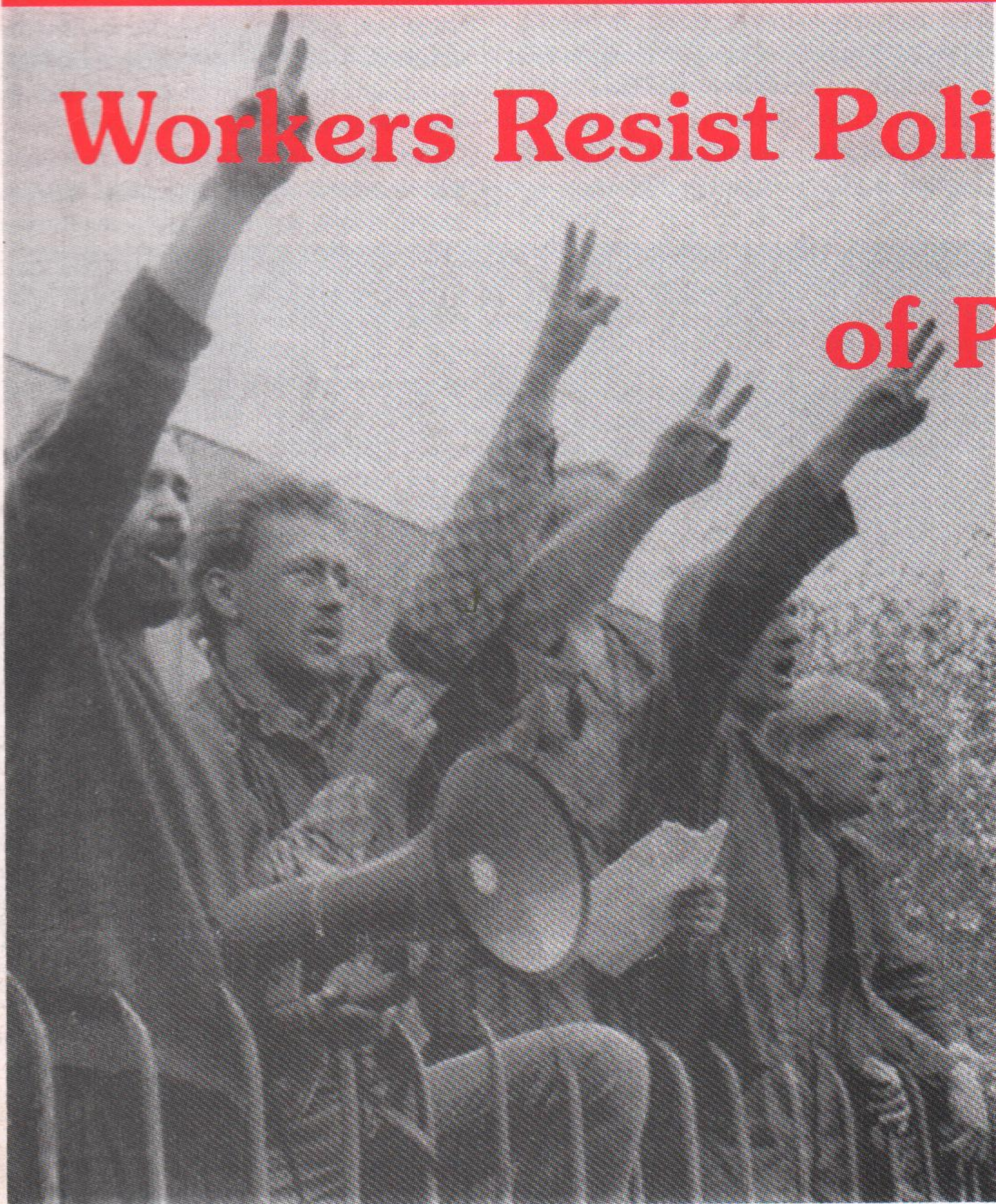


SOCIALIST VOICE

Journal Of The International Socialist League
British Section Of The IWL (FI)

Workers Resist Polish Version of Perestroika



- This Issue**
- ★ *The Fight Against Workfare*
 - ★ *Rent Crisis*
 - ★ *Burma*
 - ★ *Luis Zamora*

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Not Boom but Class Struggle

The Tory dreams of a healthy and expanding economy took one more step towards extinction during August when the annual rate of deficit, in the balance of payments, reached over £24 billion.

These dreams were really intended for the consumption of the middle class. Sections of this class found a certain prosperity as they took advantage of an economic strategy devoted to the multi-nationals and big finance.

The basis of their boom was essentially a speculative one. Their prosperity, such as it is, is based on the destruction of manufacturing and the dizzy expansion of money markets.

It was helped by the unique development of the energy reserves. It came out of financial deregulation, manipulation of interest rates and the expansion of fictitious capital.

STERLING CRISIS

The economy is now in a very fragile state, with increasing balance of payments crisis and high interest rates a sterling crisis is imminent.

The speculative boom has been led domestically by demand created from a rapid increase in personal consumption. Savings are now 5.5% of wages compared with 13.5% five years ago.

Borrowing domestically has increased and the inflationary craze of the housing market has also fuelled spending. It is as if an instinct exists that things cannot last.

Britain above all is coming under the hammer blows of the world economy. West Germany had the startling trade surplus in June of DM14.2billion, a 38% increase from Mays figure of DM10.3billion. They had the highest surplus ever since 1987 and 1988 looks like breaking all records.

DOMINATION OF MULTI-NATIONALS

The multi-nationals in Germany export 60% of their trade to Western European countries. Britains economy will therefore be

further dislocated and will continue to decline.

This process will be intensified with the move towards the single European Market by 1992. It is the industrial multi-nationals and big finance houses, principally those of Germany and France, that are behind the demand for the further opening up of Europe where only the strongest will survive and the attacks on workers living standards and jobs, particularly in the more backward countries like Britain, will be taken to a higher level.

Not many workers especially in the industrial heartlands had illusions about how the multinationals and Thatchers policies were going to help them maintain or find jobs.

Those that have really paid for the speculative boom has been the working class. As is shown in this issue of Socialist Voice many workers are resisting the drive to worsening conditions.

The speculative boom has a transitional nature and is based on a declining base. Yet it is this on which the trade unions and labour leaders have based their belief in the Tories invincibility.

The ideologists for Kinnock and sections of the Communist Party wish to convince us that the working class no longer exists. But in fact since the miners strike not a day has passed without a section engaging in struggle.

CLASS STRUGGLE

In reality workers will gain in the coming struggle what they once new deeply, that only through the struggle of the class can they defend and advance themselves against capitalism.

In the course of this struggle new leaderships will emerge. Just as they are emerging in the committees of the uprising in Palestine, the inter-factory committees in Poland and the movement against workfare in Britain This is what every class fighter must nurture and develop in the coming crisis.

Socialist Voice

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Struggles in August

WORKERS ARE FIGHTING

The month of August, when the workers movement in Britain is quiet - or is it? In this issue we feature some of the struggles of workers to maintain their jobs, wages and conditions that have materialised over the past month.

Postal workers, hospital workers, seafarers and Vickers workers have all been in the forefront of their class in struggle against the employers and the Tory government.

It is very likely that the postal workers and nurses could be at the cutting edge of the fight against Tory attacks in the coming months.

over the pay and regrading.

To counter this growing dissatisfaction the management at North Manchester General have said only members of political parties are involved in stirring up trouble.

Yet nurses and health care workers have taken protest action all over the country. It is the government that is stirring up trouble.

Socialist Voice supports the protests and calls on all hospital workers to develop ways of fighting back, such as rebuilding the links between the hospitals and the Joint Shop Stewards Committees that sprang up in the last nurses action.



Postal Picket in Manchester



A pattern emerges of many attacks on the workforce in an attempt to impose increased productivity and to weaken the union. As in the example of the nurses dispute the management is attacking the entire workforce nationally. Workers should prepare themselves for the attacks on their wages and conditions.

VICKERS WORKERS NOT DEMORALISED

Strikers at Vickers in Barrow were proud of their struggle of 12 weeks when they returned to work at the end of August.

Privatisation of the shipyard has brought a continuous and sharpening attack on the workers conditions.

The paltry settlement that has given each worker an extra £250 will be taken back by the crack of the productivity whip in no time and the workforce will face further struggles against the relatively new Vickers bosses.

As the strikers commented, **the fight over fixed holidays was just a provocation and the tip of the iceberg.** The real issue being the need of the company to smash the strength of the well organised union force in Barrow. This was just round one. The bosses will now retire to their boardrooms to plan the next line of attack and the workers must be vigilant and prepare for the struggles ahead.

NURSES CAMPAIGN

"The government pay award and restructuring has meant the downgrading of work and nurses not being paid for the work they do", David Howson, a charge nurse at the Department of Psychiatry at the North Manchester General Hospital, told Socialist Voice.

He continued: *"National negotiations are breaking down with the government. It is openly recognised that the government had no intention of really implementing what they had promised. The major problem is that job descriptions have been disembowelled and nurses are extremely angry at what is in effect de-skilling. We have had great support from many hospitals today including Booth Hall, Monsall, Prestwich and Ancoats."*

Socialist Voice was told by many of the hundred plus pickets just how angry they are

POSTAL WORKERS MEET PROVOCATIONS HEAD ON

The postal workers strike spread from Rochdale to Warrington in early August as management tried out a provocation.

Pickets at the Central Sorting Office in Manchester told Socialist Voice that management had broken the agreement concerning the employment of temporary staff for the summer period.

The agreement included the employment of 35 casual staff for a period of 20 weeks but detailed that casual staff could only work for a 10 week period. Management had allowed them to work for 12 weeks.

Behind the provocation have been a number of attacks on the workforce over a new bonus scheme without a bonus, and harassment of women at work.

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Council Rent Crisis

PHYLLIS STARKEY

At the beginning of August the Institute of Housing issued a study which declared that cuts in housing benefit had led to the poorest council tenants building up 'staggering' debts.

Rent arrears throughout the country it said had risen by tens of millions of pounds since reform of the benefit system in April. One million people were deprived of housing benefit completely and five million more lost money when the government cut £650 million from benefit. All claimants have now to pay 20% of their rates bill and will have their income cut if they have adult offspring living in their home or are earning more than their 'needs allowance'.

The Institute concluded that: "the scales of the increase in rent arrears in the four months since housing benefit was changed is a sign of the hardship being faced by some of the poorest and most vulnerable claimants."

CASE STUDY

In Liverpool, as throughout the country, there is an enormous increase in rent arrears. This is a measure of the drastic effects of the attacks of the Tory government on working class people. In many cases, as life gets harder, the last thing that people can do is to pay the rent. Clothing and feeding the family takes priority.

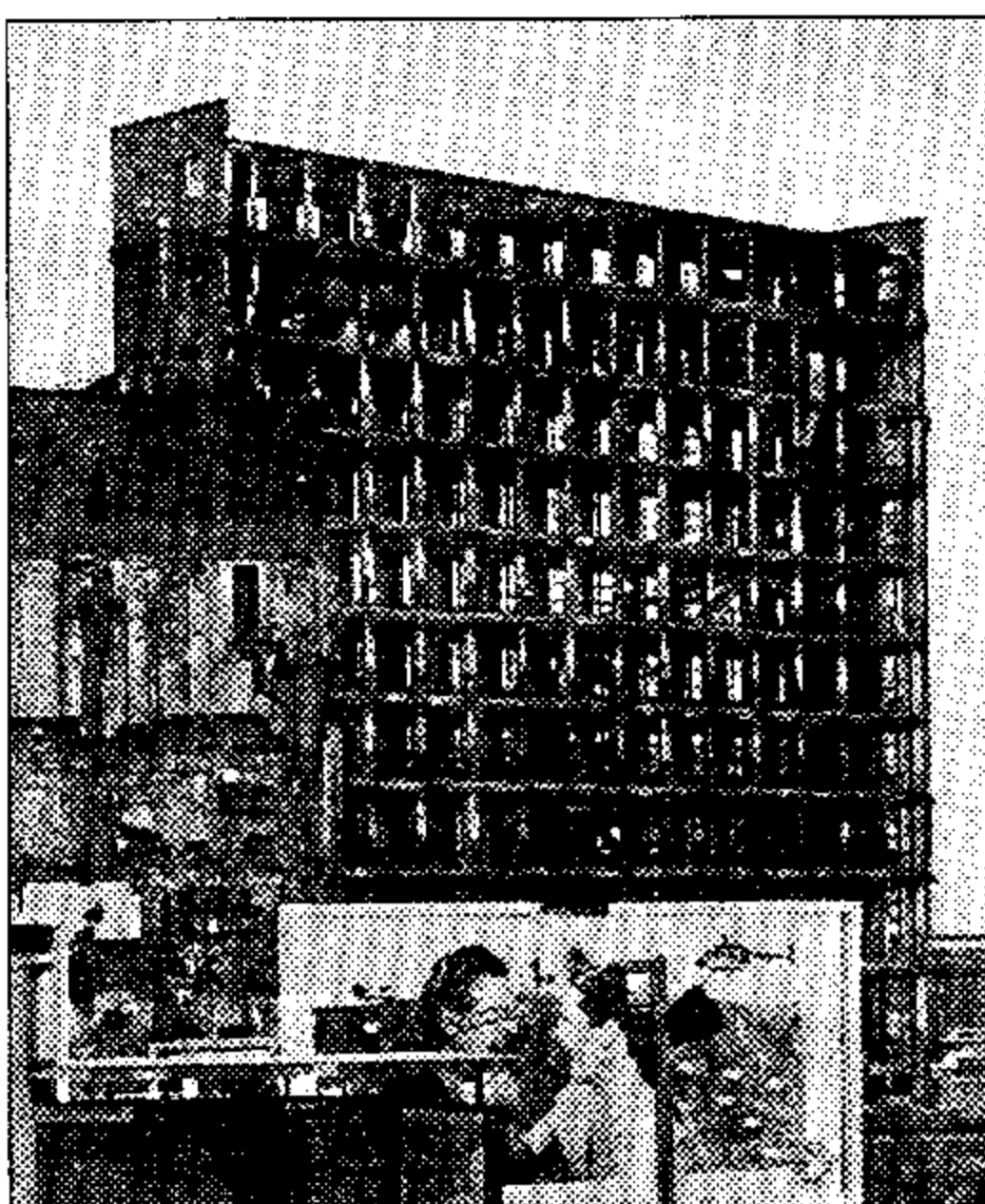
Last month, the Liverpool City Council announced that no less than £62 million was owed in rent and rate arrears. £21 million in rent was owed by council tenants.

In March 1981, this figure was £3.5 million. This was three years after the election of a Tory Government. Increased rents in Liverpool brought the arrears to the highest in the country outside London. By December 1986, the debt was rising at the rate of half a million a month.

This year, it was inevitable that the rent arrears would get worse. The changes in social security not only hit the unemployed. The low paid workers also suffered under a government con-trick.

BENEFIT CHANGES

There was a change in April from Family Income Support for low paid workers to what is now known as Family Credit. Family Income Support was not taken into account when the low paid family applied for rent allowance. The introduction of family Credit appeared to low paid workers to give them a rise.



Liverpool Housing

What they did not realise was that it was now included as income, which was taken to just above or just below the figure on which rent rebate was allowed.

Thus they found that, in most cases, they were worse off. Not only was their rent allowance wiped out, but their school meal allowance was also taken away.

Their plight was highlighted in Liverpool by a dispute which NALGO had with the City Council in April which meant a delay in processing claim forms which took, in some cases, five months.

By that time, these low paid workers, had run up rent arrears which they did not know anything about.

These low paid workers are now caught in a trap. Rises in rents, rates and water now hit them directly. **They accepted low paid jobs in the knowledge that they could claim housing benefit.** Now they lose those benefits and they are forced to stay in their low paid jobs as they lose their dole for six months if they give them up. Who benefits from that? The employer, of course!

THE LABOUR PARTY

On the 23rd of last month, Robin Cook, the social security spokesman for the Labour Party declared that the social security plans of the Tory Government this year would mean a £750 million cut in benefits. The Government had cut out any account of rent and rate increases which would raise claims for housing benefits if the system had not been changed.

But the Labour leadership is only making propaganda. It has no intention of defending working class families who will not be able

to pay the Tories demands. Neil Kinnock's "new realism" is to oppose confrontation with the Tories.

And the first reaction of the left-wing leader of Liverpool's Labour Council was to attack "scallywags" in Liverpool "who are ripping everyone off". This is to attack workers as being responsible for the difficulties they are faced with. A few weeks later councillors were extremely shocked to find that they also were in arrears, through no fault of their own.

In the coming months, difficulties for workers are going to be much worse. Now, they have to pay not only their rent, but also their arrears, plus 20% rates, water rates, and next year, the poll tax - and this, while the rich are riding the gravy train.

There are going to be hundreds of thousands of "scallywags". **It is not that workers won't pay; they can't pay.**

The workers and their organisations in Liverpool and elsewhere must oppose and defeat any penalisation, they must prevent anyone being "baliffed" or evicted who cannot meet the impositions brought about by Tory policy.

The Richest Woman in the World

JOHN OWEN

The Queen of England, Elizabeth the II, is, according to a recent survey in the Times, the richest woman in the World, with a fortune of £ 5.1 billions.

Although she is regarded in Britain as a figure head (not only spoiling the stamps and money we use) **she is actually a top capitalist.**

She also earns \$ 30 millions a year from overseas investments, free of tax.

As the Queen is accruing these colossal earnings the unemployed are expected to work for their dole on the governments latest cheap labour scheme Employment Training.

Although her son and heir to the throne, Prince Charles, makes noises in sympathy with the unemployed he and the rest of his relations are still living in Palaces with hundreds of rooms, while in London alone there are approximately 50,000 homeless people living in cardboard boxes.

Youth Betrayed by TUC

KEVIN TOWNSEND

TRAIN THE WORKERS WITHOUT THE JOBS TO DO THE JOBS WITHOUT THE WAGES

The TUC has slavishly accepted and approved every attack on the living conditions and rights of young workers, always with the paternalistic argument of not abandoning the youth to something much worse.

What have the TUC achieved in this period of collaboration with successive Labour and Tory governments?

YTS is to become compulsory now that the Tories have decided to scrap Unemployment Benefit for 16-18 year olds, and Employment Training (ET) is to be introduced as a compulsory scheme for 18-50 year olds.

There will be an increase in accidents on schemes, as training placement agencies have the job of finding an extra 90,000 places for those youth who will now be forced onto YTS, on top of the doubling in Community Programme (CP) places as it gets incorporated into ET.

These schemes already have an appallingly poor record on health and safety. According to figures released by the Unemployment Unit fatalities and accidents on the YTS have increased by 68% since the scheme started recording injuries in 1984. Only 0.15 per cent of YTS workplaces are inspected because of a shortage of Training Commission safety officers. The 'Observer' of 28th August details that private contractors are now using YTS workers on the oil rigs in the North Sea as the traditional workforce refuse to work in such dangerous conditions. Mr Tom Lafferty of the Amalgamated Engineering Union said 300 of his members had left offshore jobs since the Piper Alpha explosion in which 167 men were killed.

The accident rate on the YTS rose by 48% last year while the number of YTS workplaces being closed down or refused as YTS placements on health and safety grounds is falling. Seven youths were killed on YTS in 1987. One fell into a silo and drowned in the grain, two were hit by falling loads, three killed while driving and one became trapped in a silage machine. This is where the trade union bureaucrats stand condemned, they have discarded the youth to the whims of the private contractor, greedy for profit and negligent of safety.

UNIONS ABANDON YOUTH

What have the TUC achieved by approving Employment Training? Can 'work for dole' or 'dole plus 40 hours unpaid work', compulsion and job substitution be called a victory as John Edmonds, leader of the General and Municipal Workers Union, intimated recently in an attempt to win TUC support for the latest Tory scheme, ET.

How does a trade union boycott of the scheme: "fly in the face of the opinion of union members" as Edmonds said in the same statement to the press. Is he not aware that his union has a conference policy of opposition to ET?



The truth of the matter is that these bureaucrats who ignore the opinion of their own union members have no intention of organising the fight against cheap labour.

The only fight, the only concessions won on YTS and Community Programme schemes have been where the youth have organised and mobilised themselves, in spite of and against the bureaucracy.

Many youth have become cynical towards the trade union movement and the blame for this must lie with trade union leadership. The attitude of these leaders towards the youth is the same as that to recruiting or poaching members and making no strike and single union deals. The primary consideration and motive is not to strengthen the class as a whole in its fight against the employers, but to strengthen and preserve their privileges. In doing this they are eroding away the very foundations of the trade union movement.

The youth are only statistics to these overpaid bureaucrats. When youth do go further than the wishes of these gentlemen in fighting back, like the CP workers in Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland, organising actions like the 30,000 strong strike of scheme workers in June, they try to destroy this movement, to let it die. Class collaboration is far more palatable to these reformists.

The trade union leaders have also betrayed the unemployed keeping them separate from the organised working class. It is not true, as Edmonds says, that the union membership opinion is in favour of Employment Training. Many workers will find their jobs under threat working side by side with trainees working in the same job just for their benefits.

We demand that these trainees be recruited by the rank and file so they can organise the fight for parity in earnings, working conditions and employee status. Workers, employed and unemployed, need more than ever to unite against the attacks on the working class as a whole.

BUILDING A MOVEMENT

Youth are beginning to organise to defend themselves and the trade union movement must assist them in developing a movement against youth slavery and wage slavery in general.

When bureaucrats like Edmonds cry crocodile tears about 'not abandoning the youth and the unemployed' they are, more often than not, grieving over the possibility that the trade unions might abandon government bodies like the Training Commission and are worrying about retaining their privileged positions. That the emancipation of the workers can come only through developing a leadership that will organise and mobilise the mass of young workers we are certain. The future of any movement lies with the youth and any movement which disregards them are sawing at the very branch they are sitting on.

Those fighting on the schemes have already started a movement against wage slavery and cheap labour. Following the national one day strike organised by the Transport and General Workers Union (T&GWU) Community Programme Shop Stewards Combine in June rank and file committees in opposition to the government 'workhouse' schemes have sprung up in Wales, Scotland, the North East, the Midlands, Sheffield and the North West.

A lobby of the TUC is planned on Monday 5th September and demonstrations showing the breadth of opposition to 'youth slavery' have already occurred on Merseyside and in Wales. Disruption of the public launch of ET in eight regions have been organised and a movement is slowly gathering pace against the destitution being forced upon the unemployed by Thatcher.

We demand the TUC withdraw support from the implementation of slave labour but do not rely on them doing so. We will fight regardless, with or without the official trade union movement, within and without of it.

FOR PROPER JOBS AND TRAINING UNDER TRADE UNION CONTROL AND SUPERVISION PAYING THE RATE FOR THE JOB!

FULL HEALTH AND SAFETY COVER FOR ALL TRAINEES!

UNITY OF THE EMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYED AGAINST YOUTH SLAVERY!

NO CHEAP LABOUR SCHEMES!

LAWRS for Women

The past few years have witnessed an increase in the organisation of women's groups. One of the groups formed is the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS) seeking to promote the rights of Latin American women as a minority group in England. Since 1984 LAWRS has been giving advice and information in Spanish in areas such as; social security, housing, health, employment, immigration, the family, and has also been offering interpreters. LAWRS main objectives are:

many enquiries about housing (resulting from the limited access which immigrant women have to public housing) a women's housing co-operative has been established. This co-op has already acquired two houses and is continuing to develop.

With the aim of maintaining our culture we also have projects like the play scheme and the Christmas celebrations, which combine entertainment with education for children.

PUBLICATIONS:

WARMI, the word for women in Quechua, an indigenous Andean language, is a newsletter which attempts to fill the need for published information



Women's Health

- The relief of poverty, suffering and distress among Latin American women and their children in London.

- To provide Latin American women with advice and bilingual information on welfare rights, health, education, employment, tax, family matters, etc.

- To act as a referral service for the Latin American women living and working in London.

- To organise short-term educational and training projects in consultation with interested women.

- To give support to and work together with Latin American women's organisations around specific issues, such as child care projects, women's aid, recreation, etc.

- To promote the rights of Latin American women living and working in London and in so doing, to encourage an active participation in the community.

The Latin American community in London has to deal with diverse problems, the main ones being; housing, exploitation at work, low wages, lack of child care provision, economic problems, matrimonial problems and domestic violence. LAWRS has attempted to find solutions for some of these problems, for example, in response to the

in Spanish. It aims to give the latest news on immigration, health, housing and social security, cultural events and activities in the Latin American community. It also encourages women's writing and is written by women from the Latin American community in London.

The women's library maintains and expands our knowledge of culture and history. It provides information in Spanish on topics such as maternity, sexuality, feminism and literature. It also has a number of books for children.

One of the latest achievements of the Service has been the creation of a refuge for battered women, as, unfortunately, this type of violence is quite common in our community.

The Service seeks to promote positive development by and for women, fighting for our rights as Latin Americans in a new environment, and facing all the problems that emerge from living in a society with customs and values which are different from ours.

Latin American Women's Rights Service
Priory House, Kingsgate Place
London NW6 4TA
Tel: 01 372 6408

Hostels Faced With Closure

ED BARBOR

The attacks made by the Tories on gays and lesbians and blacks under the cover of protecting our culture and clamping down on 'drug dealers' (the same excuses given by the National Front) have been accompanied by attacks on women's rights.

The latest of these attacks have come in the form of propping up the traditional capitalist nuclear family and returning to "Victorian values" by making it increasingly difficult for women to leave their husbands.

Income Support, introduced in April, started this process by defining any property owned by the couple as savings, so if a woman leaves her husband she must state half of the value of the house as savings and will be excluded Income Support if it exceeds £6,000.

This has been continued by a government proposal to withdraw board and lodging payments to battered women's hostels and other establishments that provide some care or support to victims of family violence.

These payments would be replaced by normal housing benefit which covers only the renting of accommodation. As over a third of battered women's hostels receive more than three quarters of their income from the board and lodgings payments made by the DHSS this would be disastrous for an already underfunded facility.

Women must be guaranteed not just the right but also given the ability to leave their husband if they feel the need. This can only be guaranteed if they can be sure of an income independent of their ex-husbands.

French and British Miners Oppose Six Day Working

A delegation of six French miners and three miners wives visited Great Britain last month. They were representing 1,800 workers of the Gardanne mines in Southern France who have been in struggle against the stringent policies of the Mitterand Government. The delegation were here to ask for support from the British miners and the working class.

Their struggle began, demanding better wages, against the national agreement that gave them a wage increase of only 1.1%. They have not had a wage increase since 1982 and in this time they have lost around 7% of their buying power.

They began their struggle for better wages on 7th April striking for two hours every eight hours they worked

On 27th April, the management paid them for just three hours a day (instead of the six hours really worked) and victimised at least 18 leaders and activists. These measures were considered to be a provocation, which was answered by an indefinite strike involving the whole workforce including the office employees and the workers of the electricity generating station which uses the coal from the mine. **Faced with the possibility of repression by the police they decided to occupy the mine on the night of the 13th May.**

Since this date the struggle has escalated with the workers demanding a 5% increment on their wages, the payment of the three hours the management owe them from 7th April to 27th April, and the suspension of the sanctions against their comrades.

The campaign of closure of the mines pursued by the French government began in 1978.

One of the central policies of the electoral campaign of Mitterrand in 1981 was against the closure of the mines. But when he took power he continued with the same policy as the right parties (this continued during the years when the Communist Party was part of the Government). **Mines have been closed as the government have invested in semi-colonial countries with cheap labour and in nuclear power.**

The last mine to close, in the central area of France only did so after a 13 month strike.

Gardanne is one of the most modern pits in Europe. The new technology installed in the pit means that it does not need any subsidies



to ensure profitability and is ripe for privatisation.

LANCASHIRE MINERS

During the visit of the French miners a meeting was held at the Leigh miners club in Lancashire.

One of the miners wife's told the meeting: *"a strong tradition exists amongst the miners wives in fighting with their husbands. We began organising from the beginning of the strike and occupied the Coal Board office in Paris. During the election campaign Mitterand made a lot of promises - as he has always done. After the election nothing changed and the women went on hunger strike for 23 days, in support of the miners demands. When we stopped the hunger strike it was only because we preferred carrying on fighting than dying."*

One of the French miners made connections between their struggle and others:

"The seafarers in Dover and the miners in Gardanne have the same struggle to save jobs and communities. The issues facing the Gardanne miners are no different to those faced by British miners in 1984 and 85, or by them today. We need to combine together internationally in Britain, France or in South Africa. The strike is not only over wages but also conditions. The French coal Board want a 6 or 7 day working week. This means they will be closing pits and losing jobs - 30,000 will be faced with the sack."

Arthur Scargill also spoke from the platform. He congratulated the French miners

on their struggle and reminded every miner of their debt when he said that it was these French miners who helped send four lorries of toys in order that not one miners child would go without a present during the Christmas of the British strike. He continued: *"The Coal Board want to concentrate production in fewer units and fewer pits and they want to move to 6 or 7 days working. I have seen plans for North Selby where the seams are 12 feet thick. They want 7 days working each week. that will mean 2 to 3 million tonnes per year. British miners should resist the imposition of 6 or 7 days working. Pits are being made ready for privatisation"*

ISL FUND

We have a number of documents from the MAS, the IWL section in Argentina, which have only recently become available to us in English.

WE think that these documents are important and should be published here but we do not yet have the resources.

The documents include:
Conversations with Nahuel Moreno
Twentieth Century Revolutions
A Leninist Party or a Mandelist Party
We are sure these will be of interest to many readers.

Our fund will be used, in part, to ensure these documents become available in Britain. So if you want to read them help us publish them by sending a donation to:
ISL, P.O. Box 18, Stockport, SK6 4DH.

Atrocities in Palestine

The PLO have condemned the outrages of the Zionist attacks on the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the last eight months.

In a memorandum to the United Nations the PLO have stated that pregnant women have been singled out for particularly brutal treatment:

" Since January 1988 the Israeli occupation forces have adopted one more cowardly policy against Palestinian civilians. They have started to systematically attack and severely beat pregnant women resulting in hundreds of miscarriages and stillbirths, many due to the deliberate use of tear gas inside their homes. So far 1800 such cases of miscarriage have been reported."

They accuse the Israeli forces of using not only tear gas but other sorts of toxic gas which have caused many deaths amongst children.

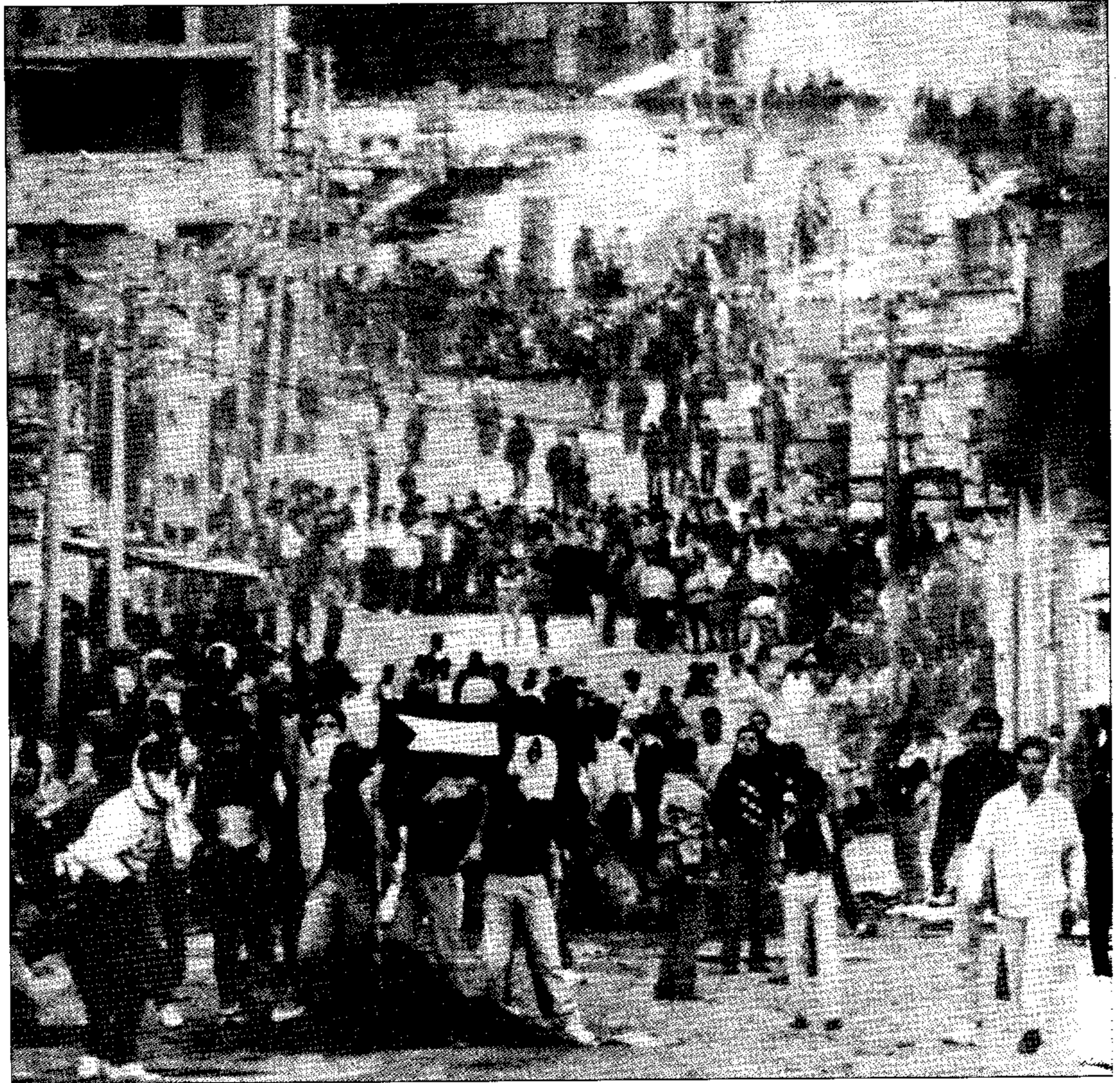
The women living in the occupied territories are singled out for attack because of their total support for the liberation struggle. The men are tortured and shot in prison, the youth are hounded on the streets and the women cornered in their homes with beatings and tear gas.

There is clearly a policy to force women to miscarry, to disarm the liberation forces of future fighters for their cause. We can leave it to the reader to put a name on the sort of force that organises such attacks.

THE UPRISING CONTINUES

Palestinian dead since January now numbers 300. This is growing daily and the Zionists intend to increase the ferocity of their attacks. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Defence Minister, said on the 17th August: *"We are now pre-empting violence before it starts by closing certain areas, sometimes even large areas like Gaza Strip."*

During the week of this statement the curfews imposed led to more injuries than at any time in the previous two months. Rabin is developing a practice aimed at the Palestinian masses and the committees of the uprising. Two hundred and fifty members of the underground committees have recently been jailed.



"We don't mind from time to time if we have to enforce our will, even if it means a confrontation in concrete ways. We prefer to use curfews to maintain order without violence. But when we decide to do it, any effort to violate what we impose will not be accepted."

As this news was being related to the whole world Ata Yussuf Agat, aged 20, was beaten to death by the army while in jail. Jemel Mohammed was shot and killed by troops in the Tulkaren refugee camp.

The underground committees and Palestinian masses will maintain their uprising against the Zionist terror machine. In the most recent leaflet from the committees distributed on the 23rd August they call on the Palestine National Council to: "support and develop the uprising". To stop this the Zionists will threaten the lives of every Palestinian man, woman and child.

Yellow International

The P.S.T. (Socialist Workers' Party) Spanish section of the IWL reports that in the last meeting of the European Council of the Second International in Madrid a strong condemnation of the Israeli's repressive policy was avoided: "because it could damage the Labour Party of Shimon Perez."

The Second International was formed, among others, by **the Israeli Labour Party** - led by Shimon Peres, Minister of the Genocidal Israeli Government - and by **the British Labour Party**.

LETTER ON PALESTINE

Dear Socialist Voice,

I am writing in response to the article "Break Links with Zionism" published in the July issue of Socialist Voice. It embodies a political logic which cannot go uncontested.

The anonymous author defines Zionism as "a backward collection of ancient prejudices which declares one small group of the world's inhabitants to be the 'chosen' people."

This statement grotesquely equates Zionism with Judaism, a reactionary and disgraceful amalgam which the nationalist pro-Arafat PLO wing, for example, has long repudiated.

Even worse, the author refers to "genocidal" Zionist tendencies to which the (Israeli) government defers.

Among the evidence of "genocide" produced is the fact that eight inhabitants of Nablus were recently "exiled to the Lebanon." Also cited is the killing of an Arab shepherd by Jewish settlers. Is Socialist Voice unaware of the distinction between exile and murder? And is Voice unaware of the difference between the killing of individuals, or even groups of individuals, and the campaigns for the systematic and total elimination of entire categories of persons?

Examples of the latter are the mass extermination of Armenians at the hands of the Turkish state at the turn of the twentieth century, and the treatment of Jews in Europe under Fascism.

The author of "Break Links..." and all Socialist

Voice editorial staff who approved it owe an apology both to Jews and to all other social groups who to this day bleed from the bombs, bullets, barbed wire and gas of imperialism in decline. To lightmindedly collapse oppression - including foul murders - into genocide is to display contempt for the struggle for emancipation throughout the world. It is the rhetoric of a demagogue, not the analysis of a revolutionary materialist.

I hope that you will publish this letter and use it as an opportunity to clarify your position on the relationship between Judaism and political Zionism.

David Binns

HOW MANY MURDERS MAKE GENOCIDE?

Socialist Voice recognises in Binns letter an attempt to belittle the oppression of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Zionist State.

Most importantly he refuses to recognise the oppression of the Palestinians as a people but refers to them instead as "individuals or even groups of individuals."

The history of Imperialist intervention in Palestine has been one in which the Palestinians have suffered collective punishment and punishment intended as warnings to the whole of the people.

The Zionist State from the beginning used collective methods against the Palestinian people. They started a campaign for Jewish labour, violently attacking any businesses that employed Arab labour.

Their intention was to drive the Palestinian people out of their homeland and by whatever means necessary. This is what lay behind the genocidal massacre at Deir Yassin in 1948 - a Palestinian village in which all the inhabitants were wiped out by the Zionists.

But the Palestinian people would not lay down and die. Instead they strengthened their resistance as an organised and oppressed nation. The violent and bloody expulsion of the majority of the Palestinians from within the 1948 borders did not crush the Palestinian nation. This is why the Zionists continued to pursue the Palestinians wherever they fled. In the invasion of the Lebanon alone they killed 20,000 Palestinian Lebanese (what Binns would call 20,000 individuals or even groups of individuals).



RACIST MASSACRE

When virtually every Palestinian man between the ages of 16 and 60 had been killed, rounded up into concentration camps or expelled from the Lebanon then the Zionists closed off Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps - put powerful spotlights on the camps and let the fascist Phalange in armed with Israeli weapons.

The result - massacre of everything that moved; women, children and even livestock.

This was a particularly brutal episode. An attempt by the Zionists to finish off the Palestinian people.

The more subtle approaches are the long term separation of families, men and women in an attempt to solve the 'demographic problem' ie. to eliminate them as a people.

Binns should look a little more carefully at "the treatment of Jews in Europe under Fascism." The Nazis began not with a 'systematic and total elimination of entire categories of person' but exactly as the Zionists; with deportations, brutality, terror and massacre.

Just like the Zionists the Nazi State encouraged and protected unofficial armed thugs whose genocidal intentions were clear. The obvious comparison today is the settlers who are now firmly behind Kahane.

ZIONIST-NAZI COLLABORATION

The Zionist State is a racist State, racism is built into it, both towards the Jews and the Palestinians. This was recognised even before the establishment of the State of Israel by the Nazi State of Germany in which only two flags were allowed, one was the Swastika, the other the Zionist flag.

Socialist Voice recognises that Zionism does not have its roots in Judaism but in Imperialism. Zionism serves the interests not of the Jews but of the Imperialists. On this issue we are emphatic! Zionism has however incorpo-

rated many repressive and reactionary aspects of Judaism into the State both in ideology and in laws. On this too, we are emphatic.

The most important part of the article criticised by Binns, has been completely ignored by him. Where does Binns stand on the calls we made at the end of the article **for the Labour and Trade Union movement to sever all links with the Histadrut and for the disaffiliation of Trade Union Friends of Israel?**

We are asking Binns if these are demands he will be fighting for in his trade union. In other words we are asking him;

"which side are you on?"

EDITORIAL BOARD

POLAND: Fresh Forces, Militant Tactics

MARTIN RALPH

“Down with Perestroika” striking workers demanded as they fight to maintain their living standards against the crushing economic reforms of the Jaruzelski regime.

Perestroika, Polish style, has been completely supported by Gorbachev in a visit he made in July, only four weeks before the latest wave of strikes and occupations.

As with the earlier strikes in April and May a new leadership of young militants has developed. In particular they led 10,000 miners in Silesia and 5,000 workers on the Baltic Coast.

On the 22nd August Polish exports were suspended. The wave of strikes involved over 76,000 workers. For a time the main coal port of Poland, Szczecin, was completely silent. The strike had hit 11 coal mines in the Katowice region in Southern Poland and nine factories and other enterprises throughout the country.

The recent strikes were a surprise to some of the solidarity leaders. The government sought three ways to stop the strike and all methods were aimed at the new young leadership that emerged last April.

The Jaruzelski government emphasised the Walesa leadership's demands for the recognition of Solidarity, as did the western governments and media.

But it is the brutal economic reforms that are the immediate driving force behind the movement. Inflation has now reached 60%, it has been fuelled by government withdrawal of subsidies. Millions of Poles are now selling or bartering their possessions.

Living standards are worse for most than they were in 1980, the year which saw the birth of Solidarity. Living costs are 50% higher in 1988 than they were at the end of last year.

Harsh political measures were directed in the areas where new leaders had emerged. Force was first used against the tram and bus depots occupied by strikers in the North Western city of Szczecin. The occupation was being directed by the Inter Factory Strike Committee.

The strongest police attacks, however, have been against miners and in some areas they

have been forced back to work. The police have used water cannon and imposed curfews in strike bound regions. Even by government figures over 60 have been detained.

Jaruzelski sought a front with the Roman Catholic Church in order to contain and attack the strike wave. Yet the strike wave is continuing as Socialist Voice goes to press.

This movement is just a small part of what is to come as workers struggle against the perestroika plan of the government. Workers in a national referendum have already rejected Jaruzelski's proposed reforms. There is no solution that the bureaucracy can offer that will satisfy young workers. 50% of the population is below 30.

It is this force that will bear the brunt of the Government attacks. It is this force that are and will be in the forefront to defend and regenerate the Workers' State. They are implacable enemies of the privileges and corruption of the bureaucracy.

The British working class should maintain the internationalism that has seen increasing delegations of workers going abroad to meet their fellow workers. The miners, shipyard and transport workers should elect delegates to go and investigate and see for themselves the conditions that Polish workers are fighting. It is their responsibility to make the links with the Polish workers in struggle.



ANGOLA: Stalinist Treachery

The treachery of the Soviet Union continues to allow South African apartheid to try and rescue themselves from imminent defeat in Angola.

Recent news shows that South African troops numbering 20,000 have already suffered 400 deaths in the recent confrontation.

The Angolans with the help of the Cuban forces had established air superiority over Southern Angola. This is a complete reverse of some months ago when 300 Israeli technicians helped to jam Angola's radar allowing the South African Army to launch a brutal civilian slaughter.

It is now widely acknowledged in the worlds press that the main reason South Africa agreed to a cease-fire was the imminent defeat of the apartheid reactionary forces in Angola.

TALKS

The fifth round of talks in Brazzaville, Congo, were intended to maintain apartheid military superiority. But a new stage has now been reached.

For thirteen years South African forces have roamed Southern Angola with impunity and with the aid of two black battalions of renegade Namibians and Unita forces. The arrogance was shown before the military setbacks when General Jannie. J. Geldehuys said that the South African military: *“has no equal on the African continent in terms of operational efficiency and combat readiness.”* Yet the tide turned four months ago with the increased technical efficiency of the Angolans and the deployment of an extra 12,000 Cuban troops.

RESISTANCE AMONGST WHITES

There is also a growing resistance amongst white South Africans to join in the repression of blacks in Angola, Namibia and at home in the black townships. **In August over 140 white men refused to fight. This resulted in the banning of the ‘End Conscription Campaign’.**

The primary cause of this movement is the growing resistance in the townships and the development of the struggle against apartheid. This is why PW Botha, South African president, is demanding an immediate withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. He is trying to maintain the upperhand and in this he is getting the full support from the stalinist bureaucracy.

ANC WOO BUSINESSMEN

BILL HUNTER

For some time there have been reports that the leadership of the African National Congress was amending the ANC Freedom Charter adopted in 1955. In August, the suggested new document, which these leaders consider would be the basis for a constitution of a post-apartheid state, was published.

In the past the 'Freedom Charter' has been looked upon as a socialist document, with its declaration that the national wealth should be restored to the people.

In the last few years a powerful force has emerged on the scene pushing forward to the economic and political break up of South African society. The African working class, one of the most class conscious in the world, has been demanding not just the end of apartheid but the end of capitalist exploitation.

COSATU

The demand for workers power, nationalisation and socialism came inevitably to the front in the upsurge of the working class in the factories and the mines. It was central to the recent struggles of the working class which brought about the Congress of South African Trades Unions (COSATU) in 1986 and to the struggles in the South African townships.

The South African working class is imbued not only with a deep hatred of apartheid racist brutality, but with hatred of the monopolies and the smaller capitalists who benefit from the state repression. It was expressed in the union demands to 'open the books' and COSATU's declaration: "workers can manage" and in their answer to Botha's attacks on public service jobs coupled with plans for privatisation. The "COSATU News" declared in May that:

"Workers solution to the economic crisis is to nationalise the big monopolies under the control of the workers so that the wealth we produce can be used to improve the lives of the working people".

WORKERS LEADERS ARRESTED

Struggling against State instigated thuggery in the townships, in continuous struggle for the right to speak, meet and organise, against arrests and murders, the African working class and their children are pushed towards social revolutionary solutions based on their own power. Leaders of their own unions, such as Moses Mayekiso, General Secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), have been held in solitary confinement for months awaiting trial for leading workers defence organisa-

tions in the townships. Mayekiso is charged by the State of being responsible for building the Alexandra Action Committee and declaring that the existing social and economic system should be replaced with a 'socialist political order.'

In Miritzburg, a COSATU-UDF (United Democratic Front) alliance set up organisations to defend working class families against the Inkatha vigilante thugs and the police. A leading activist from the COSATU local declared;

"We have always believed that we, the workers are the only people who can defend themselves. We are prepared to try, and keep trying, with court interdicts and peace negotiations but we will not relax for one minute our efforts to build our own self defence; to mobilise the community against the vigilante forces who are attacking us and to take action to stop these attacks. If we had not organised to defend ourselves, the democratic movements and COSATU would already have been dead here. And that would set the struggle back in our country." (COSATU NEWS, May)

A COMMON SOLUTION?

But this reliance on workers strength to resolve the national democratic and social questions of the African struggle is not that of the middle class and Communist Party leadership of the ANC, particularly since the Gorbachev policy of the Soviet leaders, and their attempts to find a common solution with imperialism to the

struggle for freedom.

The leadership of the ANC during the past two years have already directed their efforts to oppose the socialist aims of the ranks in COSATU and promoting the "two-stage" theory of the struggle - first freedom from apartheid and **then** socialism.

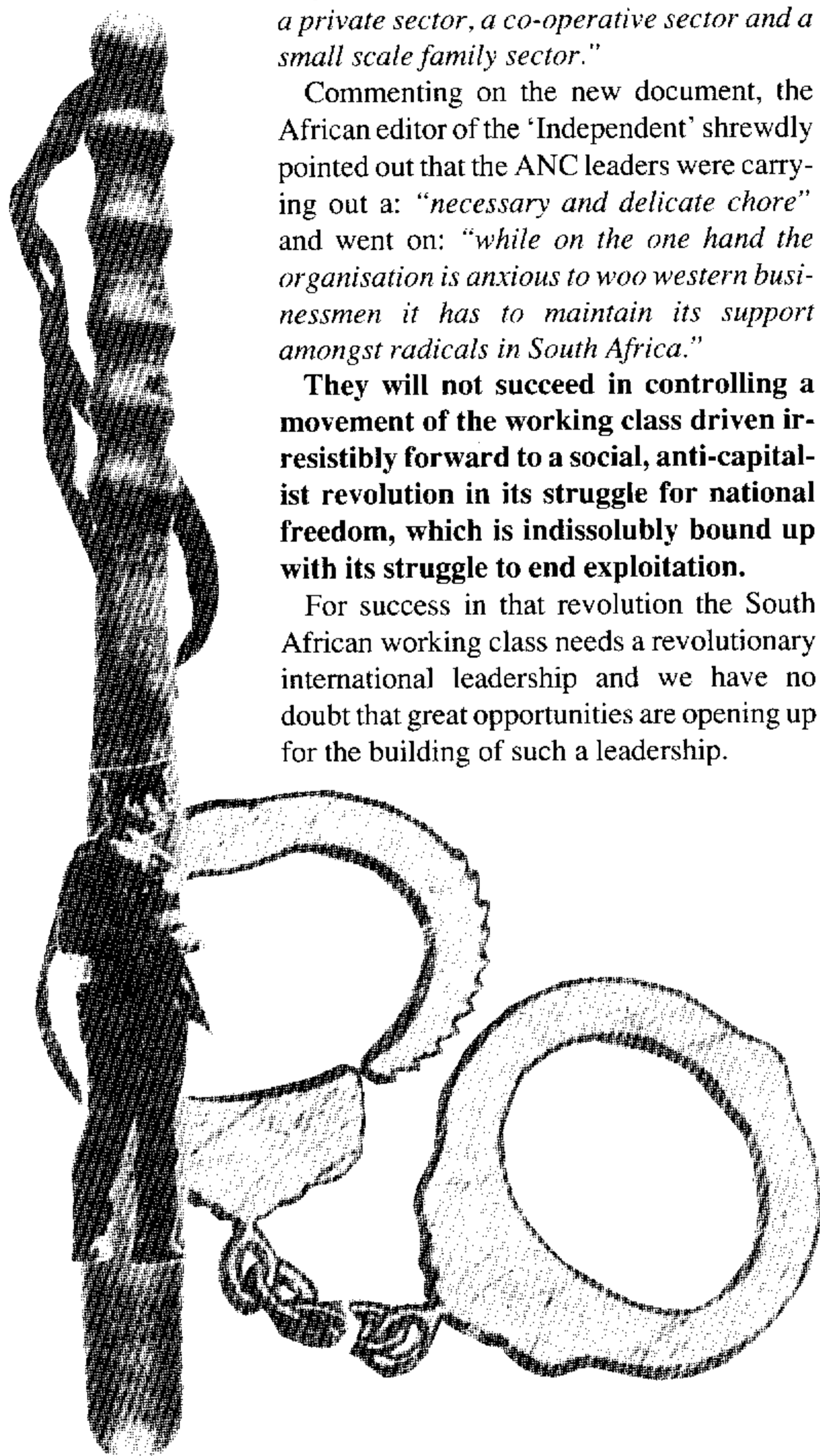
That means the road taken by other African States, such as Zimbabwe, where the achievements of freedom from direct imperialist rule has meant the development of **native capitalists** with the continuance of domination by the imperialist firms. Now the ANC makes a retreat from nationalisation and declares:

"The private sector shall be obliged to cooperate with the State in realising the objectives of the Freedom Charter in promoting social well being." and says that: *"The economy shall be a mixed one with a public sector, a private sector, a co-operative sector and a small scale family sector."*

Commenting on the new document, the African editor of the 'Independent' shrewdly pointed out that the ANC leaders were carrying out a: *"necessary and delicate chore"* and went on: *"while on the one hand the organisation is anxious to woo western businessmen it has to maintain its support amongst radicals in South Africa."*

They will not succeed in controlling a movement of the working class driven irresistibly forward to a social, anti-capitalist revolution in its struggle for national freedom, which is indissolubly bound up with its struggle to end exploitation.

For success in that revolution the South African working class needs a revolutionary international leadership and we have no doubt that great opportunities are opening up for the building of such a leadership.



EL SALVADOR:

Duarte Saved by the Guerillas

After nine years of war, with 60,000 to 70,000 deaths (more than 1 % of the population) the main hope of the Salvadorean people can be no other than the end of the war.

But peace can only be achieved through the revolutionary defeat of the Government, the bourgeoisie and imperialism.

In El Salvador the tasks of the revolution can only be carried out by an insurrection involving the mass movement. There is no possibility of the Guerrillas leading a revolution without mass mobilisation. This was clearly and honestly exposed by the Sandinista leaders. The Sandinista commander, Luis Carrion said: *"The predominant element of our war was the insurrection (...) There were spontaneous mini-insurrections that demonstrated a big combativity and an extraordinary strength of the masses, while the political and military structures of the vanguard were in clear retreat."*

His brother, commander Javier Carrion, said: *"The war was won because of the participation of the people. Without this we could not do so much."* Ortega himself has said: *"... the fundamental part of the armed struggle was played by the Nicaraguan people... We could say that the masses had been permanently insurrected... The popular insurrection in Nicaragua was a phenomenon born from all the people, fundamentally the most modest, the most exploited and oppressed people of the country and the city... It was the masses who told their vanguard, the Sandinista Front: "This is the way to fight!" We, the vanguard, did nothing else*

than to lead this desire, this decision, this popular creativity." ("Central America between two fires", pages 33 and 34).

TRUTH REJECTED

This truth has been rejected by the stalinist leadership of the Salvadorean guerrillas, the FDR-FMLN (Revolutionary Democratic Front - Farabundo Marti National Liberation) since the Communist Party joined the guerrilla organisations and took them away from the workers and the masses of the cities. At the same time they imposed a new programme for the struggle: they no longer talk of the defeat of Duarte. Now they are calling for a "national dialogue" to "reorganise" the government.

The results of these policies of Stalinism were shown in the last Mayday rally when the National Salvadorean Workers Trade Union (pro-guerrillist) organised a rally attended by only 3,000, instead of the 40,000 involved two years earlier.

Faced by this reality Ruben Zamora, vice-president of the F.D.R. said that *"The guerrillas have been trying to work in two ways: the political struggle with students and trade unionists and a military campaign. But now they are facing a contradiction: they must choose to emphasise the military or the political."*

So, the stalinist leadership began to emphasise the political aspect. In June the M.T.P.L. (Movement for Bread, Land, Work and Liberty) was formed. But, of course, lamentably, this new organisation is **not directed toward organising the mass insurrection to defeat the pro-imperialist bourgeois government**

of Duarte but towards the incorporation of "all democratic sectors of our society" (including the bourgeoisie and imperialism) towards a "Government of Broad Participation".

In other words, the MTPL is a new instrument to try to win massive support for the stalinist policy of *"dialogue with the Government, political parties and Armed Forces in El Salvador"*. As Ruben Zamora said: *"It is a policy of popular national consensus that we are promoting today in El Salvador."*

In the same way, captain Elias Angel, member of the FMLN's political - military leadership of the North Front, said: *"Although there appears to be a contradiction, there isn't really. Since 1981 we have been talking about the alternative of a political solution and we believe that this alternative could reduce the social costs and establish a viable and just solution. A political solution would allow us a much easier, quicker and more human process of reconstruction..."*

After seven years, with thousands of deaths, nobody can continue talking about an easier, quicker and more human process. They are betraying the masses.

We affirm that there is no chance of peace, or, of course, bread, land, work and liberty, for the Salvadorean masses without a mass insurrection to defeat the Army, the Government and imperialism. The guerrilla leadership will not do this because of their policy of "agreement and dialogue" carried out by the FDR-FMLN and supported by the USSR, Cuba and Nicaragua. **Another counter-revolutionary tactic of Stalinism.**

Bush and Dukakis : The Same Policy

Daniel Ortega, President of Nicaragua and Ruben Zamora, vice-president of the F.D.R. (Revolutionary Democratic Front) of El Salvador have expressed expectations on the possibility of a change of the USA's administration on Central America if the Democrats win the next elections.

This is a completely false hope. Of course we cannot say that Republicans and Democrats are "exactly" the same. But it must not be forgotten that "both" parties are representatives of the USA imperialist bourgeoisie; both of them are mortal enemies of any anti-imperialist movement in the semi-colonial countries. They could, sometimes, have different tactics, but their objective is the same; they want to continue, and increase if possible, the exploitation of the people of the under-developed countries.

What is unfolding in Nicaragua and El Salvador is a revolutionary anti-imperialist process. Tactics may change after the elections, but **the policy of the North American administration will not change if it is not defeated by the revolutionary movement of the masses.**

The Democrats, as the Republicans, have always attempted to smash every revolutionary process worldwide. It was the Democrat President John. F. Kennedy who initiated the intervention of the US Army in Vietnam. And it was John. F. Kennedy too, who ordered the ill fated invasion of the Bay of the Pigs in Cuba.

At present we can find many more concrete examples.

Senator Bentsen, candidate for vice-President of the Democratic Party, has always voted beside the Republicans on the issue of aid for the Nica-

raguan "Contras".

Now the Democrats are elaborating a proposal on this same issue with the objective of obtaining the votes of the Republicans in the Senate. The New York Times on August 4th said that the Democrats proposed 27 million dollars aid for food, clothes and medicines to the "Contras" and this opened the possibility for military aid.

In this context, to raise the expectation of a "change" of policy of the US administration is a demobilising policy that weakens the masses in front of the continuous attacks of the counter-revolutionary forces.

On August 2nd, the "Contras" attacked a ship with two hundred civilians on board killing two and injuring twenty seven.

IN THE THROWS OF MASS REVOLT

PETE WINDELER

A successor to U Sein Lwin was announced by Burma's state-run Radio Rangoon, he is 64 years old Maung Maung. Although he is the first civilian leader of Burma for 26 years he is infamous for writing a prize-winning book which flattered U Ne Win the blood-thirsty despot who preceded U Sein Lwin. At the time the book was written the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party was finding it difficult to recruit members other than army and police personnel.

The extent of the corruption of recent years in Burma is now coming to light.

Ruling party members received larger rations than ordinary workers. These extra rations were sold on the black market for ten times what party members paid. Also there are special shops only for party members where goods unavailable to the general public can be bought, these goods are also sold on the black market.

Party members and their families can travel abroad freely whereas the person in the street is restricted when it comes to travelling, especially abroad. Cheap loans are available to party members who also can buy land. Senior army officers get top positions in state-run corporations after they retire. Before retirement they live in the select districts of Rangoon such as Windermere and Golden Valley, enjoying a life style the envy of the have-nots outside the party.

Last summer U Sein Lwin took over the entire floor of a Philadelphia hospital and the former military ruler U Ne Win runs a large estate in Bavaria.

CIVIL UPRISINGS

Burma is now considered to be ungovernable. Most civil servants have deserted their posts and local government has collapsed. In late August Burma's second largest city, Mandalay, witnessed a demonstration against the regime numbering 100,000 protesters.

A doctor demonstrating outside Burma's embassy in London told TV reporters that only people with money were admitted to hospitals in Burma. If they had none they were turned away. Those with money had to buy the drugs required on the black market while in hospital themselves. TV reporters



attempted to interview the embassy workers but no one was prepared to comment, instead those inside the embassy busied themselves by taking photographs of individual demonstrators.

Burma has its own feared secret police, who, if they cannot arrest who they wish, frequently imprison their close family.

Meanwhile on the streets in Burma the question everyone is asking is where is the country's strongman, General U Ne Win who has not been seen since the crisis blew up.

LATEST NEWS

The latest news from Burma is that the army have withdrawn to their barracks (24.8.88) leaving the masses in control of the cities and countryside.

Reports also speak of a massacre at Rangoon's Insein jail where, during anti-government meetings held by prisoners, guards shot dead 1,000 inmates.

In Burmese prisons, political prisoners are housed in the same compounds as other prisoners and it appears that political prisoners addressed the meetings and the guards shot the speakers before murdering the rest of the inmates.

The military government has been forced to release several leading dissidents one of which was U Aung Gyi who addressed a mass rally in a working class district of Rangoon to "tumultuous applause". U Aung Gyi is thought to be a prospective leader when the expected fall of the military government materialises.

The Burmese working class are now taking decisive action to topple the regime with strikes taking place in key industries such as the railways and air transport.

Burmese Government Retreats

Unrest in Burma has claimed the lives of over 3,000 people in Rangoon, the country's capital since a mobilisation was called to oust the newly installed military dictator U Sein Lwin. At least 500 have been killed in one other town.

The mobilisation has so far succeeded and U Sein Lwin has had to step down. The call being made on the streets is for the return of democracy and free elections.

A General Strike was called on Monday 8th August which resulted in 100,000 protesters

flooding the streets of Rangoon. Marchers carried red flags and confronted the military who had been sent to mercilessly suppress the show of defiance.

There has been a military dictatorship in Burma since 1962 when the hated military strongman General Ne Win staged a coup d'etat.

The masses have come onto the scene as life has now become unbearable for ordinary people, especially since this year when subsidies on basic food stuffs have been abolished. The military government operates via its own so called 'Burma Socialist Programme Party'.

Economic reforms were introduced earlier in the year to meet the demands of Burma's 'paymaster', Japan, resulting in the quadrupling of the price of rice, the country's staple food.

Burma is a land of fabulous potential and for centuries feudal kings entered into bitter struggle to enjoy the benefits of rule while the masses struggled to exist.

Before independence Burma was part of Britain's Indian Empire. Its constitution was based on bourgeois democracy which, as always, depends upon armed force to impose its rule when unable to do so by way of the ballot box.

In fact, before the military coup in 1962 the then elected government, the AFPFL, invited General Ne Win to take over the government and 'pacify the country'.

Now the masses are demanding their just deserts, the ability to feed their families and freedom from military despots. The first step must be to deal with the army.

During the mobilisations which have been nationwide the crowds have confronted the army with great bravery. In many towns soldiers have refused orders to fire on unarmed demonstrators. The workers have pleaded with soldiers to come over to their side and in many instances soldiers have deserted and come to their aid.

Luis Zamora

LUIS ZAMORA, an Argentine lawyer, well known in Latin America as a fighter for human rights and the Argentine presidential candidate of the Movement towards Socialism (MAS), the largest Trotskyist Party in Argentina will be visiting Europe in October and November.

He will be speaking at human rights meetings and meetings celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Fourth International. The latter meetings will be organised by the International Workers League - Fourth International. The ISL, British section of the IWL-FI is organising a meeting in Manchester early in November. The details will be announced later but here we have pleasure in giving our readers a short biography of this Latin American Trotskyist.

One Thursday in October 1977, the Argentine human rights organisations called a demonstration in front of the Congress building in Buenos Aires. The demonstration was against the military dictatorship led by General Videla. This was the first public demonstration against the military. One of those present was Luis Zamora, a lawyer who, some time before, had taken up the case of a Chilean girl who had been detained in Buenos Aires for political reasons.

Zamora was born in Buenos Aires in 1948. He is married and has a boy of six. He became a lawyer in 1975. After successfully defending his first case (he obtained the release of the Chilean girl, who was finally sent to Sweden) he devoted himself to the defence of more than two hundred cases of people who had been kidnapped by the Armed Forces. He also took up the cases of political prisoners, some of whom had been tried by military courts. He did this at a time when taking up the defence of these people was practically suicidal. Over two hundred lawyers were kidnapped at the time and are still missing for doing exactly that. Therefore he knew that taking up these cases would mean living under conditions of extreme clandestinity and permanent danger.

A FIGHTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1979, together with other lawyers, he founded the Centre for the

Study of Legal and Social Affairs. This became one of the most important institutions in the country devoted to the investigation of crimes committed by the dictatorship and to the defence of those persecuted by it. As a member of this organisation, Zamora became well known as a defence counsel for the relatives of the two French nuns snatched from their church, the Swedish girl Dagmar Hagelin, and several Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, all cases associated with the notorious Navy Lieutenant Astiz.

As a fighter for human rights and a member of the CSLSA, Zamora was one of those who denounced the crimes of the Argentine military before the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations at Geneva, and at the Conference on Missing People in Argentina which took place before the National Assembly in Paris. He was interviewed by the Swedish, French and British TV and by Le Monde.

Through his struggle for human rights he contacted a number of people who were fighting against the military dictatorship among whom was Naheul Moreno, the most important leader of the PST (Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores - Socialist Workers Party), and which became part of the MAS (Movimiento al Socialismo - Movement towards Socialism). **Zamora was one of the founding members of the MAS.**

BUILDING THE MAS

On July 1st, 1983, the MAS held its first rally. Fourteen thousand people, gathered at the Luna Park Stadium, decided he would be the presidential candidate of the party in the 1983 elections. It was during the 1983 presidential campaign that the MAS, through Luis Zamora, centered its policy on the non-payment of the foreign debt, against the proposals of the rest of the political parties in the country. **Owing to the development of the MAS and its role in the struggle against the payment of the foreign debt, Fidel Castro invited Zamora to attend a conference on this subject that took place in Havana in 1985. The Nicaraguan government also invited Zamora on two occasions for him to express in person and on Nicaraguan soil his rejection of American interventionism.**

During the years that followed the fall of the dictatorship, Zamora

Life of the IWL



2nd World Congress of the IWL (LIT)

In December the 2nd World Congress of the International Workers League will meet. This Congress is another step toward rebuilding the party of the world Socialist Revolution in the year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Fourth International by Leon Trotsky.

This Congress is particularly important because it will define the policy for the intervention of the International Workers League (Fourth International) in the present world economic and revolutionary crisis.

ARGENTINA: Support for the Armenians

On 27th July the MAS (Movement Toward Socialism), Argentine section of the IWL and the largest Trotskyist party in the world, organised a demonstration in support of the Armenian workers and people fighting against the oppressive policies of Gorbachev. It was supported by fifteen hundred people from Buenos Aires.

Elections

On 7th August the election of representatives to the Provincial Constitutional Assembly in Catamarca, a Northern province of Argentina, took place.

In the last elections in November 1987, the MAS obtained 392 votes and all the left parties together did not have more than 1,000 votes. Only a year later, the MAS (the only left party that stood candidates) independently obtained 3,000 votes.

ITALY

The "Lega Socialista Revolutionaria", Italian section of the IWL have organised a petition and obtained 28,000 signatures demanding the withdrawal of the Italian imperialist navy from the Persian Gulf where it is participating in the attacks against the Iranian people with the North American and the British navies.

To Visit Europe

kept up his indefatigable defence of human rights demanding the trial and punishment of the military responsible for the genocide. That is why from the very first day Dr Raul Alfonsin took power, Luis Zamora denounced his policy of giving immunity and freedom to the thousands who had tortured, kidnapped and assassinated political prisoners and trade union and student activists. **In September 1984, the government called a demonstration in the Plaza de Mayo in support of its policy on human rights. Only the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the MAS, headed by Luis Zamora were absent. All the other political parties in the country attended and gave their support. The correctness of those who did not attend was to be proved in the years that followed, when the government, with the support of Peronism, passed the laws of 'Final Stop' and 'Due Obedience' granting full immunity and releasing most of those responsible for the genocides.**

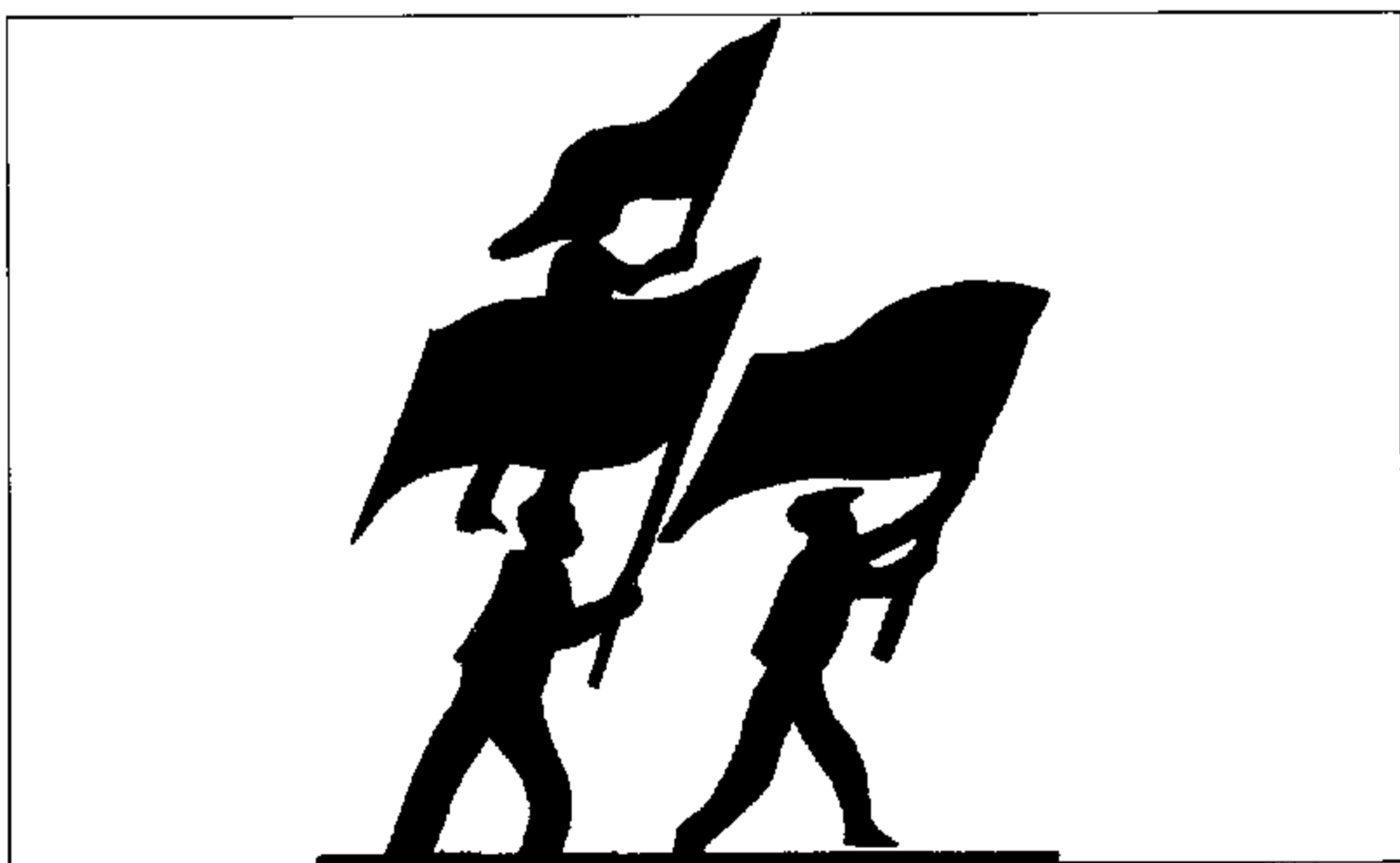
STEADFAST WITH THE WORKERS

Perhaps Luis Zamora is better known among Argentine workers for always being present at the most important strikes and demonstrations. He was with the workers of the Ford factory during their 19 days of occupation against a company plan of layoffs. He accompanied the construction workers of Neuquen in a 200 kilometre march and rally against low salaries and bad working conditions. He was at the sugar plantations of Nunorco, at the meat packing plants, and the banks which closed their doors leaving the workers without work. He marched with the teachers fighting for better salaries, and was at hundreds of places where the workers struggled against misery. It is not by chance that the members of a football team in the mines of Sierra Grande wear on their t-shirts the emblem of the MAS. There, in Sierra Grande, in June 1988, Zamora held the biggest political rally that had ever taken place among the miners.

A poll published by La Nacion, one of the most important papers in Argentina, showed that Zamora was one of the most popular politicians in the country and the most popular on the left. In the last elections, he was the candidate that received the highest number of votes on the left, surpassing those for a coalition led by the Communist Party. He received many more votes than were necessary to become a representative, but he was not appointed because of the anti-democratic law imposed by the military dictatorship.

At present, Luis Zamora is a member of the Central Committee of the MAS and has been proposed as presidential candidate for the elections in 1989.

At a MAS rally that took place on May Day at a football stadium, before 20,000 people, Luis Zamora called for the formation of a front of left wing parties to participate in the next presidential elections.



Britain Out of Ireland!

PETER MONEY

The Tory government has declared that it has decided upon "measures" to be used against the IRA and the Republican movement.

Internment may be re-introduced but the political advantage it gave to the republicans the last time round has shown this to be a two edged sword.

Army and police chiefs are believed to have doubts as to whether interning the current leadership would be effective in stemming the recent military successes of the IRA Active Service Unit's.

There have been suggestions that the border with the Republic should be sealed but the cost of this both economically and politically would be enormous.

The most likely option for the Tories is to increase the size of the military presence in the North but this itself has problems because of the growing feeling within Britain against military involvement in Ireland. Not least amongst the reasons for this is undoubtedly the apparent ease with which the IRA has been able to kill British military personnel in Ireland, Britain and Europe.

COURAGEOUS SUCCESSES

One of the reasons for the increased military successes of the IRA in recent weeks has been the acquisition of more sophisticated weapons and the increased support the struggle for national liberation has been winning internationally.

One particularly effective weapon has been Semtex explosive, manufactured in Czechoslovakia. Semtex is a very light, versatile and lethal explosive capable of penetrating all mobile armour currently in use in the North of Ireland. However, the issue of Semtex has revealed once again the counter-revolutionary nature of stalinism with the news that the Czech bureaucracy has reached an agreement to scent the normally undetectable explosive so that it can be traced by sniffer dogs.

Another of the Tory "measures" has been the pressure put on the Dublin government to stick to the terms of the Anglo-Irish Agreement ensuring the extradition of Republicans to the North goes ahead smoothly. This latest capitulation of Fianna Fail to the Tories has been widely condemned within the Republic. The leading Irish newspaper in Britain, the Irish Post, has come out against extradition and claimed in its editorial of 13th August that: "the Republic is now unique in the manner in which it will freely extradite."

This overt act of subservience of the Irish government to the Tories is part of the crisis that the Dail finds itself in and will serve only



to deepen that crisis.

Another success for the struggle against British occupation has been the recent ending of hostilities between factions of the INLA. They have split into two separate organisations both renewing military activities against the security forces.

As ever, Ireland, and the refusal of the Irish people to accept the domination of their country by Britain is haunting the Tory government.

However, just when the military successes of the Republican movement has been increasing the crisis of the Dublin government and that of the Tories the Gerry Adams leadership of Sinn Fein is going out of its way to hand the political initiative to the enemies of national independence and to give political credence to the likes of John Hume of the SDLP and even Fianna Fail.

In a letter in An Phoblacht R.G.McAuley, on behalf of Sinn Fein states: "*now is the time for all parties who support the concept of national independence to turn support into a practical campaign with the minimum objective of a negotiated British withdrawal*".

Sinn Fein and the wider Republican movement face a great danger in these talks of succumbing to the counter-revolutionary front for peace and democracy. British imperialism, unable to destroy the revolutionary aspirations of the Irish working class for national independence and unity, are trying to impose the same solution on Ireland by means of talks and agreements that they were unable to achieve over the last twenty years of bloody repression.

Despite the demagogy of the British state, the Loyalist bigots and the southern ruling class a thread runs through these talks which links them to all the other interventions of these three enemies of Irish workers. This link is the desire to crush the resistance to the partition of Ireland.

British troops out of Ireland is the only solution and should be the cry of all class conscious workers in Britain after the bombing of the coach in County Tyrone killing eight British soldiers.

The ISL condemn the hypocrisy and cowardice of leaders of the British Labour Party who join in the jingoism of Thatcher and King against the IRA.

We defend unconditionally the right of the repressed people in the North to carry out military operations against the British occupation forces.

Genuine socialists can only take one side on this issue. **You are either for British withdrawal or against it.**

When Hattersley calls for tighter border patrols he speaks the language of a social chauvinist, he is at one with Thatcher and Tom King supporting the partition of Ireland by Britain.

If the Parliamentary Labour Party were genuine in wanting a solution to the problems in Ireland they would fight for the troops to be withdrawn now. Every opinion poll shows the majority of British people want (for whatever reasons) the withdrawal of troops. They should fight for an end to job and house allocation discrimination that gives the loyalists automatic privileges over the nationalists.

They should fight for the disbanding of the RUC and for the banning of plastic bullets and an end to the degrading torture of Irish Republican women by the method of strip searching.

Every worker in a trade union or the Labour Party should demand of their leaders: "where do you stand on these issues?"

We do not believe the Labour Party and TUC chiefs would dare launch a campaign around any of these issues in the British working class. They are cowards through and through. **It was the Wilson Labour government which sent the troops into Ireland in 1969 and they have been the prop of the sectarian statelet ever since.**

The only way to fight in Britain to impel the British State to end its repressive policies and to withdraw from Ireland is by the self-mobilisation of the working class and allies in unity with our class brothers and sisters in Ireland.

NO INTERNMENT!

SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE!

TROOPS OUT NOW!