

# SOCIALIST PRESS



Weekly paper of the Workers Socialist League \* No. 248 \* 28 May 1981 \* 20p

## Inside: woman worker



And articles on  
Trotsky, Poland, Union Conferences

# NOW MARCH INTO BATTLE AGAINST TORIES!

100,000 people are expected to join in the London climax of the month-long Peoples March for Jobs. Since the beginning of May, thousands of workers along the route have downed tools to support the March. Tens of thousands more have joined in it or attended its rallies and meetings. And literally millions endorse its call for action to end mass unemployment.

But the question is what *kind* of action? Once the crowds disperse from Trafalgar Square next Sunday, the TUC and Labour leaders will revert at once to their previous scandalous acceptance of unemployment. They have no plans for action to follow up the March.

These leaders know that the March tapped the vast reservoir of anger and frustration at the reactionary policies of the Tory Government. But many of the union officials who made tub-thumping speeches against unemployment along the course of the March have *themselves* presided over cuts, closures and mass sackings, without lifting a finger in resistance.

From the very outset, the right wing and Communist Party union officials who have dominated the organisation of the March have set out to avoid giving any political content to the campaign. They have set out to portray unemployment as some kind of 'moral' evil rather than the outcome of a deliberate policy implemented by the Tory government in defence of capitalist profits.

They have avoided spelling out any concrete policies for action to defend existing jobs, or defeat the cuts.

They have made no call for the *occupation* of threatened factories to prevent closure: no call for strike action and occupations to stop the cuts in the public sector.

Yet the fact is that only through such policies, through the *defeat* of the Tories, and through the fight for alternative *socialist* policies, can workers lay the basis for the necessary crash programme of public works to create 3 million jobs for the unemployed.

Only through *socialist* policies can the squandering of millions on the arms budget be brought to an end, homelessness be eliminated, and public services expanded to meet the needs of the vast majority.

In the aftermath of the Peoples March, the support it has generated must therefore be given new direction and impetus. The support committees in each area must be mobilised in the fight to defeat the Tories and the attacks of local employers.

**\*ORGANISE THE UNEMPLOYED into Unemployed Workers Unions!**

**\*DEFEND EVERY JOB!** Every redundancy, every closure must be opposed by *strike action, occupation and supporting blacking action*. For work sharing without loss of pay!

**\*TAKE UP THE FIGHT IN THE LABOUR PARTY!** For socialist policies to meet the crisis: no to the 'alternative economic strategy', which seeks to 'plan' capitalism! For action now to bring down the Tories!

**\*BUILD A NEW LEADERSHIP** prepared to fight for these policies against the right wing and the Communist Party!



Assembly line workers

## South African car workers revolt

Over the last week there has been a wave of strike action by militant black workers in the South African motor industry.

On 15 May, 2000 workers in the two British Leyland plants in Cape Town went on strike to reject the miserable wage increase of 50p per hour offered by the management

of this British-owned company.

With their already poverty-level wages (74p per hour basic) being eaten away by massive price increases, workers refused to accept an offer which would mean in effect a cut in real wages.

### Mass sacking

When workers stood firm against an ultimatum for a

return to work, the bosses responded by sacking the whole workforce last Wednesday (20 May).

By Friday management claimed to have employed or re-employed 500 workers.

While the Leyland strike developed, motor workers in Port Elizabeth, the centre of the South African motor industry, were taking action against Firestone. The bosses

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# South African workers revolt

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In January 1500 Firestone workers had gone on strike to demand a repayment of their accumulated wage deductions for a pension scheme—before these deductions could be frozen under proposed new laws. The workers had won their demands, but Firestone bosses had been able to victimise about 150 workers who were sacked in February.

Workers at General Motors and Fords organised action in solidarity with these victimised Firestone workers.

Firestone tyres were blacked in support of a demand for the unconditional reinstatement of the 150.

Last Tuesday (19 May), hundreds of workers at GM went on strike to back up this demand.

The next day, 1500 workers at the three Ford plants came out alongside the GM workers.

A day later, Firestone workers downed tools and joined the united strike to demand reinstatement.

This tremendous show of solidarity and combativity in the face of vicious state repression, is a fighting example to the struggle of workers everywhere.

*These workers must not be left to fight alone. They*

need the immediate and ongoing support of their only genuine ally—the working class in Britain and internationally.

The Leyland workers are demanding an immediate 14p per hour wage rise to cover inflation, and a further increase to improve living standards.

Thousands of workers in both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth are waging a struggle for reinstatement of workers sacked by bosses.

A victory in these struggles will strengthen the South African black working class in its courageous struggle against the bosses, their apartheid government, and their international allies.

*The maximum possible solidarity action must be mobilised in Britain to lend support to these struggles.*

The fight must be taken up for the blacking of all supplies to and from the strike-hit plants in South

Africa.

British workers at Leylands, Fords and other parent companies can add their organised strength to the cause of their class brothers and sisters in South Africa.

Mass meetings, blacking action, strike action—every form of independent working class solidarity action will strengthen the position of workers in struggle in South Africa, and weaken the hand of the bosses and their government.

The Leyland Action Committee and the Cowley TGWU 5/293 Branch have already given a lead in their message of solidarity to the unions of the striking workers. The following telegrams were sent to the Leyland strikers and the sacked Firestone workers:

"We express total support for wage demands and unconditional reinstatement of every striking fellow worker at Leyland and will fight for maximum possible blacking and strike solidarity action."

"We express total support for reinstatement struggle at Firestone and will fight for maximum possible blacking and strike solidarity action."

Messages of support to the British Leyland strikers should be sent to NUMARW, (WPAWU), 2 Goodhope Street, Bellville South, Cape Town, and messages of support to the Firestone workers to Government Zini, Ford Cortina, Strandale Plant, Port Elizabeth.



South African engine plant workers

## Palestine support for Sands

On May 3 the Tel-Aviv branch of the Workers League sent the following telegram to the British Embassy in Tel-Aviv:

"To: Ambassador, British Embassy, Rehov Hayarkon 192, Tel-Aviv.

British government bears full responsibility for impending death of Irish republican prisoner Bobby Sands MP. Fighter against British colonial rule is no common criminal. We demand political status now. Release political prisoners. Withdraw British troops from Northern Ireland.

Workers League, Box 36231, Tel-Aviv."

We know that the British Ambassador received our telegram and that he was "highly disturbed" by it. This is the story:

The next evening, Monday the 3rd, police came to the flat of one of our comrades under whose name the Workers' League Post Office Box is registered.

Finding him not at home, they returned the next morning, and then again in the evening. They arrived, with lights flashing as he was leaving home, and asked him to accompany them to the local police station.

He went along. At the station, the constable said that our comrade is not under arrest, but that an internal police memo links his name to a "threatening" telegram that had been received at the British Embassy, and that he should explain.

Our comrade declined to give any "explanations" until he could consult a lawyer. The perplexed sergeant consulted a high-ranking officer over the telephone, and this officer asked to speak to our comrade.

This officer recounted that the British Ambassador had received our telegram and that he was "very disturbed by it".

Our comrade replied that there is a difference between a "threat" and a political message of a protest nature, and that furthermore if the Honourable Ambassador was so disturbed by the telegram he could express his "disturbance" through the diplomatic channels at his disposal.

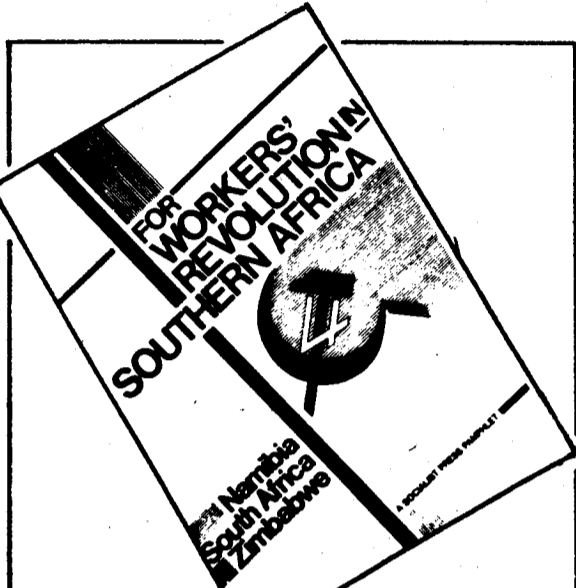
The officer said he agreed and repeated that the Ambassador "was very disturbed" and warned us "not to do any nonsense". Our comrade was then sent home.

In English constitutional history "the right of petition for redress of grievances" played a prominent place. When employed on behalf of enslaved colonial peoples, this famous "right of petition" becomes a "threat".

On May 5 Bobby Sands died in the Maze prison. Immediately afterwards two demonstrations were held in Jerusalem outside the British Consulate.

We are proud to have taken our place, albeit limited, in this latest fight against Britain's bloody imperialist rule.

By N. Lavie (WL)



## NEW!

### Socialist Press pamphlet on Southern Africa

Price 60p (including postage) from WSL, BM Box 5277, London WC1N 3XX

## POR Letter

We have received a letter from Guillermo Lora, leader of the Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party (POR).

Lora is protesting at the action of the French OCI—now a leading element in the newly-launched Fourth International (International Committee)—in destroying POR literature valued at an estimated 20,000 Francs (£2,000).

The literature had been lodged at the OCI offices in Paris during the time that the POR was affiliated to the OCI's "International", the OCRFI. Since the two organisations split in early 1979 there have been repeated efforts to retrieve the material. It is now clear that it has been destroyed.

While we disagree with too readily branding political opponents as willing or unwilling 'police agents', we feel that the POR's complaint should be investigated.

Lora writes: "I denounce before the international working class and the revolutionary movement the fact that the French OCI—now proclaiming itself the Fourth International—has destroyed a large amount of valuable political literature and propaganda which the POR had left in its offices in Paris. Surely this was their response to the criticisms that we Trotskyists have made of reactionary ideas and Stalinist methods.

In Bolivia the police persecute our publications and destroy our stocks of propaganda, in the same way as the OCI has done.

In fact it appears that there is a united front between these two repressive organisations against a revolutionary movement that works within the Bolivian masses under very hard conditions of clandestinity.

I myself and the POR are prepared to take our case to any revolutionary tribunal formed of organisations that claim to be Trotskyist or of the working class, to prove that the supposedly revolutionary organisation called the OCI is using police-like methods in the political struggle—like the confiscation and massive destruction of their opponents' propaganda.

Guillermo Lora  
General Secretary, POR  
May 1981"

A NUMBER of leading members of the Czech opposition group "Charter 77" have been arrested.

Among them are former foreign minister in the Dubcek government Jiri Hajek.

The edginess of the bureaucracies all over Eastern Europe is plain. They all fear developments such as Poland. The Charter 77 oppositionists must be defended by the whole labour movement.

## SPANISH COVER-UP

Not even the supple-  
spined opportunists of  
the Spanish Socialist  
Party have been able to  
accept the ludicrous  
government statement  
explaining last weekend's  
Barcelona bank siege.

A gang of over 20 fascist gunmen had taken over the bank, holding 100 hostages, demanding the release of the ringleaders of February's attempted right wing coup.

But the ringleaders—top men in Spain's military establishment—declined to be released. They are confident that the military courts will soon set them free.

Spanish anti-terrorist police units were then sent into the bank—in such a way as to allow a dozen gunmen to escape along with the freed hostages.

### Ridiculous

Then followed the most ridiculous cover-up attempt yet—as Spanish government spokesmen claimed that the gunmen were not right

wingers but "anarchists"—and that there were no members of the army, police or civil guard among them.

The story is still unfolding as we go to press: but the inescapable fact is that the Spanish workers' movement faces an ever-growing

danger of a renewed coup by the unreformed Francoists who head the police and armed forces. And the danger is worsened by the criminal complacency and collaboration of the Socialist Party and Communist Party leaders.

## WAR DANGER LOOMS

As special US envoy Philip Habib monotonously shuttles to and fro across the Middle East, his mission appears to be less connected with reconciling the Zionists and the Syrian leaders than with isolating the Syrians.

Zionist chief Begin has been making increasingly wild statements demanding the withdrawal of Syrian missiles not only from Lebanon but also from Syria

itself.

He has gone on to claim that Russian advisors are accompanying Syrian troops in Lebanon, and to allege that Libyan troops too are involved.

Such material is custom-made for Begin's chauvinist campaign in the Israeli elections next month—which it now appears he may win.

It is unlikely that the threats will be turned into aggressive military action until after that election.

Meanwhile Habib's mission is to strengthen

Begin's hand by ensuring that other Arab states hold back from any concrete support to the Syrians. To judge from the statement from the Arab League this weekend he appears to have had some success in this.

While the PLO and the Libyans have declared their support, the Syrian government appears to have been left largely isolated in its intransigent stance.

It is this isolation as much as the crisis of the Zionist regime which makes war a constant danger in the Middle East.

## Day school examines apartheid in Israel

Over 100 trade unionists, Labour Party members and Palestinian activists attended a day school entitled 'Labour and Apartheid in Israel' at Bradford University last weekend.

The school was organised by the Bradford Labour Movement Campaign for Palestinian Solidarity and co-sponsored by the Trades Council, Students Union and the Bradford Moor Labour Party.

The school heard prominent anti-Zionist Dr. Uri Davis explain why the term apartheid applied to Israel, where 90% plus of the land in pre-1967 Israel is not available for purchase by Arabs.

Davis also explained the position of Arabs prevented from membership of the so-called 'socialist' kibbutz

settlements, and spoke on the racist 'Law of Return' which gives automatic citizenship to foreign Jews but denies non-Jews that right.

Elfi Pallas, an anti-Zionist journalist gave a lengthy presentation cataloguing discrimination against Palestinian workers in employment, education, wages and benefits.

### Outlawed

She explained how manifestations of Palestinian culture were outlawed, universities closed down, art exhibitions and conferences cancelled and books which referred to Palestinian history banned.

The plight of workers forced to travel long distances for the most menial work as an alternative to starvation, and pass laws which regulate their travel,

were explained and attacked by Palestinians in the conference.

Simon Collings of the NUJ Executive, speaking in a personal capacity, spoke of the problems of building solidarity movements in the teeth of opposition by the Labour and trade union bureaucracy and drew out the lessons of the recent NUJ Media Conference on Ireland.

Samir Speitan, the official representative of the PLO explained the aggressive expansionist nature of the Israeli state typified by the present strikes into Lebanon against Palestinian refugee camps.

Many Palestinians in the audience made clear the overwhelming support felt for the PLO as their recognised representatives.

Films shown highlighted the aggressive thrust of Zionism and showed the reality

of a dispossessed people in the refugee camps.

The Day School welcomed the production of the pamphlet Palestine—Our Struggle as a significant contribution to solidarity work and over 70 copies were sold during the day.

In concluding the day's discussion, Barry Turner, the Campaign chairperson drew the links between the Palestinian and Irish nationalist struggles and the necessity to challenge chauvinist ideology in the British labour movement which leads to calls for import controls and attempts to criminalise political struggle.

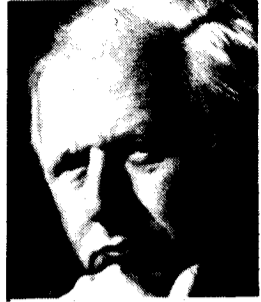
The day school marked a step forward for the campaign in Bradford as a movement which saw the Palestinian question as part of a fight for socialist policies in the Labour Party and the necessary removal of the Tory government.

# Inflation on the Lup and up

By John Lister



Thatcher—heads a cabinet containing 8 millionaires.



Prior—owns land and farms worth over £700,000.



Walker—holdings in excess of £655,000.

## Consolation for millionaires

Anyone who had been tempted to believe Tory government claims that things are beginning to look up after two years of monetarist carnage should look closely at the new figures out this week.

On the one hand the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has forecast a continuing slump in Britain, bringing three million unemployed early in 1982, a further drop in exports and a balance of payments deficit big enough to wipe out North Sea Oil revenues.

### Upturn

Indeed while the OECD predicts a small upturn in output in 1982, it does not expect this to create new jobs.

On the other hand, the latest inflation figures confirm the impression of every wage earner: that prices and bills are racing ahead and rapidly outstripping wage increases and cutting working class living standards.

In April alone the retail price index rose by 2.9% giving a rate of price inflation over the past six months of 15.1%. Included in this April figure are average 30% increases in council rents, 18½% increases in the average rate bill, Budget tax increases on cigarettes, alcohol and petrol, and government imposed rises in electricity and gas prices.

In other words the Thatcher government continues deliberately to stack up price increases as part of its attack on the working class.

Indeed so heavy has been their attack on real wages that the Tories' own much-vaunted "tax and price

index", introduced after the General Election, now shows an annual erosion of income running at 15.7%. This compares with the government's inflated claim that earnings are rising at 14% per annum.

For the millions of workers who have received nothing like a 14% increase, but face all of the bills and taxes imposed by the government, these figures spell increased poverty and frustration.

But for the handful of capitalists with millions of pounds which they want to

hand on, tax free, to relatives, the Tories have a word of comfort in the new Finance Bill.

An amendment to the Bill—moved by Liberal Richard Wainwright—allows the stinking rich to transfer up to £560,000 to a chosen beneficiary every ten years without paying any tax.

For the eight Tory cabinet ministers who have wealth totalling around £1 million each, this tax saving could amount to a cool £1 million!

## Debts strangle

### "third world"

The cost of servicing their debts to the banks and to imperialist governments is now as big a problem for the neo-colonial countries as the task of paying for their oil imports.

Indeed the problems of the huge indebtedness of the "third world" countries is now beginning to loom large in the calculations of leading imperialist finance ministers.

Total debts now exceed \$600,000 million, and are increasing by \$100,000

million every year. Of the non-oil producing economies the debts add up to \$418,000 million—meaning a thumping \$32 billion in interest payments to the bankers in the imperialist countries.

More than 20% of all "third world" earnings are now devoted simply to servicing these huge and burgeoning debts—with their task made harder by the fact that an ever greater proportion of the debts are linked to commercial interest rates as opposed to fixed rate loans which lose value against inflation.

More than 60% of the debts and 80% of the interest is to the private sector banks: those same banks which are profiting from the Thatcher/Reagan monetarist strategy with its attendant mass unemployment.

The nationalisation of the banks is not therefore a policy which can solely benefit the British working class: our fight for a planned, socialist economy must be linked to the fight to liberate the super-exploited workers and poor peasants of the world from the burden of debt imposed upon them by imperialism.

## Sussex Ireland vote

On April 21 the West Hoothly Labour Party branch (workers at Gatwick airport and Crawley live here) passed a resolution supporting the right of the Irish people as a whole to self-determination and calling for the withdrawal forthwith of all British military forces from Ireland.

However on May 8 the GMC of the Mid Sussex CLP, whilst agreeing to the first part of the resolution rejected the second, and on the ground that their call for a united Ireland might be "misunderstood" it was decided not to send the amended resolution to the local press but only to the NEC.

Last year 40 new members were enrolled in West Hoothly—there had been only 7 and 270 in the whole constituency. One of them, a member of ASTMS who became chairperson of the branch at the AGM in February this year, had been expelled from the party in the 1950s for his principled socialist stand when active in the Young Socialists in London.

## GLC scraps civil defence

Camp beds formerly allocated to the Greater London Council's £750,000 a year Civil Defence programme are at last being put to productive use—providing sleeping accommodation for 500 Peoples Marchers in County Hall between May 30 and June 2.

The Labour takeover at the GLC has meant that the council will now provide a civic reception for the marchers and offer 23,000 workers time off with pay to attend a rally on June 2.

### Paid leave

In addition 60,000 ILEA teachers and non-teaching staff will be granted paid leave to attend the June 2 rally.

Such gestures are among the more dramatic signs of

the change of line of the council since the Labour victory on May 7 and the ousting of the right wing leaders of the Labour group and the ILEA.

### Changes

Among other changes are the decision to tell London Transport to start paying overtime to bus crews and get all buses in working order onto the streets of London; the immediate suspension of council house sales; the scrapping of the Civil Defence programme; and an instruction to London Transport to prepare for Labour's plan to cut fares by 25%.

The GLC has also refused invitations to the royal wedding in July. As council leader Ken Livingstone pointed out:

"No-one elected us to go to weddings they elected us



Whitlaw: will he act against GLC over Civil Defence?

to try and get the buses running on time.

I found my own wedding enough of a strain without going to any more."

# NO TO TORY WAR BUDGET!



Not one person, not one penny for the imperialist war machine!

That would be the policy of a genuine socialist opposition to the Tory "defence" budget.

In place of Thatcher's reluctant and partial cuts in the traditional flotilla of gunboats and sailors, (cuts designed to finance a smaller and far more lethal pack of Trident submarines), the socialist answer would demand the withdrawal of all British troops from overseas, the disbanding of the standing army, the unilateral disarmament of British imperialism, the formation of workers' militias, and a policy of support for anti-imperialist struggles throughout the world.

It was not surprising that no Labour MP voiced such policies in last week's "defence" debate. To a greater or lesser degree all

shades of opinion in the Parliamentary Labour Party accept that there is a need to "defend" British imperialism against the supposed danger of an attack from the Soviet Union.

The majority of the PLP go even further—and support the use of British troops to maintain the sectarian Orange statelet in the North of Ireland. And they support the continued existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the British ruling class—weapons which stand as a major threat to the working class of the world.

### Puffing

Small wonder therefore that in three quarters of an hour of huffing and puffing the Shadow Defence Spokesman Brynmor John failed to make any worthwhile points against Thatcher's war chief, John Nott.

Instead, the main energies of the PLP leader-

ship were directed towards attacking Tony Benn for putting his name to a Tribune resolution which, in line with Labour conference policy, opposed:

"any defence policy based on the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons, including Trident and Cruise missiles".

Callaghan climbed temporarily out of his back bench coffin to deliver a ringing appeal for cuts in the Rhine army to replace cuts in the Navy. And Healey slammed Benn for "kicking Foot in the stomach" by failing to support the pathetic amendment on defence policy tabled by the Shadow Cabinet.

As the Thatcher/Reagan war danger grows, so does the necessity for a principled internationalist opposition to be built within the labour movement.

# Press Gang



If the local authority elections were an indication that the Labour Party has not keeled over and died in the face of the Social Democrat "unofficial" intervention, that did not deter Fleet

Nine months ago the press was predicting that a Foot victory in the leadership election would be a left wing triumph.

Even the jaded political hacks of the lobby, whose ideas are fixed in a 1950s time warp, must have recognised that Foot's left credentials have long had "cancelled" stamped over them.

Certainly the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party planted their faith in Foot as the man to protect the party against the non-Tribune left gathering around Benn.

The deputy leadership election has encouraged the press to present new revised opinion on democracy. You may remember mocking articles about elections in the Soviet Union. Bernard Levin used to do a line in analysing the 'swing' in one candidate elections, where 99.98 per cent of the votes were in favour of the candidate.

Benn's "crime" is that he has not accepted the symmetry of such elections and has insisted on 'disrupting' Healey's triumphal re-election by standing against him, and by making his platform the supremacy of party conferences over cabinet deals.

Not only has he had the temerity to stand but he has clearly now shown that he is no joke candidate, picking

up for example backing from the ASTMS conference, against the personal pleading of Clive Jenkins.

As if this were not worrying enough, the opinion polls which had shown the only enthusiastic response to the SDP outside newspaper offices, suddenly showed the new 'party' plunging from 40% landslide victories to the kind of results that the Liberals have been getting in every mid-term poll since the 1960s.

The real split in the Labour Party is still to come and the press had to face up to that fact.

But the impact of Benn's speech on Ireland (not so much to what he said as to the fact that a leader of the left said something different from the Tories) and the impact of his trade union campaign had left Benn looking like the champion and Healey a mute and inglorious challenger.

The *Guardian* signalled the counter offensive on the day that Healey addressed FBU delegates at Bridlington saying in an editorial:

"Mr Foot should therefore warn the party now, that he is not prepared to lead (if Benn wins).

He should make it abundantly clear . . . that he sees no way in which he can work with a deputy leader who is contemptuously opposed to all compromise and that he would rather resign as leader than soldier on in such a humiliating (and electorally suicidal) fix."

After Healey's "kick in the stomach" speech the rest of the press lost no time in taking up the cudgels.

The *Daily Mirror* des-

cribed it as "the bitterest power struggle the party has known for 20 years".

The front page article by political editor Terence Lancaster ended:

"His (Benn's) growing ambition and his undoubted successes at the present time, could lead to something even more important. The ultimate undoing of the Labour Party itself."

The *Daily Mail* was headlined "Poor Old Michael Foot. How much more can he take?"

But its editorial column was taken up with fears that the new SDP would only recruit from "the new middle class of small businessmen and workers in modern service industries with low levels of unionisation".

The *Daily Express* seemed to have gone overboard on its lobby briefing. It was headlined "The Party's Over" and its story began "Labour was torn almost beyond repair last night . . ."

Political editor John Warden wrote:

"Labour MPs are gripped by the politics of fear. Fear of the future, fear of the stab in the back. And fear, not of the Tories, but of the Trots, Marxists and Bennites. There is a word which describes the politics of fear . . . Stalinism."

These tirades will do Healey no favours.

In fact the wild witch-hunting is more likely to make support building up for Benn less analytical (in the proper sense) of his brand of left reformism.

That is the real danger of the attacks.

# SOLIDARITY SLAMS ANTI-SEMITISM

In this and next week's 'Socialist Press' we are reprinting material on the struggle in Poland. The source is the Information Centre for Polish Affairs (UK).

On 8 March, the 13th anniversary of the March, 1968 events with their clearly anti-semitic overtones, two public meetings took place in Warsaw.

One was organised at Warsaw University.

The second, by the hitherto-unknown "Grunwald Patriotic Association", was in effect an attempt to counter the university one, and had an anti-semitic flavour.

The following statement, entitled "The Real Aims of Antisemitic Incidents", was released on 13 March by Wiktor Kulerski, presidium member of Mazowsze/Warsaw Region of Solidarity:

"For some time now Warsaw has been a scene of anti-semitic incidents.

Leaflets, posters, booklets and books are distributed in factories and offices, and public meetings are organised by the Patriotic Association "Grunwald".

Both the printed word and the meetings provoke racial prejudice.

In this campaign, advantage is being taken of one of the most painful experiences of our nation: the Stalinist terror and the destruction of the most valuable people who had survived the cataclysm of the Second World War.

### "Zionists"

For the bloody struggle with the Polish people in the years 1944-56 they do not blame the political system, unmasked at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, a system faithfully served by the machinery of terror.

The blame is put on the so-called "Zionists"—a term used to denote the Jews in order to avoid the charge of anti-semitism.

In support of this claim, many names are cited, names of people whose Jewish origin was known at the time and who belonged to the torturers of the then Ministry of Public Security.

As we know, the person directly responsible for the security operations was President Bierut.

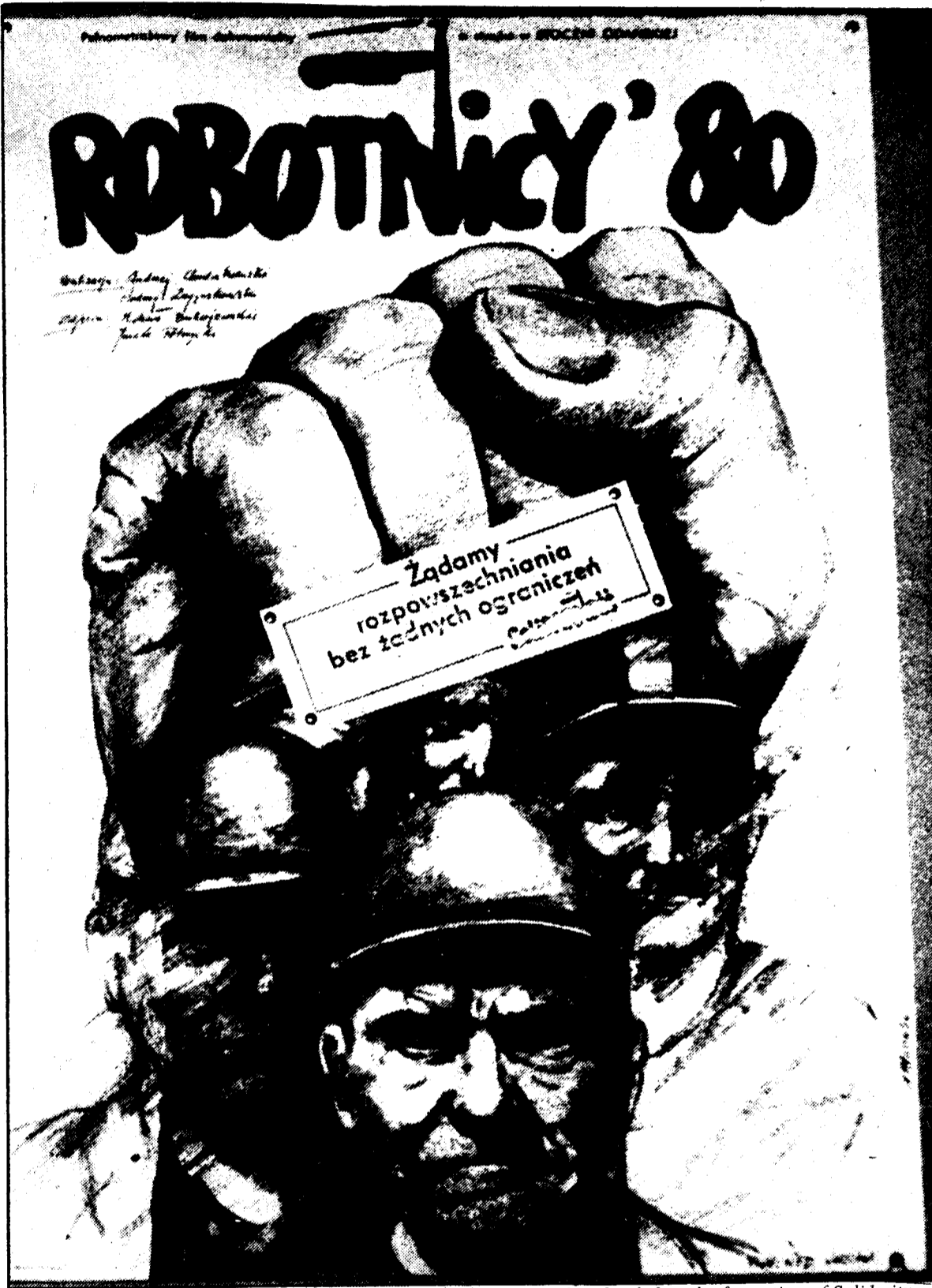
But still unknown remain the names and the nationality of the grey eminences, the so-called "advisors" who ruled the whole ministry as they pleased and whose decisions were enforced at the provincial security branches.

The Minister of Security was accompanied by general Lalin himself; to the notorious department X, colonel Figatchow was attached.

### Concealed

Department III, which dealt with underground organisations, was under the care of Colonel Shaburin; in charge of personnel was Colonel Orehva and two Colonels, Skulbashevsky and Wosnyesensky of the Information Channel, dealt with by the military.

The list of these names,



Poster for 'Worker '80'—a film on the strikes that led to the formation of Solidarity.

carefully concealed by those who today blame the Zionists, is long.

Knowing the list, however, it is not difficult to see who had picked up the team officially responsible for running the ministry, the team who carried out the plans of extermination and denationalisation.

It is difficult not to see who and for what reason had seen to it that the group of torturers, who was later to be revealed to the nation, consisted mainly of people of Jewish origin.

This is an old, simple and well-known trick: divide and rule. One nationality serves to overcome the other: it provokes mutual hatred and a sense of threat.

It is a very convenient strategem which allows the people really responsible for the genocide to remain behind the scenes, or even, if all goes well, to play the role of friend, guardian or even saviour.

Many recent publications omit names of non-Jews, notorious in those years.

The long list contains, among others, the name of Mieczyslaw Moczar, linked with the anti-semitic campaign of 1968-69.

Even if we ignore minor figures of investigating officers known for their sadism, our list would be much longer than the previous ones.

### Real authors

No, the bloody struggle with the Polish people was not the work of the non-existent Zionists. Those people of Jewish origin did not plan that struggle, although they were required to play a very conspicuous role in it.

But the real authors and directors of the play, together with the wholly native actors, have remained concealed. Therefore it is possible to divert public

attention from them and to direct it at a few specially selected individuals.

Most of the executioners live in peace and quiet, and enjoy the fruit of their bloody harvest. When we realise all this, it becomes clear who provokes anti-semitism in our society and why.

If these party secretaries who were putting up venomous anti-semitic leaflets in Warsaw factories and offices and were distributing anti-semitic booklets, have suddenly decided to cherish truth and justice, let them reveal the names of all those responsible for crimes perpetrated on the nation in the years 1944-56.

Many of them are not far to seek. They live among us, in our country; only some are just across the border.

If these party secretaries really cherish truth and justice, let them put up leaflets and distribute books with names of the people

responsible for the tortures and killings in the period between 1956 and 1976.

Let them bring about a reissue in millions of copies of the shocking publications "Documents of Lawlessness" and "Madrid Report", edited by the Social Self Defence Committee "KOR" and published by the independently operating "Nowa".

Here lies the source of their hatred towards these institutions. Let them publish these things and they will not be blamed for complicity and for hiding the criminals.

But this is precisely what they are doing: diverting public opinion from the criminals and beguiling it with alleged Zionists.

Recent press reports about the police investigation against "KOR" workers, the arrests of Adam Michnik and Jacek Kuron, who is one of the advisers of the National Consultative Committee of the independent

trade unions, indicate the beginnings of yet another battle with "Solidarity".

This is a threat not only to those people who have contributed their ability and experience gained in "KOR".

The Patriotic Association "Grunwald" and its sponsors provoke anti-semitism in order to divide and paralyse the nation. They are trying to divide the union workers, to accuse them of crimes committed by others—and all in order to cause mistrust, suspicion and even hatred.

### Acquiescence

They are trying to set the public against those people, hoping thereby for public acquiescence to further arrests and trials.

The rest would follow according to the set and well known pattern. First to be arrested will be members of the Confederation of Independent Poland, then the "Zionists", then the "anti-socialist" elements, after which the time may come for union workers.

And when the man in the street becomes aware of the threat, it will be too late.

Then there will be nobody to raise the outcry, to form committees and unions or give interviews which move world opinion. If the people remain passive, the forces of public self-

defence will be neutralised and annihilated.

Knowing full well who is trying to divide us, and for what reason, aware of the cruel and perverse methods of bringing about division, and aware of the price exacted for the silent acquiescence in the spread of hatred and prejudice, we have to set against all these measures an elementary sense of human and union solidarity.

We will not allow divisions according to nationality, religion, political philosophy, or indeed according to any other criterion.

We know who the oppressors are, "those who laugh at their victims". Everyone knows that; everyone, who, like the undersigned, witnessed the trials of their own fathers, and who have been deprived of care for many long years, or sometimes for ever; everyone who, while still a schoolboy, had a chance to meet the officials of the Ministry of Public Security Koszykowa Street."

On the same day, 13 March, the full presidium of Mazowsze Solidarity issued a statement fully endorsing the above text and expressing its wish to make it public as representing the views of the union.

## SOLIDARITY BID TO "SOLVE" CRISIS

The newspaper produced after lengthy struggles by the Polish union Solidarity has taken up a new fight — for increases in food prices!

They argue that basic food prices are subsidised too much, and say that if prices go up then the queues for food will get smaller.

This is obviously true, since the poorer sections of the working class would no longer be able to afford even the inadequate diet they currently receive.

In taking this line the Solidarity leaders have been dragged into attempts to "solve" the economic crisis caused by Poland's Stalinist bureaucracy.

It is true that production costs of milk and other basic foodstuffs are much higher than their price — but such anomalies cannot be resolved while the bureaucracy retains its exclusive grip on the nationalised economy.

What is needed is a political revolution to establish a planned economy answerable to the needs of the workers in factory committees and workers' councils.

The Solidarity leadership however seeks only reforms within the present bureaucratized system.

Meanwhile the Stalinist leaders are seeking a base of

support amongst the more prosperous farmers by ending subsidies to the state farms — and thus strengthening the private sector.

This reactionary step could create a substantial force in society pressing for the restoration of capitalism.

But the movement against the bureaucracy in Poland remains strong. An exhibition of 'underground' books has just taken place in Warsaw in the teeth of official censorship.

And both former CP leader Gierak and former Prime Minister Babiuch are to appear before special commissions investigating the crimes carried out while they were in office.



Solidarity leader Walesa

# TROTSKY'S STRUGGLE FOR INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTION

In union conferences and Labour Party gatherings left wing opponents are being branded 'Trotskyists'—yet many workers know little of Trotsky or Trotskyism. This brief account by Terry Smith attempts to redress the balance.

1917: The Russian Revolution. The Bolshevik Party, with Lenin and Trotsky at its head, leads the Russian working class to the overthrow of the Provisional government, the defeat of the counter-revolution and the repulsion of the imperialist armies of intervention.

Leon Trotsky heads the Military Revolutionary Committee which plans the insurrection, and he builds the Red Army.

1919: Lenin founds the Third (Communist) International following the betrayal of the Social Democratic Parties which had all supported their own ruling class in 1914. The conditions of membership specify acceptance of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the rejection of all theories of peaceful roads to socialism.

For the first five years the Communist International works to build revolutionary parties throughout the world.

## Ultra-leftism

While the first two Congresses focus on delineating the Communist International from the social democratic Second International, the Second Congress also saw Lenin take up the struggle against ultra-leftism with the distribution of his pamphlet *Left Wing Communism, An Infantile Disorder*, to all delegates.

The Third and Fourth Congresses in 1921 and 1922 saw the elaboration by the Comintern of the tactic of the United Front in the struggle to win to the banner of Communism the millions of workers who remained loyal to the social democratic parties.

These *Theses on Tactics*, spell out the necessity to win the working class through intervention in mass struggles and the fight for *transitional demands* which lead beyond militant reformism to make workers conscious of the need for socialist revolution.

1924: Lenin dies. His last Testament calls for the removal of Stalin as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

A bureaucracy has begun to emerge in the Soviet Union as a result of the pressure of world imperialism on an isolated revolution in an economically backward country.

## Caste

Stalin becomes the political spokesman of this bureaucracy. He retreats from industrialisation and collectivisation of land at home and from revolutionary internationalism abroad.

He eventually crushes revolutionary democracy in the CPSU.

This rising bureaucratic caste had been consistently opposed by Trotsky and the



Trotsky with Lenin in 1919: their internationalist policies were the opposite of Stalin's search for 'socialism in one country'.

Left Opposition from the time of Trotsky's publication in 1923 of *The New Course*, spelling out the dangers in the economic and political situation in Russia as a whole and within the Communist Party.

## Political gulf

His publication in 1924 of *Lessons of October* underlines the political gulf between Trotsky and the increasingly powerful bureaucracy now heading the CPSU and the Comintern.

1927: Stalin manipulates the bureaucratic machinery and expels Trotsky from the Communist Party. Trotsky had opposed Stalin—not only over the direction of domestic policies but also on international questions.

In China, Stalin had favoured subordinating the Chinese Communist Party to the reactionary nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek—with the resultant mass slaughter of Communists by Chiang's Kuo Min Tang in 1926-7.

In Britain, Stalin had directed the Communist Party into a bloc with 'left' TUC leaders—resulting in the CP taking up the bankrupt slogan of "All power to the TUC General Council" while the General Council sold out the 1926 General Strike.

Trotsky's book *Where is Britain Going?*, forewarning of the General Strike, had been published by the British Communist Party in 1925.

1928: Sixth Congress of the Communist International upholds the expulsion of Trotsky, who is exiled to Turkey. His appeal against

expulsion is suppressed, but is smuggled out of the Soviet Union by James P. Cannon.

Taking the form of a critique of the Stalinist 'Draft Programme of the Communist International' it challenges Stalin's new "theory" that it is possible to build "socialism in a single country", and the counter-revolutionary implications this has for the policies of the Comintern. (Now available in *The Third International After Lenin*).

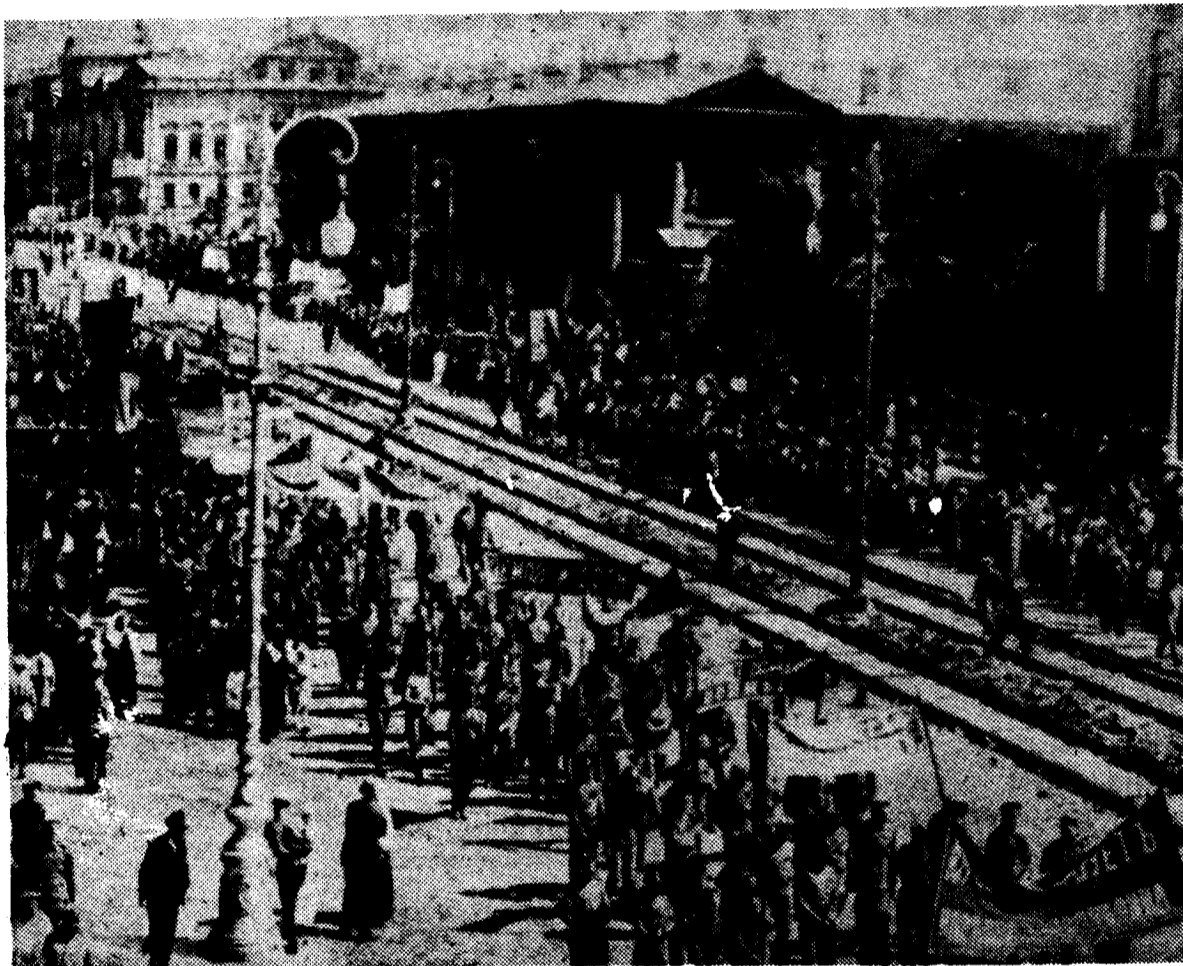
Under pressure from internal economic and political crisis, Stalin switches course, suddenly proclaiming the advent of a new "Third" period of revolutionary struggle—"class against class". In Russia, this means the mass liquidation of the prosperous peasants (Kulaks) and crash plans for industrialisation. Abroad, it means denouncing social democracy—and its supporters—as "social fascist" (worse than fascism).

1933: Despite the struggle by Trotsky and the Left Opposition, the Third Period policy splits the German working class and permits Hitler to come to power. Trotsky's writings, collected in *Trotsky on Germany*, warned of this and called for a United Front of workers' organisations to stop Hitler.

## Counter-revolution

After this experience and the failure of any Comintern party to question the correctness of Stalin's line, Trotsky concludes that Stalinism is on the side of counter-revolution and a new International would have to be built.

1934: The assassination of



Workers march through Petrograd in 1917

Kirov by Stalin's agents provides an excuse for a witch-hunt of political opponents in the Soviet Union.

In the Moscow Trials that followed (1936, 1937, 1938) leaders of the Russian Revolution are tortured and forced to confess to being agents of Hitler acting under Trotsky's direction. Thousands of Bolsheviks are murdered.

Trotsky offers to return to Russia to stand trial if an independent inquiry finds he has a case to answer. ('I Stake My Life') The Commission headed by John Dewey finds there is no substance in Stalin's accusations.

1935: The Comintern abandons its sectarian Third Period policies and adopts the tactic of seeking Popular Front alliances not only with social democratic but also "progressive" capitalist parties.

Trotsky completes *The Revolution Betrayed*, his classic analysis of the Soviet Union as a degenerated workers' state.

1936: Social democracy, supported by the Stalinist Popular Front (see Trotsky's *Whither France?*) saves French capitalism from the working class.

1937-39: The Stalinists, again carrying out Popular Front tactics enable Franco to defeat the Spanish workers and instal fascism. (See *Revolution and Counter Revolution in Spain*

by Felix Morrow). 1938: Founding Conference of the Fourth International takes place near Paris with 30 delegates from 11 countries.

Trotsky's programmatic document for the Conference is published as *The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International* (The Transitional Programme).

Two Polish delegates present a resolution drawn up by Isaac Deutscher opposing the founding of the Fourth International.

Shortly before the conference Leon Sedov, Trotsky's son and Rudolph Klement, secretary of the Bureau for the Fourth International, are murdered by the Stalinist GPU.

1939: The Stalin-Hitler Pact. Stalin seeks to defend the Soviet Union by an alliance with Hitler.

Meanwhile the purges in the Soviet Union decimate the Red Army. Following the Pact, Stalin ships back to Germany Communist refugees from fascism.

World War II breaks out and the Stalinists argue for a negotiated peace with Hitler. 1940: Trotsky murdered by Stalin's trained assassin, Ramon Mercador. His last political fight is against James Burnham and Max Schachtman who opposed the defence of the Soviet Union and rejected dialectical materialism.



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# INDUSTRIAL NEWS



OFFICIAL PICKET

Pickets outside Pergamon Press in Oxford, where 9 NUJ members have been on strike for over three months against millionaire 'socialist' employer Robert Maxwell. Donations and messages of support should be sent to Pergamon Chapel, 5 Union Street, Oxford.

# Wind of change blows in IPCS

Things are certainly changing in the old IPCS!

The monumental civil service pay dispute has resulted in an overwhelming conviction (with one vote against) that the pay campaign should be escalated, if necessary, and that the unity of the Council of Civil Service Unions be retained.

Moves to oppose all-out or one-week action at the outset of the conference were defeated, with the NEC realising such action may well be the final outcome of the dispute.

### Political

There were some echoes of the old times however.

A motion proposed by Wendy Frankland, one of the IPCS British Library delegates, on the siting of US

Cruise missiles in Britain was "next business" for being overtly political.

But discussion of women's rights at work and a call for maternity leave for adoptive parents was carried without the usual sexist baracking (except for female delegates heckling sexist comments from male delegates!)

### Picketing

A demonstration was held to show solidarity with those on strike in the pay dispute which shocked the streets of Harrogate. Also coachloads of delegates went out early each morning to join the mass picketing at the Shipley computer centre.

Fraternal delegates from the other CCSU unions and delegations of strikers from

Faslane got spontaneous standing ovations—and by the end of the conference speakers were being cheered rather than booed for referring to "brothers and sisters".

There was a larger than average attendance at the 'IPCS Left' fringe meeting, addressed by an IPCS member who is a Labour councillor.

And there was a new determination to consolidate the organisation with the regular production of a bulletin and a national meeting in the autumn.

As one of the decisions of the main conference was to cease production of the official (but moribund) IPCS journal "State Service", 'IPCS Left' may well find an increased circulation!

# NUJ rebuff for Healey

In the midst of touring the hotel rooms of right wing union leaders and making witch-hunting speeches from conference platforms, Dennis Healey has at last found time to submit his own application to join a trade union.

For years he has been a member of the scab Institute of Journalists.

Now, according to an article in *The Leveller* magazine he has applied to join the NUJ. He claims an income from journalism of £500 a week for columns in the popular press and photographs.

But he declared himself reluctant to submit his resignation to the strikebreaking IOJ in case his NUJ application was "blocked by a load of Trots".

# Fight legal war on unions

One reason why the Thatcher government is not proceeding immediately to introduce more laws against the unions is because the Tories are well aware that the law as it stands is a powerful weapon against the trade union movement.

This is borne out by two sets of events occurring right now in Scotland.

### Sit-in

One case concerns a group of 62 ladders employed by Bestobell Insulation at Whiteinch in Glasgow who staged a sit-in at the company offices over a demarcation dispute.

The workers are members of the TGWU and are in dispute over the use of boilermakers' union members on a lagging job.

After refusing to obey a court order to appear to meet charges of trespass, the men were eventually escorted from the premises under police guard to appear before Lord Brand who fined them a total of £5150 for a "grave" contempt of court.

This growing determination of employers and judges to make criminals of workers involved in industrial action was seen again last week in the trial at Irvine, Ayrshire, of pickets arrested during the lock out at Ayrshire Marine Construction at Hunterston last September.

The first five of the 48 men charged were fined £100 each on a charge of breach of the peace. The substance of the charge was that they were deliberately obstructing and blocking a private access road to the

site. But no proof was presented that the men had physically tried to prevent anyone from going to work.

### "Alarming"

Sheriff D.B. Smith's concern was that the presence of the pickets was "potentially alarming". This is an extraordinary judgement with possibly far-reaching implications.

To claim that what a group of workers is doing is "potentially" dangerous gives the workmen a green light to proceed to arrest workers on the flimsiest of pretexts.

By that measure, almost any action or even opinion the employing class dislike could be labelled as "potentially" dangerous and the people involved then have criminal charges placed against them.

When the fines were announced in court there was an uproar and a shout of "that's political" to which remark the Sheriff objected.

As in the case of the Bestobell workers, total fines will be in the region of £5,000. In both cases workers have declared that they will fight the judgement.

### No way

Raymond Platt, convenor at Bestobells, said, "There is no way we can or will pay the fines. We must appeal and we are doing this through our lawyers" and Dominic Sullivan, former shop steward at Hunterston said, "This decision has far reaching implications for the trade union movement, and we will be looking for their support to continue the

fight". Whatever the outcome of the legal wrangling that will ensue, it is essential in both cases that the workers involved turn out to the trade union and labour movement explaining the implications of the fines and rallying support for their struggle.

### Lapdogs

The Tories, the employers and their legal lapdogs are out to criminalise workers involved in industrial disputes and we cannot allow them to get away with that.

A Tory sponsored amendment to the Education (Scotland) No. 2 Bill now before Parliament will pave the way for implementation of large scale redundancies in the Scottish teaching force.

The aim of the amendment is the removal of Section 88 from the Education Act which states that a teacher cannot be made redundant without the agreement of two-thirds of the local education committee.

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This traditional safeguard remains essential to teachers' interests because, as John Pollock, General Secretary of the Scottish teachers' union the EIS has pointed out, a teacher who faced dismissal by one authority is unlikely to be employed by another and therefore finds his or her livelihood as a teacher destroyed.

The Tories argue that there are now adequate safeguards provided through industrial tribunals—but they are well aware that this is so much eyewash.

The aim is to sack teachers and to clear away any obstacles in the path of that process.

At the same time it will be a gift to those authorities who want to get rid of teachers because of their politics or their forthright defence of their wages and conditions.

### Threatening noises

Already threatening noises have been made as to the termination of employment of teachers engaged on fixed-term contracts.

This undoubtedly endangers the jobs of thousands of Scottish teachers,

especially and immediately those in the primary sector, many of whom have been engaged over the past two years on such contracts which enable the authorities to get rid of them at short notice, by refusing to re-engage them for the following year.

Talks have already begun on the future of a thousand such teaching jobs in Strathclyde and the signs are ominous in other regions also.

Clearly the authorities will not stop there but will proceed thence to the decimation of jobs of teachers who have permanent contracts.

### Attrition

What must be the strategy to defend teachers' jobs? Industrial action on a national scale is essential but the maintenance of such action for a prolonged period presents problems.

The authorities are embarking on a war of attrition over a number of years and an adequate strategy to repel this attack must be formulated.

Included in that must be a stronger 'no cover' policy,

a refusal to take the classes of any dismissed fixed-term contract teachers and a determination that, if the authorities refuse to cut class sizes, then teachers will do so themselves unilaterally from August 1982 onwards.

The presence of motions along these lines on the agenda for the EIS Annual Conference in June is an indication that many teachers see the necessity to begin now to resist the employers' attacks as the only way to defend both their job and educational standards.

An estimated fall of 37% in school rolls in Strathclyde in the next ten years provides the opportunity to cut class sizes, improve staffing and raise the quality of education.

The Tory government and some local councillors, including Labour councillors think differently.

They are out to use falling rolls as their excuse to implement more education cuts.

Teachers will need to seek the support and assistance of parents and the organised trade union and labour movement if they are to thwart these moves.

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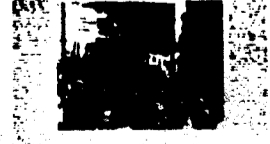
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# Silkin—the Tories' favourite "left"

Who the hell is John Silkin? This question will be on the lips of thousands of Labour activists and trade unionists in the next few months as the Tory press throws its weight behind his candidacy for the Deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

But to be more accurate, Silkin is standing to secure Dennis Healey's reelection against the growing challenge presented by Tony Benn. Benn has shown that his platform of defence of Labour Conference decisions, party democracy, unilateral disarmament and 'left' reformist policies is capable of rallying large rank and file support within the labour movement.

Against the pleadings of Clive Jenkins he won the endorsement of ASTMS. Left talking union leaders in TASS and SOGAT have supported him. While Dennis Healey got a hostile reception from a depleted audience at the FBU conference, Benn got a standing ovation.

## Real chance

And if Silkin were not running, Benn would seem the automatic choice of delegates at this year's TGWU conference—acquiring a real chance of defeating Healey. This horrifies the Labour right wing and their sponsors in the Tory press. And it enrages those self-styled "lefts" within the Labour Party who have no intention of fighting the reactionary policies of the

Foot-Healey-Concannon leadership.

But these "lefts" have found it impossible to get a credible candidate to stand against Benn. Heffer, for instance, was isolated even from his own constituency party.

Hence the last minute promotion of nonentity Silkin as a deliberate ploy to split the "left" vote and take the heat off Healey.

The intention is clear—to get union nominations for Silkin in the first round of voting, thus leaving it up to union executive committees to cast their vote for Healey in the final run-off.

This cynical manoeuvre must be stopped in its tracks. The confused and rightward-moving TGWU leadership must be called to order by delegates at its Brighton conference and



Silkin (left) boring Stan Orme

mandated to vote for Benn.

And the work of committing Labour Parties and other union bodies to support Benn as the frontline opponent of the right wing must be stepped up in every area.

At the same time the

weaknesses and inadequacies of Benn's reformist programme must be drawn out in the course of the debates, and a principled leadership built among the leftward moving forces within the labour movement.

# £900m bill for councils

A staggering £900 million is to be hacked immediately from the budget of 300 local authorities in England and Wales by millionaire Tory Environment Secretary Heseltine.

Grants amounting in some cases to tens of millions of pounds will be withdrawn from councils whose budgets for 1981-2 exceed Heseltine's vicious cash limits.

Councils had been ordered to cut spending to 5.6% below the real level of spending in 1979. With unemployment and poverty on the increase, even several Tory councils have found this impossible to achieve.

Now Heseltine's penalties mean that these councils will be faced with the choice of making further draconian cuts, utilising cash balances to preserve services, or imposing supplementary rate increases which in some cases will be as big as the rate bills already received for 1981-2.

London councils, which lost £400 million in the Tory revision of the rate support grant—which siphoned grants out of the cities and into the

Tory-run shire counties—stand to lose another £200 million under the new penalties.

This stands as a threat to the newly elected Labour GLC—which came to office pledged to increase social spending. Council leader Ken Livingstone has reaffirmed there will be no retreat on these pledges.

Lambeth council leader Ted Knight, who had led protests and repeated retreats in the face of such Tory threats has once again announced that the new penalties will bring urban councils into conflict with the government.

## Industrial action

"Either they all agree to go for a supplementary rate [!] or come together to organise a counter action against the government. This has to be the answer."

The cuts that are threatened are huge. So too are the possible rate increases. Labour councillors and union leaders must be forced to give a lead in preparing all-out industrial action in defence of services and living standards, and for the defeat of the Tory government.

# Broad Left challenge to Jackson's rule

Thanks to Tom Jackson, the UCU Broad Left was given national publicity last week at its first major intervention in the annual conference of the Union of Communication Workers.

On the Friday before the conference the UCU Executive discussed the Broad Left for two hours before Jackson wrote to Michael Foot complaining of Tony Benn's intention to speak at the Broad Left rally on Sunday night.

The meeting itself was attended by over 400 delegates—far beyond the expectations of the Broad Left Steering Committee.

The meeting opened with an explanation of what the aims of the Broad Left were—to respond to the attacks on jobs, pay and conditions and the burning need to build a fighting democratic union to defend the interests of the members against these attacks.

## Hotch-potch

However the following Monday evening on the news Jackson described those that attended the meeting as a rag bag hotch-potch of Trotskyists.

Some delegates were annoyed at this—while others were proud to be described as Trotskyists.

On Tuesday afternoon the deputy leadership issue was debated—the EC putting in a motion to support the election of Michael Foot and Dennis Healey.

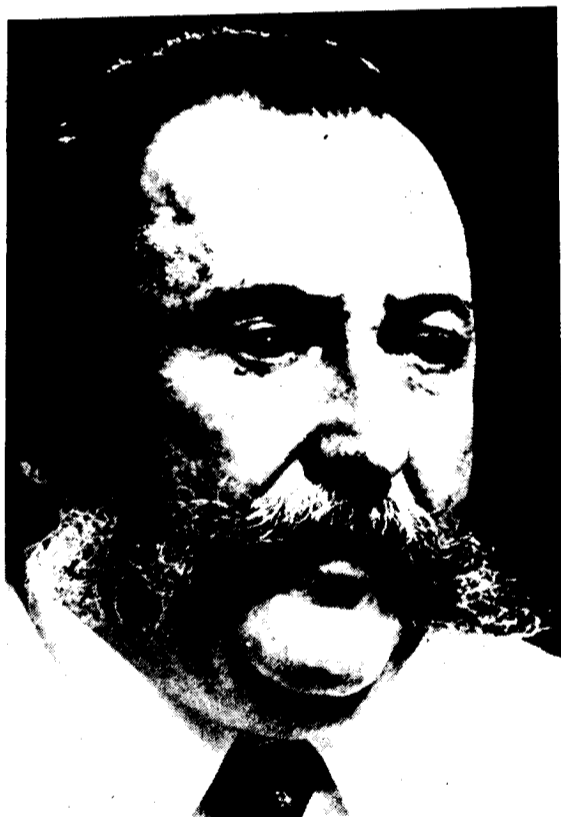
An amendment had been tabled by the WDO Amalgamated branch—to delete Healey and insert Benn.

In moving the motion Alan Tuffin, Deputy General Secretary, stated that the EC was not in favour of change. He argued the need to win the next general election and to stop the personality wrangling.

## Committed

We were beginning to see the consequences of this, he claimed. There would be campaigning fringe meetings every year for the candidates.

Frank Osi Tutu, moving



Jackson

the amendment, insisted that elections are not fights amongst ourselves: if so, why does this union have elections? Benn was committed to the programme, while Healey was not right for the movement and did not reflect the voice of the grass roots—the elections for the Labour NEC bore this out.

Another amendment moved by NWDO branch called for the union not to support Healey but leave who they should support blank—hoping that another candidate would be nominated.

Gerry Casey, opposing the EC's motion and supporting WDO's amendment, said it was the dictates of the Callaghan/Healey leadership that brought about the downfall of the last Labour government.

Tuffin had been offered a leaflet about Benn the other day and Casey heard him say "who is he?" Tuffin should have come to the Broad Left rally and found out!

One supporter of the EC motion was booed when he

sioned after the 1979 annual conference.

The EC disagreed with the report's estimate of 40,000 job losses, and branches received only one copy of the full report, while being given many copies of management's response to it and the union's response—in the same publication (spot the difference).

A composite amendment that instructed the EC to produce a special report on new technology to be discussed at a conference no later than May 1982 in order that a fully comprehensive new technology agreement can be adopted was carried overwhelmingly.

Supporters of the amendment said that we must learn the lessons of the past where new technology like micro-fiche had come in piecemeal, and agreements not in the interests of the membership had come in after.

At the sectional conferences there were other major defeats for the EC.

At the telephonists an emergency motion threw out the agreement signed before conference by the UCU on micro-fiche breaks.

In the postal officer conference a productivity deal was overwhelmingly rejected.

UCW Broad Left supporters led the fight for rejection at a special conference on "improved working methods" (sic) which is a "voluntary" local productivity deal for post workers.

Despite the fact that the IWM report itself was unanimously recommended for acceptance by every EC member, it was carried by a very slim majority.

A pamphlet written by members of the Liverpool Amalgamated UCU Branch and the Merseyside Socialist Research Group called "Selling our Security: Productivity Deals and the Post Office—the Lessons of Merseyside" states that in the London postal region two to three million 'man-hours'—the equivalent of 1,200 jobs a year—have been lost under IWM and the post office are demanding a further seven million hours

reduction.

The Broad Left can take no credit for intervening in the election of the EC this year—Gerry Casey, a Broad Left supporter and long-standing militant was elected because over a period of time he has gained respect for his stand on many issues.

But when Gerry takes up his seat next year he may find himself isolated on the EC. The Broad Left will have much work to do in the following year to bring about a transformation in the leadership of the UCU.

Next year is also the tri-annual rules revision conference and much needs to be started on democratising the UCU, in particular demanding elections of officers every five years.

No wonder Jackson and his cronies are frightened at what a Broad Left could do in the UCU.

Copies of the Journal 'Communique' are available from M. Wheeler, 9 Birkdale Road, Penketh, Warrington, Price 35p including postage.

# FBU strike threat

The Fire Brigades Union voted unanimously last week to stage a series of one-day strikes if their hard-won pay agreement is not restored this November.

Incoming General Secretary Ken Cameron outlined the way in which the deal had been unilaterally torn up by local authority employers following the 11th hour settlement of the last pay review.

## 9 week strike

It had taken a nine week strike against the last Labour government to win the agreement which pegged fire brigade wages to the lower

# Fords: code defeated?

Ford workers return to work tomorrow after successfully forcing the company to withdraw its savage disciplinary code.

The walkout by 10,000 workers at the Halewood plant brought production to a halt throughout the British operation, after four workers were penalised for failing to keep up to an impossible work schedule.

The stoppage took place around demands for the dropping of the code which was imposed without union agreement.

Management began to retreat, arguing that the code could be lifted if union officials would police unofficial strikes.

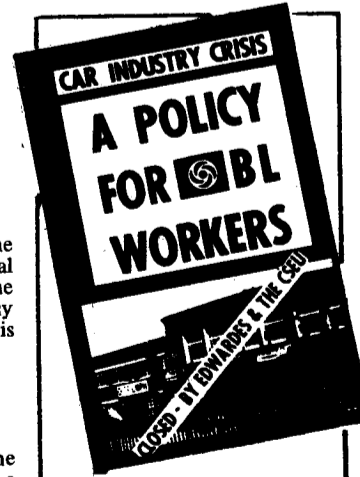
Publicly, the formula for the return to work is that union leaders agreed to "honour existing agreements" over the handling of disputes.

It remains to be seen whether there are any unseen "strings" and secret deals with the employers that might transform this apparent victory into a new setback for Ford workers.

## Offensive

And at the same time employers are pressing a wholesale offensive on jobs and working conditions in the fire service—with up to 20,000 jobs under threat.

It will be necessary to press home the fight against not only Tory councils but the newly elected Labour county councils if this attack is to be repulsed.



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Anti-racist defence squad on the march

## TWO MORE MARTYRS IN WAR FOR FREEDOM

## Coventry youth rout fascists

How many brave republicans must be condemned to die before the British labour movement responds to their struggle against the Thatcher government?

So far four prisoners have died on hunger strike in the notorious Long Kesh camp, demanding simply that they be recognised as political prisoners, jailed for waging the struggle to drive the British out of Ireland.

In every case the Tory claim that these men were isolated criminals has been crushed underfoot by huge demonstrations of popular support.

Bobby Sands MP drew 30,000 votes to win the by-election in Fermanagh/South Tyrone. And over 70,000 people flooded the streets of Catholic Belfast to attend his funeral.

Francis Hughes was buried amongst a throng of 50,000 people who travelled to the rural village of Bellaghy, South Derry.

And tens of thousands turned out for the funerals of Ray McCreech in South Armagh and INLA militant Patsy O'Hara in Derry. Their struggle has rallied and united the nationalist population in the fight for the liberation of the six counties from imperialist rule.

Youth and Catholic workers have taken to the streets in fury at the deaths of those who have championed the republican cause—and been met by savage repression from police and army units.

Plastic bullets have been fired wildly by police and



Rifle salute at funeral of Francis Hughes

army. They killed 14-year old Julie Livingstone, 12-year old Carol Anne Kelly and 45 year old Harry Duffy. They severely wounded 15-year old Dominic Marron—and around 100 others have suffered severe eye, head and body injuries requiring hospital treatment. Countless more have been wounded, beaten or harassed on the streets since the death of Bobby Sands.

This brutality now slowly percolating even through the

extensive censorship of the British press, has shocked and outraged many Labour Party activists and trade unionists.

Yet still the leaders of the British labour movement cling to their craven policy of support for the imperialist repression in Ireland—repression which can only increase the death toll and prolong the agony of the Irish people.

The Thatcher government's obduracy has made it a pariah among international governments. It has been condemned by governments in Europe, by socialist and communist parties and trade unions around the world—but still is not condemned by the British Labour Party!

The British working class has a duty to act to halt the bloodshed, by forcing the immediate withdrawal of

British troops from the six counties of Ireland.

As a vital part of this fight, full labour movement support must be mobilised for the five demands of the prisoners. Four men have already died for these demands: let us work all-out to rally the support of millions to ensure that they are won!

## Elections: middle ground collapses

The ignominious defeat of quisling Catholic politician Gerry Fitt in the local elections of the six counties summed up the polarisation that has taken place following the hunger strikes.

Fitt, who has opposed the hunger strikes and sought simply to negotiate a more comfortable place for himself in the imperialist administration, won only 541 first preference votes—compared with over 3,000 in 1977, and lost the council seat he had held for 23 years.

In contrast the Trotsky-

ists of Peoples Democracy secured two seats and the IRSP two seats in Belfast. And the strongly anti-imperialist Irish Independence Party gained 21 seats in a successful bid to establish a base from which to oppose the collaborationist line of the SDLP.

### Lost seats

The SDLP itself lost seven seats overall though it beat back a strong IIP campaign in Derry.

In the Loyalist camp, Paisley's 'Democratic Unionist Party' doubled its number of seats to 142, coming close to equalling the

151 seats won by the Official Unionists. In the face of this attack the non-sectarian Alliance Party collapsed—dropping from 70 to only 32 seats.

Paisley has now established his authority over Loyalist politics in the next period as the divisions between those for and those against imperialist rule are thrown into sharp relief.

The fact that sections of the working class are to be found on both sides of this divide should not divert British socialists from the need to side with the anti-imperialist forces against the Orange gunmen and the British state machine.

Fascist taunts and jeers at the 15,000 anti-fascist marchers in Coventry last Saturday turned to shrieks of fear as a section of the marchers went to get them.

The mood of the crowds of onlookers turned to respect when they saw the way the police, charging in to rescue the fascists, were put to flight by a shower of sticks and cans from the marchers.

The solution of youth and workers to fascist violence is firmly on the agenda in Coventry!

The monster rally was called by several organisations but coordinated through their representatives on the umbrella body the Coventry Committee Against Racism.

### Collaborators

It is through this committee that the Labour and Communist Party politicians, religious leaders and class collaborators of the black community and labour movement can be found, busy negotiating with the police.

However, even their best efforts at organising the most ineffective and easily policed route could not dampen the determination of the marchers.

The Committee for Anti-Racist Defence Squads was able to go a long way towards neutralising the negative impact of the reformists by the consistent work they have done amongst youth and in the labour movement.

By arguing for the establishment of a network of anti-racist defence squads, they have been able to harness the energy and militancy of youth and workers and direct away from the gloom and despondency of the reformists.

### Political fight

Besides the urgent need for the establishment of anti-racist defence squads to stop the fascist campaign of violence, the need to take up the political struggle for workers self defence inside the labour movement is as important.

Fascist propaganda works and reworks its lie that it is the blacks who are respon-

sible for the 14% (predicted 20% this year) unemployment in Coventry.

It is irrelevant that the number of unemployed exceeds the total black workforce by five times, if the fascists' lies only come up against the tired old alibis of the trade union bureaucrats and Labour Party right wingers excusing their own refusal to fight the bosses' attacks.

### Treachery

Workers self defence is an integral part of the necessary political offensive against the labour movement traitors. The treachery of the reformists on Saturday even extended to fingering alleged 'trouble-makers' amongst the marchers to the police.

Black self defence cannot be artificially divorced from workers self defence, because it is at work and on their way to and from work that thousands of black trade unionists are most at risk from fascist attack.

Unions must take up the fight to ensure that the many black women who work at night, the many black public transport workers, etc., receive adequate protection and that the bosses be made to make provision for workers' self-defence!

If anyone needed convincing, Saturday proved that increased policing is not the answer.

### Arrests

The thousand extra policemen drafted into the area protected the fascists, and arrested over seventy anti-fascists.

The authority of the state and its institutions help breed fascism—they are no defence.

Workers self defence squads cannot simply be declared. They must be fought for, by posing labour movement solutions for anti-racist and fascist defence.

Teachers must organise backing of fascist students through the unions, school students must build NUSS branches in their schools, those on the dole must build unemployed workers' unions with which to fight.

Blame the bosses not the blacks, smash their fascist race attacks!

## FUND

The May Monthly Fund is now giving us great cause for alarm. With only a few days left to the end of the month we have still only reached 355.65 out of a target of £850.00. This leaves us nearly £500 to raise and very little time indeed to do so.

There cannot be a regular reader or supporter of Socialist Press who is not aware of how essential it is that we achieve this target in full each month. We could not continue to publish if this money did not come in regularly.

So can we make a last minute appeal to all our readers and supporters. Don't let us down this month. Send us a donation today to Socialist Press Monthly Fund, BM Box 5277, London WC1N 3XX.