Three Cities!!!

Regarding the mass 'disinformation', we're giving you information on the real state of the strike.

The Strikes go on!

At the moment workers of about 400 factories in the Three Cities are on strike, occupying their plants. An Interfactory Strike Committee has been formed with its headquarters at the Lenin shipyards, Gdansk, and it is our sole representative in negotiations with the government.

The Factory Strike Committees are maintaining order in the workplaces.

Rest assured that everything is in order and there is nothing to worry about.

WE WILL HOLD OUT!!!

Interfactory Strike Committee

THE leaflet above was decisive in the outcome of the August strike wave. The Polish bureaucrats spread rumours that the strikes had been called off. This leaflet corrected this 'information' and kept the strike solid. The three cities referred to are Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot on the Baltic Coast.

How did you become involved in the strikes?

I had been on holiday to Czechoslovakia. When I returned, the strike had been on for three days. I went to the shipyard to see how it was going. It made a great impression on me while I was outside the gate and I felt I ought to be on the inside.

I was especially interested in the demands relating to women and children. I met a friend who worked inside and asked if I could help as I am a quick typist.

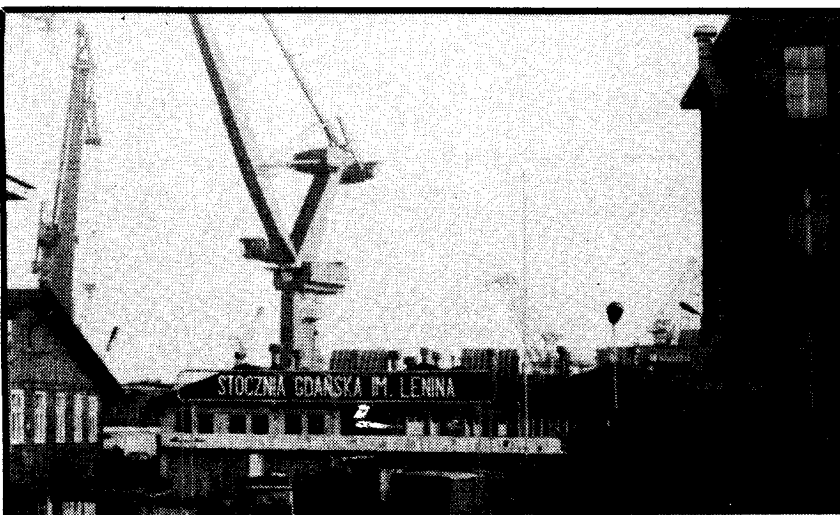
Besides increased maternity leave and earlier retirement, what were the other demands for women, and what was the involvement of women in the strikes?

There were demands for higher payments for families with children and especially for women bringing up children alone. There were many women delegates from different factories and many women helping with food, typing, etc. There were also many single women and women working in the health service.

Are women in Poland still treated as a minority group or truly as a half of the population?

I started a job in the shipyard a few days ago. There are still big differences in the treatment of men and women in industry. Of course, there are special branches of industry which employ mostly women. In my section, there are a lot of young men from all over Poland who get flats or other accommodation.

I live quite a long way outside Gdansk and would also like to live nearer the



Interview with Jadwiga Piatkowska, woman worker at the Lenin shipyard

centre. So I asked for more money to get some accommodation. I was told it was impossible as there were more men than women looking for flats. These men earn much more than I do as it is and yet I was refused additional payment for a flat.

What is the position for contraception and abortion in Poland?

I'm against abortion myself — personally, not for religious reasons. Education is still too weak in Poland. It was started

some years ago but now is not very widespread. There are many posters and signs at the surgeries and clinics, but it is hard to ask direct questions and get direct answers. There is still a big difference between town and country — in the country there is still a great degree of ignorance.

We know there is a great deal of official control and secrecy over economic figures. Who is going to determine the rate of inflation for the

sliding scale of wages when it would be so easy for the authorities to distort the figures?

A group of independent experts were organised under the control of neither the government nor the unions. It was formed on the insistence of both sides — government and workers.

Additional payments for children and other things such as holidays for children and tokens for sugar are not given until you have worked in the factory for three months — I don't think that this

is right.

How do you feel about the future?

I'm not now as enthusiastic and optimistic as I was during the strike. There is no more in the shops now than there was before. I'm afraid that the government is trying to tell workers, 'we have done a great deal, don't expect any more immediately'. But the basic problems still remain.

It is still very easy, for example, for people with the right connections to arrange things like flats or avoidance of military service. To corrupt people is easy, to repair the damage takes longer and is much harder.

Everyone is living in hope that things will improve. One main thing is that the consciousness of workers is much higher and the wall between the Director and the workers is much lower.

Do most women in the factory think like you do?

Yes. When I started work I was asked by the woman representative of the official union which union I wanted to join. 'The new union, of course,' I said. She replied that she felt as if she was on strike with nothing to do.

Walesa said to us that strikes solve nothing. What is your attitude?

The only effective weapon we have is still the strike. It used to be argued, 'It's still not long after the War, you must wait while we rebuild' — but that's wearing a bit thin now. The people who fight for the rights of all people usually have nothing for themselves.



ACCESS to the mass media is a major struggle — but until then...

Socialist Challenge Events

BRENT Socialist Challenge/Revolution celebrate the anniversary of the Russian Revolution and Bonfire Night with a fund-raising social, Sat 8 Nov. 5 St Marys Rd, London NW10. Food, bonfire, fireworks, games and other surprises. Adm £1 + 1 firecracker.

MANCHESTER Socialist Challenge public meeting on Thur 6 Nov, 7.30pm. 'Is Russia Socialist?' Star and Garter pub, Fairfield St, nr Piccadilly Station.

SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Challenge meeting on Mon 10 Nov, 7.30. 'British Troops out of Northern Ireland' with speaker from Troops Out Movement. St. Matthews Hall, Brintons Road entrance, Six Dials.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Both IMG and Socialist Challenge offices need all types of office equipment and furniture. Particularly needed are metal waste paper bins and 30 stacking chairs. Can collect if necessary. Contact Penny on 01-359 8371.

SC Sales

ABERDEEN: SC sold Saturdays outside C&As — for more info ring Colin, 574060.

BATH: SC on sale at 1985 Books, London Road, and Saturdays 2pm-5pm outside the Roman Baths. Phone 20298 for more details.

BIRMINGHAM: SC on sale at The Ramp, Fri 4.30-5.40, Sat 10-4. For more info phone 643-0669.

BRADFORD: SC available from Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate.

BRIGHTON: SC sales regularly every Sat outside Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1, 'Hole in Ground', Haymarket. For more info contact Box 2, c/o Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.

CARDIFF: SC sales Newport Town Centre outside Woolworths 11-12.30; Cardiff British Home Stores 11-12.30. Also available from 108 Books, Salisbury Road, Cardiff.

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop. For more info about local activities phone 461138.

DUNDEE: SC available from Dundee City Square outside Boots, every Thursday 4-5.30pm, Friday 4-5.30pm, Saturday 11-4pm.

ENFIELD: SC available from Nelsons newsagents, London Rd, Enfield Town.

EDINBURGH: SC sales every Thursday 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square; Saturday 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. For more info on local activity write to SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candelmaker Row.

HACKNEY supporters sell SC every Saturday morning at Ridley Road market E8.

HAMILTON: SC on sale 8-11 every Sat. outside County Bar Almada Street, every Sat outside Safeway 1.30-5. For more info contact Paul, 17 Clyde View or John at 54 Elliot St, Hamilton.

Huddersfield: SC supporters sell papers every Saturday 11am-1pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

Kilburn: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square.

Lambeth: SC available from Village Books, Streatham; Tethric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk. Also sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.

Manchester: SC supporters sell 11-1pm Sat at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURY in the shopping precinct and at Metro Books; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

Newham: SC sale every Saturday, 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Market, Upton Park.

Oldham: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities, Tel. 061-682 5151.

Oxford: SC supporters sell every Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.

Stockport: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8909 (evening), 236 4905 (day).

Swindon: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat., Regent St (Brunel Centre).

Teesside: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and in Newsfare, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and outside Woolworths on Stockton High Street.

Is your town or city mentioned above? If not, why not send in details to the Socialist Challenge sales column.

International Marxist Group notices

NALGO FRACTION Sun 16 Nov 12-5pm, National Centre. Agenda: the turn; perspectives; Cruise; women's liberation.

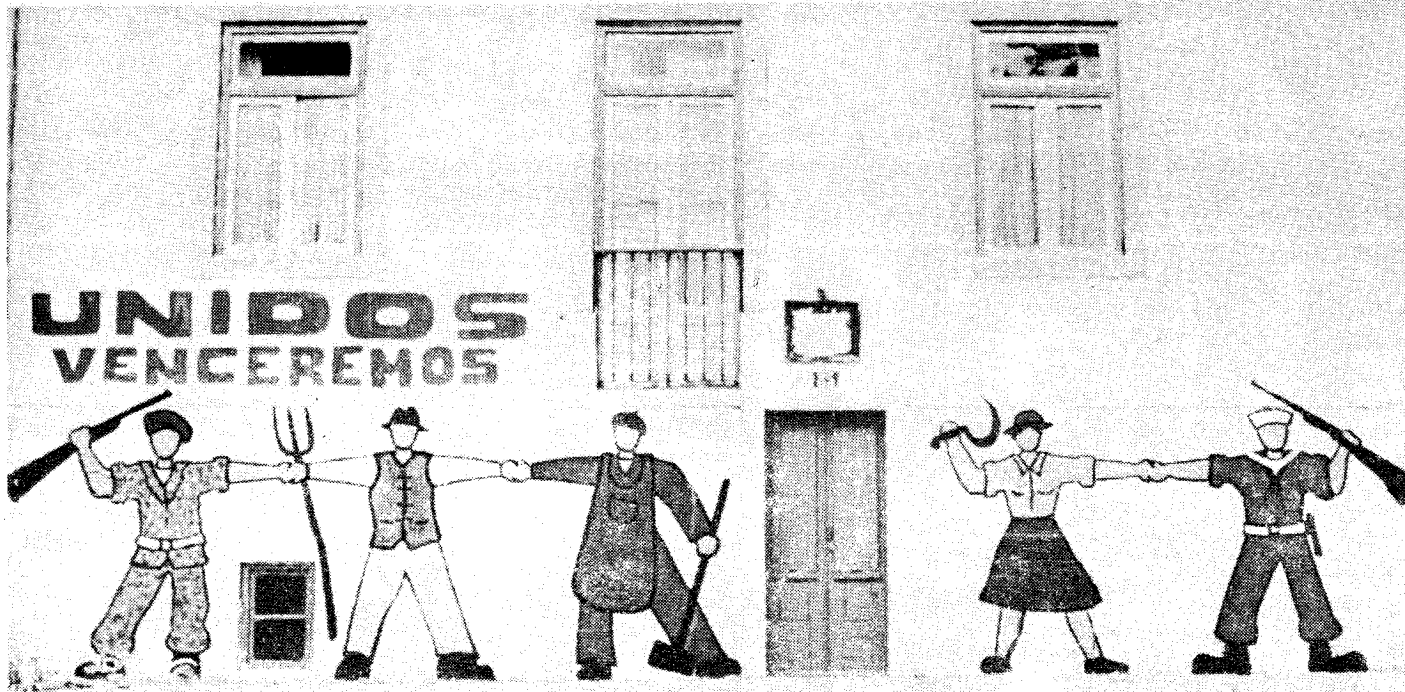
POEU FRACTION: Sat and Sun 15/16 Nov. Leeds. Agenda: perspectives; Labour Party; women's liberation. Details of venue later.

CPSA FRACTION Sat 22 Nov, 12.30-5pm National Centre. Agenda: the turn; perspectives; Cruise; women's liberation.

RAIL FRACTION: Sat 13 Dec, 1-5pm at national centre.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION FRACTION: 22/23 Nov — venue to be announced. Also a 'Women and the Turn' day school the same weekend. Cdes involved in the work and from the TU fractions to attend.

IMG WOMEN'S LIBERATION NOTES: Is your branch receiving them every week? If not write to women's organiser at the centre. And why not send in a report for inclusion in the bulletin? All contributions in by Monday each week. Ring Judith on 01-359 8371 to discuss a visit from the IMG women's organiser this autumn.



'United we shall win' was the main election slogan of the Portuguese Trotskyists.

142,000 votes for Trotskyist candidates in Portugal

AUSTERITY is not just Thatcher's message to the British working class. Governments throughout Western Europe have taken up the offensive.

It can be rolled back — by united working class action. But that call isn't coming from the leaders of the traditional workers parties, but from the Trotskyists of the Fourth International.

An example is the role of the Portuguese section, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (PSR), in the recent elections there.

An increased parliamentary majority was won by the right-wing Democratic Alliance (AD) — although the workers' parties as a whole still scraped a bare majority of the votes with 50.2 per cent.

Happy

But as the French daily paper *Le Monde* reported: 'AD aren't the only ones who are happy about their results; the Trotskyists are too. In eight months the votes of the Workers Party of Socialist Unity (POUS) and the Revolutionary Socialist Party (PSR)



News from the Fourth International

have risen from 48,000 to 142,000, which represents 2.4 per cent of the voters.'

The other main far left organisation, the

centrist UDP, saw its vote fall to 1.4 per cent — although its one deputy was re-elected.

The POUS's share of the Trotskyist vote was higher than that of the PSR (mainly because of its identification with Socialist Party dissidents), but was spread right across the country. The PSR, however, got votes where it is most known for its role in building mass action: in the working class areas. Indeed, in Lisbon a PSR deputy was almost elected.

Original

Le Monde explained the high Trotskyist vote as follows:

'The POUS as well as the PSR presented an original message to the electorate, which undoubtedly found a response. They called for a SP-CP government and for a civilian candidate supported by a united left in the December presidential elections.'

In other words, the Trotskyists said that the working class had to wage a united fight for its



Socialist leader Soares lost another election

own class solutions to the crisis.

The PSR campaign was a model of its kind. More than 80 per cent of its 300 candidates were workers, with 45 of them holding positions in the

unions or workers' commissions. A third of them were women — a far higher percentage than in any other party.

Slots in its broadcasting allocation were given to the leaders of workers' struggles, to the abortion and contraception campaign, and to representatives of FRETILIN, the liberation movement in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor (now under Indonesian military occupation).

Unity

The PSR stood as 'the party of those who struggle', under the slogan of 'Beat AD, kick out the bosses and the generals'.

AD's victory was a setback — a result of the refusal of the SP and CP leaders to fight for workers' unity in the elections and in the unions.

But a workers' candidate in the presidential elections, backed by the SP and CP, could be an important step in beginning to turn the tide of austerity.

That is what the PSR is fighting for today.

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

REVOLUTION

FOR A UNITED REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH ORGANISATION

BLACK LIBERATION FRACTION: Sunday 2 November, 2-6pm in Highfields Community Centre, Leicester. All RY comrades interested in working on black liberation invited to attend. Write to Alix, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP for details.

NATIONAL STUDENT FRACTION: Sun 30 Nov in the North West — exact venue to be decided. For all student comrades.

COLLEGE MEETINGS: Cruise missiles and Charter '80 meetings should be arranged as soon as possible.

ble. Speakers and dates arranged by Ann (01-359 8371) or Stephanie (021-359 5921).

LONDON AGGREGATE: 9 Nov, 12-5pm at UCL Students Union. Agenda: Building 15 Nov Irish demo. Very important meeting for all London cdes.

IRISH SUBCOMMITTEE: Fri 14 Nov, 6pm. National Centre. All members of Irish Subcommittee to attend and any other RY members involved in Irish work.

Other THE BOOKSHOP

Peter Taylor

Beating the Terrorists?

Penguin, £1.50

Using dramatic new evidence this Penguin special documents the story of interrogation by the Royal Ulster Constabulary from 1976 to 1979 and exposes the accompanying political cover-up.

Dale Spender and Elisabeth Sarah

Learning to Lose — Sexism and Education

Womens Press, £3.25

A collection of essays which sets out to account for the underachievement of girl students and begins to construct a feminist model of teaching and learning.

CLR James, George Breitman, Edgar Keemer and others

Fighting Racism in World War Two

Pathfinder Press, £3.45

This book tells the story of the struggle of black people during the war years in the USA through contemporary articles, letters and resolutions from the press of the Socialist Workers Party.

Socialist Challenge sales hit new peak

WE broke our record! Over 6,800 copies of last week's Socialist Challenge were sent out to local supporters' groups.

This was 2,500 more than the previous week and 500 higher than our all-time record. A few thousand other copies were sold in shops or sent out on subscription.

Birmingham IMG organised their sales like a military operation. Their comrades sold on every coach coming down to the massive CND demonstration. Altogether some 400 copies were sold. Many more subscriptions were sold and slips filled in requesting more information about the IMG.

On the demonstration itself our sellers were seen everywhere promoting our eight-page supplement on the missiles madness. Other Socialist Challenge supporters sold 3,800 'I won't die for Thatcher' badges!

Now is the time for IMG branches and local supporters to build on the success of last week's sales. Send in your extra orders as soon as possible to the circulation department. Help us reach the thousands of new activists in the anti-missiles campaign.



Don't say cheese

By Don Slater

THE first-ever national conference of socialist photography is to be held next month.

It aims to draw together the many different practices that socialist photographers are working in — the left press, community and worker photography, photography in education, socialists working in the bourgeois media.

Over the past decade militants have become increasingly aware of the importance of political struggles over the media and ideology.

Whether it be strikers slandered by the mainstream press and broadcasting, women daily insulted by sexist images of themselves, ethnic minorities turned into racist stereotypes — all have faced the necessity of carrying their political work into the cultural front.

The conference has been called in response to the critical state of photography: we now face one of the most reactionary media onslaughts in recent memory. Through the press, advertising, commercial publishing and the art market, photography is thoroughly involved in this campaign.

At the same time, despite growing interest and activity in photography, socialist photography faces crises to match the times: the funding of com-

munity photography is under constant threat, the use of photography in the left press is still inadequate and conventional — no competition for the deluge of visuals churned out by the bourgeoisie; photography in education is still minimal; the distribution of images is solidly monopolised by capital; and all suffer from isolation and lack of resources.

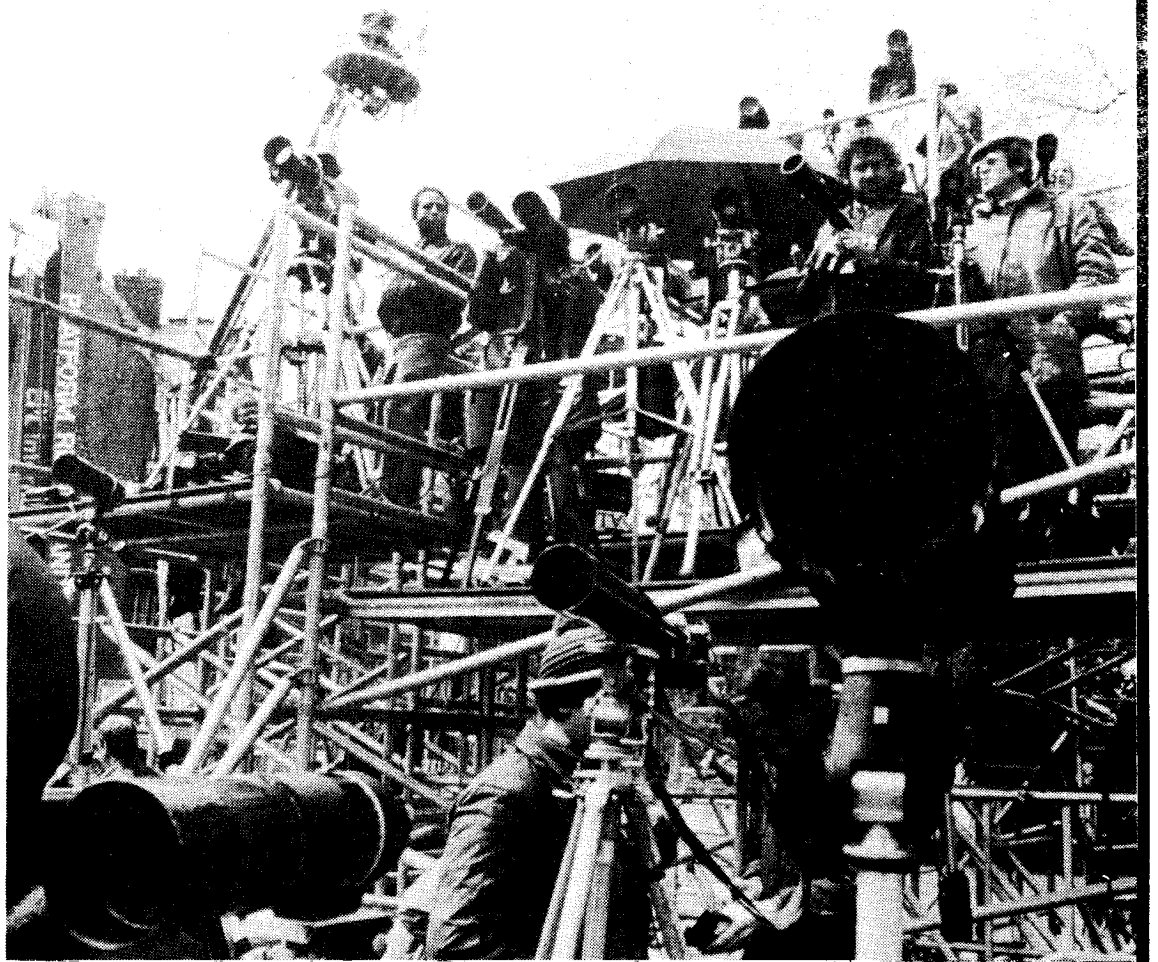
We hope that the conference will help to create an understanding and awareness of photography's role in the machinery of ideology, and to find ways of using it most effectively in the class struggle.

If we as photographers or socialist workers in any area of culture and ideology are to get our messages through and dismantle the reactionary ideologies which now oppress us, we will have to find ways of working together and fighting back with all the resources we've got.

The next time a poster makes you want to burn down the hoarding or an advert makes you want to kick in the box — think of where the power lies. And think about how to struggle against the bourgeois media.

The weekend conference, to be held in Leeds on 8-9 November, includes workshops introduced by the Campaign for Press Freedom, 'East End News', the Campaign for Free Speech in Ireland, and a film by the Campaign Against Racism in the Media. There are main sessions on current photographic practices and the history of left photography.

Details from: NCSP, 1 Rossllyn House, Rushcroft Road, London SW2.



TONS — literally — of lenses lined up at the Iranian embassy siege. But whose story did they have to tell?

The money bags behind the screen

By Dave Carter

A CRUCIAL decision affecting the lives of millions of working class people will have been taken by the end of the year after a lengthy process of 'consultation' at public meetings up and down the country.

The Independent Television Authority will have awarded the franchises to run commercial television for the next eight years.

The charade of the boardroom bickerings at Westward TV has dominated coverage of this media event. But from my experience in the North-east, the wheeling and dealing is by no means confined to South-west England.

Appalling

The North-east franchise is currently held by Tyne Tees Television. Most people agree that it is an appalling station, and that whatever takes its place could hardly be worse. A recent excellent supplement to *Durham Street Press* has highlighted the fact that the board of Tyne Tees hold no less than 70 directorships between them.

They include Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, the former president of the North-east Conservative Association, Viscount Ridley, brother of Tory MP Nicholas, and Robert Dickinson.

Establish

Dickinson alone holds 22 directorships, including Gosforth Industrial Holdings Ltd, the firm formed out of the old Swan Hunter ship-builders to invest the £15m handed to them by the government in compensation for nationalisation.

Tyne Tees is very much the voice of the North-east establishment.

What of its rivals? TV



Photomontage: YVE LOMAX

North in its application makes much of the fact that it has heavy financial backing and superior equipment to Tyne Tees.

This affluence comes as no surprise when its consortium includes Sir Monty Finiston, former chairperson of BSC and now on the board of Guest, Keen and Nettlefords, one of the largest single contributors to Tory Party funds; together with a banker, a Tory baroness, a Tory earl, and like-minded layabouts.

It's obvious that this motley collection of worthies can in no sense pretend to represent the people of the North-east, an area dominated by strong Labour and trade union influence.

The third consortium is

ITV franchise battle

pretending to be something completely different. Its title gives the game away — Norseman, which any Geordie will tell you is the name of a popular brand of lager sold in pubs and clubs throughout the area.

The leading board member is Paul Nicholson, who happens to be... the managing director of Vaux breweries and owner of pubs and hotels in the region. For good measure, Nicholson is

also chairperson of the Northern CBI. His colleagues on the consortium include Sir Richard Storey, chairperson of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, who was recently exposed in the *New Statesman* for his provocative union-bashing plans.

However, also on the Norseman board are Tom Burlison, regional secretary of the GMWU and Joe Mills, regional secretary of the TGWU and the media's favourite trade union superstar.

Mills recently distinguished himself by appearing on Tyne Tees TV the day that two million unemployed was announced, warning Thatcher, that unless she was careful the 'extremists' would

take over from responsible union leaders like himself and encourage redundant workers to occupy their factories.

Durham Street Press quotes Mills as saying: 'I personally don't represent the TGWU on the board. I represent the labour movement.' On behalf of the Cleveland Association of Trades Councils I asked at the last meeting of the regional TUC who had elected members of its executive to join a bunch of capitalists, and to whom they were accountable.

I received no reply, which is perhaps not surprising given that the regional TUC president George Arnold is widely rumoured to be the 'anonymous trade union leader' TV North has signed

up. At a recent IBA public meeting in Middlesbrough, after attacking Tyne Tees' pathetic coverage of trade union affairs, I made the point that there was nothing being offered by the other consortia which was likely to change this. Furious Norseman supporters pointed to the presence of Mills and Burlison on their board.

In other words, leading trade unionists in the area are acting as cover for ruthless would-be TV moguls who are hoping to win rich advertising pickings.

The arguments used to justify trade unionists sitting on these consortia have been heard before in another context. 'They have the region's interests at heart.... They are not sitting back and criticising, but are getting stuck in and trying to use their influence' is the sort of nonsense we keep hearing.

It must be a familiar sound to old 'Mr Newcastle, himself, T Dan Smith.

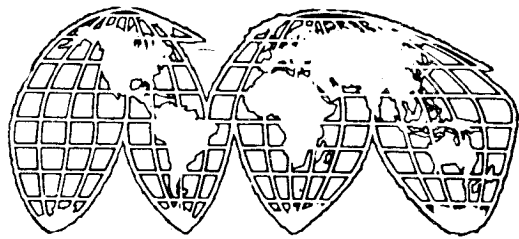
'Durham Street Press' is available from: Folkus, Alington House, 4 North Baley, Durham.



NOW OUT — the 2nd edition of Socialist Challenge's highly popular pamphlet 'The Tory Press and How To Fight It'.

If you gritted your teeth at the coverage of the Labour Party conference, and thrilled at the TUC decision that media workers should ensure the right of reply... this pamphlet is for you.

Single copies 10p plus 10p p&p; multiple orders at 8p a copy pre-paid post free, direct from: Socialist Challenge, 328 Upper St, London N1.



Around the World

United States

AN unofficial military study group in Washington has revealed that the US has now developed 'a tiny 12 inch by 13 inch device' which can destroy a satellite in space. The weapon apparently, will be able to 'home in' on enemy satellites and destroy them 'by high speed impact'.

If the report is true the weapon marks a new stage in the space arms race. Until now, the chief means developed for destroying satellites has been laser weapons. Last year the US government's Defence Advance Research Projects Agency was given \$200m for work in this field.

The main problem the military scientists have come up against with such weapons is that they are very vulnerable to counter attack. This is because the nature of laser beams means that the weapon which projects them is relatively exposed, easily located, and simply destroyed.

If the new weapon overcomes these problems, Star Wars may not be fiction for much longer. Mr Spock, where are you now when we need you?

Saudi Arabia

The reason for the loss of life after the crash of a jumbo jet at Riyadh airport, Saudi Arabia, last August has now been established, according to broad hints being dropped all over the place.

The story goes that when the jumbo crashlanded the emergency services were prevented from getting to the aircraft because a royal jet carrying King Khaled was about to take-off. It was felt preferable that the king's take-off should go uninterrupted, whatever risk to the jumbo passengers. The king flew off in time; 301 passengers in the jumbo died.

Holland

APPROXIMATELY 8,000 demonstrators blocked access roads to a nuclear power station at Dodewaard, Holland, last Sunday.

When the anti-nuclear power protesters arrived at the outer fence of the 50-megawatt experimental plant they were met by hundreds of riot police with dogs and water cannons.

South Africa

THE racist regime in South Africa launched a new raid into Angola last week. The incursion was the first reported incident since July when a two-week long invasion took place.

The latest raid, which killed at least 30 Angolans, coincided with the opening of talks in South Africa between the South African authorities and a delegation from the United Nations on the issue of Namibian independence.

The raid into Angola was launched by South African forces in Namibia.

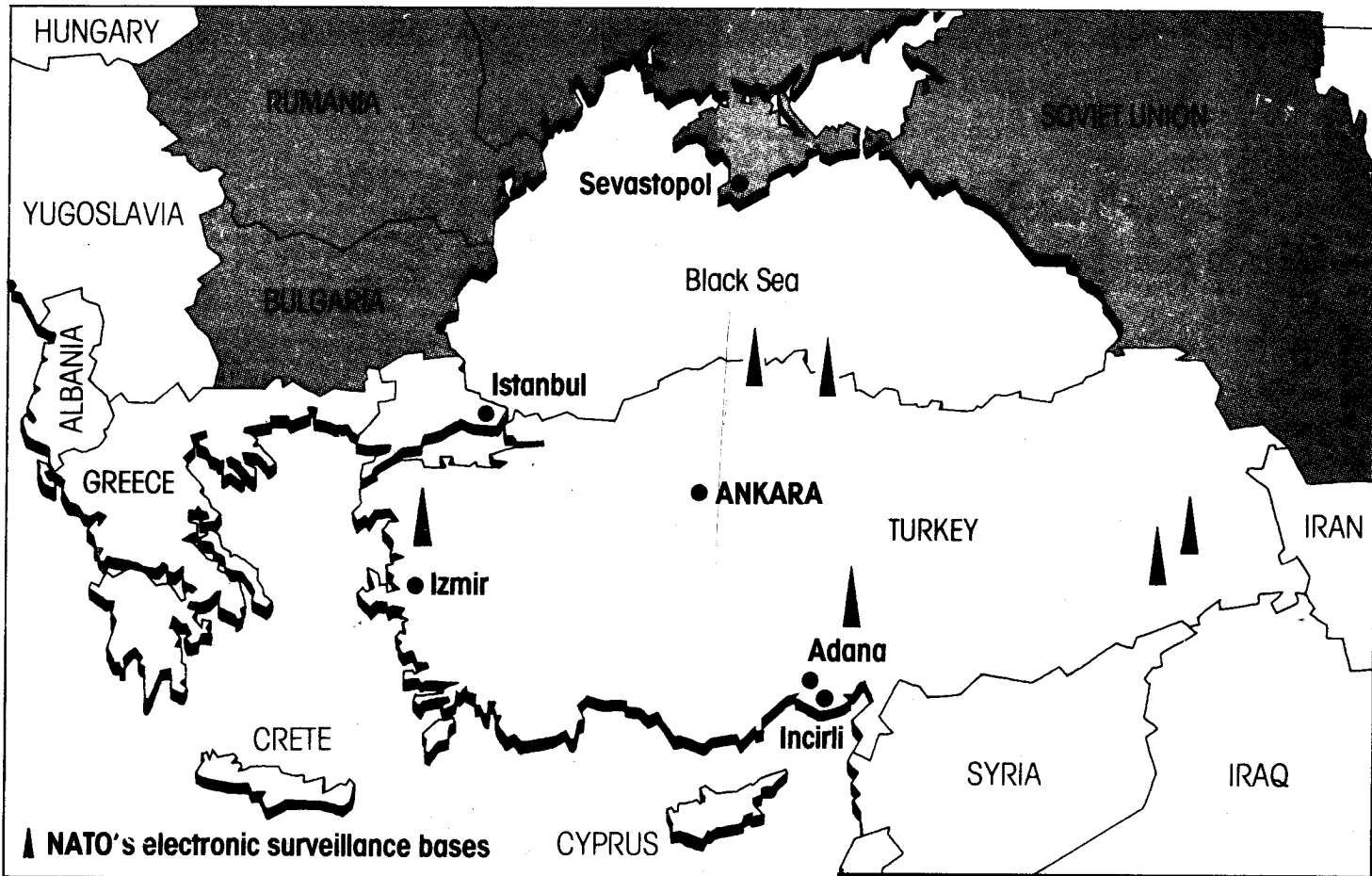
United States

NEW revelations concerning the FBI's 'dirty tricks' were made in New York last week. These came with the release of documents dealing with the FBI's campaign of subversion against the Black Panthers in the late '60s and the early '70s.

A favourite ruse was for the FBI to send off spoof letters containing all manner of allegations to Panther sympathisers. For example, someone posing as a member of the US Communist Party wrote to the party's headquarters: 'I don't have to prove to you that the Black Panthers are a Maoist anti-Semitic gang'.

More sinister, when Angela Davis was arrested in October 1970 on charges of murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy, the FBI's New York and Chicago offices sent letters to *Ebony Magazine* and *Village Voice* signed by 'A Friend of Sister Angela' and 'Concerned Brother'.

The letters stated that Huey Newton, supreme commander of the Black Panther Party, was the 'finger man' who had been responsible for the capture of Davis.



▲ NATO's electronic surveillance bases

NATO's hand behind Turkish military coup

THERE has been little news lately in the national press of the European country where the military took power last month — Turkey. Below we reprint excerpts from a statement issued by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International on the military coup and its aftermath.

The 12 September military coup was a major blow to the working people in Turkey. It was inspired and supported by imperialism and coordinated by NATO.

Its aim is to impose social stability at the expense of the working class and its mass organisations. A wave of repression has been launched against the working people and the economic screws are being tightened against them.

The extent of NATO involvement in the coup was demonstrated by the simultaneous military manoeuvres being conducted in Turkey at the time.

Crisis

The reason for the heavy involvement of the imperialists lies in the increasingly severe social and political crisis in Turkey and adjacent countries demonstrated by the Iranian revolution, the Iraqi war against Iran, the working class struggles in Syria, and the struggle of the Kurdish people for their right to self-determination.

The imperialists pretend that the new regime has popular support for its actions. But this is a lie. Despite its camouflage of a government composed of civilians and retired military figures it is a military regime which aims to deepen the attacks of the previous administration on living standards and democratic rights by repressive military methods.

The political crisis that preceded the coup involved

the failure of governments led successively by the two big bourgeois parties. It is only the reflection of an even deeper economic and social crisis.

This has stimulated a polarisation that has been concretised on the one side in very hard fought workers' struggles and mobilisations of students and the radicalised petty bourgeoisie, and on the other side in the emergence of a fascist current with considerable mass influence.

Paralysis

In carrying out the coup after a series of warnings, the army, which is also closely linked to the economic structures, wanted to counter the paralysis of the institutions and political leadership.

Its spokespeople declare that a new constitution will be adopted. They want to create the illusion that they are ready to enforce and respect constitutional norms. If they were sincere

in this they would only have to prepare elections to a true constituent and democratic assembly which would respect the popular will.

Their objective is, on the contrary, to impose an even more conservative constitution than the present one. This would both be an instrument for consolidating the system and for giving legitimacy to systematic repression — prolonging what has already characterised Turkey for many years, particularly since Suleyman Demirel came to power (65,000 people were in prison for political reasons before the September coup).

Repression

The decision of Turkish chief of Staff General Kenan Evren and company to proceed in this direction has already been confirmed by the fact that much harsher repression has been directed against Bulent Ecevit's Republican People's Party than against Demirel's. While the trade unions, and in particular the DISK have been suspended, the procapitalist Turk Is (the right-wing union federation) can function normally and its leader Side has become a minister.

Besides this Evren has drawn up an economic orientation which recommends the 'functioning of the economy within the



General Kenan Evren

framework of natural laws.' It is clear that the new regime is applying an austerity program along the lines dictated by the International Monetary Fund.

The basic cause of the chronic crisis of the country has been, and remains, the increasingly catastrophic economic situation which involves the pauperisation and uprooting of larger and larger layers of the peasantry, massive unemployment of nearly 15 per cent of the working population, and the blocking of any future for the young generation coming out of secondary and university education.

Rights

The policy that the military wants to impose could bring at most a partial 'rationalisation' and recovery, however small in concrete terms, and in any case would be achieved through a brutal aggravation of the oppression and exploitation that the great mass of workers already suffer.

In addition, an eventual reestablishment of order can only imply a greater oppression of the Kurds, who will continue to be deprived of their most elementary national and democratic rights and submitted to the most severe repression.

Internationally, a solidarity campaign must be launched. The involvement of the imperialist governments in the coup must be

denounced and their further support for the military regime halted. The campaign must be developed by trade unions internationally, but particularly in Western Europe where there are hundreds of thousands of Turkish workers.

The campaign should demand the freeing of all political prisoners, the right of political parties and the trade unions to function freely, and the right of self-determination for the oppressed nationalities.

The trade unions in the imperialist countries should demand that their governments cut military, diplomatic, and economic links with the military regime.

The coup also demonstrates once again that NATO is not only a vehicle for imperialist war, but an instrument to repress the workers movement. NATO must withdraw from Turkey. Down with the military regime! Full support to the Turkish workers in the struggle against reaction!

Mandel's translator jailed

SADI OZANSU, translator of Ernest Mandel's book *Introduction to Marxism* has been jailed in Turkey for 7½ years. The Istanbul martial law tribunal has ordered the seizure and destruction of all copies of the book.

Ozansu was charged under Article 142 of the Turkish penal code — taken over wholesale from Mussolini's penal code of the '30s — with 'making propaganda for the domination of one social class over another'.

Presumably Turkey's military rulers objected to the class which Mandel suggested should do the dominating.

Coming Next Week....

JAMAICA and the United States both go to the polls in the next two weeks. The outcome of these elections will have a major impact on the shape of world politics, and the situation in the Caribbean and the Americas in particular.

Socialist Challenge will be carrying a major interview with Doug Jenness, a leader of the American Socialist Workers Party, in next week's issue. We will also look in depth at the Jamaican elections, including interviews with Jamaican socialists active in Britain.

Order your copy of next week's issue now!

IRAQ/IRAN WAR

Iraq/Iran war: unconvincing arguments

I FOUND Brian Grogan's attempt to defend Socialist Challenge's line on the Iran/Iraq war (16 October) even less convincing than his original article.

If, and this was merely stated not argued for, an Iranian victory would undermine the Baathist domination of the Iraqi masses, by the same simplistic logic wouldn't an Iraqi victory undermine the strength of the mullahs in Iran?

And if so, how does Brian Grogan propose to choose? He argues that 'in a choice between immediate death at the hands of Iraq and imperialism or the slow poisoning offered by Kho-

meini and Bani-Sadr it makes sense to choose the latter'. Makes sense to whom? Why pose the question in terms of this dichotomous choice?

No analysis is provided to substantiate the implication that the interests of Iraq and 'imperialism' are identical. Yet it is arguable that an outright victory for Iraq would afford American imperialism less of a foothold than an unstable situation where the balance of power in the area was more precarious.

I also wonder what point comrade Grogan is trying to make when he says 'the religious bigotry of the

mullahs means something quite different from the Islam of the Iranian masses'?

What about the Islam of the Iraqi masses? Is he suggesting that the Islam of the Iranian masses is progressive or unbogged? Surely it is not correct to attribute the progressive and positive aspects of the Iranian revolution to the masses' particular type of Islam, any more than it would be correct to attribute the militancy of the Polish workers to their Catholicism.

JACKIE BHABHA,
London

Rehabilitating Keir Hardie

IN HIS article on Labour Party democracy (16 Oct) Alan Freeman makes a reference to Keir Hardie in 1907 opposing Ben Tillet over the accountability of Labour MPs to conference decisions.

Freeman then goes on to state that, 'When the Labour Party conference declared for women's suffrage, Hardie said he would rather resign than carry out the decision'.

In fact Keir Hardie threatened to resign from the Party if the conference did not support his motion for women's suffrage. Although Hardie did not carry out that threat (Labour eventually supported votes for women in 1912), he remained and was regarded by none other than Sylvia Pankhurst as a committed supporter for the women's side.

The importance here lies not so much with the factual error but in the connection

Alan appears to be trying to suggest of a militant progressive left wing against a reactionary right-wing leadership then and now.

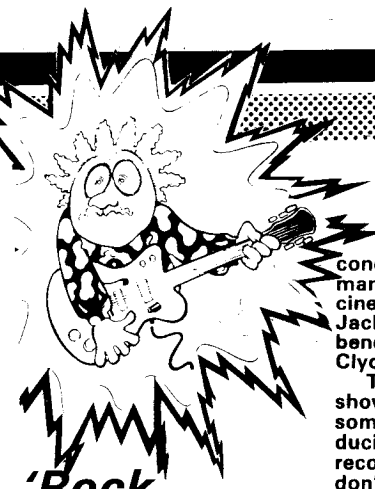
Unfortunately for him, in this case such handy political labels simply will not stick. Keir Hardie supported votes for women despite conference decisions.

His opponents there included supposedly more militant, even revolutionary trade unionists such as Ben Tillet and Harry Quelch who were happy to condemn the women's suffrage movement as divisive to the working class and 'bourgeois'.

Socialists and revolutionaries in Britain do not have a very proud record of fighting for women's liberation. It is up to us now to rectify that in the present struggle.

We will do this better if we recognise past errors for what they were rather than by distorting history to fit preconceived notions.

JAMES J SMYTH,
Glasgow



'Rock Week' — not that bad

I TOO saw some of the programmes that made up Rock Week. However unlike Mike Simpson I enjoyed the XTC programme and Cream's farewell concert. Rock embodies the contradictions of capitalist society and this feature of it could have been brought out better in 'Where was the fun?' I can recall Cream's

concert and saw the film many years ago at the cinema. Soon afterwards Jack Bruce played benefits for the Upper Clyde shipyard workers.

The XTC Programme showed the work that some bands put into producing their music. The record 'Towers of London' is more concerned with the people who built the city than the ruling class of the day and seems quite progressive to me. Also some of the percussion in the record tries to re-create the sound of building implements.

Keep up the articles on Rock but I hope that future articles put things in the right perspective. By the way, I thought the article 'Time for the French Connection' on the same page was very good.

STEVE ROSE
South London Big Flame

Iraq/Iran war: well done!

CONGRATULATIONS to Socialist Challenge on its clear stand against Iraqi aggression, against Thatcher's and Carter's warmongering, and against NATO.

The Iraqi aggression serves the purposes of US, British, and French imperialisms. The August agreement between the Saudi Arabian regime, a US client state if ever there was one, and the Iraqi regime was a clear indication of US hopes and plans.

And the British government's withdrawal in early September of its embassy staff from Iran is proof of its advance knowledge of Carter's failed rescue attempt. Needless to say, Thatcher did not use this knowledge to warn Iran or to work for peace!

The Iranian masses are, objectively, fighting against US imperialism; socialists must not weaken that struggle by calling now for the overthrow of the Ayatollah.

Similarly socialists must defend the military capacity of the Soviet Union, and oppose the calls for the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and for the renunciation of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union.

For truly, as Brian Grogan wrote on 9 October, those calls 'prepare a massive victory for Imperialism', and in effect aid the warmongering of Thatcher and Carter.

WILL PODMORE, London

Teaching granny to suck eggs?

MY LETTER opposing Russian atomic bombs (2 October) has provoked quite a response in your columns, including a whole article by Brian Grogan criticising me by name.

Ray Sirotkin writes (16 October): 'Our primary aim must therefore be to disarm our own imperialists, and not to equate Washington with Moscow.'

Come off it comrades! Don't teach your granny to suck eggs. My original letter starts: 'The present threat of war comes from the adventures of a declining imperial America.' My point is that the Kremlin's atomic weapons do not aid the defence of the Soviet Union, and get in the way of the task of opposing imperialism.

Some embarrassing questions for

Brian Grogan to answer:

1. In what way are atomic bombs defensive? At best, Soviet missiles deter for a limited period, but as Brian says, 'War is inevitable'. Russian bombs ensure the 'inevitable' war is Armageddon.

2. Does Socialist Challenge support the firing of Russian missiles? How does the extermination of the American and European working class 'defend' the Soviet Union?

3. Brian says 'the vast defence spending of the USSR is totally unjustified'. Has he discovered a cheap way of making atomic bombs, or has it not occurred to him that if you support Russian nuclear weapons you have to support paying for them.

4. Do you support the recent atmospheric nuclear test China has carried out in order to perfect its 'deterrent'? Or am I again abandoning a 'class position' by having the temerity to think Chinese pollution is no more progressive than imperialist pollution?

GEORGE KEREVAN, Edinburgh

No to Khomeini, for a workers' army

CRITICS of your support for Iran have been accused by Brian Grogan (16 Oct) of defeatism and indifference to the horrors of an Iraqi victory.

In my letter (8 Oct), however, I spoke of how 'weeks before the October Revolution, Bolshevik soldiers defended the approaches to Petrograd (from the Germans) with their lives' and how the Iranian people should do likewise against Iraq. This is not defeatism, but revolutionary defencism.

It means that Iranian socialists should build a workers' army, independent

of Ayatollah Khomeini and dealing with the invader by its own methods and under its own slogans.

Under the banner of socialist revolution and a just and democratic peace, it would, for example, incite Iraqi soldiers (denounced by Khomeini's forces as 'idolators' and 'Arab scum') to mutiny, return home, and fight together with their Iranian comrades for socialism; it would also champion the national minorities in Iran against Khomeini.

This would inevitably lead to a civil war between socialists and the Ayatollah, who wants neither socialist revolution nor to lose his grip on the oppressed peoples.

The only consistent alternative for Iranian socialists is to join Khomeini's army, vote him war credits, stop strikes, and do nothing to bring down the government 'defending Iran' — in effect, support Khomeini.

Contrary to Brian's claim, revolutionary defencism applies not solely to imperialist countries like Russia in 1917, but also to semi-colonial ones, both in wars with each other and even in wars with imperialist aggressors.

Trotsky, for example, applauded the Serbian socialists for refusing war credits to their radical nationalist government when Serbia was invaded by imperialist Austria in 1914. When imperial Japan invaded semi-colonial China, the Communists found no truce with Chiang Kai-shek and fought him and the Japanese simultaneously.

Iraq like Iran is a semi-colonial country, but even if imperialist troops invade Iran, we will say: no support for Khomeini, for a workers' army.

By all means defend the colonial revolution, but do not capitulate to radical nationalist regimes in the Third World.

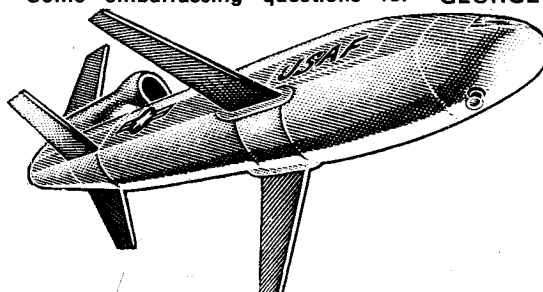
DAVE BAILEY, London

Wrong again!

PAUL SMITH (Editorial, 23 October) writes that, '£3.80 per person per week will be spent each year for the next fifteen years solely on the missiles'. If you take the population of Britain, that makes a total expenditure of £148.3bn!

As I understand it, the cost of Trident is estimated to be £5bn. Cruise, as American missiles stationed in Britain, presumably cost us nothing. So where does the extra £143.3bn come from?

MARTIN METEYARD, London E5.
Editor's note: Quite right! It should have read £3.80 per week on all military spending.



Defence through internationalism

ACCORDING to Brian Grogan (9 October) we shouldn't call for the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact as it is the USA which is the aggressor and because the Warsaw Pact is essential for the defence of the gains of the October Russian Revolution.

That the USA is the aggressor is true and we

should encourage people in the anti-nuclear movement with our arguments that support that assertion. But by saying that we should argue for the retention of the 'red bomb', Brian is missing the central importance of internationalism for the anti-nuclear movement.

Trotsky said that the main defence of the Soviet Union was the unwillingness of the working classes in the imperialist countries to attack it, not x numbers of strategic points or weapons.

Now, the main justification for the West's retention of nuclear weapons is that the USSR is the aggressor. To prove this is wrong it is essential that when the masses in the West force a reduction in their countries' armaments they should see a comparable reduction in the East.

In other words, in order to prove that 'red bombs' are defensive you have to show that their numbers are related to the size of the capitalist threat. Therefore unless the Soviet bureaucracy automatically scales down its armory the people of Eastern Europe will need an anti-nuclear movement too.

Now, due to the law of uneven and combined development that exists in all international upturns in struggle, we should recognise that any mass initiative in the East encourages and lays the basis for mass initiatives in the West, and vice versa.

Whether the masses in the West will need to see the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact before they make the final move in smashing NATO or whether it happens the other way round is unknown at the moment. What we must do is ensure that when one happens the other follows.

The anti-nuclear movement is turning into the most dramatic argument for internationalism that the 'ordinary' person has ever witnessed — it's a matter of life and death.

Brian undermines one of our strongest planks of support; his arguments reduce the role of the Eastern European working class to one of passivity.

LES HARTOP, Coventry

Brian Grogan replies:

THE crucial question for socialists is whether they support the victory of Iran in the war. Yes or No?

Socialist Challenge has consistently argued that the Iranian masses have every interest in the victory of Iran — as have the people of Iraq and the whole world. Such a victory would allow the revolutionary process to deepen; defeat would mean the bloody crushing of the gains of the Iranian revolution.

However, at no time have we given support — critical or otherwise — to Khomeini and Bani-Sadr. We have argued systematically for the need to extend the gains of the revolution: for mass workers' militias based on the workers' shorahs; for rank and file committees in the army; for self-determination, self-organisation, and the cessation of Khomeini's attempts to disarm the Kurds.

Khomeini and Bani-Sadr are opposed to such policies and they will have to be fought for against them. But this does not lead to a call now for Khomeini's overthrow and we do not believe that the overthrow of Khomeini by Iraq would aid the Iranian revolution. The overthrow of the capitalist Khomeini/Bani Sadr government is a task for the Iranian masses and for the appropriate time.

Let's take a practical example: the battles which have been raging in Khorramshahr and Abadan for the past few

weeks. The burden of this has been carried by the thousands of Fedayeen and Mujahadeen guerrillas, the Pasdars, and the masses themselves who have set up popular committees.

The Iranian regular army has been virtually absent. Are we satisfied with this? No, we demand the involvement of the regular army. We use such a call to push forward the organisation of mass workers' militias, of rank and file soldiers' committees, and the need for a purge of the high command.

We fight alongside Khomeini but through our own independent methods of struggle and organisation. This may ultimately lead to a clash with Khomeini, but this is a different matter from turning our guns on the regular troops when they arrive in Abadan. It is childish to counterpose a 'workers' army' that has still to be built to the present Iranian army.

Again, while we have no confidence that Khomeini/Bani-Sadr will call off the attack on the Kurds of their own bidding, we think that the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran was correct to try to bloc with them. For, this is the best way to alert the masses to the real attitudes towards 'national defence' exhibited by the likes of Bani-Sadr/Khomeini.

'Revolutionary defencism', if it is to mean anything, means that we are the best defenders of Iran, not the capitalist leaders.



By Judy Watson

THIS Tory government is trying to take away many of the gains which women in this country have made in the last ten years.

Unemployment is soaring; nurseries and hospitals are being cut, and women are expected to bear the brunt. The constant threat to abortion rights is a way of ensuring that women are tied to the home with little choice about when, if, and how many children they will have.

So why, with all this to contend with, and with the possibility of another restrictive bill in November, are women demanding a law on abortion to allow the right to unrestricted choice? Is it demanding jam on the bread while the bread is being stolen?

Ruin

On the contrary: it's not a luxury to call for improved laws — it's a necessity!

As the table printed on this page shows, the 1967 Abortion Act is going to rack and ruin. The cuts in the NHS mean that promised day-care abortion clinics are being shelved. At the same time family planning clinics are being restricted; waiting lists grow and grow, and the already existing abortion services are practically unable to cope. Doctors continue to refuse to perform or recommend abortions, and no alternative staffing is provided.

Many women are not prepared to accept all this, for they have achieved a lot in the last decade. Through the victorious campaign against John Corrie's anti-abortion bill women stood up and made their voices heard. Large sections of the labour movement have been forced to acknowledge that women have the right to control their own bodies and lives. Women are organising within women's sub-committees, women's sections, women's caucuses, and so on.

In the Labour Party the debates on democracy raise the whole issue of accountability of MPs. For years the National Abortion Campaign and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign have been urging the Labour Party to throw out the 'free vote' in parliament on abortion.

Those 55 Labour MPs who voted for the Corrie bill can now be challenged in their constituencies. In the Labour Party nationally voting on abortion should be according to party policy of women's choice on

abortion on the NHS. There should be a pledge in the Labour manifesto to turn this policy into law — to enact positive legislation.

Positive legislation describes all kinds of laws which would improve women's abortion rights. The Labour Abortion Rights Campaign is pushing for a three-point plan which will be put forward for support in trade union and Labour Party branches:

*For decriminalisation: abortion is still illegal in Britain unless it is carried out as specified in the

1967 Act.

*For legislation to make NHS provision of abortion facilities mandatory on Area Health Authorities.

*For a bill giving a woman a positive right to choose — this could involve a proposal for a bill on menstrual extraction up to six weeks after conception, as well as other proposals on late abortion.

Parliamentary activities are not an end in themselves; the kind of short term and long term changes necessary will only be achieved by winning the mass of people to actively support them.

Abortion rights: time to go on the offensive

Table: Abortions Since 1968		
Year	Number	Proportion done in N.H.S. Hospitals (%)
1968 (8 months)	22,332	64
1969	49,829	67
1970	75,962	62
1971	94,570	56
1972	108,565	52
1973	110,568	50.1
1974	109,445	51.2
1975	106,224	48.0
1976	101,912	49.6
1977	102,677	51.2
1978 (provisional)	112,055	49.2
1979 (provisional)	119,028	46.1

That's why the NAC women's forum and the Labour movement conference on positive legislation organised by NAC and LARC for 14 March are so important.

The women's forum will be open to women from women's groups, trade unions, student groups, schools, community groups, and so on to discuss: 'How we fight for a women's right to choose', to prepare the ground for a campaign with the stress on a woman's choice and a woman's control.

The labour movement conference will discuss the details of what kind of bill should be put forward.

Support for these initiatives should be built now in local unions and Labour parties. It is also worth preparing a resolution for next year's Labour Party conference taking up the call for an end to the 'free vote', and proposing the measures outlined in LARC's three point plan.

Ever since the 1967 Act was passed women have been forced to defend the gains included in that legislation. Now is the time

to go onto the offensive; to demand the unqualified right of all women to choose whether or not they wish their pregnancies terminated.

Trent Conference

A STEP forward in the campaign for positive legislation and for outpatient abortion clinics will take place in Nottingham on 15 November. An educational conference is being organised by Leicester, Nottingham, and Sheffield National Abortion Campaign groups to discuss campaigning in the Trent Region.

The conference will be an opportunity for people who support a woman's right to choose to find out more about the campaign. The conference will provide information useful for people who want to take up the campaign for abortion rights in their trade unions, Labour Party branches, community groups, women's groups, colleges or schools.

Sponsorship has already been obtained from several labour movement bodies, including Nottingham and Sheffield Trades Councils and Region 5 of the TGWU.

Positive legislation will be discussed in the plenaries and in a workshop at the conference. It is open to all supporters of the abortion rights campaign in the Trent Region, although supporters from elsewhere are also welcome. Registration (papers will be sent out in advance) costs £1.50 (unwaged 75p). Send cheques/postal orders payable to Nottingham NAC, to Ms B Alexander, 23 Templeoak Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham.



Photo: Report

The ugly face of state racism:

'Sadistic, barbarous, and savage'

FOUR black youths were jailed for six years on 21 October. Their crime? Not murder or armed robbery, but possession of petrol bombs.

This was enough for the Recorder, GA MacDonald, to conclude that the defendants had intended to 'start guerrilla war' in the streets of London. 'It is my duty to impose severe sentences to deter others', he remarked.

The black youths were found guilty of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm on 20 April this year after a National Front march through Lewisham.

Rudi Narayan, of the West Indian Standing Conference, summed up the disgust of black people when he described the sentences as 'sadistic, bar-

barous, and savage'. 'This sentence will be seen in the black communities as the courts of law siding with the National Front and against the black communities.'

Mohammed Zamir from the West Midlands is another black person suffering at the hands of state racism. He has been ordered to present himself for deportation following a Law Lords' judgment rejecting his writ of habeas corpus.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) has been fighting a rearguard battle to prevent

his deportation. Ian Martin, head of the JCWI, sees it as a test case: 'I believe the Home Office is deliberately trying to extend the definition of illegal immigrant in a way the government never intended.'

Marriage

Zamir entered Britain legally in 1976 as a dependant of his father. He was never asked if he was married by officials nor was he aware that he needed to declare his marriage. The Home Office claims that he was shown the rules in a leaflet when he first applied to come here at the age of 15.

It admits however that he signed his application at the time with a thumbprint as he was illiterate. They have failed to explain how he would have read the leaflet containing the rules he is alleged to have breached.

Because he failed to declare his marriage Zamir broke the racists' rules. Therefore the Law Lords ruled he was 'an illegal'. And therefore he has to go.

This is the same vicious logic that has led the Home Office to harass Anwar Ditta for the last four years, preventing her three children from joining her in this country.

The Anwar Ditta Defence Committee have

called for a national demonstration in Rochdale, Lancashire, for Saturday 15 November.

Whitelaw's victims speak out

ANWAR Ditta and Nasira Begum are both speaking in London on Sunday 2 November. Other speakers include Bradford Asian Youth movement and Southall Black Sisters. The meeting starts at 2pm at the Africa Centre, 38 Kings St, London WC2.

ANL to launch new offensive

By Paul Winston

THE Anti Nazi League is planning a new series of national initiatives. These were outlined by Pete Alexander, national organiser of the ANL, at an anti-racist and anti-fascist conference held in Leamington on 18 October.

Pete gave a number of reasons why a revival of ANL activities was necessary. He pointed to the rise of the British Movement, its increasing support among white, 'skinhead' youth, and the growing number of fascist marches.

He also explained that there was a new edge of violence in the fascist movement and the growth of a fascist 'culture' evident, for example, at football matches.

To counter this the ANL is planning:

*An international anti-fascist rally, with representatives from Italy, France, and Germany;

*An anti-fascist youth conference;

*A new series of anti-fascist leaflets;

*A national policy-making conference of the ANL.

Over 80 people attended the Leamington conference, including representatives from all the main geographical areas and anti-racist organisations.

HERE TO STAY!

FOR THE TORIES' NATIONALITY PLAN

WITHOUT US!

HERE IS OUR PLAN

Newsletter of the Campaign Against Racist Laws

HERE TO STAY! London, Manchester's campaigns round Anwar Ditta and Nasira Begum.

Just 10p, available from CARL, c/o Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London SE5.

Monetarism — it's a fraud

By Brian Grogan

'GRIN and bear it — it'll get rougher yet,' said Geoffrey Howe at the Tory conference, referring to the planned new round of Tory spending cuts. A further £2,000m cuts are now in the pipeline.

Heseltine has shown that the Chancellor of the Exchequer wasn't joking. He has just banned council house building.

Figleaf

Tory monetarism has always been little more than attacks on the welfare state. Controlling the money supply is only a figleaf to cover this policy.

Despite massive welfare cutbacks, the money supply has continued to grow. The main borrower of money is not the government, but big business. Company borrow-

ing for the first six months of this year was at a record £4.7 billion.

The Tories have kept interest rates high to force companies to shed stock and reduce staff. This was to generate cash from within existing company budgets. De-stocking and unemployment are now at record levels.

Even with these policies the credit squeeze is creating

Manufacturing industry has had a fall of 10 per cent in their output in the past year, and profits and investment are falling.

The effect of this on the money supply was hidden by the operation of the government's 'corset' — a ceiling on bank borrowing. To get round this the companies got together with the banks and underwrote a

Arguments for Socialism



havoc with company cash positions, and the private sector borrowing requirement is the highest ever recorded.

While borrowing is on the increase, companies have less cash in hand compared with their debts.

system of borrowing from each other. When the multinationals needed additional cash, they simply went to the Euro-currency market.

This corset was removed in June. The following month there was a significant increase in the money



Thatcher — puzzled by monetarism?

supply of 5 per cent, and a further rise of 3 per cent in August. This happened despite the imposition of massive spending cuts.

Banking lending only increased by 0.75 per cent in September, but this figure doesn't include borrowing on the Euro-currency market. When this is added it will show us the overall effect on the money supply.

Between February and September the money supply grew by 16 per cent — way above the government target of 7 to 11 per cent. Even in their own terms, the economic policy of Thatcher and Joseph has failed.

The continuing increase in the money supply has resulted in the Treasury mandarins demanding more cuts in the public sector. It is only by securing these cuts that the employers' demands for a lowering in the interest rates can be met.

All this may sound reasonable in the Cabinet office, but reality shows that it doesn't work.

Monetarism is an experiment in Tory theory. Unfortunately the guinea pigs are millions of working people who will be denied schools, hospitals, and eventually be thrown on the dole.

THE TIMES FOR SALE SUNDAY TIMES

Another hospital threatened

ST COLUMBA'S hospital in North London treats the terminally ill; its patients are mostly cancer sufferers. Now the Tories want the hospital to die.

St Columba's is situated on Hampstead Heath and is run by the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority. They want to sell the property to private developers.

Staff

The staff, members of NUPE, have started a campaign to save the hospital, and the ambulance service have refused to move any of the 26 patients currently at the hospital. The Health Authority have already moved three patients by mini-cab.

The workers want the hospital to be taken over by the neighbouring Camden and Islington Health Authority.

Messages of support and solidarity should be sent to: Alice Barstow, NUPE District Secretary, 62 Waltherton Rd., London W9. 01-289 4884.

Welsh steelworkers organise action group

By Celia Pugh

PORT Talbot steelworkers last week took a lead from their Llanwern brothers and sisters. A meeting attended by over a dozen ISTC, EEPTU, and AUEW members from the Port Talbot works voted to set up a steel action group to oppose redundancies and closures.

Members of the Llanwern Action Group attended the meeting. They have been campaigning since the steel strike against steel closures and for democracy in the steel unions.

The decision by the Port Talbot workers to produce their own broadsheet inside the plant was welcomed by the Llanwern workers. The message that has been developed inside the Llanwern plant will now reach other Welsh steelworkers. This can lay the basis for a united fightback to all steel closures and redundancies.

Plans are now well under way for a joint Port Talbot and Llanwern fringe meeting at the ISTC conference on 22 November. All other steelworkers will be welcome at the meeting, and it is hoped to be able to convince delegates of the need for national strike action against closures and redundancy.

It's time the bottom people had a paper

WHICH tycoon will fork out for *The Times*, the *Sunday Times*, or the three supplements?

Will it be Rupert Murdoch, the 'Dirty Digger' who has doled out a diet of nudes to build the *Sun* into the biggest-selling Tory hymn sheet?

Or how about Lord Matthews, chairperson of Express Newspapers, who took the print unions to court over the TUC's Day of Action, and is presently trying to jetison the crews of Cunard's Caribbean-based liners?

There again, the buyer could be Sir James Goldsmith, owner of the Cavenham food chain and *Now!* His latest contribution to press freedom is to use the colourful pages of his magazine to extol the virtues of the generals who run Chile.

Another contender is Robert Maxwell, the former Labour MP and owner of Pergamon Press, whose

crooked business dealings happened to be exposed in the pages of the *Sunday Times*.

One other press baron has thrown his top hat into the ring: Lord Rothermere, boss of Associated Newspapers, which is responsible for the sickening diatribe known as the *Daily Mail*. It was this newspaper which led the way in supporting Hitler in the 1930s (*The Times* was close behind).

Lockout

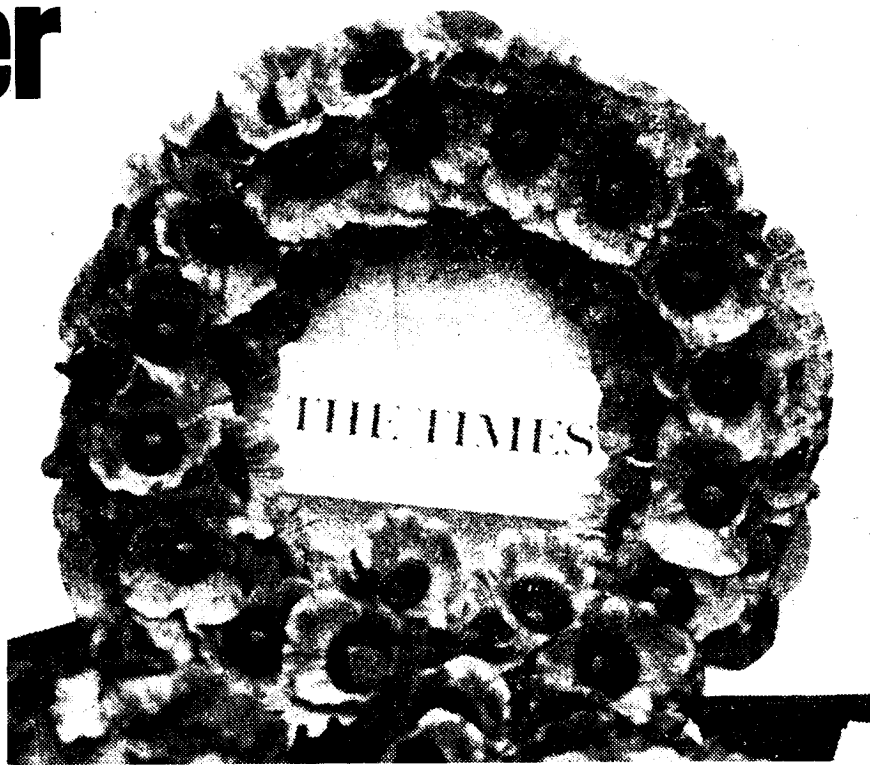
Lord Thomson would be glad to dispose of Times Newspapers Ltd, in whole or part, to any of these ruling class heroes. They in turn would be pleased to add TNL's titles to their empire, provided they can shed a few thousand of the company's 4,300 employees.

Thomson's did its best to break the print unions, locking out the print workers for 11 months and losing some £40m in the process. A degree of solidarity was established among the half dozen unions at TNL which was unprecedented in the newspaper industry. Management gained little.

Maybe there is a multi-millionaire willing to have a go at introducing new technology and junking a few thousand jobs. Maybe William Rees-Mogg will pull off his scabbing operation and hand over a bunch of *The Times* journalists — minus printworkers — to some financier.

Freedom

And maybe not, in which case Thomson will close its newspapers. That's the price of the bosses' press freedom in the 1980s.



TNL — soon to be RIP?

There is an alternative. The new technology could be used to expand production and retain jobs, not least by turning over print facilities to the working class movement.

Occupy

An occupation of TNL and the production of a labour movement mass newspaper could be a first step in that direction. The action would gain the support of thousands of working class people.

In any case, it's high time the TUC and the Labour Party hit back at the barons and funded a newspaper, perhaps starting with a Sunday paper...

No cuts for the Queen

THE Merton, Sutton, and Wandsworth Area Health has a reputation for showing hospitals patients the door.

A steady stream of them has passed through the exits of the Cumberland, Putney General, St George's, Hyde Park, and St Benedict's hospitals — all closed by the Authority to save £6m.

So workers at the other St George's hospital, Tooting, were surprised when decorators started to paint and rehang doors in the entrance to a wing opened only last year.

A change of heart? Well, no; the place is being spruced up for a visit by the Queen.

Her Majesty arrives at St George's Blackshaw Road, on 6 November at 2.00pm. We hope lots of people turn up to give her a warm reception.

What's Left

RATES for ads to appear in What's Left, 5p per word on £4 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat. prior to publication. Payment in advance.

GLASGOW: El Salvador campaign public rally and film show. With a militant from El Salvador. Thur 30 Oct, 7.30pm, McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow.

EDINBURGH: Right to Work campaign conference on Sat 5 Nov, 11am-4pm. Edinburgh Trades Council, Picardy Pl. A fight against unemployment — a fight against the Tories. Speakers: Dennis Skinner MP; Stuart Thompson, Convenor Parsons Peables JSSC; and De Loughney, trades council sec. A personal capacity.

KINGSTON: Tony Benn, Broadside Theatre at 18.00pm. Sat 4 Nov. Subj: Socialism, Red Army, the Labour Party, and the struggle for the nationalisation of the economy.

FANCY A weekend of anti-fascist activities in North Wales. With other Socialist Red Army, the Labour Party, and the struggle for the nationalisation of the economy.

THE RESOLUTION of the conference that the prisoners held in deplorable and barbaric conditions in Long Kesh are now committed to a hunger strike until death in an effort to achieve political status.

This conference condemns the British government's treatment of the prisoners and the fact that they are denied political status and supports this struggle to achieve justice in the struggle to achieve first independence.

Socialist Challenge

As Tory attacks mount...

KEEP UP GARDNER'S SOLIDARITY

DISMISSAL notices have now been issued to 590 workers at the occupied Gardner's factory in Eccles near Manchester. Predictably the workers to be sacked include many of the stewards and the convenor, Tom Macafee.

The workers are continuing their occupation of the plant, and many of the demonstrators on last Sunday's anti-missiles demonstration contributed money to their cause.

Redundancy is just one of the aspects of Tory Britain in the autumn of 1980.

Intentions

In the past week the government has announced that it intends to double the cuts in public spending in the coming year, including a ban on all council house building, and swingeing cuts in education and every other aspect of social spending.

For the first time, there is the threat of compulsory redundancies in the public sector. The government has also signalled its intentions over public sector pay — pay awards will be under 9 per cent at a time when inflation is around 17 per cent.

This is the reason for the Coal Board's derisory offer of 9 per cent to the miners.

The message to the leaders of the labour movement in response to these attacks was clearly given by Arthur Scargill in his speech addressed to the NUM leadership... Stop apologising and start fighting for the membership!

Urgent

The Tory attacks through cuts and unemployment give added urgency to the conferences taking place this Saturday — the Lambeth conference against local government cuts, and the Labour Coordinating Committee conference in Leeds.

More than ever a successful practical fightback against the threat of redundancy is needed. That's what makes the struggle at Gardner's so vital.

At the same time as building solidarity with Gardner's, all trade unionists should be building the national demonstration called for 29 November in Liverpool by the Labour Party national executive.

This demonstration needs to be a huge rebuff to the Tories' policies which are turning the cascade of redundancies into an avalanche.

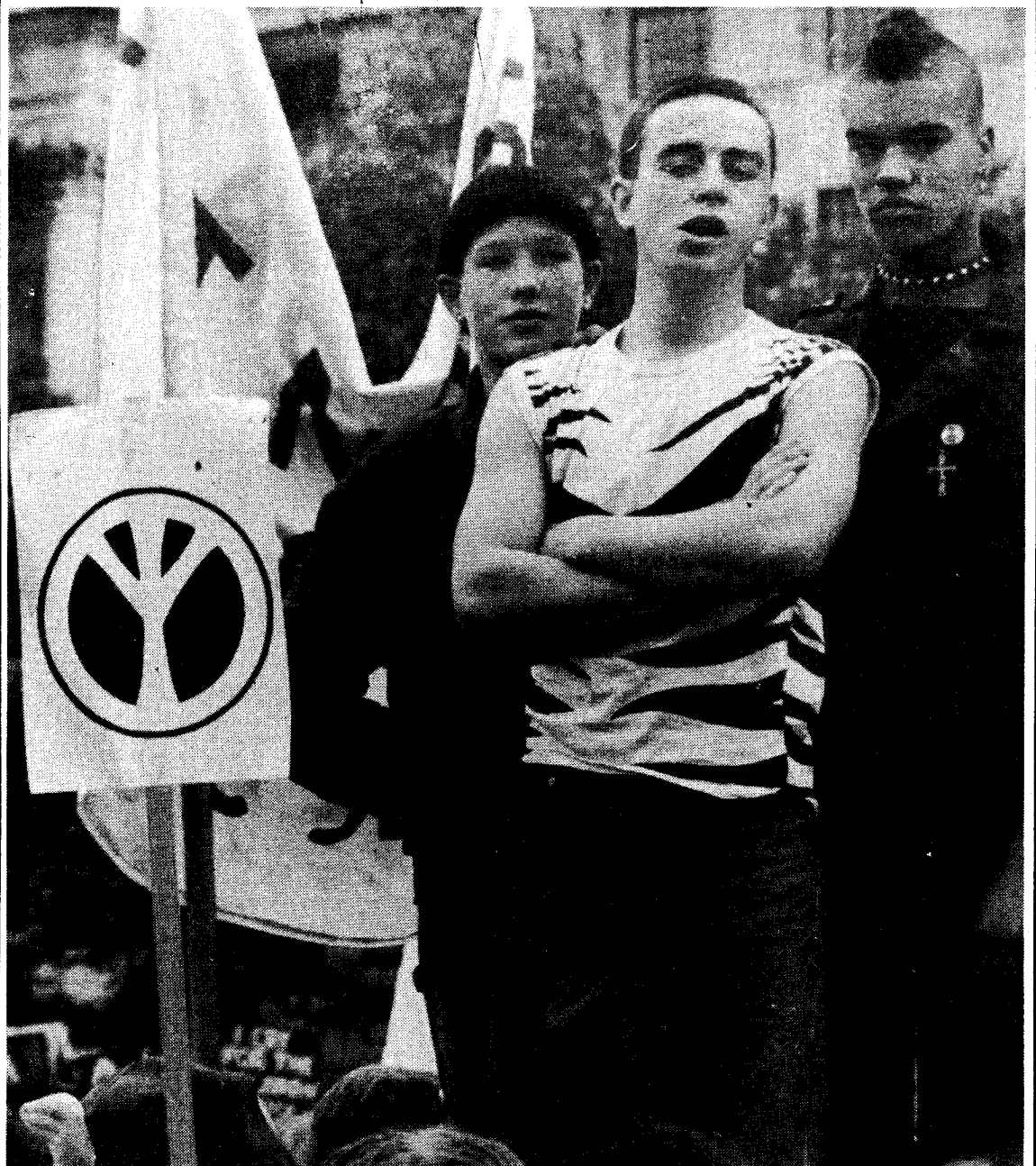


Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)



Youth lead against the missiles

80,000 on anti-missiles demo — for more pictures and story, see page 3

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Work—it's a woman's right, too

By Judith Arkwright

THE Labour Party demonstration on 29 November against unemployment, backed by the TUC, will be massive. But one aspect of the fight against unemployment cannot be forgotten — the struggle for a woman's right to work.

This year that unemployment was rising twice as fast among women as men. In the last five years, female unemployment has gone up by 62 per cent.

This aspect of unemployment is often played down under the pretext that women work for 'pin money'. This is not the case — most women need to work and have as much right to a job as men.

A huge increase in female unemployment and

a failure to fight it can only result in pushing women back into the home and dividing the workforce.

A group of sponsors has come forward to support a 'woman's right to work' contingent in the 29 November demonstration, which is being held in Liverpool.

The sponsors include: MPs Jo Richardson, Reg Race, and Audrey Wise, and Women in Action and Women's Fightback.

The sponsors say: 'Within the overall fight against unemployment it is necessary to raise the specific plight of women workers, by fighting for the implementation of the TUC resolutions for women in jobs and training and for full rights for part time workers...'

'We pledge our support for a contingent around the demand of a woman's right to work.'