

TUC HAS SECRET TALKS WITH ARMY

Trade unionists in the East Anglian region are campaigning to expose meetings between leading trade unionists and top layers of the military.

Cambridge and District Trades Council has agreed to circulate evidence of such meetings to other trades councils throughout the country — and to inform CND and the peace movement.

First evidence came when a copy of the agenda for a meeting organised by the Royal College of Defence Studies was sent, it appears by mistake, to the Cambridge and Newmarket district committee of the AUEW.

It took place in the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich on April 23rd between six members of the East Anglia TUC Regional Council, mostly full-time union officials, and the following representatives of the military:

Brigadier J P Foley OBE MC, (late infantry), Colonel R K Barnes, Jamaica Defence Force, Dr B S Collins, Ministry of Defence, Group Captain R D Lightfoot AFC, Royal Air Force, Colonel A L M Massicot, French Air Force, Air Commodore D R Nadkarni AVSM VM, Indian Air Force, A J H Ward, Ministry of Defence, Captain N J Wilkinson, Royal Navy.

The mainly informal discussion over drinks and supper centred on some carefully worded questions from the military about the relationship between trade unions and the Labour party, the attitude of unions to new technology, nuclear power, the Common Market, NATO, nuclear disarmament — and two questions on the role of 'political extremists' in the unions.

Biographies distributed with the agenda indicate that the military personnel were no minor figures.

● Brigadier Foley, who headed the military delegation, has recently retired as a Commander in the SAS.

Educated at the universities of Grenoble and Madrid under Franco, he was awarded the OBE for his conduct of operations in Northern Ireland, where he commanded the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets in Londonderry.

● Colonel Barnes commanded the Caribbean troops in

the military intervention in Grenada in 1983.

● Ward is head of the MOD policy division responsible for US bases in the UK.

Ward's presence provoked a particularly bitter response at the Trades Council, whose meeting was just after the bombing of Libya from local US bases in East Anglia.

Feeling over the use of these bases runs high in Cambridge where local residents actually heard the planes take off.

The Trades Council has unanimously condemned the Libyan bombing.

It was pointed out at the trades council meeting that if the trade unions had known that any of these military figures was addressing a meeting in Cambridge, there would have been a demonstration.

That members of the TUC regional council should be meeting all eight of them at once was incredible!

Some delegates actually thought it was an April Fool's Day joke.

Mainly because of this, the trades council decided to delay action until they had checked with TUC regional secretary Ivor Jordan.

The agenda was sent out on regional TUC headed paper on Jordan's behalf.

Trades council delegates asked why members of the regional TUC from the trades council had not been informed. Jordan's written reply showed there was no joke.

Not only did he confirm this meeting but said that they had been going on for

BY CHRIS BAILEY

years, were going on throughout the country, and that representatives of the CBI were also involved.

A sinister note was struck when he said that the trade union officials attended as individuals, not as representatives of the regional TUC.

In other words, they are carefully selected behind the back of the regional TUC without the question being discussed by the full council meeting.

The trades council has confirmed that other meetings have indeed taken place.

Ted Brown, Divisional Organiser of the AUEW, present at the Norwich meeting, challenged at a shop stewards' meeting in Ipswich, said that he had attended such meetings 'two or three times a year'.

It is believed that one of the meetings took place during 1985 at the Blue Boar Hotel, Cambridge — which has consistently refused to recognise the GMWU.

It also appears from the agenda that another meeting took place recently in the South East region and that the meetings in East Anglia and the South East were part of a 'tour'.

Trade unionists throughout the country should support the campaign immediately to demand details of any such meetings locally.

Resolutions should be moved throughout the movement demanding to know why TUC leaders have attended such meetings, which are nothing more than a conspiracy of the state forces against the trade unions, Labour party, peace movement and left wing political parties in general.

BRITISH WORKERS & APARTHEID



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MORRIS STRIKERS TO START SUPPORT GROUP

STRIKERS at the Morris furniture factory in Glasgow aim to set up a support group at a meeting this Wednesday, July 9.

They are appealing to trades unionists to help find ways of strengthening their stand against their anti-union employer.

A meeting last Wednesday, attended by the strikers and some of the trades unionists who have supported their year-long fight, discussed opening up new fronts against Morris.

Shops which stock Morris furniture — Landmark, Vogue,

Goldbergs, Sterling, the Fraser group, Bows of Glasgow, Forrest, Sainsburys and others should be picketed.

An USDAW member proposed an approach to the union to try and step up blacking of Morris products. This should be taken up in USDAW nationally.

Morris furniture, along with beds from the strike-bound Silentnight Bedding company, is being marketed through the Co-op.

Labour Party branches and trades unions should raise this scabbing scandal far and wide.

FTATU deputy general

secretary Eric Goodall told Workers Press:

'People on the local boards of various co-ops are up in arms. The problem lies with the CWS, which acts as a sort of buying agency for all co-ops nationally.'

Extra funds are badly needed. Strikers fear the

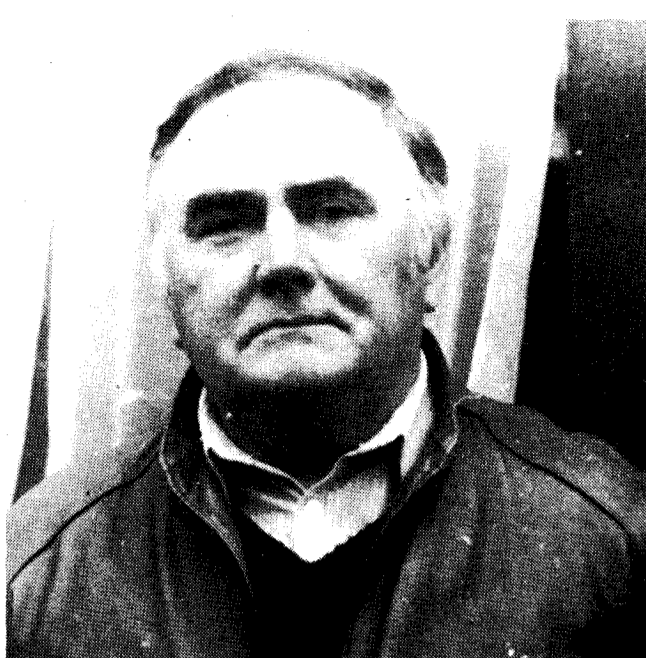
annual Glasgow holiday will mean a reduction in their income. Collections are to be organised in factories before they start.

● Wednesday's meeting takes place at 7.30 pm at the City Hall, Candleriggs. Maximum attendance is vital.

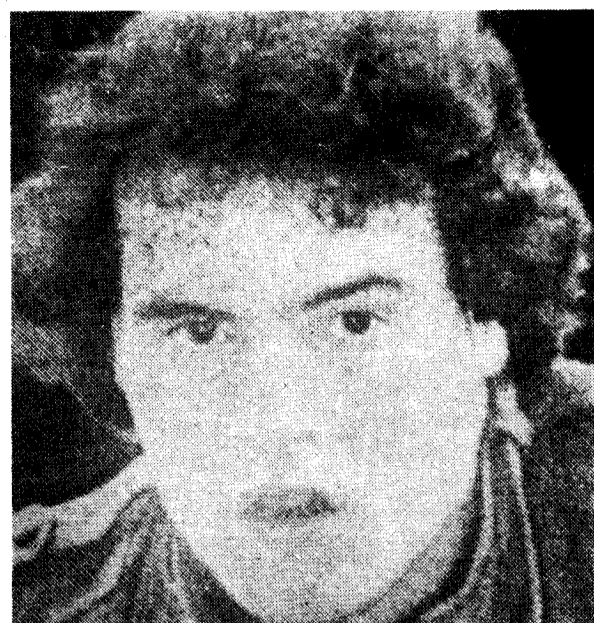
WHY DID MARK HOGG DIE?



MARK HOGG with his wife on their wedding day



BERT HOGG: now worried for Phillip Rutherford's health: 'They are driving him to suicide'



PHILLIP RUTHERFORD — escaped with Mark Hogg; now in solitary. He testified to Mark's physical fitness just before he died

WHY DID MARK HOGG DIE? That question has to be answered by what is probably the biggest inquest ever in Britain, now in progress in Exeter's County Hall.

The hearings have been going on since the end of June and could well see the month out.

Thirty-three-year old Mark Hogg died in hospital in Exeter on October 5 last year.

His family are certain that he is dead because of a beating he received at the hands of police and prison warders after he had been recaptured following an escape.

A number of post mortem examinations have been carried out but there is still a conflict of evidence about the exact cause of death.

One of the problems is that a doctor who was asked to do an independent post mortem for the Hogg family turned out to be employed by the Home Office.

Bert Hogg, Mark's father, told Workers Press that he saw his son just the day before his escape.

He said that Mark was in good shape and had never had any illness in his life.

The story began when Hogg and fellow-prisoner Philip Rutherford were being transferred from Exeter prison to Wandsworth on September 27 last year.

At South Petherton in Somerset, they overpowered their escorts and escaped.

They were recaptured by police dogs and their handlers. One of the dogs seized Hogg's shoulder and injured it.

The dog's handler admitted under questioning that his knee could have struck Hogg's body in the recapture.

BY GEOFF BARR

Both prisoners were then taken to Yeovil police station.

The family are sure that this is where Hogg's troubles really began.

Rutherford has already told the inquest that Hogg was assaulted: 'Officers jumped on top of him and started punching and kicking him.'

Another prisoner at Yeovil told the Coroner's Court jury that he saw five or six officers go to the cell block where Hogg was held.

Two were wearing special overalls and carrying truncheons.

He said that he later saw a pile of blood-stained clothing outside a cell.

When Hogg and Rutherford were returned to Exeter Prison they were put straight into the punishment block.

Rutherford told the jury that he saw three officers kick and punch Hogg, and that he was then denied medical attention.

Rutherford said of Hogg that 'he looked really ill, like his eyes were watering.'

'When I asked him if he was all right he looked into space and didn't answer me.'

Antony John Stiff, a Hospital Officer at the prison, told the inquest that Hogg

claimed he had been kicked by a police officer after he was captured.

He said that Hogg complained that he felt sick and that he had been sick. Hogg said the sickness was caused by the kicking.

Both Mark Hogg's father and Rutherford testified to Hogg's high level of fitness.

A number of policemen and prison officers have given evidence to deny that Hogg was assaulted.

Southwark council are so concerned that they are helping to finance the family's case.

As Mr Hogg said, 'We have to rely upon our neighbours to help us out financially for barristers and solicitors while they have got a top QC for the Home Office, one for the Prison, one for the police and one for the doctors.'

'Four top barristers all coming out of ratepayers money — and we can't get a penny.'

Bert Hogg has expressed his concern for Philip Rutherford who has been kept in solitary confinement since Mark's death last October. He is sure that this treatment is having an adverse effect upon him.

Rutherford has said that the prison authorities are trying to drive him to commit suicide.

The case continues.

MARK HOGG BENEFIT NIGHT

on Tuesday 8th July 1986
7.30pm to 12 midnight

CABARET

TONY GERRARD

Comedian

KIRK ST. JAMES

Vocalist

and the

RAYMOND ALLEN DANCERS

BUFFET

LICENSED BAR

TICKETS £5 EACH

TRINITY CHURCH HALL
ROTHERHITHE STREET, SE16

WENDY SAVAGE SUPPORTERS TO LOBBY DHA

SUPPORTERS of Wendy Savage, the suspended obstetrician and gynaecologist, will demonstrate outside Thursday's meeting of Tower Hamlets District Health Authority (DHA) which announced its decision on the report of the 'Inquiry' into her case.

The inquiry, which ended in February, is expected to exonerate her, but the DHA has shown no signs that it will reinstate her, and her name has been removed from the staff list.

Wendy Savage, a pioneer in developing community maternity services, was suspended over a year ago — ostensibly because of the outcome of five difficult cases.

Some of her hospital beds have been closed, depriving mothers in the area of choice in maternity care.

The Mile End Hospital, where she worked, is under continuous threat from expenditure cuts and half the maternity beds are to go.

Wendy Savage's approach was to offer women more 'natural' births, without undue technological or surgical intervention.

All the evidence suggests that more technology — particularly during Caesarians — is unable to ensure safer births, and may well be detrimental to mother and baby.

In a working class area with a high proportion of Asians, Wendy Savage's approach has won considerable support.

She is a member of the Socialist Health Association and the Labour Party. Her supporters have drawn attention to the discrimination against her by the upper layers of the medical profession.

● The demonstration is on Thursday, July 10, assembling at 2pm at Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London E1, to march to the London Hospital Whitechapel. Phone 01-729-3686 for details.

BUSMENS' PAY CUT VOTE

LONDON'S red bus crews will be voting in a secret ballot on Friday July 11 on management proposals to end London Weighting Payments and introduce productivity measures.

This year's pay talks have been the longest ever recorded. LT management are determined to drive down wages and working conditions in preparation for privatising services.

Management's response to the T&GWU's annual pay claim has been a proposal to introduce different pay rates on London's buses.

Busworkers in the inner area would earn more than those working from garages in the outer area, even though they may be working the same route and therefore

be doing exactly the same work.

There is a clause which gives existing crews an allowance to make up their wages to the present level for two years but any new drivers or conductors would be immediately on a lower pay rate — which would include five days fewer holidays per year.

Bus crews representatives at the T&GWU London Bus Conference unanimously endorsed a resolution of the negotiating committee which refused to recommend

acceptance of the deal to the members.

Cliff Twort, the T&GWU Passenger Transport National Secretary, pledged the full support of the rest of the country's busworkers and plenary powers to make any action official if London busworkers voted no to management's offer.

At the same time, London Regional Transport have told catering staff that if they do not individually sign new contracts — which pay a third less wages — then they will be put on 12 weeks notice.

The majority of catering staff in LRT are women overseas settlers who, since coming to Britain after London Transport advertised for staff in the ex-colonial countries, have been the lowest paid in LT.

Now that LRT (or the companies which win the tenders for catering) have an army of unemployed youth to use, these women are to be discarded or face wages below the government poverty line.

● London busworkers and LT catering staff should resist these attempts to drive down their wages and conditions.

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

'GAYS THE WORD' WINS THE DAY!

GAY'S THE WORD bookshop's battle with Customs and Excise is over — with a victory against arbitrary censorship and harassment.

One hundred charges have been dropped, more than two years after imported books were seized from the well-known gay bookshop in Bloomsbury, London and the

nine directors charged in the infamous 'Operation Tiger'.

The 1876 law under which the books were seized remains in force but it has been proved inoperable.

Under this law, American editions of books published in Britain — and sold in hundreds of other bookshops — were included in the haul.

Customs and Excise originally seized 142 titles but are having to return all except 19, which they insist must be sent back to the United States.

They have, however, agreed that Gay's the Word and other book importers can ask them if they will take action against indi-

vidual titles. Their decision could then be challenged in open court.

● Arbitrary censorship by Customs and Excise is at an end.

The campaign is now on to repeal the 1876 law — already with the backing of the SCPS union to which most Customs men belong.

ENGINEERS UP FRONT ON SANCTIONS

SANCTIONS NOW and workplace collections for trade unionists in South Africa are being called for in the current AEU journal.

A recent visit to South Africa by the International Metalworkers Federation included an executive member of the AEU.

The sickening stories of brutality and repression they report have prompted a strongly worded editorial by general secretary Gavin Laird.

Laird calls on the AEU's one million members and all trade unionists to campaign and lobby their MPs for sanctions against South Africa.

British firms have more

investment in South Africa than any other foreign country. That gives our nation a special responsibility. Once again we repeat that we demand economic sanctions. 'We realise that members of the AEU will be the first to suffer, arising from the fact that many thousands of British workers are employed on projects for and on behalf of South African firms.

BY HUGHIE NICOL

That should not, under any circumstances weaken our determination and resolve to assist our brothers and sisters in South Africa.

Under no circumstances should it weaken our resolve to continue to demand that Nelson Mandela be released, that the South African white government enter into meaningful discussions with the ANC and allow a multi-racial government in South Africa with full and free elections.

The time for action is now and we call upon our mem-

bership and all trade union members, whatever their political views may be, to exert pressure on their MPs and demand economic sanctions now.

The release of Nelson Mandela now, an end to apartheid now, full and free elections in South Africa now.

The AEU journal also has three colour photographs of victims of police state brutality against three black trade unionists arrested for wearing trade union tee-shirts.

The report from the International Metalworkers Federation says 'those on the

photograph with the horrific scars of the police whips are in a sense the lucky ones because they have survived.'

Fifteen hundred people, many of them trade union members and their families, have been killed in the past 18 months.

Many thousands have been wounded, 114,000 lie in the prisons.

The report of the IMF and the statement from the AEU General Secretary Laird were prepared well before the state of emergency in South Africa got into full swing.

Since then over 1,000 trade

unionists have been rounded up and imprisoned.

Shop stewards and regional and national trade union leaders are first to be arrested. Trade unions meet in secret to decide and organise resistance.

Those arrested are immediately replaced by secondary lines of leaders to continue the organised struggle against police repression.

Next week's Workers Press will report in full on the International Federation of Metalworkers report.

SEE pages 8,9 for full report on Apartheid sanctions struggle.

WALES YOUTH OCCUPY FOR UNION RIGHTS

THIRTY WORKERS, mainly youth between 17 and 22, occupied their factory, Tudor Garden Products, in Port Talbot on June 5.

They joined the AEU only three weeks ago and took action when the company refused to recognise their union or negotiate over their near-slave wages and conditions.

For a minimum 48-hour week, working 12-hour shifts round the clock, they get £1.16 per hour with a shift allowance of £8.20 and £7.20 fixed bonus each week.

They are expected to work overtime on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

One young worker told Workers Press that he worked 91 hours and took home £94.



Those employed full-time have a lower wage-rate than those employed under the MSC Young Workers Scheme, who earn £50 a week for four ten-hour shifts.

This highlights the impact of MSC schemes on wages and conditions in Port Talbot where, especially on the local Sandfields housing estate, there is very high youth unemployment.

The strike is also about making those currently on MSC schemes direct employees on the same rates and conditions as everybody else.

A strike the previous week won the reinstatement of two youths on the MSC Young Workers Scheme.

Management then adopted tactics of intimidation, threatening to close the factory because of an empty order book and poor quality.

Workers say they would rather see the factory close than continue working under the present conditions.

AEU shop stewards in the area have pledged financial assistance and practical support, including picketing.

The strikers are campaigning around the factories in the town.

This is the fight facing all workers under Thatcher, but particularly young workers: the right to belong to a trade union, the right to

a decent standard of living, and the right to good working conditions.

A delegation from the factory visited the NUM conference in Tenby and received a warm welcome from delegates.

CORRECTION

WORKERS PRESS (June 21) ascribed an article (Dean's Seaside Helter-Skelter) to Bob Bell. We checked certain factual information with Bro Bell but the article was, in fact, written by editorial staff.

Responsibility for the contents rests with the editorial board — we apologise for any confusion caused.

COMMENT BUILD AGAINST DEAN & DUBBINS

BY ALAN CLARK

AS THE fight by printworkers against Rupert Murdoch at Wapping continues with picketing on a 24 hour basis, Brenda Dean of SOGAT and Tony Dubbins of the NGA still refuse to escalate the dispute past the boycotting campaign.

The sacking of 6,000 printworkers was a political decision by a ruthless employer backed up by a Tory government. To win, reformist tactics will not succeed, it needs revolutionary leadership.

So far, leadership has been left to the pickets themselves, who have organised spontaneous mass pickets at Wapping.

In 1938, Trotsky wrote in the Transitional Programme ('The Proletariat and its Leadership'):

'The orientation of the masses is determined first by the objective conditions of decaying capitalism, and second by the treacherous politics of the old workers' organisations.

'Of these factors the first of course is the decisive one: the laws of history are stronger than the bureaucratic apparatus.'

Last week, at a mass rally of SOGAT and NGA strikers in Bethnal Green, Trotsky's words could be seen in practice.

The national leadership were loudly castigated for their lack of attendance. Five motions from striking chapels were all passed unanimously.

Strikers and pickets must ask themselves — why doesn't the union want to win this dispute? Why have they kept it low key from the beginning? Why did they want to accept the 'final offer'?

The answer has to be looked at in this way: the union leadership have been struck with paralysis; they are prostrate in front of the class enemy; they see the ruling class as all-powerful with its army and police ready at any given moment to go into action. What they fail to see is the strength of the working class.

In Britain, for instance, with the oldest trade union organisations, the working class as a whole, despite individual setbacks, has not been defeated since the 1926 General Strike.

The printers therefore must stand firm; they have been thrown into the front line by the Thatcher government. Other workers will be watching the outcome of this dispute. The rank-and-file Fleet Street Support Unit must be joined by all those printers who want to fight in the print unions, not only against the union leadership but against the betrayals of the stalinists, who are offering workers another Labour Government as the saviour of the working class.

Besides the mass picketing at Wapping, pickets must keep up the spontaneous picketing on weekdays. Printworkers must give support to their local support group and help with leafletting and with public meetings.

But most of all, printworkers see this dispute as political even if their leaders try to keep it to reformist slogans and actions only.

Other unions are already facing similar situations. For example, the railways unions are about to vote for strike action; if the vote is 'yes' management have said they will sack the lot.

- No to a sell out!
- No to compensation for jobs!
- Mass picketing at Wapping!
- Smash the anti-union laws!
- Build printworkers support groups and strike committees!
- Defend strike leaders against arrest!



STEFAN BEKIER

'THIS IS the paper that called for support for the miners' strike in Britain', Stefan Bekier told a public meeting at the Conway Hall in London.

He showed the audience a duplicated newspaper produced during the British miners' strike by an underground 'Solidarnosc' miners' co-ordinating commission in Silesia.

The meeting was organised under the sponsorship of Labour MPs Eric Heffer and Rob Clay as part of his speaking tour.

Bekier told the audience that the date June 1986 represented an anniversary — 30 years since the first working class uprising in Poland in 1956.

'1986 is also the thirtieth anniversary of the Hungarian workers' revolution smashed by tanks', he continued.

THE POLISH REVOLUTION IS NOT DEFEATED!

LONDON MEETING

'August 1980 allowed the Free Trade Union "Solidarnosc". That was the start of the Polish revolution — a revolution that was provisionally stopped by Jaruzelski.'

Bekier explained that the speaking tour was being held to support jailed and sacked miners in Britain and jailed oppositionists in Poland.

'You live under capitalism, we live in a workers' state ruled by a counter-revolutionary bureaucracy', he explained.

'In 1980-1981 Poland was the freest country on the planet', he said.

'Freedoms were won at that time not by parliamentary methods but by workers' methods of the general strike.

'Here you have 18 jailed miners. That is 18 too many. We have 180 jailed trade unionists', he went on.

'Here, the government builds scab trade unions. Our government also has scab unions where you only have 20 per cent even of the official communist party members and only one or two per cent of factory workers.

'During my visit here I have seen the big movement in the NUM of solidarity with the sacked and jailed min-

ers', Bekier said.

'We also have a big movement of solidarity with workers sacked for supporting "Solidarnosc".'

'The British miners in their strike lost a battle but do not feel defeated. They are preparing for a new struggle.

'We also lost a battle and many lives but we did not lose the war.

Bekier gave details of some of the main political prisoners in Poland, like tractor worker Zbigniew Bujak, the president of underground 'Solidarnosc' jailed on May 31.

He spoke of the courageous strike leader Wladyslaw Frasnyniuk and the moderate 'Solidarnosc' leader Jedylniak jailed for ten years.

'We are now faced with reactionary anti-working class laws in Poland', Bekier said.

Croydon trades council president Ron Spurway told the meeting that they should not look at 'Solidarnosc' in the way that the capitalist press want them to.

'It genuinely represents the movement of the working class in Poland', he said.

'If the working class does not have reasonable working conditions and power to con-

trol its own future, independent trade unions will inevitably arise', he went on.

'Whatever a state machine may claim to be, it cannot claim to represent the working class if it is controlled by a bureaucratic apparatus.

'The position in this country could be very similar to what happened in Poland.

'Some leaders of the trade unions are tending to become, on behalf of the government, policemen keeping their own men in order.

'This tendency won't be corrected merely by the election of a Labour government.'

Bill Hunter of the Workers Revolutionary Party reminded the audience of the close connection between the first International Working Men's Association and the struggle for the rights of the Polish people in the nineteenth century.

'Various people have hypocritically welcomed "Solidarnosc", including right-wing trade union leaders and Tories', he went on.

'We start from class analysis and must measure by class criteria.

'There is a unity of the stalinist bureaucracy and the capitalist class when they face big class struggles'.

YOUR NEGLIGENCE HAS COST LIVES!

Glasgow socialists discuss Irish struggle



THE responsibility of British trades unionists towards the struggle for Irish national liberation was discussed at a Glasgow conference last weekend.

Gerry McGuighan, Sinn Fein city councillor from north Belfast, had a blunt message: 'Your negligence has cost lives.'

'You have to take up this fight in the labour and trade union movement.'

Miners, teachers, builders, council workers and Labour Party members attended the conference.

They were told by McGuighan that for 18 years the media had systematically distorted the facts of the war in Ireland.

'The violence is not the problem; it is a symptom of the problem.'

'The left-wing papers carry banner headlines on South Africa and in-depth articles on Nicaragua.'

But less than 100 miles away people are fighting and dying and this is ignored.

'Sinn Fein makes no apology for supporting the violence of the IRA; just as Oliver Tambo makes no apology for the ANC's fight.'

'People in the British government will meet him — but not Gerry Adams.'

McGuighan said that unions constantly voted against any resolutions on Ireland on the grounds that their Irish branches would be opposed — branches that were often controlled by right-wing Loyalists.

He said that British trades unionists could raise issues such as strip-searching, and the repatriation of Irish prisoners, to open a discussion on Ireland.

And he invited people to 'come to Ireland and see what the ordinary people think'.

George Docherty of the National Union of Railwaymen, speaking in a personal capacity, condemned the Anglo-Irish deal as a 'treaty of betrayal'.

Thatcher and Tom King had 'proclaimed themselves as Loyalists and unionists,

BY SIMON PIRANI

and do not want to see partition ended,' he said.

Partition was 'a British problem not an Irish problem', and partition had resulted in the Diplock courts, the supergrass system, and the 'foul abuse of women' in strip-searching.

Docherty condemned the southern government which had signed the treaty which 'bolsters the British state structures, abandons Ireland's constitutional claim to the north and threatens Irish neutrality.'

The brutality of the treatment of Irish prisoners was brought home by Geraldine Quigley, who described how she had been forcibly strip-searched when detained at the notorious Paddington Green police station, when on her way to visit her husband in Albany jail.

Frame-up

Marion Hill, sister of Guildford Four frame-up victim Paul Hill, told the conference: 'Paul is innocent; he will continue to say this until he is freed.'

Paul, who was sentenced to the longest term ever by a British court, his whole natural life, has spent 1038 days in solitary confinement and been moved from one prison to another 42 times, she said.

There was a lively and serious discussion.

'We learned the hard way during the strike what oppression is all about; that wasn't one-tenth of what people in Ireland have been

through,' said a miner from Fife.

'The British labour movement must make people stand up and take notice.'

Martin O'Leary, a NALGO member, said that the difficulties in raising the Irish question in the unions were 'nothing to the difficulties the Irish people face.'

'We are not going to be side-tracked into petty issues of left politics: the people we really have to do

'The British government will talk to Oliver Tambo — but not Gerry Adams

battle with are the people who control the unions, who support the British occupation.'

The Labour front bench had said nothing about the Stalker affair, he pointed out.

We had to get a position where trade union branches and constituency Labour Parties could raise a storm on such questions.

Another NALGO member, Michael Forde, said that while we had to oppose the influence of the clergy in the south, of which the divorce referendum was 'an appalling manifestation', we had also to fight those who dodged taking a stand for Irish unity by claiming that the six counties was some 'bastion of liberalism'.

Workers Revolutionary Party member Dave McJimpsey said that winning support for the Irish struggle was a central task.

But if the Republican movement believed it could go for a negotiated compromise with Britain, the

The platform at last weekend's conference (left to right): Geraldine Quigley, wife of Republican prisoner Tommy Quigley; Marion Hill of the Guildford Four campaign; Joe Eyre, chairman; Gerry McGuighan, Sinn Fein city councillor; George Docherty, NUR member.

party would maintain its right to differ.

Simon Pirani, also of the WRP, said that the British trades unions had turned their backs on the Irish struggle over a long period — from the 1913 TUC which spurned Jim Larkin's call to support the Dublin general strike, to the role in organis-

ing army repression played by recent Labour governments.

This is what we are fighting against, he said.

Alan Armstrong of the EIS teachers' union said the struggle had to be taken into the unions, 'where the real problem lies', and described how the EIS conference this year had condemned army recruitment and advertising in schools.

Struggle

Kim Daly of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! said that the Irish solidarity struggle had to include the whole working class including the unemployed, immigrant communities and youth.

Workshops on the Anglo-Irish deal, on Irish prisoners and strip-searching and on the withdrawal of British troops were held in the afternoon.

The conference ended with an appeal from chairman Joe Eyre, an EIS member,

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

LONG LARTIN

HM Prison Long Lartin, S Littleton, Evesham Worcs, WR11 5TZ
LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.
JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.
GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.
RICHARD GLENHOLMES: 10-year sentence, B32955.
JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715.
ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576.
PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.

GARTREE

H¹ Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP
ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-year sentence, B32954.
JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635
RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.

FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham
PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.
EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085

LEICESTER

HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ
BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.
BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.
PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.

HULL

HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside
MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.
ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

ON REMAND AWAITING SENTENCE

HM Prison Brixton, PO Box 369, Jebb Ave, London SW2 5XF
MARTINA ANDERSON
ELLA O'DWYER
GERRY McDONNELL
PETER SHERRY
PAT MCGEE

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:

CAROLE RICHARDSON
PATRICK ARMSTRONG
GERARD CONLON, PAUL HILL,
JUDITH WARD, HUGH CALLAGHAN, JOHN WALKER,
BILLY POWER, GERARD HUNTER, RICHARD McILKENNY,
PADDY HILL.

They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

WAKEFIELD

HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG
ANTHONY CLARKE: 14-year sentence, 726381.
SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.
CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.
PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.
NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

ALBANY

HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5FS
VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.
SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.

The information on this list is supplied and updated by An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for which we thank them.

that the issue be taken up in all unions represented, resolutions passed and delegations organised to the north

of Ireland to forge links with the Irish working-class movement and Republican movement.

IN GLASGOW

THIS WEEK:

Saturday July 5th,
10:30 am, City Halls.

Youth Day School on Ireland, speakers from Sinn Fein, National Union of Students, Republican Band Alliance, National

Union of Railwaymen.

Organised by the LCI youth section.

Tuesday July 8th, City Halls, 7:30 pm: public meeting on the Guildford Four with video, organised by the Irish Solidarity Movement.

FATAH'S FORCES PREPARE NEW STRUGGLE

While continuing to press for inclusion in comprehensive Middle East peace talks, the Palestine Liberation Organisation is gearing-up for a fresh round of struggle.

BY CHARLIE POTTS

Undeterred by the two-pronged attack from Syrian and Jordanian rulers, PLO chair Yasser Arafat, who also leads the main guerrilla force, Fatah, has openly declared recently that his men are returning to Lebanon.

Arafat pointed out in an interview for the Paris-based 'Israel and Palestine' magazine that the agreement under which PLO forces withdrew from Lebanon after the 1982 Israeli invasion also provided for Lebanese forces to guarantee the security of Palestinian camps.

Since they had plainly

failed to do so (indeed the latest attacks on the camps came from Syrian-backed Amal militia owing allegiance to the Lebanese Justice Minister Nabi Berri), the PLO could in no way be bound by the agreement. Its units would defend their people.

At the same time, the PLO is likely to concentrate much of its efforts now on encouraging the popular resistance within the Israeli-occupied territories.

Here an important part will be played by the grow-

ing Palestinian trade unions, women's organisations, students and youth. They will resist not only Zionist military repression and land-grabbing, but the economic colonisation of the West Bank and Gaza areas.

'We are daily witnessing the blacks of South Africa winning their freedom', leading PLO member Jaweed al-Ghusein told the London 'Observer' last week. 'That is the model we must follow. We must make the occupied territories the centre of our activities.'

As chairman of the Palestine National Fund, al-Ghusein wants to make sure an increasing proportion of Arab funds are directed towards boosting

Palestinian efforts inside the occupied territories, particularly strengthening the economic base for a Palestinian state.

An increasing call on Palestinian funds is the need to ensure that food, medical supplies and self-help projects continue in the refugee camps hit by sieges in the Lebanon, Zionist attacks and repression in the occupied territories, and declining UN refugee funding.

The turn towards more mass activity in the territories and careful prioritising of Palestinian finances are in line with a developing PLO strategy but have been made more pressing by the policy of the Arab regimes.

In 1978, the Baghdad sum-

mit of Arab leaders agreed an annual £250 million backing for the Palestinians. With declining oil revenues and other factors, most of the oil-producing states have failed to meet their full commitment. At the same time, some Arab states like Jordan and Syria prefer to back their own proteges against the PLO.

While encouraging adventures like the Achille Lauro hijacking as well as terrorist attacks on the PLO itself, the Syrian regime has 'steadfastly' policed its side of the front line to stop Palestinian fighters attacking Israel.

The Lebanese Shi'ite Amal opposes any Palestinian return to the south that might

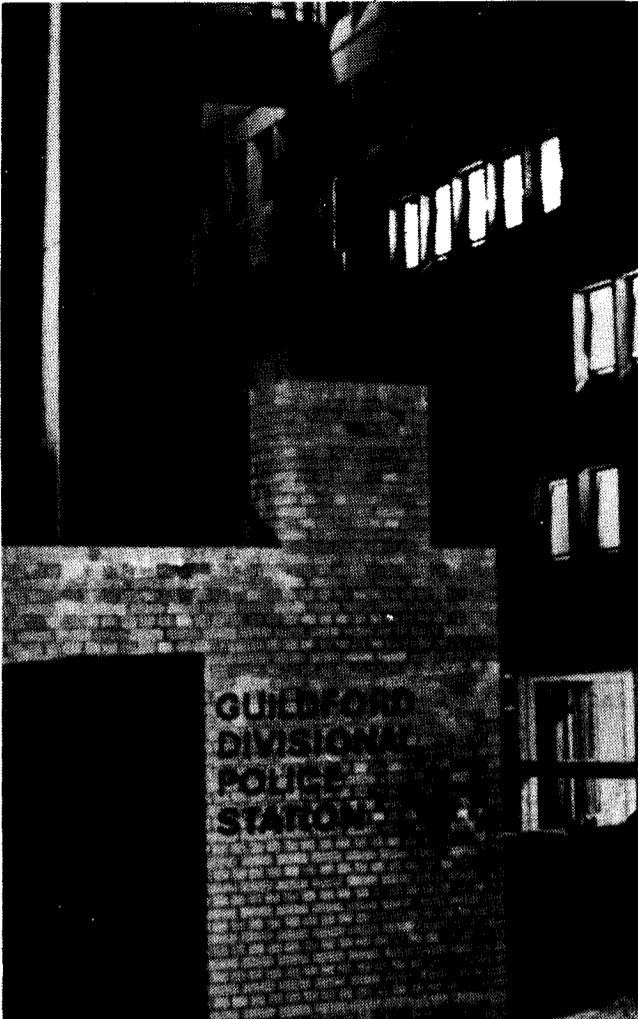
bring fresh conflict. Hussein's Jordan, with the longest frontier with Israel and the territories, has been expelling Fatah officers and harassing PLO activists.

The old strategy of commando raids from outside, which was forced on the Palestinians as exiles, has been hit constantly by lack of safe bases and backstabbing from the regimes. The turn is to mobilising the masses inside.

The Palestinians know that whatever agreements and relations they may have to make, they can place no real trust in any of the regimes around and must rely always on their own strength and determination.

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

NO MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE



All mention of how the four accused were beaten and terrorised into making false confessions at Guildford police station was censored.

THE 'FIRST TUESDAY' programme on the Guildford Four shown on ITV last week has raised the case before a mass audience.

It will undoubtedly boost the campaign for the release of the four innocent frame-up victims, Patrick Armstrong, Carole Richardson, Paul Hill and Gerard Conlon.

But those familiar with the case will feel that the film avoided the most important questions.

The first question asked by most people when told of the case is, 'Why did they confess?'

The answer given in the film is that they confessed because they were either smashed on drugs and did not know what they were doing or that they were such weak characters that they lied about each other to save their own skins.

To prove that they were not the kind of people that the IRA would wish to use, a picture is painted of a group of young drug-crazed thieves.

Nowhere was there any mention of the systematic beatings they got from the police.

No mention is made of the war going on in Ireland and the filthy role of British governments, both Tory and Labour.

The way the film began you would have thought that the bombing campaign in 1974-5 was the result of a fit of pique by the IRA.

The use of solitary confinement as a form of torture is only mentioned in passing, when solicitor Alastair

BY PHIL PENN

Logan mentions the case of Republican prisoner Brendan Dowd — who spent two and a quarter years in solitary.

With these questions out of the way, we are steered towards the conclusion that this is a case of a monumental miscarriage of justice, and that the checks and balances in the system were not sufficient to ensure that such a miscarriage could not occur.

The team that put the programme together is a high-powered group of professionals who will not have missed out these questions by accident.

Terror

They undoubtedly have interviews on film documenting the illegal activities of the police.

They will know only too well the terror into which the four accused were driven.

They will have been told by Frank Johnson, the man who was with Carole Richardson at a dance on the night of the Guildford bombings, how the police threatened to throw him off a roof in order to make him

The Home Secretary has been forced to order a review into the convictions of the Guildford Four since the programme was screened.

withdraw his statement.

They know that Paul Hill appeared in court with his face badly marked, and has spent 1438 days in solitary confinement.

They know of the police threats to kill Gerard Conlon and Paddy Armstrong's mother.

They know that four innocent people were tortured and tricked into saying what the police wanted to hear.

This footage has undoubtedly found its way onto the cutting room floor after a word from above saying that if it stayed in then the programme would not go out.

The people who made the programme have done a service to the campaign for the release of the Guildford Four.

But the end product was shaped by the hierarchy at Yorkshire Television who are more concerned at the damage being done to the name of 'British justice' by this and other blatant frame-ups than they are about the truth.

The truth is that in the war with the Republican movement these people are being held as hostages.

Confirmation of this came in last week's Observer col-

our supplement article on the case.

It concludes that the only hope for the four is if the IRA Volunteers who were part of the Active Service Unit which planted the bombs in 1974, whose identities the police have, give themselves up.

This is what is cynically meant by 'new evidence' which the state requires before a retrial can be held.

A campaign which was launched in May this year is working for the release of the Guildford Four, not on the basis of 'new evidence' but because the original evidence was more than sufficient to prove their innocence.

It is sponsored by a growing number of groups and individuals.

Workers Press urges all its supporters and readers: affiliate to this campaign, raise it in union branches and send donations which are much needed to:

Free the Guildford Four Campaign, BM Box 6944, London WC1 N3XX.

Information packs, price 50p, are available from the above address and from Paperbacks Centres.

FIGHT FOR A SECULAR SOCIALIST IRELAND!

THE DIVORCE FIASCO

ON June 26 the electorate of the Irish Republic voted by over two to one against the most restricted form of divorce legislation in the world.

The social legislation in that country is now re-affirmed as one of the worst in the world which is surpassed in reaction only by semi-feudal regimes.

Barely five weeks ago the pollsters were predicting the opposite result and it seemed that at least the catholic religion might be losing its stranglehold over Irish social life.

There was hope of an end to the terrible plight of deserted wives and the cruelty of 'sanctified' but dead relationships remaining forever bound by clerical semi-fascist legislation.

Now political pundits are saying that no government will dare attempt to legislate divorce again until the year 2000.

So what went wrong and what political forces combined to produce this result?

The legislation was introduced by Garret Fitzgerald's coalition government of his Fine Gael party and the Labour party.

Only Sinn Fein, the stalinist Workers Party and the new right wing break-away from Fianna Fail, the Progressive Democrats, were in support.

The majority of Fianna Fail TDs campaigned against divorce as did some on the extreme right-wing of Fine Gael like the Minister for Education Paddy Cooney, Oliver J. Flannigan and Senator Alice Glenn.

The church spent vast

sums of money in massive poster campaigns.

Letters from bishops were read out in the churches urging a 'no' vote.

The various anti-divorce groups cited the effects of the law on the right of succession and a first wife's right to property etc.

Property legislation to clarify some of these points and weaken their case severely was not introduced, but that alone does not explain the massive swing.

We must look for the solution in Fitzgerald's declaration that he was creating the basis for North/South unity.

The Anglo Irish accord was sold as a means of getting the unionists to agree to unity and the divorce issue was seen as removing another obstacle.

Confused

Fianna Fail cynically exploited a confused nationalism for political advantage, by playing up anti-accord feeling. They sacrificed democratic rights and won a contradictory strengthening of right-wing forces.

This can rebound on Fianna Fail itself. Several constituencies registered heavily against the legislation, working class areas in the cities less against, and Dublin voted yes.

Much of the support came from the middle classes and Dun Laoghaire, the Dublin suburb, which was the only constituency to return a unionist MP in the South in the election of 1918, returned the

BY GERRY DOWNING

biggest vote in favour.

In order to win the vote it was necessary to take on the catholic church and to politically break their power over Irish society, which Fine Gael could not and the labour party would not do.

Fine Gael was formed in 1933 from a merger between Cumann Na Ngædmeal, the pro-treaty wing of Sinn Fein, the pro-unionist centre party and General Eoin O'Duffy's fascist blue-shirts.

They campaigned on behalf of Franco, sent men to Spain to fight for fascism and attacked pro-republican gatherings in the turmoil of 1933-34.

The Labour Party had passed resolutions of support for the Russian Revolution in 1919 and 1921 but by 1940 it had adopted a constitution vetted by the catholic hierarchy dropping all reference to the workers republic of Connolly, public ownership, workers control, and socialism.

But perhaps the strangest intervention came from a former UN commissioner to Namibia, Sean McBride of Amnesty International, who said:

'I must, along with twenty other eminent people have published an appeal against divorce.'

This makes a direct link with the last time the catholic church and the state came into conflict — the 'Inter-party' government of 1948.

Sean McBride was a former IRA Chief of Staff whose

father was executed after the 1916 uprising.

He saw 'hidden virtues' in Eamonn de Valera's 1937 constitution, which was far more reactionary than the 1922 constitution which banned divorce and recognised the 'special position' of the catholic church.

In 1946 he formed a new party called Clann na Phoblachta. Many of its members came from the 'Republican university' (the jails) but it was a totally unprincipled grouping.

It recruited ex-fascist blueshirts with the slogan 'it doesn't matter what colour shirt you wear in 1932'. In 1948 it won ten seats and together with Labour, National Labour, (a right-wing split), Independents, Fine Gael and Clann na Talmhan (a small farmers party), formed a government to keep Fianna Fail out.

Principle

No higher principle was involved. Jack Gale refers to it in one of a series of articles on December 22, 1978: 'In all the dirty annals of unprincipled political horse-trading, there isn't much to match the deal known as they 'Inter-party' government of Eire in 1948.'

A young politician, Neil Brown, became Minister of Health and put forward the 'mother and child bill' which proposed to pay maternity grants to mothers irrespective of marital status. He had behind him the defeat of TB, the scourge of the poor at the time by compulsory medical examinations of children in

schools, and the introduction of a limited Irish version of the NHS.

Brown was a member of McBride's party and his bill drew furious reaction from the bishops.

They wrote to McBride saying the bill would encourage prostitution, that he had infringed the rights of the doctors to free enterprise and demanded the withdrawal of the Bill.

At a cabinet meeting McBride demanded withdrawal, Brown refused and then published the Bishop's letters in the 'Irish Press'. The gov-

ernment fell and the power of the church was there for all to see.

Despite a gradual relaxation of social legislation over the years that power is now again underlined.

The Irish capitalist class cannot break with the power of the church and answer these fundamental democratic rights.

But it must be broken. Religion must be a private affair and the fight to build a Secular, Socialist, United Ireland, free from orange bigotry and catholic reactions is the task of the Irish working class.

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

Public Rally

Wednesday 9th July

7:30 p.m.

Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road,
London, WC1

(nearest tube Holborn)

WORKERS PRESS UNION CONFERENCE NEWS**CHRIS CORRIGAN REPORTS FROM THE NUM CONFERENCE IN TENBY****BOLTON 'FUDGES' ON NUCLEAR POWER****But 'moratorium' call is defeated**

A SCOTTISH area bid to fudge opposition to nuclear power was isolated and defeated. Delegates voted instead for a policy to phase out all nuclear power stations.

The Kent area led the successful attack on the motion moved on behalf of the Scottish area by George Bolton, whose remarks provoked acrimonious debate.

The key sentence in the motion moved by Bolton called for 'a moratorium on the building of all nuclear power plants'.

This clashed with a Kent area amendment which demanded a halt to the nuclear power programme and the run down of all nuclear plants.

Bolton opened the debate by stressing that an election was pending and, with the public looking on, 'we have to be seen to be arguing the best possible energy policy for Britain and not acting out of vested interest.'

Bolton, national chairman of the Communist Party, then warned that if the NUM went to the Labour Party and TUC conferences in the autumn with the Kent amendment it would not get the necessary majorities.

A two thirds majority was needed to get such a policy into the Labour Party manifesto, he stated, and failure to reach this would be a disaster.

'I must tell you that if you tell the people of Britain that our policy is to dismantle every nuclear power station, it will not be credible, they won't believe you and it is not possible anyway.'

'If you compel the Labour Party to such a strategy, with its enormous cost of phasing out nuclear power stations, you will destroy the electoral prospects of the Labour Party.'

Jim Dunsmuir, seconding the motion on behalf of Scottish craftsmen, said the coal industry had to be rebuilt.

But he went on to state 'to close nuclear power stations down would be a very costly exercise and harm the chances of getting a Labour Government'.

Kent delegate Harry Pickering, moving his area's

amendment, said that the Chernobyl disaster had overtaken all the rhetoric that had gone before about nuclear power.

'Can you imagine what would have happened if that accident had happened in Britain?'

He went on: 'the Scottish area resolution is saying we should keep the nuclear power stations we have got and service and maintain them.'

'What we in Kent say is, get rid of them and the sooner the better.'

Jack Taylor, Yorkshire, supporting the Kent amendment told delegates: 'Moratorium? you often get that word thrown at you by nuclear disciples and by Tory politicians. I'll tell you what it is — it's a fudge.'

Taylor emphasised that the phasing out of all nuclear power stations had been a policy adopted by the 1985 Labour Party conference.

'Everyone is swinging to opposition against nuclear power. Why change? It seems surprising that we come to this resolution today. Are we really saying that cheap electricity comes from nuclear power? That seems to come out in the argument from the Scottish area. We have never said that before.'

Durham delegate Davey Guy said: 'We say to Scotland, we do have a vested interest and we will express that whatever people may say.'

'There is only one way we can protect our union — from a position of strength. The more nuclear power stations phased out the fewer pits are closed and the greater the strength of the NUM'.

Dennis Murphy, Northumberland executive member said that the word 'mora-

torium' would, in Lord Cilline's language mean leave it lying on the table.

Don't start to equivocate, Murphy appealed, positive action was necessary now.

COHSE white collar section delegate, Ken Hollingsworth said the COHSE delegation was split over the Kent amendment.

John Burrows, Derbyshire, supported Kent, saying that the Chernobyl tragedy had pulled the weight of public opinion behind opposition to nuclear energy 'I don't believe we should waste the opportunity' he added. Arthur Scargill told the conference: 'I want to make it clear that I have a vested interest in the human race.'

'To suggest that we have a moratorium simply means that you have a postpone-

ment of temporary standstill while the existing industry continues, with the possibility of expansion in the future.'

Scargill challenged Bolton to deny the mountain of evidence about the threats of nuclear power.

Bolton, replying to the debate, said curtly: 'It worries me that people in this conference try to imply a higher morality. That is unacceptable.'

'Let's make it clear, the Scottish area of the NUM does not support nuclear power and does not say it is safe.'

In the vote on the Kent amendment, only Scotland and some COHSE delegates voted against. When the amended motion was then put to the vote, it was supported unanimously.



GEORGE BOLTON speaking in the nuclear power debate

S.AFRICAN MINERS CALL FOR UNION SANCTIONS — P 8

AND MANOEUVRES ON UDM VOTE

GEORGE GUY from the Durham area — the only region to oppose Bolton's amended resolution

The NUM executive went into emergency session on Wednesday when feeling ran high over how to deal, or not deal, with the scab UDM.

A Scottish area motion saying 'national unity' is the 'highest priority', went on to call on the TUC and Labour Party to 'make themselves available in assisting reunification of British Mining Unionism'.

George Bolton, moving on behalf of the Scottish area, was adamant that the wording should not be treated with suspicion.

Paul Beasley moved a Nottinghamshire area amendment qualifying the terms on which people could be accepted back into NUM membership.

'We can produce evidence of a number of UDM suppor-

ters, branch officials, who not only co-operated with the police but collaborated with the police and stood with them opposite picket lines and pointed out those who were then arrested and put into jail,' said Beasley.

Davey Hopper spoke for the Durham area and said, 'The scars still remain and will probably last for ever. Miners are still in jail, over 500 remain victimised.'

'We know, for instance, of one person who has been recommended for readmission into the NUM who recently gave the Coal Board a statement to be used against one of our members in an industrial tribunal.'

Bolton then astonished delegates by declaring from the floor that the Scottish

area accepted the Notts amendment, which they had previously refused to accept.

The conference was thrown into some confusion because the executive was supporting the motion but opposing the amendment.

President Arthur Scargill ruled that the executive would have to hold a special meeting.

When the conference resumed, vice president Mick McGahey recommended acceptance of the amended motion on behalf of the executive.

Only Durham area and Durham Mechanics then voted against the amended motion. The outcome of the vote was that the Scottish area's original purpose had been realised.

NOTICE TO WRP MEMBERS

Weekend School for Trade Union members

White Meadows, Parwich Derbyshire

Saturday July 19, 12 noon

Sunday July 20, 3pm

Subjects:

Saturday — Marxism in the Trade Unions

Speaker: Kenny Thompson

Sunday — Lessons of the Miners Strike

Speaker: Dave Temple

Cost £12 plus £6 pooled fare

To apply for places at this Weekend School write to WRP (T.U. Dept.), 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT



Miners from the Nottingham area found this sunny spot to present their message to the conference delegates

WORKERS PRESS UNION CONFERENCE NEWS

DESPITE NURSES LEADERS 'SPINELESSNESS'

UNDOUBTEDLY the highlight of the COHSE annual conference at Blackpool was the fraternal address by George Johannes of the ANC.

In opening he said that the workers of South Africa greatly value the support of trade unionists in Britain.

He described South Africa as a country of very big contradictions.

There were two worlds — one where people died before the age of five from diseases of deprivation i.e. pneumonia, tuberculosis, beri beri and kwasiokor — the other where people suffer from the diseases of affluence: heart disease, ulcers etc.

'The South African people', he said, 'were now saying enough is enough.'

There now exists a revolutionary situation in South Africa.

'This situation was not brought about by shouting slogans or by sitting on our behinds but by the word and the blood of many comrades.'

Fundamental change could only be brought about by the working people of South Africa, he added. 'The youth and students of '76 are now the workers of '86.'

Speaking of the recent reforms in South Africa allow-

ing mixed marriages and blacks and whites to drink in the same bar, Johannes said 'we ask for freedom and you offer us sex and booze.'

'Our fight continues until the release of Nelson Mandela and we get one man one vote.'

However, he stressed, 'unless we can get control of the banks and the means of production we will only ever be an appendage of imperialism.'

Chop

'We in South Africa are chopping off the legs of imperialism, some day soon we will chop off its head.'

It was an inspiring speech, reflecting the strength and determination of the comrades in South Africa.

It was in marked contrast to the spineless prevarications of the COHSE bureaucracy.

APARTHEID ISSUE DOMINATES COHSE

BY MICK DALY

A debate on pay followed a poor debate on community care.

A resolution, calling for a joint campaign for a £25 a week rise with a £125 a week minimum was moved, also calling for all-out strike action from April.

This was turned down, as was the call to pull out of the nurses' pay review body.

Michael Meacher, the Labour Party spokesman on health and social services and a COHSE sponsored MP, spoke in the afternoon.

He presented a five point plan for the health service which the next Labour government would implement which consisted of nice words.

The record of previous Labour governments suggests it won't be carried out.

Resolutions supporting black sections in the Labour Party, against the witch hunt of Militant and others and for closer working between COHSE and NUPE,

leading to eventual amal-

gamation, were all defeated.

A resolution against nuclear power stations, reprocessing plants and atomic dumping was passed overwhelmingly.

The Wapping dispute got its first mention of the week on Friday when John Ibbotson, Assistant General Secretary of the NGA, brought fraternal greetings.

He outlined the finances of News International and how the dispute had been deliberately provoked by Murdoch.

Link

He was careful not to link it to any other dispute inside or outside of the print industry.

His only policy for winning the dispute was to intensify the boycott campaign.

On the final afternoon of the conference suspended standing orders to discuss the case of victimised nurse Carol Duffy.

Carol had started work at Oxford Community Hospital.

She soon came up against unsafe procedures, inadequately trained staff etc. and when she started questioning and campaigning against these practices, allegations were made against her.

She was suspended without charge.

Eventually she found out the charges against her were that she was billed to speak on a platform with victimised miners; that her husband had put forward a race relations questionnaire to hospital management; and that her union branch had put out a leaflet on her case.

Peter Howarth, moving a resolution in defence of Carol Duffy, pointed out that this had happened in the middle of the Littlemore Hospital strike and stressed the increasing attempts by health authorities to victimise union activists.

A resolution calling for a public inquiry into the running of the hospital and for COHSE to back her case was

passed overwhelmingly.

● COHSE conferences are strange affairs.

A large section of delegates are apparently only there for a holiday at the expense of the members.

One delegate next to me never opened his agenda during the whole week, content only to mark off the motions as they were passed or lost.

Limited

Another section see things only in very limited trade union terms and another small section would be happier at the Tory Party conference.

The Broad Left (mainly Militant and SWP) represent a small but significant force in the union.

On a whole number of issues the left won the argument but lost the vote.

The bureaucracy however had the vote but not the arguments.

BEKIER'S TOUR HITS LONDON POLISH UNION LINKS

THE SPEAKING tour by Polish oppositionist Stefan Bekier continued last week through the Midlands and East Anglia to London.

Bekier is speaking to trade unionists and public meetings about the struggle of the independent underground trade union 'Solidarnosc' against the repression of the military dictatorship of Jaruzelski.

This is inseparable from the fight to release the jailed miners in Britain and reinstate men sacked and victimised during the miners' strike.

After speaking at a public meeting in Leicester, Bekier visited the shop stewards' committee of the local Dunlop factory and had discussions with National Union of Students representatives at Leicester University.

He also talked to stewards at Groby hospital before setting off to address the Ipswich trades council.

The work of the campaign in London got off to an extremely strong start with a visit to the Ford Tractor factory in Basildon.

On the invitation of convenor Dave Vos, Bekier visited the factory to address a meeting of the shop stewards.

Once Bekier had outlined the situation in Poland, he faced a series of extremely well-informed and searching questions.

Stewards were particularly keen to know what lessons the British trades unions could learn from 'Solidarnosc'.

They wanted to know whether redundancy through automation was a threat to Polish workers — a subject close to the hearts of trades unionists at Fords!

Bekier explained that the biggest problem for Polish workers was the anarchy and corruption that flowed from bureaucratic management.

Sometimes expensive new



Stefan Bekier (right) with the Austin & Pickersgill (Sunderland) Shop Stewards Committee

equipment was obtained at great cost from the west and then not used because it was unsuitable or simply not needed.

Following the discussion, the stewards' committee is to discuss ways and means of making links with Polish trade unionists.

They are to consider writing to the Polish authorities to protest at the arrest of Zbigniew Bujak, the leader of underground 'Solidarnosc' who was himself a worker at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw.

After the meeting, Bekier was taken on a guided tour of the plant by stewards and introduced to workers on the

LOOK FIRM

BY BOB ARCHER

lines.

As a gesture of solidarity, stewards presented him with a model tractor mounted with an inscribed plaque commemorating the visit.

While in London, Bekier joined the massive demonstration against Apartheid and distributed a leaflet with translations of an open letter to the workers of Azania and Namibia printed in the underground 'Solidarnosc' newspaper 'Front Robotniczy'.

The letter fully supports the struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of the apartheid regime.

From London, Bekier made an urgent return visit

to Dinnington in Yorkshire to follow up on contacts made during the Yorkshire Miners' Gala.

He was invited to address the Dinnington branch of the NUM, who immediately voted to write a letter of protest over the arrest of Zbigniew Bujak.

They also voted on the spot to adopt a Silesian coal mine as a 'twin' and make contact with Polish miners in underground 'Solidarnosc'.

From the South Yorkshire coalfield, Bekier then went to Tenby in Wales to carry on the campaign among delegates to the NUM national conference

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS!

Solidarnosc

FREE THE SOLIDARNOSC MILITANTS!

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

SOUTH WALES
DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.
RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

KENT
TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent.
CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three year sentence from January 1985. A29398, Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

DURHAM
JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.
JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.
JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.
ROBERT HOWE: 22 — Affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea) 21 months.
ANTHONY RUTHERFORD: 24 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.

JOHN ROBINSON: 21 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.
GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.
ANTHONY HOWE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.
WILLIAM BELL: 20 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months Youth Custody.

YORKSHIRE
MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.
NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.
PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424, Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston, Lancs.
CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

N. DERBYSHIRE
DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough.

BLOCKADE THE A

FOR TRADE UNION ACTION ON APARTHEID: LOBBY THE TUC!

The South African government has arrested the leaders of the African trade unions.

What is the Trades Union Congress General Council going to do about it?

Pass resolutions of sympathy or content themselves with appeals to Thatcher, which is as far as Kinnock goes?

Such speeches and pleas to Thatcher, to the slaveholders and to those who benefit from the repression of Africans are made while the apartheid regime increases its torture, murder and brutality.

The whips and guns of the police continue to go into action against men, women and children.

Even the wearing of a union t-shirt earns a brutal beating.

The real power which can wreak economic blows at the apartheid regime is the organised working class.

It is time for the British working class to return to those traditions of the past

when it was prepared to make sacrifices to support revolts against slaveholders.

Lancashire cotton workers in the 1860s refused to join with their employers during the American civil war, even though they were flung out of work by a cotton blockade of the Southern American states.

They were for the victory of the North because it would mean the end of slavery.

If right-wing union leaders like those of the AEU write consistently in their union journal in favour of sanctions, even if it means loss of jobs, that is a tribute

to these traditions of internationalism existing in the working class today.

However, every trade unionist who is worth his salt must blush with shame at the words of one of the leaders of the South African mineworkers who escaped from his country to appeal to British miners (See opposite).

He told the NUM conference in Tenby that South African workers felt they had had little support from British people.

They saw the British TUC as vacillating and not able to take a clear action on South Africa.

It is engineering and other factory workers, shop assistants, transport workers, bank clerks, dockers, miners, steelworkers and others who have the real strength.

STATEMENT BY THE WRP LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

European working class organisations could act in the interests of the suffering masses of Africa.

The General Council of the TUC, if it is really serious about assisting Africans, must call a meeting of European unions to organise actions.

Shop stewards of Fords, General Motors and other multinational firms have connections throughout Europe. Many of the multinationals have factories in South Africa.

The struggle of the South African trade unionists demands that these trade unions organise for solidarity action.

Every British trade unionist must now find ways of supporting the struggle of South African workers and develop resistance to apartheid beyond the boundaries of South Africa.

There must be a trade union blockade of South Africa.

At the same time, let every trade unionist demand that the General Council immediately set a day when they will organise a great united stoppage of trade union members in Britain.

Let them call for the trade unions of Europe to join in strikes and demonstrations expressing European workers' determination to assist African workers smash the South African slaveholder's state.

Such a day of action would deepen consciousness of the struggle and create conditions for a blockade of the apartheid regime for the victory of the South African workers.

● The London district of the Workers Revolutionary Party will lobby the TUC General Council at Congress House on Wednesday July 23, 1986 from 9.00am.

We urge all other organisations which support the struggle of the African workers to do the same.

MASSIVE WALES NO! TO APARTHEID

FIVE THOUSAND anti-apartheid supporters, trade unionists, several political parties and youth attended the biggest anti-apartheid rally ever held in Wales last Saturday.

Speaker after speaker at the Cardiff rally demanded sanctions and a few called for trade union sanctions.

Janet Davis of Plaid Cymru demanded pressure for real sanctions and a boycott of South African goods, a refusal to deal in South African gold, to stop all games of rugby in Wales involving South African players, and to stop the Jones choir tours.

This brought loud applause.

Derek Gregory of NUPE brought out the hypocrisy of Thatcher, who claimed 120,000 jobs would be lost in Britain if sanctions were imposed.

'This is from somebody who has put 4 million on the dole in the last 4 years,' he said.

'As well as a change in government policy, we must apply sanctions ourselves.'

The trade unions have a major role to play,' he added.

NUPE have approached every public authority in Wales demanding that they refuse to purchase South African goods.

21 district councils and 3 county councils have agreed.

Gregory called for support for health workers in Portsmouth who are under threat of dismissal for carrying out these policies.

Mostyn Jones, chairman of Mid-Glamorgan County Council, was quick to add his council to the list.

There was no lead from David Jenkins, secretary of the Wales TUC, for concrete trade union sanctions.

He attacked Geoffrey Howe for 'suddenly and miraculously, when the country is in ferment and turmoil, wanting a quiet

BY TRAVIS GOULD

word with Botha to get him to see sense.

'This is a nonsense.'

His reformist politics were clearly revealed when he said it was not simply a moral question, but one of 'personal self-interest and economic reasons why the government should impose sanctions.'

'When we look at the history of our colonial past, we know apartheid is going to come to an end in South Africa.'

'It is not a question of if, but when and how, and it is in our interests to ensure that when the black majority government takes power, as it will sooner or later, that they see this country as their supporters and allies and not a country that has set itself against the blacks of South Africa.'

Stab

You can only read from this that he wants a black majority capitalist South Africa, free from apartheid, to trade with a capitalist Britain, and once again stab the black South African workers in the back.

Jenkins went on to explain how South African coal, being mined by slave labour, was being exported to this country, how Newport steel works in Llanelli has been dismantled and shipped to South Africa along with the transfer of British Leyland truck division — all for the



This miners' wives banner made a colourful impression at the Welsh anti-apartheid demonstration

purpose of exploiting slave labour.

At 12 o'clock, a thousand balloons were let off, commemorating the number of people who have died in South Africa over the last 12 months.

Nonta Bencha, a black South African, read out the following statement:

'I was only three years old when the Soweto uprising started.'

'I lost many cousins, and those who would be our friends today.'

'The sad thing is, the killing of children is still happening in South Africa.'

'Children are still shot at, and also die of tear gas.'

'Today we remember all those children who have died for our beautiful country.'

Rusty Bernstein of the ANC conveyed to the rally

the determination of the black South African masses, when he spoke of the exuberance and exhilaration of the youth fighting apartheid, despite the killing, savagery and violence directed against them.

History

'We have seen this phenomenon twice in recent history with the downfall of the Shah of Iran, and with Marcos in the Philippines, as well as in Vietnam and Nicaragua.'

Other speakers included Carl Johnson, of Butetown Black Alliance, who emphasised the need to fight racism 'a hundred years of it, here in Cardiff, as well as supporting our black brothers and sisters 12,000 miles away.'

S. AFRICAN

BLACK SOUTH African miners union leaders, who expect to get arrested on their return home, visited Britain this week to issue a direct call for working class action to assist in the smashing of apartheid.

Cyril Ramophose and James Motlatsi, secretary and president of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa, were honoured guests of the NUM conference in Tenby, west Wales.

They strongly criticised the British trade union movement's record on opposing the South African regime and told delegates that they had been in hiding for two weeks prior to leaving to come to Britain.

Ramophose said: 'We have longed for years for this kind of reception, and we have longed for years to have a relationship with the British NUM.'

When they formed their trade union they had consciously decided to name it after the British NUM, 'because we wanted to follow in their militant traditions.'

Without naming Scargill, Ramophose pointedly defended the British NUM leader against criticism of his presidential speech on Monday.

'We understand in South Africa that when miners are

attacked, they must fight back and can only fight back with action,' he stated.

He said the situation in South Africa was very dangerous and that many trade unionists are in hiding.

'We are not sure if we will still be free people when we go home. We may be specifically arrested for speaking here at this conference.'

To a hushed conference hall, Ramophose continued: 'Under the Emergency Regulations we are not even allowed to say this, but we feel it is important to say it here — that Britain is the only country standing, between us and liberty.'

He spoke scathingly about claims that economic sanctions would harm the blacks, saying:

'Liberation and freedom are much more important

APARTHEID STATE!

WHO PAYS THE PIPER...

AS THE South African revolution gathers momentum, the economic interdependence of South Africa and Britain becomes a vital factor for the class struggle in both countries.

When the peoples of Southern Africa were first enslaved by European settlers, it was to take their land and use their labour in agriculture.

Then, when diamonds and gold were discovered, British imperialism took control.

Part of the supply of cheap labour was now diverted into mining, to yield rich tribute for the City of London.

But, since the second world war and especially since 1960, South Africa has become a major industrial country.

Foreign capital, above all from the UK, now draws its profits from the exploitation of a large African urban working class.

That is why, in a way which was not true in earlier times, the movement against racial oppression is inseparable from a struggle against capital in general and British capital in particular.

The victory of the South African masses will be a mortal blow for British capitalism.

The importance of British capital for the South African economy may be measured by the statistics of foreign investment.

In 1984, the total foreign investment had risen to around £31.5 billion. Some 40 percent of this originated in the UK.

US investment came to about half of the UK share.

But the British capitalists' stake in the apartheid economy makes up over 10 percent of their total overseas investment while the US

BY CYRIL SMITH

equivalent represents only one percent of US investment overseas.

It is not so easy to disentangle this picture from the published figures.

First of all we have to distinguish 'direct' from 'indirect' investment.

The former includes the capital of South African companies in which UK companies hold more than half the shares.

There are some 1,200 such UK firms with a total South African stake of £5 billion.

But all kinds of tricks are used to conceal the real South African connections.

This is particularly true of the past decade, since the EEC introduced its 'Code of Practice' under which firms report the wages, conditions and negotiating rights of their African employees.

A blatant example is Consolidated Goldfields, which has declared that it has not a single employee in South Africa.

The firm forgot to mention a company called Goldfields of South Africa, of which Consolidated holds 48 percent! In 1984, the 84,000 employees of GFS Africa provided 44 percent of Consolidated's operating profit.

Metal Box is another inst-

ance. In 1983, this firm reduced its holdings in Metal Box South Africa — and this was hailed as an example of 'divestment'.

However, closer scrutiny revealed that the 51 percent holding had been sold and converted into 25 percent holdings in each of two new companies!

More difficult to pin down than direct investment, however, are the ramifications of the financial and banking connections with the South African economy.

Loans from UK banks are estimated at some £7 billion.

Although US bank loans to South Africa have been increasing rapidly in recent years, they are still far behind their UK counterparts.

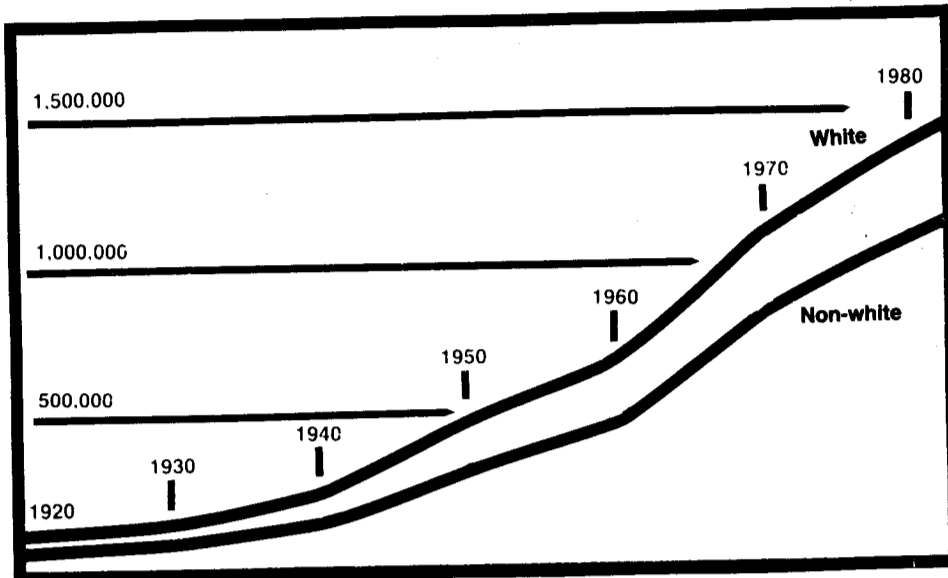
In addition we must count the minority shareholdings of UK companies in South African firms.

Altogether, foreign capital controls a large part of the South African economy, with British money-men well to the fore.

Only in mining and agriculture are South African firms in the majority, but even here powerful UK and US firms have their say.

Some well-known names in these areas are Exxon, Union Carbide, Tate and Lyle, Rio Tinto and Del Monte.

In manufacturing, howev-



Labour force in manufacturing industry. 1920-80.

er, which grew so spectacularly in the 1960s and 70s, UK capital plays the major role.

The firms controlled by giants like Barclays, Standard Chartered, Lonrho, BTR, Courtaulds and Unilever employ some 300,000 people in South Africa.

Some 10 percent of all Courtaulds' employees are there.

Nearly 90 percent of the South African petroleum industry is foreign owned, with British petroleum in the lead.

The attraction for foreign capital of the racialist state is easy to understand.

Conditions in South African industry grew up on the foundations of the relations

obtaining in mining and agriculture.

The supply of labour from the reserves and from the 'independent' countries to the north made possible huge rates of profits.

Racial segregation had its roots in the old slavery of farm and mine but it was invaluable in keeping wages below the starvation level in the new factories.

Liberals dreamt of the gradual improvement of conditions and the relaxation of the racist laws as modern industry grew in the boom years after Sharpeville, 1960.

Quite the opposite was the case.

Apartheid became the basis for the inflow of capital

and remains the basis for its retention.

It cannot exist without ever-sharpening contradiction.

This is especially true of capital in those countries whose development began this century.

As the capital rolled in and profits mounted, the working class on whose backs the whole system rested also grew: in numbers, in confidence and in political maturity.

Today, the urban African proletariat numbers over a million.

The phenomenal rise of the African trades unions is at the heart of the present mass upsurge.

... CALLS THE TUNE

MINERS DEMAND CLASS ACTION NOW!

BLACK LEADERS DEFIANT CALL TO NUM DELEGATES

BY CHRIS CORRIGAN IN TENBY, WALES

for us than jobs where we are paid £86 per month.

'Consolidated Goldfields, which operates out of London, are paying this kind of wages. We believe these companies must get out of South Africa — impose sanctions now.'

He went on to tell delegates bluntly: 'The British people as a nation have done nothing to assist us in achieving our liberation.'

'The British working class should take a decision to impose sanctions on South Africa. That way, the British working class will be assisting us to achieve our liberation.'

They wanted allies, he said, but emphasised, 'we will be unable to say the British working class is our ally because the British gov-

ernment is blocking our fight against apartheid.

'The message for the British trade union movement is that we don't only mean verbal statements, not words only, we mean action.'

'We would like to believe that, seeing we are operating under these adverse conditions, it should not be difficult for the British working class to give us this support.'

'When it comes to South Africa, we have always seen the British TUC vacillate and unable to take a right decision, holding back and not sticking out, and going many steps backwards.'

In conclusion Ramophose called for a 'major rethink' by the British labour and trade union movement on the decisive role it should be playing in the struggle.

At a Press conference later on Tuesday, the South

African NUM secretary told reporters that for security reasons he could not say how long he and his colleagues would be staying in Britain.

Nine officials of their union had already been detained under the emergency powers and it was expected that more will have been detained by the time they return.

He apologised for being unable to divulge details of exactly what action his union was asking the British NUM and other unions to take.

Asked to speak in general terms, however, he replied: 'we will be asking for more concrete support, more positive support is needed.'

He said he was not surprised at the actions of the Thatcher government and said, 'that is why we are calling on the working class to impose sanctions in what-



An historic occasion: the platform at the NUM conference shares in the standing ovation for Cyril Ramophose and James Motlatsi, South African NUM leaders last Tuesday

ever way they can because it is clear that Mrs Thatcher supports the regime in South Africa and pretends there are other things that can be done'.

He said that his union had decided that action had to be taken because of the changes that had recently taken place in South Africa.

Industrial action would be launched by the South African miners and for the present time would be selective action in a number of gold mines and collieries.

Asked if this could develop into an all-out strike, Ramophose said this was possible.

He dismissed Geoffrey

Howe's visit to South Africa as irrelevant and said Thatcher was merely trying to delay matters.

He directly accused the British prime minister's husband, Dennis Thatcher, of having direct financial links with the apartheid regime through the British based company Fodens

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PERSPECTIVES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION

THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY Eighth Congress (third session) decided to open a discussion on international perspectives, to take place between now and a further congress in September. It adopted the following resolution as a starting-point for the discussion:

1. The economic crisis into which capitalism plunged in the 1930s has never been resolved.

Following the boom it is now asserting itself in new ways.

This crisis is the driving-force for the struggles of the working class internationally. The anti-imperialist and national struggles must be understood in connection with it.

2. The problem formulated by Trotsky in the Transitional Programme, that 'the world political situation is chiefly characterised by a historical crisis of the leadership of the proletariat', is still the central one facing the Trotskyist movement, which alone can solve it.

Since the Fourth International was founded it has been unable to resolve this problem and the leadership of the working class is by and large still in the hands of the Stalinists and social-democrats.

3. The course of the class struggle internationally throughout the whole imperialist epoch must be understood as the dialectical interaction of these two factors: the world economic crisis of capitalism — the wars and revolutions in which it is the driving-force — and the unresolved crisis of working class leadership.

This, just as it gave rise to the victory of Hitler in 1933 and the turn by Trotsky to form the FI, also enabled capitalism to re-establish itself after the war and was the central problem affecting the struggle of the working class to overthrow capitalism.

The development of the national liberation struggles against imperialism, the problems of Cuba, Vietnam, Nicaragua and the Middle East, and the development of struggles against the Stalinist bureaucracy in the degenerated workers' states, must be understood in this context.

4. Pablo abandoned the above proposition, that the crisis of working class leadership is the central problem to be resolved by Trotskyists and revised the fundamental tenets of Trotskyism.

A struggle was waged against Pabloism.

A definitive re-examination of this struggle requires accurate historical research of its strengths, weaknesses and limitations.

Moreover, we can state clearly that the problem posed following the physical liquidation of Trotskyists during the war and after and the revisionist degeneration of Pablo and the split this caused, was the reconstruction of the FI as a world organisation. This has yet to be done.

5. We recognise that the WRP and the International Committee of the Fourth International long ago ceased to address themselves to the problem of re-building the FI. In recent years it used the ludicrous declaration that the IC was the world party to obscure this.

This was also tied up with Healy's basically nationalist conception that Britain was the centre of the world class struggle.

The WRP, following the expulsion of Healy, has an important part to play in re-building the FI.

6. We renounce the resolution passed at a previous session of the 8th Congress, 'Dissolve the ICFI', which is one-sided, anti-Marxist and wrong.

That resolution 'rejects the tradition of the ICFI as anti-communist' and seeks to sever artificially the WRP, not simply from D North, but from our political responsibility, going back over 15 years or more, for the degeneration of the ICFI.

We hereby revoke that resolution and its demagogic denunciations. We make a call to members of the ICFI sections to reject North's splitting tactics and, whatever their disagreements, to enter into discussion with the WRP on the question of re-building the FI.

We cannot, as a party, 'jump out' of our relationship with these comrades in the petty-bourgeois manner typified by this resolution. This must be corrected otherwise the same anti-Marxist method will dominate all our work internationally; we will perhaps 'jump in' to something else in a similarly ill-considered way.

7. In working towards a perspective along the lines of points 1-5 above, we categorically reject the document '27 Reasons Why the IC Must Be Buried and the FI Built' by Mike Banda, the method and conclusions of which are totally opposed to the above.

While rejecting D North's claims that the ICFI is 'the sole continuation of Trotskyism' and his defence of 'Security and the Fourth International', we recognise that Banda and his followers were only too pleased to hasten the split with North: they feared a discussion on their own rotten politics.

They rejected the struggle which began with the expulsion of Healy, to re-establish Trotskyist principles in building the WRP.

Their desertion of Trotskyism into the camp of reactionary bourgeois 'liberalism' and discussion-circle politics can only strengthen the WRP in its fight for revolutionary leadership.

8. The first consideration of our international perspectives must be the re-building of the FI.

In the long term, our aim should be unity with all those standing on the Transitional Programme, the theory of permanent revolution and the fight against Pabloism.

In addition, we should work out a definite attitude towards the revisionist United Secretariat of the FI and others such as 'Militant', instead of saying 'they are not part of the FI', or ignoring them, as we have in the past.

9. Such work will take time.

Immediately, we direct the Central Committee and International Relations Bureau to provide accurate information to the whole party on the different groups and tendencies internationally calling themselves Trotskyist.

It is impossible for us to talk about re-building the FI in our state of almost total ignorance about other people purporting to be doing the same thing.

Furthermore, the party must accept that the expulsion of Healy raises a question over the validity and method of all splits at least since the mid-1960s and most expulsions.

Particular attention should be paid to those from whom we have split since that time. In these cases the CC and International Relations Bureau should be empowered and instructed to hold discussions with



LEON TROTSKY — founder of the Fourth International

the initial purpose of information and clarification.

10. Until such thorough and serious work is done, the conference proposed for the end of this year can only be premature and ill-considered.

Discussions must continue, reports be given to the party and — most important — joint work on mutually-agreed campaigns can be carried out.

Then a further congress will have to review the situation.

11. In order to assist the process of discussion, the WRP should:

(a) set up a proper history commission;

(b) set up an International Discussion Bulletin.

12. In order to play a part in re-building the FI, we must not just declare that we stand on the Transitional Programme but begin to work on how it is to be developed in the class struggle today.

Without presuming to have all the answers to all the questions facing the working class internationally, we must state our position on basic principled questions.

(a) We stand for the building of the Fourth International and its sections in every country.

This is the only way to resolve the crisis of leadership of the working class, not only in the advanced metropolitan countries but also in the oppressed and developing countries and the degenerated workers' states.

We stand for the right of Trotskyists in these countries to free political expression.

(b) The Trotskyist parties must be built on the democratic centralist principle, assimilating the lessons of the Bolshevik party and the subsequent history of the internationals.

There must be real inner party democracy in order to achieve a

centralised leadership.

(c) We stand for the overthrow of capitalism by the working class internationally.

Only in this way can the threat of nuclear war be averted.

We stand for the destruction of NATO and imperialist military alliances.

(d) We stand for the unity of the working class internationally against the multinational companies and the economic treaties of imperialism that serve them.

Against the EEC we advance the slogan of a united socialist states of Europe.

We stand for the independence of the working class movement from the state and support all the struggles of the working class internationally to improve their living standards and against unemployment.

We oppose all attempts by the Stalinists and reformists to set workers of one country against another with reactionary nationalist demands for import controls, stopping overseas investment etc.

(e) We recognise the central importance of resolving the crisis of leadership in the metropolitan countries.

This means building Trotskyist parties, the application of revolutionary tactics as advocated by the first four congresses of the Communist International, the development of transitional demands in the struggle to break the working class from its reformist and Stalinist leaderships, consistent work in the mass organisations and rejection of sectarianism.

(f) We stand unequivocally for the defence of the Soviet Union, eastern Europe, China, Korea, Vietnam and Cuba from imperialist attack

We support the right of these countries to defend themselves by means including the stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

We oppose the Stalinist bureaucracy in its reactionary dealings with the imperialists at the expense of the working class, the oppressed nations (Afghanistan), and liberation movements (PLO) and its suppression of workers' democracy and the independence of trades unions (Poland).

Only the overthrow of the bureaucracy by political revolution can open the way for the socialist development of the workers' states. This means building sections of the FI in these countries.

(g) We stand for the victory of the national liberation struggles against imperialism and its agents (Ireland, Palestine, Nicaragua, South Africa, Tamil Eelam etc).

In the case of Palestine, we are opposed to the imperialist-backed Zionist state.

We stand for the right of self-determination of all nations which are oppressed by the bourgeoisie whether of the imperialist countries or the developing countries (Kurdistan, Kashmir etc).

We support the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie of the oppressed nations in so far as they further the national struggle against imperialism, but stand at all times for the independent struggle of the working class of these countries, the only force which can complete the anti-imperialist struggle and take steps towards socialism, in conflict with the reactionary side of nationalism.

(h) We campaign for the liberation of all class-war prisoners: the imprisoned Trotskyists in the eastern European countries, China and Latin America; trades unionists and socialists jailed by both capitalist and Stalinist regimes and by national-bourgeois governments such as Iraq, Iran and Egypt; fighters from bourgeois-national and national liberation movements jailed by imperialism.

JACK CASEY DIED JUNE 28 1985



BY CHRIS BAILEY

JACK CASEY, a lifelong fighter for socialism, died one year ago on 28th June 1985.

The struggle for a revolutionary socialist leadership in the working class has been a long and complex one.

There have been triumphs and victories; there have also been defeats and stagnation.

Jack's life reflected this living movement. Despite many setbacks and disappointments he remained as committed to socialism at his death as he had been in his youth.

In this, he personified the vitality of the working class itself.

Jack was born into working class politics. His grandfather had fled from Dublin to Scotland after his involvement in the Phoenix Park murders.

His father was an active member of the ILP and Jack was taken to political meetings from an early age.

His 'political hero' in his early teens was John Maclean. Jack was educated in socialism through attending lectures of Maclean and others in Glasgow.

He joined the ILP in 1922, but within a short time was actually working for the newly formed Communist Party within the ILP youth movement.

In 1926, he was in the first British Young Workers delegation to visit Soviet Russia under the leadership of Starkey Jackson, who later became one of the first British Trotskyists.

The delegation had a series of discussions with Trotsky. Jack recalled that youth in the delegation had already heard rumours about differences between Trotsky and Stalin.

He said: 'We were determined to support Trotsky. We knew Trotsky as one of the joint leaders of the Russian Revolution. Stalin really meant nothing to us.'

When they tried to raise these questions, however, Trotsky, who was still fighting as an opposition in the CPSU, refused to discuss them.

Jack, along with many other fighters of his generation, ended up in the camp of Stalinism.

In his later years he spent much time considering why this happened. He explained that, although his early training had convinced him of the correctness of socialism, it did not equip him for fighting to win the leadership of the working class.

This was particularly true in the case of the faction fight inside the ILP youth movement.

Although the communists dominated the policies of the youth movement, they never succeeded in winning it over organisationally.

As a result, they accepted their inexperience on these questions and tended to support uncritically the directives of Moscow.

In the later 1920's and early 30's, Jack worked closely with Harry McShane amongst the unemployed, and was one of the organisers of the Scottish section of the Hunger Marches.

He moved to London in 1934 where he remained active in the Communist Party until the end of the war.

He resigned following the party's decision to support a coalition government.

He said: 'I felt I could not remain a member of a party which supported Winston Churchill.'

For the next 25 years Jack was not a member of any political party but remained a convinced socialist and still engaged in continuous discussion and argument.

His main problem was, however, that whilst recognising the degeneration of the Communist Party, he could not explain how it happened.

In 1969, whilst living in Earlsfield, London, he came into contact with the Socialist Labour League. A series on Stalinism in the early issues of Workers Press at last provided him with an understanding of the degeneration he had been part of.

He sat up until 2am or 3am each night waiting for delivery of the next issues.

He then had a series of meetings with me from which he joined the SLL.

I think the discussions had as much effect on me as they did on him.

The sheer vitality and enthusiasm of this old man in his sixties was amazing. As a young man who thought I had all the answers, I often found myself having to think about questions I had taken for granted before.

Jack loved debate and discussion. Although he remained in the party for the rest of his life, 15 years, he was never really at home in the old WRP.

His determination to discuss with everyone, including his old friends from the Stalinists, was tolerated but never approved.

I remember particularly Jack's enthusiasm when he persuaded Harry McShane to participate in the launching of one of the party's youth marches from Glasgow.

Having become convinced by Trotskyism himself, he was determined to win everyone else. Jack just missed the overthrow of Healy.

There is no question as to were he would have stood. We can only imagine the enthusiasm with which he would have greeted the turn of the party towards the real problems of fighting for leadership in the living movement of the class, particularly in his beloved Glasgow.

He will be remembered in that fight by all those who knew him. Chris Bailey

'HE PERSONIFIED THE VITALITY OF THE WORKING CLASS ITSELF'

JOCK HASTON PIONEER TROTSKYIST TO ARCH RIGHT WINGER

JOCK HASTON, who died last week at the age of 73, was general secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party from its formation in 1944 until its dissolution in 1949.

For the first half of his life he could claim to be a communist.

In the second half he moved rapidly to become ideological adviser of the right-wing bureaucracy of the labour movement.

At the age of 15 he went to sea. He joined the Communist Party but left it after becoming critical of the Comintern's policy following the victory of Hitler.

He joined with a group of young South African Trotskyists in the Paddington Labour League of Youth.

They conducted propaganda work, ran open air discussions at Hyde Park and sold socialist literature.

There, in 1937, he recruited T G Healy. In the next few years, he was to be on several occasions responsible for persuading the rest of the small group to continue to work with Healy on the basis that they were short of practical organisers.

Haston, with Heaton Lee, Ralph Lee, Millie Lee and Ted Grant set up the Workers International League, publishing 'Youth for Socialism' (which later became 'Socialist Appeal') and 'Workers International News'.

In 1943, Haston, together with Heaton Lee, Roy Tearse, and Anne Keene, was arrested and put on trial, accused of conspiracy and 'furthering an illegal strike'.

They had assisted engineering apprentices to organise and draw up leaflets for their strike against

conscription into the mines and for nationalisation.

Five thousand apprentices came out.

They had wide support in the Durham and Northumberland coalfields.

Reports from those arrested and other Trotskyists active at the time, relayed several instances of sympathy expressed for the Trotskyists on trial.

There was also wide opposition in the Labour Party and trade unions against the arrests.

An 'Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Committee' was set up to defend the Trotskyists with James Maxton, ILP MP, as chairman and Labour MP W G Cove as secretary.

Class

It had several left Labour MPs as members, including Aneurin Bevan.

Haston declared to the judge at the end of the trial: 'I hope I have served my class as well as you have served yours.'

The general sympathy undoubtedly affected the jury.

Apprentices brought as prosecution witnesses spoke up and assisted the accused. The jury rejected the conspiracy charge.

BY BILL HUNTER

Haston was sentenced to six months' hard labour, Roy Tearse and Heaton Lee to a year, and Anne Keene to 13 days' for 'furthering an illegal strike.'

An appeal, however, was won on the basis that a strike could not be 'furthered' prior to its outbreak.

Soon after, the RSL and the WIL fused into the Revolutionary Communist Party.

Although still only a small organisation it had developed from tiny groups at the beginning of the war.

The 'Socialist Appeal' was widely known from its activities in strikes.

Workers had been won from the Communist Party because of the Party's strike-breaking anti-working class role.

Immediately before the general election, Haston stood for the RCP in a parliamentary by-election in Neath, South Wales.

Against a Labour Party coalition government candidate, the RCP secured 1,781 votes.

The main content of the vote was, in fact, support for the party's demand for Labour to break the coalition.

Haston's election address declared that the war was, 'a war for profit on the part of the capitalist class who direct and control the war... in India and other colonies the war has not brought freedom... in liberated Europe the imperialist character of the war has been clearly shown.'

And at a time when the Stalinists and capitalist press were whipping up anti-German feeling, the election address said, 'at this late hour we say bluntly and boldly to the workers of Neath and of Britain, you have more in common with the German worker than with Churchill and his class.'

It was in this context that Haston and other RCP leaders had the perspective that, with the Communist Party carrying on its naked anti-working class policies after the war, the RCP could overtake the CP in its support in the working class.

Illusion

There was a failure to recognise the nature of the turn of the working class to a Labour government and an illusion that, through propaganda alone, the RCP would emerge as an alternative to Labour and the Communist Party.

Reality hit these illusions a cruel blow.

Haston never recovered politically from the great turn to a Labour government in 1945 and the adjustments in Stalinist policy with the development of the 'cold war'.

He deserted the Trotskyist movement in 1950 after a general election in which the Labour government majority had been drastically reduced.

He declared that this was a 'defeat for the working class' and that the Labour government in its measures of nationalisation was carrying



'Socialist Appeal' incurred the hatred of the capitalist press for its principled struggle throughout the war - as this collage from the August 1942 issue shows

out 'the job' for which the Trotskyist movement had been formed.

Haston the revolutionary died then, 36 years ago.

He became a lecturer for the National Council of Labour Colleges and eventually a tutor at the Esher

college of the EETPU.

There he used his wide knowledge of the Stalinist and communist movement not for the benefit of the working class, but to arm right-wing members of the union, and employers, against communism.

LETTERS

Wapping and trade union democracy

THE STRUGGLE against Murdoch and the state is about the need for workers to have independent trade unions.

Boycotting, picketing etc are the necessary means (going back at least 100 years) by which jobs and conditions have been defended and improved.

SOGAT's 'purging of contempt' in relation to boycotting by wholesale members endangered the historic gains of the working class.

In effect, Dean and the majority of the executive were saying that workers have no right to ask other workers for help.

What about solidarity to defend jobs and to fight cuts in health, education and other community services?

The lame excuse was that boycotting had to be stopped to end sequestration and release funds for the strike.

This is false. Unions were formed, and continue to exist, by the gathering together of workers — not by the amount in the union treasury.

Solidarity from other workers, some from around the world, helped the miners' struggle for a year.

The Tories wanted to destroy the NUM. Scargill, despite his limitations, gave leadership and the Tories failed to reach their goal.

This fight (also involving sequestration) inspired many workers against the Tories. Class morale was strengthened.

The same with the sacked printers.

For months they have had no income from the union (because of sequestration) or the DHSS (because of deliberate blocking by the Tories).

The struggle has been continued only because finan-

cial support has come from other workers through their organisations including Print Support Groups.

Support is there but can only really be tapped when leadership is given.

Dean and Co have not acted as leaders defending workers' interests.

They have avoided like the plague the fight to go to all sections of the communities for support based on the issues involved.

These are:

- Defence of unions, against the violence of the police (army?) and courts.

- Against harassment of residents and the need for an uncensored media to be owned by the masses to end the lies of the capitalist media about the dispute.

These points can help form a united front by bringing together all the relationships between the part (Wapping, jobs and union recognition) and the whole (the standard of living of the masses).

The acceptance of a ballot on Murdoch's £50m redundancy and Grays Inn Road printworks offer by the SOGAT leadership continued their lack of principles.

Everyone needs a job; this is not in question.

No union recommendation on the ballot form made it more obscene. It amounted to a selling of 6,000 jobs and union recognition.

The membership rejected the ballot and, to an extent, the leadership.

This is a process. It does not yet mean that they have lost all illusions in Dean and Co.

What is emerging is that the membership are beginning to, and must, take control.

The development of the mass meetings that are tak-



ing place must be highlighted.

It cuts across the divisive practice of chapel against chapel and helps to unite all printers. These meetings should decide policy in front of the executive.

This brings up the relationship between the members and the executive. Their job is to give leadership at such mass meetings.

That is, if they stay for the whole meeting — unlike Dean who walked out before the end of the mass meeting which she was summoned to after the purging of contempt.

Shedid't like the hostility shown to her by the membership. Not surprising. Bureaucrats never do.

However, the members must decide policy. It is their jobs at stake not the executive.

- The anti-trade union laws must be smashed.

- The decision of the SOGAT conference to do nothing to risk sequestration must be reversed.

A campaign among the branches must be started. Murdoch has taken court action on picketing at Wapping. Sequestration looms. So be it.

Tory injunctions must be ignored.

'Step up picketing, don't stop it!' must be the instruction to the London District Council.

Fight arrests such as Mick Hicks on Saturday June 21.

That Hicks, a Communist Party member, argued at conference to swing the London delegates towards acceptance of the executive's motion of doing nothing effective to avoid Tory sequestration must not stop workers defending him

against the state.

His betrayal must be answered at mass meetings. CP members, where do you stand on this?

The crisis of the working class is the crisis of leadership. Only by testing our leaders will workers, albeit slowly, understand what they stand for in relation to what is required.

Labour Party members must challenge Kinnock (who has not yet been on the picket line... still, it took him ten months in the miners strike!).

Branches should consider the following resolutions for the coming party conference.

- Expulsion of Labour Party members scabbing at Wapping and Glasgow, Maxwell (of barbed wire fame) not excluded.

- Hammond be instructed to cease acceptance of

scabs. Withdraw their EET-PU cards. That all Labour Party members be mobilised to support the fight in every way including linking up with print support groups.

- Abolition of anti-union laws.

These demands should be carried out now with the exception of anti-union laws which should be a manifesto pledge and more important carried out by the next Labour government.

Labour Party, CP, SWP, union members — test your leaders. Fight for them to be under your control. Those who refuse and betray, throw them out.

Only principled fighters must be elected.

Fight for workers democracy against the bureaucracy of the labour and trade union leaders.

Robin Burnham
Crawley, Sussex

Popular Front dangers in South Africa

BILL HUNTER is quite correct (WP June 21), to characterise the policy of the African National Congress as a 'Popular Front' orientation.

This is true, of course, also of the South African Communist Party (SACP) who indeed make no secret of the fact that their policy is based on the Popular Front strategy as adopted at the Seventh (and last) Congress of the Comintern in 1937.

Having said this, we must, however, determine the attitude of revolutionary socialists in South Africa toward the Popular Front type organisations in South Africa,

principally the United Democratic Front (UDF) which undoubtedly has the largest mass support outside the organised trade union movement (COSATU).

We must beware of falling into the trap of sectarianism which can cut the revolutionaries off from the great mass movement which is today threatening the very existence of the apartheid regimes.

While it is impossible to duplicate exact historical parallels, the ANC bears a very close resemblance to the Kuomintang.

The SACP is repeating the historic error of the Chinese

CP which, under Stalin's instructions, completely submerged itself into the Kuomintang and identified with its policies and strategy, leading to the tragic defeat of the second Chinese Revolution (1926-27).

But here it is necessary to differentiate between the Chinese CP before 1925 and after.

Before 1925, when the Chinese communists were little more than a propaganda group, Trotsky was in favour of them entering the Kuomintang:

'The participation of the CCP in the Kuomintang was

perfectly correct in the period when the CCP was a propaganda society which was only preparing itself for future independent political activity but which, at the same time, sought to take part in the ongoing national struggle...

(The Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang, Leon Trotsky on China, Pathfinder p.114)

Trotsky returned to this theme in his discussions with Harold R Isaacs (op.cit, p.554) when he stated that communists: 'should participate in this democratic mass movement... because at

the moment we do not have such a movement. Our task is to create one...

Trotsky added: 'It frequently happens that we cannot push the masses forward. We cannot create a miracle...

In South Africa, the Trotskyist forces are only a tiny handful in comparison with the mass movements — ANC, UDF, AZAPO and the various youth movements.

That they are not without influence is borne out by the increasing, and increasingly vicious, attacks which the SACP in its journal African Communist and the ANC in its organ Secheba is laun-

ching against them.

(See, for a good example of this, the June 1986 issue of Secheba). They will have to probe and see where their role — which at this stage must be mainly propagandist — can be most effective.

The ground is ripe. A recent survey by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) is significant.

A sample of black people living in all ten major metropolitan areas in South Africa were asked which economic system they wanted to see in South Africa in the future — capitalism or socialism?

A staggering 77 per cent replied in favour of socialism and only 22 per cent favoured capitalism.

Cyril Ramaphosa of the National Union of Mineworkers, in a debate with mining magnate Harry Oppenheimer, was equally emphatic: 'Experience has shown it is too late for free enterprise to save the country.'

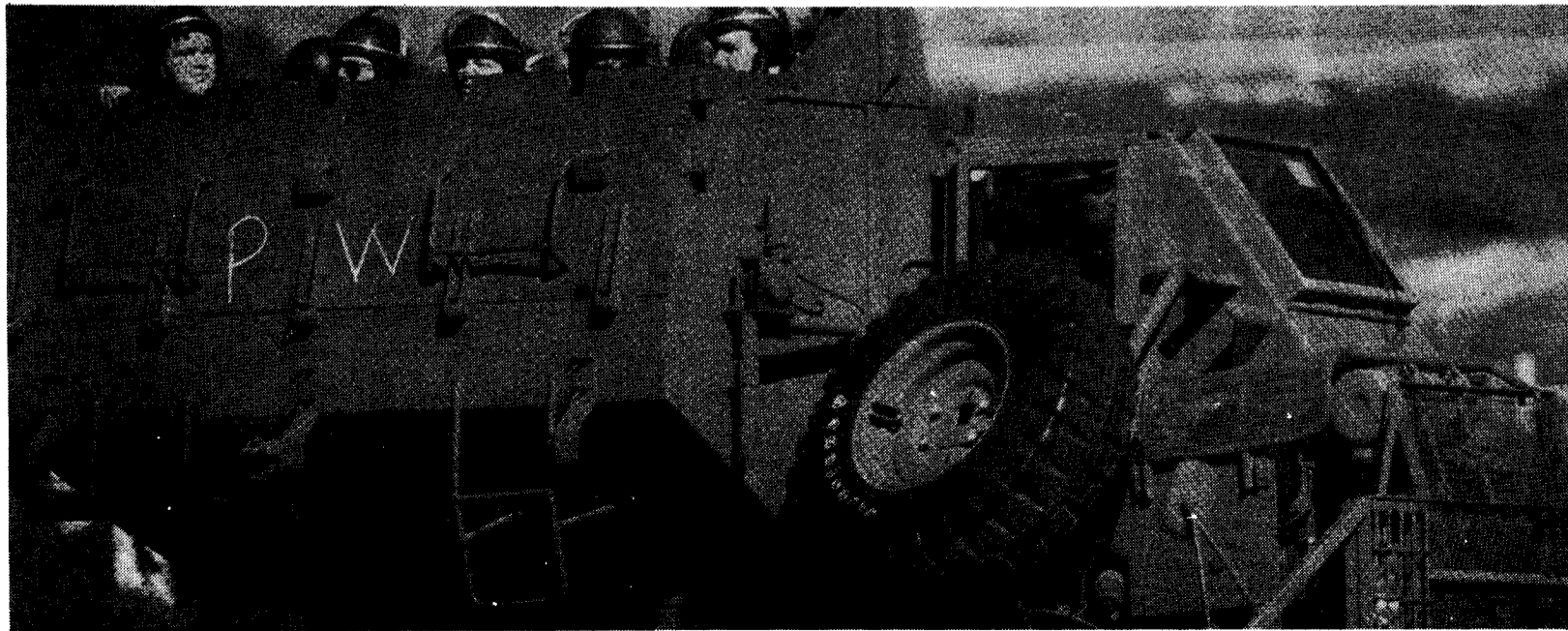
'Workers want a socialist system because all they have experienced from private enterprise is poverty and low wages.' (Weekly Mail June 13-19).

The deepening of the revolutionary crisis in South Africa is putting Permanent Revolution on the order of the day.

Apartheid cannot exist without capitalism; capitalism in South Africa cannot function without apartheid.

The revolutionary masses will put an end to them both!

Charlie van Gelderen
(associated with the Marxist journal 'International').



ARMOURED personnel carrier adorned with the initials 'PW' of the type used for combined police and military operations against the black working class in South Africa

LETTERS

Fords money men behind European run-down?

RECENT developments, both world and European, in the automotive industry as it pertains to Ford, give rise to serious grounds for fear for the future of the industry.

It is becoming more apparent, with the re-shuffle of senior European management, that Fords are embarking upon a policy of running down its European plants — and this includes Ford plants in the UK.

Investment by Fords in UK plants has steadily decreased to the point where there are serious fears that all or most UK plants may end up as assembly operations only.

Take Fords tractor operations at Basildon as an example.

Giving as the reasons a falling market share and an overall need for efficiency, the Basildon plant has suffered a reduction in its hourly-paid workforce from somewhere near 5,000 in 1978 to a target figure approaching 1,950 at the end of 1986.

Recently, Ford sold off its truck operations at Langley to embark upon a heavy truck 'Joint Venture' entitled 'Iveco-Ford', with ownership made up of 48 per cent Iveco, 48 per cent Ford and the remaining 4 per cent

being merchant banking interests.

Iveco is in fact a wholly owned subsidiary of Fiat, the giant Italian vehicle and engineering combine. The word Iveco can be taken as an exercise in mnemonics to mean the 'Italian Venture into European Commerce'.

The agreements covering the joint venture give Iveco the option, at the end of two years, to buy out Ford's percentage.

Senior management at the Langley plant, under instructions which one can only assume come from Fiat, have been given a target for the end of that two-year period to have the workforce employed under Italian conditions and work practices as much as possible.

Bear in mind that Ford are losing interest in the Heavy Truck market, due to extreme competition and low profitability; hence the Joint Venture.

It is, I feel, safe to assume that, in two years, Langley will be wholly Fiat owned.

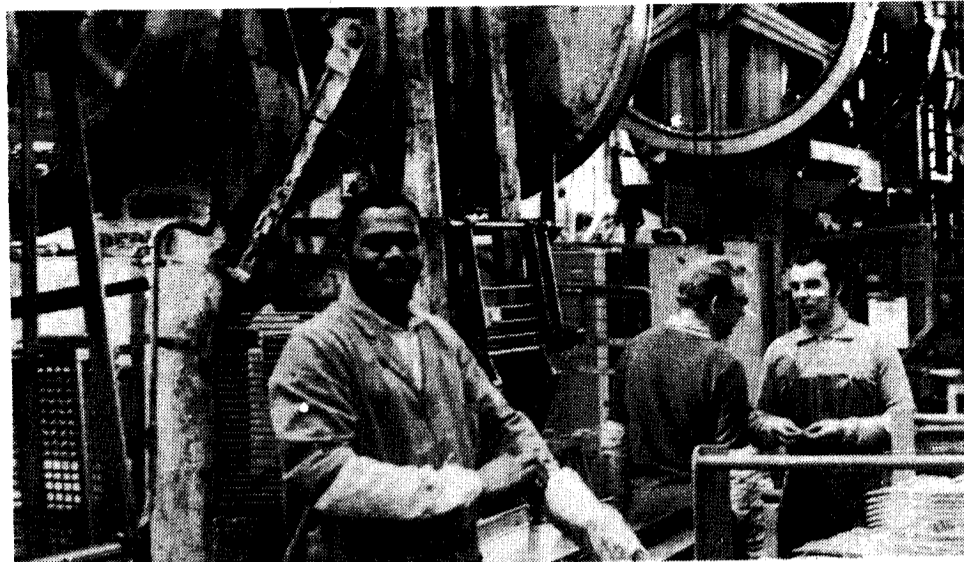
As Fiat manufacture and market one of the best-selling tractors in Europe, one can next wonder how long it will take Fiat to introduce a tractor assembly line into the Langley plant to

compete directly with Ford on its home market.

Given this very strong possibility, one can next assume that, as Ford's tractor market will be even more compressed both in Europe and the world market, the most likely event is that Ford will either run down its Basildon operation to the point of closure, as happened to the Thames Foundry, or will more likely sell the plant to Fiat, as it has done at Langley.

Another possibility, bearing in mind the opening paragraphs, is this. With reductions in company investments in UK plants plus labour force reductions, allied to Ford's diversification of interests into other companies and industries and their interest in — to use their own terminology — 'Joint Ventures', it will become a fact that all UK and indeed most European plants will be reduced to the status of assembly only operations.

The recent appointments of Ken Whipple and Alexander Trotman as president and vice-president of Ford of Europe (replacing Robert Lutz) means that a financial analyst has replaced an operations-oriented man as the head of Fords in Europe. In addition, Trotman, the



The antiquated foundry plant at Ford's Dagenham plant — threatened in latest management re-shuffle?

deputy head, was formerly in charge of negotiations for a closer tie-up with Mazda (of which Ford owns 25 per cent).

This means the two prime movers of the Ford policy — for heavier investment in the Far-East and the Third World and the buying of more foreign components compared to home production — are now in charge of policy at Ford of Europe.

These same men, who were responsible for increasing reliance upon Mazda to fill a Ford market, are now increasing the UK and Europe's reliance on Japanese component parts.

It is therefore, I believe, safe to assume that the future of Ford remaining in manufacturing industry in this country is in doubt.

Perhaps it may well come to pass that, except for Brit-

ish Leyland and a few other smaller independent organisations (always assuming that future governments support Leyland), the future of Britain as a participant in the automotive manufacturing industry will end, taking with it not only thousands of jobs but also yet another section of Britain's proud heritage in the engineering industry.

W. Enness

Good intentions — but the 'bad men' method persists

WORKERS PRESS (June 21) carried a letter from Phil Sharpe of Nottingham Workers Power countering what he said was my position, i.e.:

'Workers Power, ashamed of its state capitalist past, downgrades the significance of the struggle against Cliff's advocacy of state capitalism within the British section in 1950 — which led to his neutralist position in the Korean war.'

I accept that Phil Sharpe is entitled to comment that, 'Workers Power, as a group originating from the International Socialists (now the SWP), could not instantly and automatically overcome the limitations of our traditions.'

However, it is not a matter of just sloughing off old traditions.

Workers Power has not, in reality, fundamentally broken with the method on which Cliff's state capitalist theory and the International Socialists were built.

The Workers Power pamphlet — 'The Death Agony of the Fourth International', which claims to deal with the history of Trotskyism, nowhere deals with the split of the state capitalist faction from the British section.

My actual comment was that this was surely a very significant omission and it made me suspicious.

Did these historians really want to understand what that split was all about and probe into the real nature of the group from which they developed?

I also thought it underlined the selective way they dealt with history.

It confirmed my general opinion of the pamphlet — it does not go beyond literary discussion.

Superficial and one-sided, it makes no attempt to deal with class movements and to place the history of the Fourth International in that context.

Is it any wonder that Workers Power are unable to be sharp against the corrosive scepticism of Mike Banda?

They must feel a certain sympathy with his brand of the 'Bad Men' theory of history, his picking up of incidents to bolster his conclusions — history as seen as points in a debate.

I am not saying that Workers Power shares Banda's particular type of vindictive, false arrogance. But they share the method.

The Workers Power pamphlet gives a description of what it says happened to the British Trotskyist movement after the war.

You could not get further away from historical materialism and objective Marxist

analysis than this.

It is a history bounded by the prejudices and *a-priori* conclusions of the authors.

In time we will deal with all its distortions.

Phil Sharpe, for his part, does try to say something about the state capitalist faction in Britain and its expulsion from the British section.

However, he carries on the same method — which goes right back to the state capitalist faction itself.

Even if there was a division (over the not unimportant issue of the Korean war), he is saying, it was not a real division.

The classic formula for not taking sides.

It was adopted by Grant at the time and again, later, when there was a struggle by the British section against Pablo.

Writes Phil Sharpe: 'However, when the British section entered into political struggle against Cliff on this question of state capitalism, it was unfortunately not based on the dialectical method that Trotsky had utilised in relation to Poland and Finland.'

Instead it was based on the empirical impressionism of Pablo.

'The stance of the British section on the Korean war, whilst correct as a political position, was based on the

false methodological premises of War-Revolution. . .'

It is all a question really of getting the words right and not an actual living struggle!

The Korean war was no small issue in the labour movement.

At the beginning of the war — for six months to a year — there was complete support for the war in the Labour Party.

Almost the only voice raised then in a principled stand on the war was that of the Trotskyists — who stood in support of North Korea against imperialist intervention.

Left MPs deserted them.

Under this pressure, the state capitalist faction found it impossible to stay in the Trotskyist movement and publicly repudiated its position.

Their members moved an amendment to it on the Birmingham Trades Council which declared a 'plague on

both houses' — the Soviet bureaucracy and American Imperialism.

It must be added that they were not expelled forthwith.

All members of the faction were asked to sign a statement declaring they would not break again the majority policy of the Trotskyist group.

All but two declined and were expelled.

The state capitalist faction in the British Trotskyist movement had existed for two or three years before this.

Certainly it was in existence before Pablo developed his theories and it had been countered many times with arguments from Trotsky on Finland and Poland.

It was essentially a faction with a complete lack of confidence in the working class and an overwhelming faith in the strength of the Soviet bureaucracy and American imperialism.

It perhaps, remains to add

a footnote to the story.

The two who were not expelled signed the declaration.

There were three votes for expelling them on the National Committee of the British section — Healy and the Bandas.

Healy argued that they only signed because they were going back to Ceylon and wanted to get clearance to join the Lanka Sama Samaja Party.

They did leave for Ceylon and one became an MP. He subsequently supported the coalition in Ceylon with the national bourgeoisie.

Was Healy right then? He was certainly right in analysing the motives of these two.

But it meant a diversion to the political struggle if the question of motive was made central.

Perhaps Phil Sharpe will find a lesson here.

Bill Hunter.

Sickening hypocrisy

A 'TRIBUTE' in the NEWS LINE of Wednesday July 2 has claimed Cde Jack Gale as their own — on the basis that he worked hard for the News Line.

Many Comrades sacrificed for the News Line and the party but, when the split with Healy came, supported neither him nor his supporters.

It was to understand the non-communist activities of Healy, his sectarian and opportunist politics and the necessity of the fight to build the revolutionary party: this formed the basis of the split.

Some of us had to fight for Jack's political integrity before he died.

When he was still in Australia and the news of his illness reached us, it was received by his comrades with shock and sadness.

Healy tried to convince both Aileen Jennings and myself that Jack was faking his illness to get out of returning to England and was dodging resuming work on

the News Line — and that he was trying to attract attention to himself.

Healy avoided having anything to do with the arrangements for collecting Jack and Celia from the airport on their return.

It was a Saturday when I collected them; on arrival at the centre Healy was not there to meet them.

Later Aileen told me that he had deliberately arranged to be absent.

He did not want to know anything about the arrangements we made after that.

From the time Jack arrived back in England to the day he died, Healy made no attempt to see him; he ignored a comrade who had given so much for the party.

It was only because of a last minute decision to save face that he finally agreed to speak at the memorial meeting in Leeds.

When told that there was to be no formal funeral, he accused Jack of doing this deliberately to 'get at' him

and the party.

The tribute to Jack in the Workers Press (June 30) made no claim for Jack's body. I find the method of the News Line not only distasteful — but non-Marxist.

The article infers that activity around the News Line was the criterion of whether or not you went with Healy and his supporters on October 12, 1985.

No! It was an understanding that the revolutionary party could not be built around the activities of Healy and his apologists.

The unsigned article has obviously been written by somebody who has no understanding or feeling of the comrade's contribution, no comprehension as to why he joined and fought for the Trotskyist party.

It was from this point of view that I wrote the tribute in the Workers Press.

Their wretched 'obituary' is based on 'pure activity' and clairvoyance, not on historical materialism.

Norman Harding

A reflex — and a riposte

IT IS REGRETTABLE that the letter from John Spencer (Workers Press, June 18), appears to be an indignant reflex which fails to grasp one of the points of my letter.

Mitchell made every effort to draw attention to himself and those around him; amicable boos and hisses were certainly directed at Alan Bott by this group, which included John Spencer and Paul Feldman, as he walked through the door.

And Alan Bott did join this group.

For John Spencer to be indignant about being linked in my letter with Mitchell,

and then to admit to sitting amicably with him, is a bit fatuous!

More important, why did Mitchell make such a spectacle of himself?

And what did John Spencer make of the proceedings of the first Annual Meeting of the LCP?

Regrettably, he does not say. Who told him to go, and for what reasons?

Having been our correspondent in the Lebanon on several occasions, including when Healy recalled him in a fit of rage (over what?), John Spencer could quite legiti-

mately have been interested in the LCP and could have been a valuable member of the organisation, with his first-hand knowledge and contacts.

He was not, however, on the slate for the steering committee.

Who drew up that slate and why was John Spencer not on it?

I hope John will give his next response more consideration and provide an objective assessment of the Party's, and in particular Mitchell's, role in the LCP.

Geoffrey Thurley

REVIEWS

The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

A personal record and a general history

WALTER GREGORY is one of the many brave class-conscious workers who went to fight in Spain.

He himself admits in this highly readable account that in setting out he was full of naive enthusiasm.

His background was typical of many of his generation.

Politicised by unemployment and poverty, he joined the Labour League of Youth, participated in the 1934 Hunger March and the National Unemployed Workers Movement, joined the Communist Party and took part in anti-fascist activity in Nottingham.

He saw the Popular Front as a United Front against fascism, was recruited into the International Brigade by the local CP organiser — and was followed all the way to Perpignan by the British and French police.

The volunteers were given a rapturous welcome on the way to Barcelona, which was a revolutionary city, very much under the influence of the Anarchist militias.

After five weeks' training he became a messenger with the British Battalion. They wore no mark of rank.

Politically he agrees with the Stalinist position that the task of defeating fascism militarily came before the social revolution.

He is also critical of the Labour Party's position on the United Front.

It has to be remembered however that the CP had only just emerged from its 'Third Period' ultra-left sectarianism and this had soured the relationship between the CP and the LP.

Gregory took part in the battles south of Madrid to prevent its encirclement.

Out of the original battalion of 600 only 100 survived the battle around the Jarama river where Gregory was first wounded.

They used propaganda loudspeakers against the fascist trenches — but it drew artillery fire from the better equipped opposition.

Republican forces counter-attacked north of Madrid after preventing encirclement, to defend the industrial areas.

Gregory was wounded again in the advance on Brunete in which the Interna-

tional Brigades again suffered terrible casualties.

When Hitler sent 88mm guns and ME 109s, Republican air domination was over.

Gregory attributes the failure to take Zaragoza to the division between the CP and the anarchists.

Undoubtedly at the time he would not have been aware of the secret manoeuvring and treachery by the Stalinist leaders.

Walter was then taken for training and became 'teniente (lieutenant) Gregorio', a seasoned veteran in an internationally mixed battalion.

He was wounded yet again in the attempt to counter-attack across the Ebro to join the republicans in the south.

This time he ended up in a bed next to Jack Jones, the future T&GWU leader.

Wounded

Still wounded, he returned to the front along with many others only just about able to shoot.

September 1938 marked the final stage when Franco decided to take Catalonia.

Internationally the 'western democracies' were capitulating to Germany at Munich and the Hitler-Stalin pact marked the abandonment of the Spanish revolution by Stalin.

This is recognised by Walter Gregory.

He was finally taken prisoner and court-martialled, not knowing the sentence.

Many others were court-martialled without their knowledge and only learned

The Shallow Grave: A Memoir of the Spanish Civil War. By Walter Gregory. Edited by David Morris and Anthony Peters. Victor Gollancz, £10.95.

The Spanish Civil War 1936-39. By Paul Preston. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £10.95.

of the sentence when the priest called to give the last rites prior to execution.

After gruelling experiences in disease-ridden jails he was repatriated.

Walter Gregory is one amongst two thousand British militants who went to Spain.

Their heroism keeps the revolutionary tradition alive today.

The working class has had to survive many defeats on its road to power; Spain was one.

Without the Walter Gregorys the working class would not have survived this far in its struggle.

This is an excellent account by an honest and courageous man who fought for his class. It is well worth reading and learning from.

With Paul Preston's history of the war, we get a broader historical view of the war, its causes and international repercussions.

He states that the central theme is that the war was the 'culmination of uneven struggles between reform and reaction since 1808'.

The success of reaction is due to the power of the landed oligarchy and the weakness of the progressive bourgeoisie.

Capital from mercantile sources went into the land during the nineteenth century, strengthening the landowners and preventing the development of a strong industrial bourgeoisie.

The 1870s to 1890s saw abortive bourgeois revolutions, economic depression, the loss of the Spanish empire (Cuba) and the rise of the northern working class.

Land hunger among the peasants gave rise to the anarchist movement and the workers built the reformist PSOE and its trade union movement (UGT).

Huge profits from the Great War were threatened by excessive taxation by the aristocracy and a temporary alliance between the capitalists and workers in 1917 was suppressed by the military.

The church organised reactionary peasant syndicates to prevent peasants turning to revolution to solve the land question.

Resurgence of foreign competition after the war brought wage-cuts and layoffs.

The 'trienio bolchevique'

of 1918-21 saw revolt in Barcelona and the rural south.

The military dictatorship of Miguel Primo de Rivera of 1923-30 failed to hold back the peasants and workers and did not satisfy remaining contradictions between the capitalists and landowners.

The success of the reformists and liberals in the 1931 election led to the abdication of Alfonso XIII and the formation of the 2nd Republic.

This raised the fears of the ruling classes and the hopes of the workers and peasants.

A coalition of conservatives, centre/left republicans and reformists, it was crisis-ridden and vacillating.

A military rising in August 1932 was beaten by a general strike; land reform and the 8-hour day were frustrated by the power of the landowners and their grip on state power.

Peasant revolts and strikes were repressed and the fascist Falange was founded by Jose Antonio, son of Miguel Primo de Rivera.

Coalition

The 'middle course' was disappearing.

In 1933 a reactionary coalition won the election and the workers and peasants movements moved to the left.

Strikes in early 1934 were picked off singly and the peasants' reformist union (FNNT) was suppressed.

A united front of the PSOE, UGT, CNT (anarchist trade unions) and belatedly the PGE (Stalinists) was crushed by Franco in the northern industrial Asturias.

The state prepared for civil war.

The Popular Front was formed and won the election in February 1936.

Azana (bourgeois republican) and Prieto (right-PSOE) planned mild reforms to head off the workers and peasants and Largo Caballero, hailed in Pravda as the 'Spanish Lenin' fused the PSOE youth with the PCE, but rejected a proposal from Maurin of the POUM for a revolution in April.

Azana fell. Quiroga refused to arm the workers, as did the left republican Comanys in Catalonia.

The military rising took place on July 18 1936, with General Mola in Spain and



WALTER GREGORY, photographed in La Pasionara Hospital, Murcia, February 1937

Franco's troops ferried over the Straits of Gibraltar by Mussolini's planes, because the Spanish sailors had mutinied and taken control of the navy.

Within a week both Germany and Italy were supplying arms and personnel.

Blum and the Popular Front in France pioneered 'non-interventionism' and Stalin manoeuvred between a pact with France and Britain and support for the Spanish Republic.

The PCE's role was to hold back the revolution and not endanger this alliance.

Very soon the POUM were being persecuted by GPU agents and Durruti, the anarchist leader was murdered, as well as Andres Nin.

By November 1936 the fascists were at the gates of Madrid, Largo Caballero assumed leadership, the CNT entered the government and they fled in disarray to Valencia.

This left the defence of Madrid to the PCE.

There was greater political and military homogeneity on the fascist side with the church playing the role of propagandist, except for the Basque clergy.

For the Catholic theologians, to murder Republicans was to reconcile them to God; in the terror some 200,000 liberals and leftists were thus 'reconciled'.

The Catholic church played an international role of apologist for the fascists.

In the republican zone from the autumn of 1936 the terror was directed against the left.

For the Popular Front the defence of bourgeois democracy by military means was primary, while for the anarchists and the POUM

the social revolution was the precondition for beating fascism.

The bourgeoisie had the state and the peasants and workers had the means of production, but the dismantling of their organisation sapped the will to fight.

The class contradictions were expressed most clearly in the street fighting in Barcelona in May 1937.

The PCE demanded the liquidation of the POUM, Largo Caballero refused and Negrin takes over as puppet of the Stalinists.

The POUM was destroyed, CNT leaders arrested. The PCE Stalinists controlled military policy of the republican zone.

Removal

Negrin's diplomacy to secure the removal of German, Italian and Soviet influence in return for safeguarding bourgeois democracy failed.

The last attempt by Republican troops to break through to Catalonia failed and civil war broke out in the zone.

Finally the fascists marched on Madrid in March of 1939.

Paul Preston has written a very good introduction to the war but he tends to see it in terms of a slow and troubled advance towards bourgeois democracy.

The Spanish war shows, on the contrary, the difficulties faced by Spanish workers and peasants to realise their own class interests.

The price they paid in the succeeding years was bitter and bloody but it is a lesson the revolutionary movement must learn.

Tim O'Halloran



In the main square of Toledo — Republican loyalists return the insurgents' fire from behind a parapet of sandbags. Perhaps anticipating a long siege, some have taken rocking chairs. . .

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BOOKS

AFTER WORKERS PRESS SCIENCE NEWS

CHERNOBYL?

FROM STEVE ROBSON IN UPPSALA, SWEDEN

ON APRIL 26, a massive radioactive cloud was released into the atmosphere from a nuclear reactor at Chernobyl.

Only now, almost two months later, can scientists piece together a more complete picture of the effects of the fall-out in Sweden, the health risk to the population, environmental contamination, economic hardship to farmers and the political question of Sweden's own nuclear policy.

Firstly, I feel the term 'radioactive' merits explanation — what is a radioactive element and what effect does ionising radiation have on living cells?

As the Chernobyl disaster has shown in Sweden, the public at large have little or no comprehension of this scientific jargon.

Briefly, a radioactive atom is an unstable atom which cannot exist in its present state and whose nucleus 'decays', that is, is transformed into a daughter nucleus while simultaneously emitting all or part of its surplus energy.

This released energy may be constituted by alpha, beta or gamma radiation and is characterised by its ability to 'ionise' matter.

This radiation interacts, with matter by transferring its energy to the surrounding atoms in various ways.

The electrons in these atoms become energetically excited by the energy transfer, and if sufficient energy is transferred, the atom becomes ionised and loses one of its electrons to the surroundings.

It is the presence of these 'charged' ions in living cells that may lead to cell damage and consequently to damage to the whole body.

At a recent international meeting of radiophysicists in Lund, the unanimous opinion of the experts announced to the press was that no-one in Sweden should be worried — the extra radioactive dose received by the Swedish people would give rise to a tiny increase in the probability of contracting cancer, from 30 per cent to 30.00001 per cent.

On average, it has been calculated that the highest dose received in Sweden in the coming year is 4 milli-Sievert (4mSv), while the average dose from back-

ground radiation is 1mSv per year.

This value lies well below the internationally 'acceptable' dose rate to workers exposed to radiation at work of 50mSv a year.

However, 4mSv is more than the 'acceptable' dose to children which is one twentieth that for adults.

Thousands of articles have appeared in the Swedish press, radio and television, ranging from widely exaggerated catastrophe theories to scientific evaluation and forecast.

Radiation

The effects of low-dose ionising radiation is itself a controversial and hotly disputed subject amongst radiation biologists.

Though the Lund meeting presented unanimity, several researchers into low doses have strongly contested the official figures and forecast of the Swedish Radiation Protection Authorities (SSI) and the government.

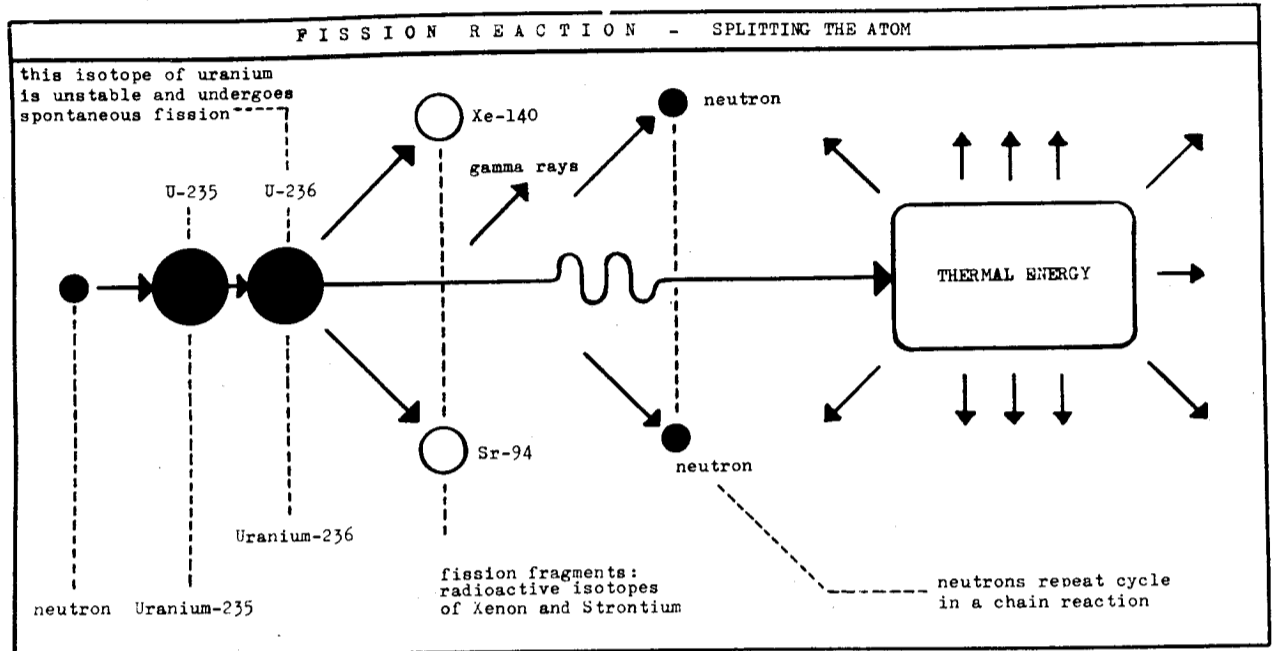
The polarisation of scientists seems to represent two opinions, those 'pro' and those 'against' nuclear power.

The majority of scientists estimate a low health risk to the population — of Sweden's 8 million people, ten will die of cancer in the next 40 to 50 years as a result of the Chernobyl exposure.

However, a recent phone-in during a television debate on the radioactivity question showed that 60 per cent would like to see the country's four nuclear power stations closed immediately.

The SSI is still monitoring radiation levels of caesium-137 in grass and milk in the most affected areas, at both temporary and permanent measuring stations.

Soon after the magnitude



of the incident was realised, the SSI set up stations to monitor the levels of iodine-131 and caesium-137 and smaller quantities of radionuclides in grass and milk.

Simultaneously the food and health authority, Livsmedelsverket, have been measuring the levels in vegetables, fish and meat.

The scale of the monitoring has reduced considerably as areas have reached 'safe' levels, but all stations are still active, particularly

in milk and grass monitoring.

Many meetings have been held specially to inform farmers about how to cope with the feeding of their dairy cows and when it is safe to let them out to graze.

Hundreds of farmers have been forced to keep their cattle inside, using fodder at considerable expense, while those who have let them out prematurely have been forced to throw away the milk.

Higher levels than usual

have been found in fish, deer, reindeer and elk.

Slaughter of reindeer — the mainstay of the economy for many Lapps — has been banned this summer, and the traditional hunting season stopped.

The resounding conclusion of the meetings of radiation specialists which I have attended in Uppsala, summed up by Kurt Bergman of the SSI, is that the Chernobyl accident presents 'unique research opportunities'.

Yes, Bergman is right, but

why should the scientific community be concerned with the effects of radiation?

There is nothing research in itself can do to lessen the threat of future radiation accidents.

This is an issue in the hands of the working class and sections of the middle class, who are the only force that can rid the world of the threat of more Chernobyls — be they from the Soviet Union, Britain, USA or wherever — and ultimately of a nuclear third world war.

MALNUTRITION UK '86

FOOD EXPERTS DISTURBING REPORT

MANY working-class people in Britain today find healthy eating a luxury they can't afford according to a new report by nutrition experts.

'Too many people in the United Kingdom are being forced to tighten their belts and cut back on food', say Dr. Tim Lang and dietician Isobel Cole Hamilton, of the London Food Commission.

The survey found that the cost of a healthy diet was 35 per cent more than the average amount people on low incomes can spend on food.

The report named 15-25 year olds, pregnant or breast feeding women and elderly people as among the worst hit.

The assumption made in the post-war years that Britain would see rising living standards and an end to food problems has proved to be sadly wrong, Dr Lang says.

The diet survey found food prices themselves were not the only element in the poverty-malnutrition equation.

Homeslessness and Tory cuts to social security were

also forcing many people to cut back on food expenses.

At the same time, the food retailing system is dominated by giant firms whose marketing is geared to the well-off.

Those on low incomes are being forced to buy cheaper and often lower quality products against their wishes or better judgement.

TV Preview

Sunday July 6

5.15 pm, Channel 4. **Wall of Light.** A film which explores the use of glass in architecture. It starts with the construction of the revolutionary 'Maison de Verre' in Paris, the house which incorporated glass bricks and detailing derived from ship and railway construction, and created a sensation in 20th century architecture. It culminates in a visit to the new Lloyds building to analyse its links backwards to the Maison de Verre and forward to the high technology building of the future.

Monday July 7

10.00 pm, Channel 4. **On Indian Land.** Story of the struggle of the Gitskan and Wet'suwet'en Indians to regain control of the 22,000 square miles of Northern British Columbia which were stolen from them by the white man. Today reduced to living on the 45 square miles that were left to them, the Indians have begun to take direct action, refusing to comply with licensing laws governing fishing, the sale of fish and hunting. As a result they have been tried in the

courts. They are now throwing all their resources into massive legal action against the government.

Tuesday July 8

9.00 pm, ITV. **Brideshead Revisited.** Episode 4 of this poignantly luxurious visit to the mansions of the idle and anguished rich in those lost summer days before the war.

Wednesday July 9

10.15 pm, Channel 4. **The Low-**

er Depths. 1957 bw Film by Akira Kurosawa, taken from the play by Maxim Gorki. The action set by Gorki in the despair of Russia in 1902, is transposed by Kurosawa to Edo period Japan. Kurosawa says of the film: 'During this period (the Edo period), the Shogunate government was crumbling and thousands of people in Edo and other cities were living almost unendurable lives. Their resentment we can still feel... I wanted to capture this atmosphere, to reveal it.'

Thursday July 10

6.50 pm, BBC1. **Seven Days at Stony Cross.** Film of the massive police operation to clear the 'hippy convoy' from the New Forest.

8.00 pm, Channel 4. **All the Prime Minister's Men: First Among Unequals.** Series of three programmes looking at the past present and future of cabinet government from the earliest days when a weekly letter to the King was the only formal record of their decisions.

It investigates what has happened to this system in the age of Thatcher, and to the civil service machine which services it. Featuring revelations by Lord Home, James Callaghan, Lord Hailsham, Dennis Healey, Enoch Powell, Tony Benn, and Peter Shore, it discusses Suez, Chevaline and Concorde amongst other matters.

11.30 pm, ITV. **The Doors Are Open.** Film of the rock concert by the Doors, with the mighty Jim Morrison, in the psychedelic summer of 1967.

HERE TO FIGHT! HERE TO STAY!

THE ROUTE

SUPPORT continues to grow with sponsors and messages of support from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Zurich, North Wales and Scotland.

When the March starts on July 5 it will be joined by another anti-deportation campaign.

The Home Office want to expel eight-year-old Abbas Hussain from the country.

This campaign is proposing a march from Cheetham Hill on the outskirts of Manchester to the city centre to link up with the VMDC march to London.

SATURDAY JULY 5

12.00-2.00 RALLY, Albert Square, Manchester.

All sponsors of the march are invited to give messages of support.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: Graham Stringer (leader, Manchester City Council)
Glynn Ford (Euro-MP)
Speakers from deportation campaigns

3.15 Meet the march at the Biscuit Factory, Lloyds Road, Stockport.

5.30 March meeting at Stockport Technical College, Lecture Theatre A

Speakers: Peter Towey (Stockport Labour Councillor)
Viraj Mendis (VMDC)
Speaker from Silentnight strikers
Rick Sumner (North West Secretary, Justice Campaign for Mineworkers)

Chairman: Martin Ralph (Buxton NUT Secretary in a personal capacity)

plus speakers from FRFI, Manchester anarchists and WRP

SUNDAY JULY 6

March to Macclesfield.

7.30pm Public Meeting, Nag's Head Pub

MONDAY JULY 7

March to Crewe

Public Meeting on the Green by Crewe Library

TUESDAY JULY 8

March to Stoke

Labour Party organising the march

WEDNESDAY JULY 9

March to Stafford

Meet the march at Red Hill Roundabout

Rally at town centre

THURSDAY JULY 10

March to Wolverhampton

Staying at Sikh Temple

Support organised by Som Raj Ray (also threatened with deportation)

FRIDAY JULY 11

March to Handsworth

7.30 Social at New Inn Pub, Soho Road

Staying at Urdam Singh Welfare Centre

Support organised by Mohammad Idrish (successfully fought deportation)

SATURDAY JULY 12

March through East Birmingham to Birmingham city centre

2.30pm Assemble at Bcoth St Playground, Handsworth

Rally in Birmingham City Centre

Transport from Manchester, Bradford and Leeds (phone 061 234 3168 for further information)

SUNDAY JULY 13

March to Coventry

FURTHER NEWS IN NEXT WEEK'S
'WORKERS PRESS'

For general information contact 061 795 3870 10am to 5pm Mon-Fri

For specific enquiries on march details contact 061 234 3168 10am to 5pm Mon-Fri

MENDIS MARCH IS ON THE ROAD

VIRAJ MENDIS INTERVIEW

THIS Saturday the Manchester to London march organised by the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign sets off. The marchers will be on the road for seventeen days.

The Campaign was set up in 1984 to fight the threat by the Home Office to deport Viraj Mendis.

Currently, Mendis has an appeal under way against the decision of an adjudicator that he must return to Sri Lanka.

The adjudicator said in his finding: 'Sri Lanka is inherently a democracy where the rule of law applies'.

If returned to Sri Lanka, Mendis faces certain internment and possible death at the hands of the regime of

president Junius Jayewardene.

Mendis is a Tamil. In 1983, 53 Tamil prisoners in a Sri Lankan maximum security jail were brutally murdered by the regime.

The VMDC has made links with others who are under threat of deportation.

There are at least six other people in Manchester under a similar threat.

The VMDC has support from fifty organisations and prominent individuals in the labour movement.

Workers Press will be printing news, views and photographs from the march to make the maximum publicity and mobilisation for the campaign.



VIRAJ MENDIS

Workers Press has interviewed Viraj Mendis — who is only one of many threatened by deportation.

The Workers Revolutionary Party states in its manifesto, published last week:

'The overt racism of the Tory government backed by the forces of the state (police and courts) is seen in tightening immigrations laws, deportation orders and the brutal treatment of female Asian immigrants.

'We defend all those fighting against deportation. The only way deportations can be stopped is by the action of the Labour and trade union movement.

'We demand that a future Labour government stops all deportations and revokes all immigration laws'.

During the interview, Viraj Mendis mentions 'Fight Racism, Fight Imperialism!', the newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Group. The WRP has major political differences with the RCG.

However, we will discuss our differences while fighting unconditionally for Viraj Mendis and the many, many others such as Manda Kunda and Garnett Korler to stay here.

● WHY DO you think the Thatcher government is trying to deport you?

It is a combination of the police and the Home Office who have made this attack on me. I am quite sure it is related to my political work.

My political work with 'FRFI' (Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!) has been out on the streets.

I have been involved in the anti-deportation campaigns.

It is for these reasons the police and Home Office have taken an interest in me.

The Home Office is using the immigration laws to deport me according to which I am an 'overstayer'.

It is interesting to note that they waited eight and a half years to decide I was an 'overstayer'.

● WHEN was the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (VMDC) organised?

The VMDC was launched on June 24, 1984 and soon afterwards the police confiscated my passport.

● WHAT support has the

VMDC won so far?

The VMDC has always attempted to gain the widest possible support and has been organised on a democratic basis.

All tendencies within the VMDC have the right to vote and decide. That is the only way to unite all the forces against deportation.

Any other way is sectarian.

All questions are decided democratically because you have to have faith in the people involved in the campaign.

Support has come from many organisations and individuals including Manchester City Council, churches in Manchester, anarchists and many unemployed in Hume in Manchester.

Support is coming from the trade unions but we hope to get more.

The petition for 'Viraj Mendis must stay' has already been signed by 30,000 people including figures like Arthur Scargill.

● WHAT advice have you

got for people fighting deportation?

The most important aspect for people fighting deportation is to organise a campaign.

You cannot depend on legal assistance, however good it is.

It is the public campaign which involves the community and ordinary people which will put pressure on the Home Office to allow you to stay.

It is important to have a good legal defence as well but it is the campaign that usually makes you win your case.

● HOW can the immigration laws be fought?

Fighting individual campaigns against deportation and the immigration laws are inseparably inter-related.

It is true in the campaign against deportation you could lay the foundation for the campaign against the immigration laws.

A united campaign against the immigration laws is essential because it is the only way in which the misery of escalating deportation and splitting up of families can be stopped.

The immigration laws are

entirely racist. They are a fundamental part of the British state's attack on black people.

In other words, British imperialism needs immigration laws.

A successful campaign against immigration laws must be anti-imperialist.

● TO WHAT extent has Britain been involved in Sri Lanka?

Britain is one of the main backers of the Sri Lankan regime.

British involvement in Sri Lanka has been the single most important reason, historically, for the atrocities that have occurred.

Thatcher has been one of the foremost defenders of the Jayewardene regime.

British SAS-trained mercenaries are the major trainers of the Sri Lankan regime's armed forces.

British intelligence agents have been caught by the Tamil revolutionaries in their area.

Even at my appeal there were several people from the British Foreign Office taking notes.

British support for the regime extends to deporting Tamil refugees and Sinhalese to face possible death in Sri Lanka.

TYNESIDE YTS INJURY HORROR

A TYNESIDE teenager yesterday (June 30) became the latest accident statistic on the Youth Training Scheme (1,000 injuries last year in the northern region) following a horrific accident whilst working on land belonging to the Duke of Northumberland.

Christopher Lansdowne, aged 17, from Newcastle was on his first day's work felling trees on the Duke's vast Priors Park estate.

Christopher was left alone at lunchtime to feed tree stumps into a machine which grinds and shreds wood.

His left foot slipped into the machine, severing most of the limb from the ankle.

He dragged himself 20 yards over a field before his cries for help were heard by the park groundsman.

He was rushed to North Tyneside general hospital but doctors were unable to save his foot.

Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive and the Agricultural Inspectorate are to investigate the accident.

These horrific injuries to a young man on his first day's youth training can only highlight the real nature of these schemes.

He was receiving no training, being taught no skill. He was left unsupervised on a very dangerous machine.

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY DAY SCHOOL ON MARXISM & PHILOSOPHY

Saturday July 19, 10.30am to 4.30pm
Steve Biko Room, (Corner Lounge)
Cornwall House, Exeter University

Morning Session: Why Marxists Study Philosophy
Dave Bruce (WRP Central Committee)

Afternoon: From Hegel to Marx: How Marx became a Marxist
Ian Hampsher-Monk

Admission 50p: Refreshments Available