

Workers Press

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Saturday September 20 1986 Number 42
WEEKLY PAPER OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

NO SACKINGS AT WESTOE!

WESTOE pit in South Shields came to a standstill earlier this week as two sacked miners picketed the shift out.

Fourteen hundred miners took action in a twenty-four hour strike to defend Ronnie Wilson and Henry Sinclair who were sacked last Friday for an alleged assault on a UDM member.

Westoe lodge secretary Tommy Betts said 'In future there will be pithead ballots to take some form of action in response to any further dismissals for alleged intimidation towards scabs.'

'I talked to the lads and they maintain they never hit this man.'

The lodge secretary is to discuss the issue with the pit management and, if this fails, he will take it to the union area officials for further action.

STRONG STRIKE VOTE IN NORTH-EAST

THE MINERS ARE BACK!

BUT BOLTON IS RATting ON SCOTTISH FIGHT

THREE THOUSAND mining mechanics from group no 1 area NUM have voted to take strike action against the Coal Board. As a result of this mandate the Durham Mechanics executive will organise a series of one day strikes bringing one pit out per week over an eight week period.

The mechanics were asked to vote on four issues:

1. the continued victimisation of the sacked men, particularly the case of Geoff Hartnell, whom the Board refused to reinstate despite an order that they do so from an Industrial Tribunal.
2. the robbery by the Board of the back-pay
3. the Board's unilateral decision to withdraw the conciliation machinery in the industry
4. the north-east area board's manoeuvring to prevent a review of their decision to close Seaham Colliery.

On all four counts the Mechanics voted in favour of strike action.

Although the figures for the ballot are not to be announced until Friday (when we will have gone to press) it is understood that the majority in favour of action is substantial — a shattering blow to all those who hoped the NUM was finished as a fighting force.

The decision also confounds all the leaders in areas of the NUM who opposed Arthur Scargill's

presidential address to the NUM conference at Tenby, where he raised the possibility of miners once again taking industrial action.

Within a few weeks the South Wales miners, against the advice of their leadership, imposed a mid-week overtime ban.

The Durham Mechanics action is even more significant as it is a result of a campaign launched by its area executive to put the real issues to the men.

Delegates to a council

BY DAVE TEMPLE

meeting held in August were told by the area secretary: 'We cannot proceed any further against the intransigence of the Coal Board. Go back to your lodges and tell us what action you wish us to take.'

Area secretary W. Etherington and area president J. Perry attended every lodge meeting to inform the membership of the problems they were facing.

The replies from the lodges favoured a campaign of one day stoppages, now confirmed by an individual ballot of the membership, proving once and for all that those faint hearted leaders who say the men have no stomach for further action speak only for themselves.

SAVAGE job cuts are being railroaded through in the Scottish pits without opposition from the Stalinist-dominated leadership of the miners' union here.

George Bolton, Scottish area NUM vice president, has repeated Coal Board claims that the manpower reduction will lead to future investment and expansion.

BY SIMON PIRANI

The closure of Comrie colliery in Fife, the sacking of 900 miners at Monktonhall in the Lothians and 600 from the two remaining Ayrshire pits, Killoch and Barony, leaves the Scottish coalfield as a pathetic shadow of its former self.

British Coal Scottish chief George McAlpine has also made it clear that almost all the 118 Scottish miners victimised during the strike will remain sacked.

A statement from McAlpine last week that only about ten of these will be re-employed — excluding the many who have naturally won Industrial Tribunal cases — flatly contradicts British Coal boss Robert Haslem's statement that justice would now be done for those unfairly dismissed.

Bob Young, Comrie NUM branch chairman and a Fife regional councillor, last week spoke to Workers Press about the bitterness he felt about a decision to close the pit, which was accepted

by a branch meeting last weekend.

'For a pit that took a firm stand during the strike and over the issue of victimised men, we have not had the backing we deserve from the union officials in the area.'

'The pit committee called for Comrie to be turned into a development pit.'

'This would have involved redundancies, yes, but it would have kept the pit open for two years with 120 men, and then provided work for 100 over a 15 or 20 year period, producing high grade sulphur coal.'

'Without consulting the committee, George Bolton told the mass meeting that there was no chance of investment.'

'We feel badly led down with that leadership.'

'If the men had been given something to fight with, they

● CONTINUED ON P.16

NO SELL OUT AT WAPPING! p16



THE CONTINUOUS rain all day last Saturday did not dampen the spirits of the two thousand printworkers and their supporters as they marched from Tower Hill to Wapping.

Harry Conroy, General Secretary of the NUJ, was first to speak:

'On the three days of talks we had with News International last week, we insisted

on speaking to them on recognition and jobs — we did not speak about compensation.'

Lyn Routledge, wife of Paul Routledge, a journalist

who had worked on The Times for seventeen years, spoke next.

Paul was sacked by Murdoch because he refused to send copy back from Singapore to Wapping when all the workforce were sacked last January.

'Paul was proud to be associated with The Times

because it was a great newspaper produced by a great bunch of people whom he thought of as friends.'

'But what happened when our friends and colleagues faced the most crucial decision since 1979 was they panicked and grovelled to the likes of Murdoch...'

● See story back page

PUBLIC MEETINGS 30th Anniversary of the HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Speakers: Peter Fryer
correspondent for the
Daily Worker, eye-witness to the events in
Hungary and author of 'Hungarian Tragedy'
Michael Varga (Balasz Nagy)
Hungarian Trotskyist, one of the former
secretaries of the Petofi Circle

London

October 26, 1pm - 9pm
Kingsway-Princeton College
Sidmouth Street
Grays Inn Road, London WC1

Glasgow

Sunday October 19, 300pm
Ingram Hotel, Ingram Street

Manchester

Tuesday October 21, 7.30pm
Basement Theatre
Manchester Town Hall
St Peters Square

Sinister 'charity' link in MSC/Restart scheme

THE EMERGENCE of parasitic organisations seeking profits out of mass unemployment reveals the real reactionary nature of capitalism in its drive for profit.

BY HUGHIE NICOL

An initial study of this new phenomenon reveals dangerous trends to undermine jobs and wages in the established industries.

Employers in the 1980s do not need to resort to the pre-war 'cattle market' technique of the unemployed lining up to be selected for the day's work at the factory gate or the docks.

Its present-day counterpart consists of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) with YTS and Community Programme (CP) schemes to undercut prices, undermine jobs and reduce the unemployed to second-class citizens in the labour market.

One such organisation, the AMARC Foundation, has its head office in London and

branches throughout the country.

The name AMARC stands for Association of Marine and Related Charities. Although registered as a charity, in the eyes of trade unionists it has a very different role than that of charity.

The branch on Tyneside is thriving on the conditions of mass unemployment and the government-directed MSC and CP programmes.

AMARC (TES), as well as operating as a 'private' agency to train YTS, is also used in competition with fields of higher education and is being allowed to oper-

ate Re-Start courses for the long-term unemployed.

Referrals are made to them by the Re-Start teams who conduct interviews at the Job Centres.

The shipbuilding and ship-repair yards on Tyne and Wear are in the process of massive pay-offs and every deal imaginable to undermine trade union agreements and conditions.

Now enters AMARC (TES), who tender for ship refit contracts in competition with the established industries.

Two Royal Navy survey craft, HMS 'Echo' and HMS 'Enterprise', have just arrived on the Tyne for major conversion work at the AMARC training and ship-

JUST WHAT IS THIS 'AMARC' SET-UP?

building centre in Hebburn.

The 'Echo' is to be refurbished by Community Programme workers! Centre manager Dave Wareham of AMARC boasted: 'They probably couldn't afford to go into a commercial yard and looked for where they could get the job done at the best price.'

Unemployed shipyard workers will be drafted on to Community Programme schemes to carry out the refit for wages of £60 a week.

This is by far the most blatant example of the MSC

destroying the jobs of workers in industry and exposes its reactionary nature as the bosses quickly grasp how to use it for profit at the expense of the working class.

At the same time, the capitalists who now own the shipyards on the Tyne bulldoze surplus requirements to the ground for landscaping and building luxury flats.

'Mothballed' yards have their massive plating sheds cleared to store EEC wheat surpluses and the shiprepair docks on South Tyneside are filled and concreted over to

prevent competition opening up.

This is the depth of the crisis as it unfolds in areas of mass unemployment.

The tasks of uniting the unemployed with the employed and mobilising the trade unions against the MSC and Re-Start scheme are now posed daily.

- Stop conscription on to Community Programmes!
- Break with the MSC!
- Defend the unemployed from attack!

Release Sri Lankan Trotskyists!

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY PUBLIC MEETING

Why and how Exeter must support the striking printworkers

Speaker: Alan Clark
(WRP & Fleet Street Support Unit, personal capacity)

Wednesday 1 October 7.30p.m.
Barts Tavern, Bartholemew Street
Exeter

Advertisement

Dayschool on South Africa

Saturday, 20th September
10.30 am till 5.00 pm

The Gilbert Richards Centre,
Broadway, Earlsdon, Coventry

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.00 — 10.30 | Registration |
| 10.30 — 12.30 | 1st Session
Introduction by Charlie van Gelderen, a South African exile.
Discussion will concentrate on the nature of South African society and the history of the various anti-apartheid organisations. |
| 12.30 — 1.30 | Lunch (food provided) |
| 1.30 — 3.15 | 2nd Session
The Black Trade Union Movement, COSATU
A speaker from COSATU will outline the development of COSATU. Another speaker, who has recently arrived from South Africa will talk about the latest situation. |
| 3.15 — 3.30 | Coffee break |
| 3.50 — 5.00 | 3rd Session
Solidarity work in Britain
● John Lister — work inside the trade unions
● Speaker from Lambeth Trades Council (invited)
● Dave Rees from Birmingham Youth Against Apartheid (personal capacity) — work inside the Anti-Apartheid movement and with youth
● Coventry Anti-Apartheid (invited) |

Registration fee £1.00/50p

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Statement by the WRP Central Committee

1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the Workers Revolutionary Party expresses its full support for the international campaign for the release of Viran Peiris and Brutan Perera, members of the Revolutionary Communist League of Sri Lanka and for the dropping of all charges against RCL members.

The Trotskyists of the RCL have constantly been subject to savage repression, above all because of their opposition to the class collaborationist leadership of the Sri Lankan workers' movement and their intransigent stand in support of the self-determination of the Tamil nation.

2. In this regard we call to comrades' minds the fate of Comrade R. Piyadasa of the RCL who, in 1979, was hacked to death by racist thugs because of his support for the Tamil struggle.

3. We call on members of all organisations which claim to stand on the programme of the Fourth International to take up this campaign in their respective countries and to send messages both to the Sri Lankan authorities and to the RCL.

4. We call on all members of the WRP to take up this issue inside the working-class movement and for resolutions and letters to be sent to the Sri Lankan High Commission.

We call on the London Area Committee of the WRP to organise a large regular attendance at the picket of the High Commission at 12.00 midday each Thursday.

We call on all party members to win the support of all professional people, trade union leaders, councillors and MPs for the release of the jailed RCL members.

5. We call on the comrades of the Revolutionary Communist Group (Britain), who

are themselves fighting for the defence of their member Viraj Mendis from deportation to Sri Lanka, to support this campaign.

Just as there is complete solidarity between the racist Thatcher government, with its witch-hunting deportations, and the Jayawardene regime, which does the bidding of imperialism in Sri Lanka, so there should be solidarity between these two campaigns.

6. Our political differences with the RCL, and with the ICFI to which it is affiliated, can in no way be allowed to obstruct this campaign.

In fact, without this campaign, discussion of differences is meaningless.

The Central Committee instructs its secretary to communicate immediately this resolution to all WRP branches, all organisations affiliated to the ICFI and other Trotskyist organisations we are in touch with internationally.

We instruct the editorial board to display it prominently in the next issue of Workers Press and to carry weekly reports of the campaign from now on.

OLD WINE— NEW BOTTLES

COMMENT BY ALAN CLARK

ON LAST Saturday's sacked printworkers' march from Tower Hill to Wapping, the International Communist Party (ICP) were on the demonstration with their banner and some of their members.

One of the slogans which they chanted along the route was: 'Dean and Dubbins — off your knees!' as well as: 'Hicks and Freeman — off your knees!'

We have a message for the ICP: Dean, Dubbins, Hicks and Freeman have never been on their knees.

Far from it, all four have worked, albeit separately, consciously or unconsciously, very much on their feet. Or perhaps the ICP haven't yet noticed.

Dean and Dubbins have worked to keep this important dispute very much low-key, preferring a useless boycott campaign to actually rallying the rest of the working class to support the printworkers.

They have discouraged other unions, particularly the miners, from giving physical support as much as possible and have collaborated with the courts to limit the size of picketing and demonstrations outside Murdoch's plant.

Crazy

Hicks and Freeman, whilst not collaborating with the courts, have done their damndest to stop any real escalation of the strike. Any call for Fleet Street to come out in support of their colleagues has been deemed crazy because it would leave only Murdoch's papers on the street, they say.

But militants know this isn't true and, we suspect, so do Hicks and Freeman.

They have both concentrated on mass picketing of the plant, demonstrations, flying pickets as well as the boycott campaign as a

means of winning the dispute — which are all in their way only a means to winning. They are not a final solution in this dispute and could never have been.

Dean and Dubbins are both reformists and supporters of Labour's New Realism, while Hicks and Freeman are both members of the 'Morning Star' faction of the Communist Party.

Dispute

All four of them, in their own way, can only take the dispute so far. Therefore, calling for them to get off their knees is not to understand that their brand of politics can only lead them along a certain road and no further.

They cannot get off their knees, if they were, in fact, ever on them.

ICP members are fooling no one but themselves when they make their demands. It only shows they have learnt nothing from the split in the WRP last October with Healy.

In fact, if you could put the ICP and the fake WRP/News Line members together on the Wapping demonstrations, you couldn't distinguish anything between them. They sound exactly the same.

● The working class cannot and will not be fooled. They will reject such methods as quickly as one discards a rotten apple.

STUART BELL DROPS A CLANGER

BY CHARLIE WALSH

DURING the Labour Party conference in Blackpool there will be a fringe meeting on Ireland organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland.

A member of Sinn Fein, Thomas Carroll, will be the guest speaker.

Stuart Bell, Labour MP and

front bench spokesman on the north of Ireland, who will also speak at the fringe meeting, told LBC radio on Tuesday night (Sept 16) that he regretted the invitation to Carroll.

He said the Labour Party would have no truck with Sinn Fein and was opposed to violence.

He added that he would be letting Carroll know in no un-

certain manner what he himself thought about the IRA and why the Labour Party is opposed to violence.

This of course is sheer hypocrisy by Bell.

He and the Labour Party support the violence of the British army, the SAS, the RUC and the UDR while they completely ignore the sectarian murder of innocent Catholics carried out by the

right wing loyalist murder gangs.

The position on the Republican movement put forward by Bell shows that a future Labour government would continue the bi-partisan policy that it shares with the present Tory government.

Labour Party delegates attending the Labour Party conference must be warned about the nature of a future Labour government.

The 1986 TUC - a delegate's view

LAST WEEK, John Simmance outlined the main events of the Monday and Tuesday of TUC week and gave us a glimpse of some of the behind-the-scenes activity that we don't normally get to hear about.

This week, he concludes his report which tells how Gavin Laird helped the pro-nuclear lobby to fill the gallery while James Airlie played to it and how News Line has found new friends. Dave Kitson, it seems, has ruffled the feathers of the TASS bureaucracy.

WEDNESDAY: The main debates are to cover education, YTS and youth unemployment.

The debate gets underway. I pass a message along to Gavin Laird, general secretary of the AEU:

'I intend to speak on paragraph 196 (page 164) (Congress permitting) on AEU policy concerning YTS. From John Simmance, Division 25 delegate.'

My reply was: 'Sorry, we have an EC speaker on this.'

I would like to make it clear that AEU policy is to oppose the YTS scheme. The EC member, of course, watered down this opposition and voiced just 'concern' about the YTS.

This, along with their revising the apprenticeship system, is an outright betrayal of the youth, who have borne the brunt of Thatcher's Britain.

The debate on low pay was covered very well on the Workers Press front page two weeks ago.

I would only quote: 'They have taken no real action to resist the cancerous growth of low-pay over the years.'

'TUC support for YTS has given the green light for low pay by employers.'

THURSDAY: Again, a delegation from the Birmingham trades council leafleted the Congress in support of trade union sanctions on South Africa.

I was pleased to meet Dr Maire O'Shea, recently acquitted in the Birmingham trial, who was with the delegation.

The main debate was on nuclear power in the morning and South Africa in the afternoon.

A delegation comprising AEU members from Sellafield paraded banners and placards in support of nuclear energy outside the congress.

They booed and harassed Arthur Scargill and anyone else opposing that view.

I must make it clear that, as delegates, we can only vote freely at the AEU pre-meeting held on Sunday. Once the decision is taken, we have to vote for it at the Congress and we can neither speak for nor against the motion unless it is union policy.

The AEU policy is pro-nuclear, decided at the national committee conference the day before the Chernobyl disaster.

The nuclear debate centred around three resolutions: one from the Engineers and Managers Association, supported by the AEU, which was a completely right-wing, pro-nuclear resolution.

The second was from the Fire Brigades Union, seconded by the NUM, rejecting nuclear power.

The third, which was General Council policy, was to look at the nuclear industry over the next 12 months and decide then.

In the visitors' gallery there was a large demonstration of pro-nuclear supporters who booed and jeered anyone who was anti-nuclear in the debate.

Despite the fact that we had been instructed to vote for, we were able to give applause to anyone we liked.

As I was sitting in the front row I would often say a few words of encouragement to those who opposed the platform.



It became evident that this pro-nuclear lobby in the gallery was a well-orchestrated demonstration. I passed a note along to Gavin Laird asking him the following question:

'Could you please inform me so that I can report on my return to the members I represent and answer the following question:

1. Were any visitors' credentials given to any of the pro-nuclear lobby in the balcony today?

2. How many, if any, were offered to the Fleet Street members of the AEU who lobbied Congress on Monday and Tuesday this week?'

I had no reply from Laird.

I went up to the balcony and asked these members where they got their credentials from.

Gavin Laird and Jimmy Airlie had given them to them.

The anti-nuclear resolution fell by only 60,000 votes. The right-wing pro-nuclear resolution fell heavily and, of course, the TUC unity resolution was passed.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON: A standing ovation for representatives of the South African trade union federations, COSATU and SACTU, followed by the TUC display 'Beating Apartheid', urging everyone to unite to defeat apartheid.

Trade union sanctions are not demanded, but paragraph three of the resolution calls on affiliated unions 'to support by every means possible trade unionists who may be victimised for complying with this policy'.

The conference gives a unanimous vote to the composite motion and then shows a one-minute advertising film on the evils of apartheid, which has been banned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority but will be shown in cinemas throughout the country.

The debate ends with the news that three ANC members were to be hanged the following Tuesday.

That evening I attended the Lambeth Trades Council fringe meeting. Afterwards Geoff Hartnell and I left to

attend the 'Morning Star' social to raise money for the Wapping dispute as I was a representative of the Wapping AEU members.

I wasn't too sure of the reception I would find at such a social. I immediately met many of the AEU delegates and introduced Geoff, a sacked miner, to them.

In such an atmosphere I was surprised to see the reporters from News Line, Penny Bloor, Ben Rudder and photographer Sean Smith, who seemed to be happily mixing with everyone, including a bunch of the 'Morning Star' editorial, sitting by the entrance to the social. (No, I didn't see any handshakes.)

It took only a few minutes to realise we were on hostile ground. I bumped into Barbara Switzer, the TASS assistant general secretary.

We had briefly met on Monday when she spoke on Resolution three.

I introduced myself and started chatting. After a minute I mentioned I had been at the Lambeth Trades

Council meeting earlier and had heard Dave Kitson speak.

She exploded. I asked why TASS had refused to continue its support for Kitson. She replied: 'He's gone over to the Trots.'

By this time she was in a total rage. Her voice was almost screaming.

She went on: 'His whole family and the City group are mad. The ANC have thrown him out, and that is that.'

I pointed out that David Kitson had not said he was a Trotskyist and had been suspended, not expelled, from the ANC.

Surely the fact he had spent 20 years in jail meant he had a right to his view?

Then more slander. 'Many have died! You must have discipline in the movement!'

I said I thought TASS was a trade union not a political party. She then stormed off.

That brings to an end the week of a TUC delegate.

CONCLUDED

Leaders seek to betray teachers' pay fight

TEACHERS' UNION leaders have used the cloak of the summer break to conclude the first stage of a deal which is intended to link teachers' pay to their conditions of service for the first time.

The teachers' industrial action was called off in May in return for a five and a half per cent interim rise and the promise of more money and a new pay structure emerging from further talks.

The interim agreement reached in July made it quite clear that any extra money would be dependent on a strict definition of teachers' duties and an increased workload.

This has now been followed by a further retreat in which union executives have ordered their members to resume covering the classes of their absent colleagues, something they have not done for more than a year and a half.

The proposed deal on pay and conditions would give substantial rises to the very lowest paid teachers but this is a relatively cheap concession since curbs on recruitment in recent years have reduced their numbers.

The main purpose of the teachers' fight was a single salary scale ending the previous divisive system of widely differing salaries for relatively small differences of responsibility.

This seemed to have been

achieved at first inspection. However the £14,500 pay that union leaders have claimed that the deal will bring to all teachers will take between five and thirteen years to achieve - by which time it may well be worth very little.

There is no such delay on the concessions that teachers are to grant. These include:

- An entry grade with very low rates of pay on which teachers will be kept until they demonstrate their 'competence' - a YTS-type system

- A system of appraisal for all teachers in response to Keith Joseph's claim that the faults of the education system lie in incompetent or lazy teachers who must be

brought into line or dismissed

- An increase in the length of the working day and the working year

- A definition of teachers' duties which prevent them refusing extra unpaid work - as they did during the recent dispute.

Of the various teachers' unions, those representing head teachers and teachers who are not prepared to strike are likely to have no trouble selling the deal to their members.

NAS/UWT, the second largest teachers union, held a ballot on the principle of selling conditions for money earlier this year and won a narrow majority for doing so after a very hard sell.

Most resistance to the betrayal of their efforts is likely to come from members of the NUT - who took most of the industrial action.

The NUT executive cannot sell the deal on its own merits. It therefore has to resort to threats that the union is not strong enough to take on the local authorities

BY AN NUT MEMBER

and the government.

The hope is that the length of time that the campaign has been called off a long time and that this will have demoralised the membership enough to bear this view out.

At the root of their desperation to do a deal at any price lies the close relationship with the leaders of the NUT have with the leaders of the Labour Party.

The NUT executive was warned by its officers that if it did not endorse the deal this would embarrass the Labour-led local authorities and could hinder the election of a Labour government.

Kinnock himself has been involved in hammering out the deal.

It would be particularly pleasing for Fred Jarvis, the NUT's general secretary, if, in his year as TUC president, he could help to get the new social contract off the ground even before a Labour government were elected.

It will not however be all plain sailing for those who want to deliver the teachers bound hand and foot to their employers.

The NAS/UWT leaders, admittedly for tactical

reasons, have rejected the deal as it stands and within the NUT there is powerful resistance to it.

The coming weeks will see local branches of the NUT

struggling to defend improved conditions won during the dispute and to get a special conference of the union to reject any proposed sell out.

MARXIST DISCUSSION GROUP

**Bryant Street Methodist Centre
off West Ham Lane
(nearest Underground: Stratford)
Sunday September 21, 7.30pm
'The Workers International League'
Speaker: Sam Levy
Sunday September 28, 7.30pm
'Dialectics of Nature'
Speaker: Mike Howgate
Sunday October 5 7.30pm
'Background to the Hungarian Revolution'**

MARXIST DISCUSSION GROUP

**Organised by Workers Power
Every other Wednesday, 7.30pm
Upstairs at the Landor Hotel
Landor Road, SW2 (Clapham North ⊕)
September 24: Hungary 1956
October 8: Cable Street 1936
October 22: The Popular Front in France 1936
November 5: The Moscow Trials 1936**

DEPORTATIONS: Resistance builds Iranian militant denied asylum

UNDER Healy, the Workers Revolutionary Party gave unquestioning, uncritical support to the Khomeiny regime in Iran. To open the question of the nature of post-revolutionary Iran, Workers Press is publishing this article on KAMRAN MASHADI's campaign for political asylum in Britain and invites discussion.

Kamran is a member of the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG) and supporter of the publication 'Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism'. He was on the Viraj Mendis march earlier this year.

Kamran Mashadi came to Britain from Iran in 1980 as a student. His money from Iran was stopped because of his active opposition to Khomeini's regime.

As a result he applied for political asylum in Britain in 1984.

After two years the Home Office have now rejected his application and are trying to send him back to Iran.

Kamran says: "The Home Office knows that students opposing the Islamic Republic of Khomeiny who are sent back to Iran are arrested, tortured and eventually executed by the belligerent regime."

The inhuman regime of Khomeiny has executed over 50,000 people and imprisoned another 140,000 who are brutally tortured.

According to Amnesty In-

ternational, during the last three years 80 per cent of executions of all left-wing political activists in the whole world have taken place in Iran.

After the 1979 Revolution there was much optimism that a more democratic society would replace the Shah's dictatorship.

Hopes were soon dashed as women's rights, press freedom and political dissent were first curtailed and later forcibly stamped on.

The left-wing and progressive parties that challenged the Islamic Republic were bloodily crushed.

The repercussions of the street battles between the progressive Mujaheddin and Khomeiny's Revolutionary Guards were felt in the Iranian student communities worldwide.

The Iranian government sent a directive to all its embassies to mark the files of those suspected of supporting Mujaheddin or other anti-Khomeiny organisations.

The money to these students was stopped and their passports confiscated.

There were many cases of students being sent back to Iran only to be arrested, tortured and eventually executed.

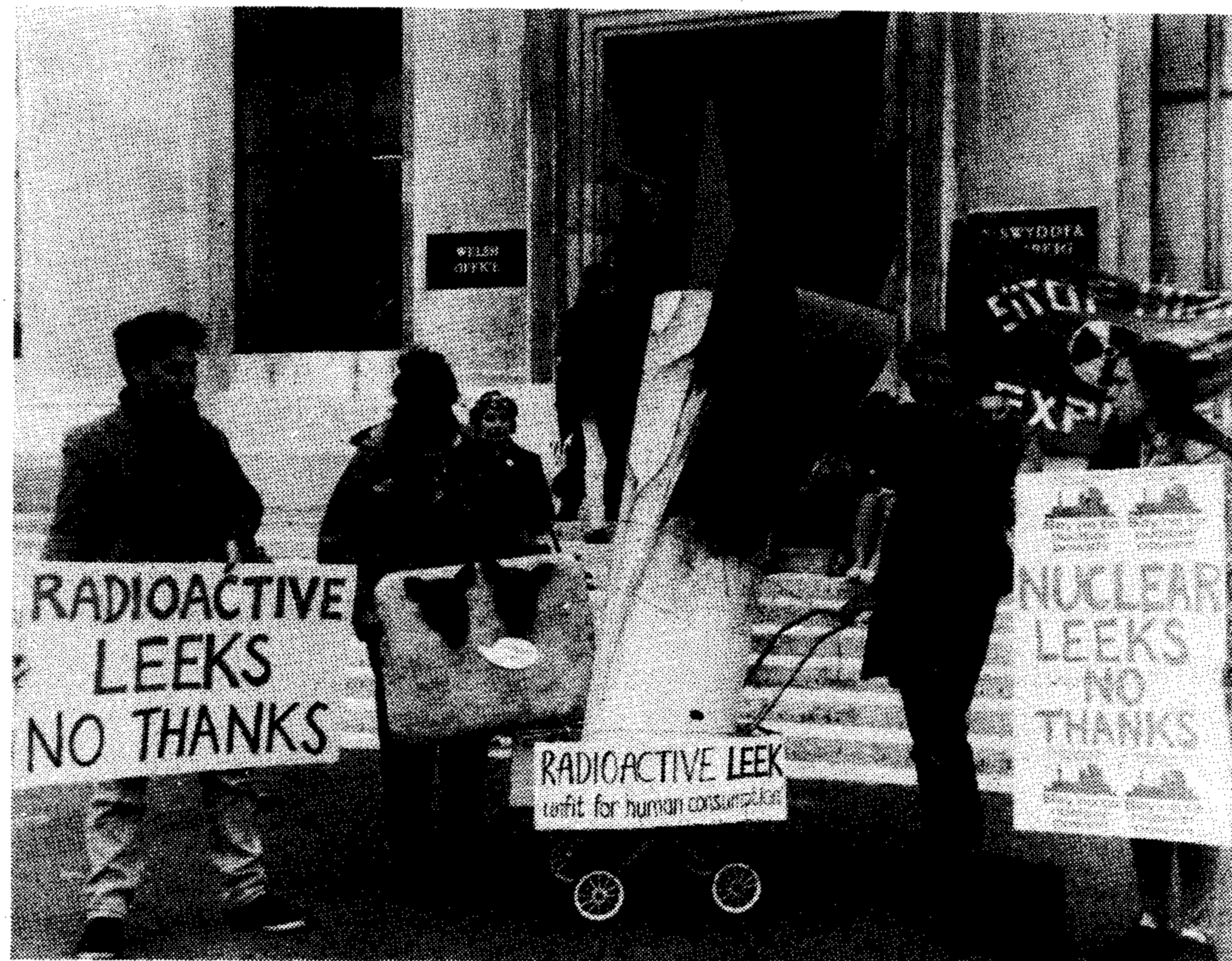
Kamran is appealing against the decision to refuse his application for political asylum.

A defence campaign has been set up for Kamran which meets fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7p.m. in the Law Centre, 584 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester (next meeting is September 23).

Kamran is also asking for letters to be sent to his MP, Stan Orme, at the House of Commons and to David Waddington at the Home Office.

For leaflets, petitions and further information about the campaign, write to the Kamran Mashadi Defence Campaign (KMDC), 584 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester, tel: 061-225 5111.

CARDIFF RALLY: No to Hinckley Nuke development!



Protesters in Cardiff make it clear why they don't want further developments for Hinckley Power Station.

LAST Saturday in Cardiff, the Welsh capital, over 250 people demonstrated against nuclear power.

The all-Wales demonstration, organised by Wales Anti-Nuclear Alliance, was directly aimed against the further development of Hinckley Power Station just 14 miles from the South Wales coastline.

Hinckley A and B Power

Stations are gas-cooled reactors. The CEBG wants Hinckley C and D to be pressurised water reactors (PWRs) where, if accidents do occur, they are of a much more serious nature and could lead to a meltdown (the China syndrome).

If C and D are built, it would be one of the largest nuclear sites after Sellafield.

A petition was handed in to

the Welsh Office calling for a halt on plans to build more nuclear power stations.

The demonstration, headed by Oakdale Colliery band, made its way through Sophia Gardens.

Kim Howells, research officer for the NUM, was among the speakers at the rally which followed.

Travis Gould

Order suspended after campaign pressure

ONLY 24 hours after the launch of the defence campaign for two-year-old Khuram Azad, 400 people attended a support meeting in Bradford, last week's press conference was told.

The campaign is to defend the right of Khuram, adopted son of Anver and Abdul Khalique, to stay in Britain.

He was legally adopted in Pakistan and brought to Britain in June 1985 as his adoptive parents' child.

The Home Office do not accept the validity of the adoption.

The Khalique family have accused immigration officers of threatening behaviour, duress and coercion in their attempts to remove the child from the country.

Immigration officials have

BY SUE GWYER

visited the child's natural parents, Abdul Khalique's brother and sister-in-law, in Pakistan in an attempt to persuade them to take Khuram back.

They have refused unless requested by Abdul himself, because they allowed the adoption by the Khaliques, childless for 17 years, on compassionate grounds.

Khuram and his mother

went into hiding on hearing from their MP Max Madden that Home Affairs Minister David Waddington had refused his right to stay.

Within 24 hours a defence campaign was set up and within another 24 hours hundreds of people flooded to the public meeting.

Waddington has denied allegations of threatening behaviour by his officials and has said he had only the child's well-being in mind.

In the light of the media attention the case has attracted, Waddington has suspended the deportation order.

The defence campaign has activities planned weekly to keep up the publicity.

Left Labour MPs support Viraj Mendis

In a meeting of the Campaign Group of Labour MP's on Thursday 11th September, a message calling for support for Viraj Mendis was read out from the platform by Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council.

The message written by Viraj himself was received with applause from the audience.

From the meeting, Tony Benn, Eric Heffer and Joan Maynard signed the pledge made by Paul Boateng in July of this year.

This pledge — to invite Viraj to speak to the House of Commons one month after a Labour election — is being

used by the campaign to get as much support from the labour movement as possible.

In order for Viraj to win his right to political asylum, the campaign has to gain mass support to show Waddington that a continued threat of deportation would cause a public outcry.

He obviously does not like bad publicity for his immigration officials judging from his reaction to Khuram Azad's case!

We must highlight the Viraj case everywhere possible to ensure Waddington and the Home Office do not attempt to deport Viraj behind the backs of the working class as they do with 60

other black people every week.

A strong campaign must be built to resist the racist immigration laws.

Home Office horror figures

NEW FIGURES issued by the Home Office now admit that a full-scale nuclear attack on Britain would mean immediate death for at least half the population.

Scientists calculate that blast alone from the attack on military bases and cities would probably kill 26 million people.

That's 10 million more than the government pre-

viously assumed.

A further two or three million would probably die from radiation burns.

Within days or weeks many of the six million injured would also have died.

The new estimates fit calculations made by the US Office of Technology that 90 per cent of people living in ordinary brick houses would be killed by the blast of around 11 pounds per square inch from a single one mega-

ton bomb.

The Home Office had previously said a thirty pound per square inch blast would be needed to kill that percentage.

The nuclear 'defence' exercise Operation Square Leg envisaged a 200 megaton attack on Britain.

The British Medical Association worked out from this and the US figures that there would be 26 million blast deaths.

Support sacked unionists! Oppose scab labour!

THREE Merseyside firms have sacked workers demanding the right to a living wage, decent and safe working conditions and a trade union recognised by their employers.

Workers at A1 Feeds, Streed Ltd and Nove Leather have been sacked for having the temerity to join a trade union.

After joining the union, employees in each workplace were subjected to harassment and intimidation by management, compelling them to take industrial action to defend the shop stewards concerned.

Effort

In each case the employers brought in scab workers, many from outside

the Merseyside area, in an effort to maintain production and break the unionised workers.

At each of the picket lines there has been a constant police presence and in the case of A1 Feeds several pickets have been arrested for petty alleged offences.

In each dispute, management are attempting to inflict severe financial damage on the union under the Tory anti-trade union legislation.

A coordinated and organised conspiracy against the unions by one or more employers' organisations using scab labour, the law courts and Tory anti-union laws is evident.

Knowing the strikers are young and comparatively new to the trade union movement, they are also trying to demoralise them by prolonging the disputes with a vicious war of attrition.

● See advertisement opposite.

Support sacked trade unionists!

MASS RALLY & MARCH

Friday 26 September

ASSEMBLE 4p.m. at A1 Feeds, Lyster Road, Bootle

MARCH to Streed Ltd Rally 6p.m. at Nove Leather

Speakers invited include: Eddie Roberts (T&GWU), Tony Hayes (T&GWU), Bob Parry MP, Alan Roberts MP, Alex Doswell (Liverpool Trades Council).

Further information: Mike Carden, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool 3. tel: 051-207 3388; or Fieldworkers Office, MTUCURC, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool 1. tel 051-709 3995.

WORKERS PRESS talks to JOE AUSTIN vice chair, Sinn Fein in the six counties



PART 3

IN PARTS ONE and two of this interview JOE AUSTIN discussed how Sinn Fein in the six counties is grappling with the problems of developing political consciousness within the working class. He explained the role of Sinn Fein's electoral struggle and the breaking down of the existing relationship between elected representatives and those whom they represent. He talked about the importance of the national question, the relationship between the armed and the political wings of the struggle and how together they challenge, not only the British occupation of the six counties, but the capitalist class system.

THIS WEEK he discusses the confusion of Republicanism with the Irish Free State. He describes the struggle as he sees it after the removal of British occupation, when the capitalist class will try to re-establish control over all Ireland.

NEXT WEEK we ask Joe what his attitudes to communist parties in Ireland are and what relationship he would expect to have with revolutionary parties in Britain.

DO YOU agree with the notion that if the British occupation ended there would be civil war here?

WELL, I don't know to be quite honest. I think that one of the scenarios that is presented, particularly by those that support British intervention, is that they can't leave because there will be a bloodbath.

We have no interest in a bloodbath and we have a

vested interest in stopping a bloodbath.

I don't believe at this point in time that large sections of the Loyalist population would want to see that civil war syndrome become reality.

There most certainly are a section who politically and to some extent religiously see that it is in their interest.

Their very existence depends on perpetuating the

division of the working class.

It is in their interest to actively orchestrate for civil war or to present the threat of a civil war.

I'm talking primarily about Loyalist paramilitaries who are in fact fascists, who have very close links with fascists in Britain and fascists in Europe.

I don't think they do represent the vast majority of Loyalist workers.

We would recognise that protestants do have fears that are real fears and are genuine fears.

They have been fed a diet of isolation, they've been fed a diet of a siege mentality and when you look at the leadership of the Loyalist people you'll find tremendous similarities with, say for instance, the whites who occupied Zimbabwe or those who currently hold the power in South Africa.

They find a false relationship with, for instance, the most extreme sections of Zionism, the people who control occupied Palestine, they feel tremendous affinity with them and that's part of the siege mentality.

Now I think they look at the Free State and they believe that is what Republicanism is all about.

They choose to believe that to a large extent.

Again we have a revolutionary responsibility at all times to counteract that propaganda sleight.

We are not struggling for a free state. Many of the issues that affect the protestant

working class in terms of how that statelet operates, they would find us as allies as opposed to the people like the SDLP for instance.

The referendum on divorce, the whole conspiracy against women in the Free State, the dominance of the Catholic hierarchy, we're in direct competition with all those positions.

Having said that, we're also in competition with the privileged positions that the protestant churches have in the north.

But those are things that the Loyalist population have more in common with us than they would for instance with the SDLP, or even their own Unionist Party.

But it's unrealistic to talk about working class unity, it's unrealistic to talk about a united working class front on the major issues until we remove British imperialism because it is that imperialism which divides the working class.

It's that imperialism that geographically divides Ireland, and it is that imperialism that maintains the statelets in the north and the south and the economic, political conspiracy against the Irish people.

To remove that is an initial step, that's why, when I spoke earlier, I said that removing the British occupation from Ireland is the beginning of the process to liberate a society that is in fact harnessed against the interests of the masses of the Irish people, the Irish working class.

ANOTHER problem seems to come from the fact that the Free State is in the grip of British imperialism.

It's an economic imperialism as opposed to a direct political imperialism.

How do you intend to deal with that, once you have expelled the British occupation from the North and removed partition?

THAT'S RIGHT, Connolly said that if you take down the Union Jack, paint the pillar boxes green, and put up a Tricolour — unless you have control of the pillars of power then you change nothing.

I mean you substitute a foreign army of repression for a native army of repression. You substitute the RUC for the Gardaí.

That is why the conquest of Ireland is not only geographical and it isn't only military.

I mean to remove the British army from the streets of the North, to remove parti-

tion but to allow British financiers, or even Irish financiers, to maintain and control all of those pillars of power, you actually haven't achieved very much.

If we were only involved in a struggle to remove or end partition, if we were only involved in a struggle to remove the British army and we left intact the British interest, then it wouldn't be worth the life of one person.

It would be meaningless. That's why we're in the business, that's why the whole politicisation that we spoke about earlier on has to take place.

I think that, just to go back to the civil war syndrome, what is most likely to happen in the post-British withdrawal from Ireland, and this is regrettable but I'm trying to be realistic, is that the initial coming together won't be the working class.

The initial coming together will be the capitalist class who will attempt to re-establish Ireland in their own interests.

That is the most likely scenario and strangely enough that is why I don't overly subscribe to the concept of civil war, because that civil war will not be in the interests of anyone.

But it certainly won't be in the interests of capitalism and I think that that's one of the factors that will prevent that line.

I don't believe that we're talking about a situation where the British leave on Monday and where a Sinn Fein government is elected on Tuesday.

I think the most likely scenario after the British departure is that Sinn Fein will be banned and a capitalist coalition government will be established.

The guarantee that that won't succeed is the politicisation that's taking place now.

It isn't, to a large extent, how many guns the IRA have or don't have, on the basis that capitalism can always outgun the revolutionary, although not necessarily defeat them.

But again our position has to be one of politicising those people who we come into contact with to understand that the struggle is not only about removing men with guns and green uniforms, but it is to bring about radical and revolutionary change to all areas that effect people's lives.

That has to be socialist policies and socialist programmes and that's what we're in the business of doing.

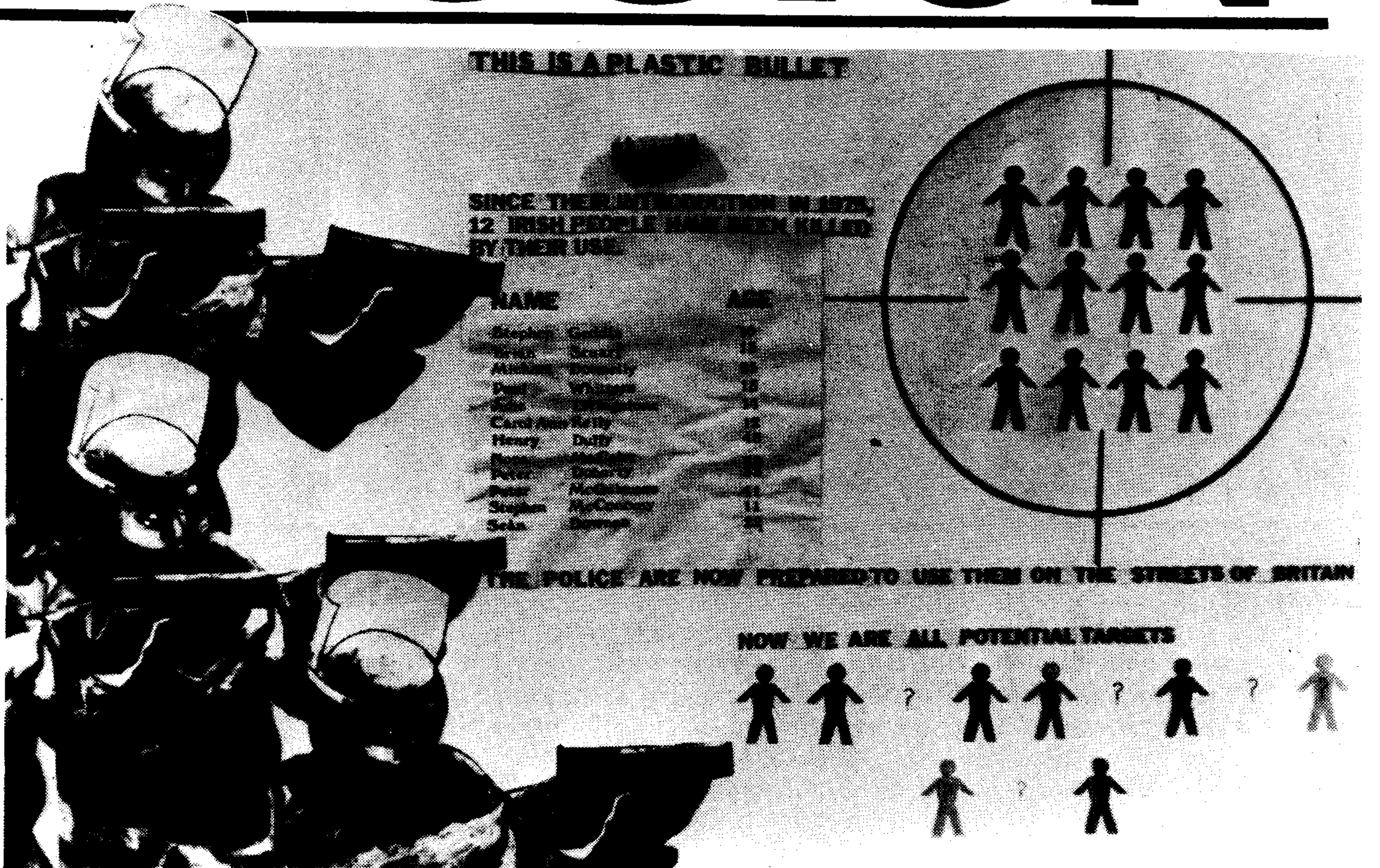


A mural in the area St James paying a tribute to those from the area who have died in this current phase of the struggle. The mural was organised and is maintained by the local community.

WEAPONS OF REPRESSION

AN OUTRAGE DEFENDED BY LIES

Part three of series on the campaign against plastic bullets by a reporter in Belfast



The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets in Ireland is very concerned that the British working class and particularly the ethnic groups within it are aware of the full ramifications of the use of plastic bullets, both in terms of the damage they inflict on their victims and they way they are used as weapons of repressions.

ONE OF the most striking themes which emerges again and again when talking to the victims of plastic bullets or the close relatives of those killed is the sense of outrage and injustice that has been done by the State.

Individuals, in deep grief and shock are suddenly confronted by the full machinations of a State whose hypocrisy knows no bounds, which has no compassion whatsoever and no respect for the life of its citizens, takes no account of truth and defends the indefensible with lies and distortions.

As the video, made by the United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets 'Plastic Bullets — The Deadly Truth' says, 'relatives have all confronted the difference between what is happening and what the official line says is happening.

'There is a sense of complete isolation and frustration living in a society which to their mind has committed the ultimate immorality in killing someone close to them.

'They are denied any redress at all.

'The most difficult thing to come to terms with is that the state can kill on the streets.'

All of these sentiments are expressed by Jim McCabe, whose wife Nora died in July 1981 after being shot in the head by a plastic bullet fired from an RUC landrover.

Devoted

Since Nora's death Jim has given up his job and has devoted his life to bringing up his three young children, fighting for justice for Nora's murder and fighting against the use of plastic bullets.

When I talked to Jim, two things became very clear.

The first was his initial disbelief that such a thing could happen, despite the fact that as a resident of Belfast he had witnessed much state terror and knew that there had been several deaths as a result of the plastic bullet.

Jim's experiences show

the effectiveness with which the state manages to cover each of the deaths, so that they either pass unnoticed or the victim is seen to have been associated in some way with rebellious behaviour, thus lulling people involved in peaceful, daily business into a false sense of security.

The second thing that becomes clear is that having experienced the naivety of this attitude Jim now feels compelled to bring Nora's murderers to court, not to seek revenge, but to let the world know how the state distorts and rationalises its actions.

Nora McCabe went out, at 8 o'clock in the morning to buy cigarettes at a corner shop, not twenty yards from the house in which she was staying.

On her way back from the shop on the corner of Linden Street and the Falls Road, she was hit.

Jim said that when he was first told Nora had been hit, it never occurred to him that she had been seriously injured and he assumed she had been in the vicinity of some minor struggles.

Neither of these ideas proved to be true.

Earlier that morning had Jim had been woken up by the banging of bin-lids, which was done after each hunger strikers' death as a sign of mourning.

When Jim arrived in Linden Street a friend told him that Nora had been taken to hospital and that it 'was serious'.

Jim told me, 'Even then I didn't realise.

I went to the hospital and

told them who I was and a doctor came and was explaining and I asked him how Nora was.

'He said, "injuries of this kind are always serious."

'I still had no idea, I thought that since Nora had been admitted to hospital she must have a broken arm or perhaps some bruising on the back or something like that.

'No-one had told me that she had been hit on the head and it wasn't until I saw her, lying on a stretcher, unconscious, with her head bandaged that the full impact hit me.

'Still it never occurred to me that she would die.

Surgery

They told me that she would be going through surgery and I kind of assumed that the operation would make things OK.

'After the surgery which lasted up to seven hours, a doctor called me into a room and told me that in actual fact Nora had very little chance of surviving and that if she did survive her speech would be affected and her hearing and sight because of the area in which the bullet had hit her.

'In actual fact, Nora died at two o'clock the following day.

'At no time did I realise, and I think in most cases where plastic bullets are concerned people don't realise that they are being used or that they can kill.

This is even though two children and one adult had died not so long before Nora,



Jim McCabe speaking at a vigil, in Andersonstown on the Anniversary of John Downes death. Behind him, commemoration crosses are held bearing the names of all of those who have been killed by plastic and rubber bullets in Northern Ireland.

it still didn't sink in that a plastic bullet could kill anyone.

'The shock of it did not really come until after the funeral, Nora was buried and everything had kind of died down and the public were gone.

'I had the private realisation that I no longer had a wife, through her being hit by a plastic bullet.'

At first Jim went to live with his mother who took care of the children.

'I had very little to do at that time and so I had an awful lot of time to think.

Initially about Nora's death and then gradually about the consequences of it in a personal way.'

Jim decided to give up his job to look after his children, who he felt needed him emotionally after the trauma of losing their mother.

The children were very young, Paul was seven, Jim two and Aine was only a baby of three months when their mother was killed.

Jim said, 'I realised that for the kids benefit I would have to give up work and look after them, not in a material sense because I wasn't experienced as a mother or at cooking or cleaning etc., that was all a complete foreign way of life to me.

'But more in an emotional sense the kids needed me close to them for longer periods than I could have given if I was working.'

Several dates were set and cancelled before the inquest



The plastic bullet sounds ineffective, but when the size of it is known, the damage it can do becomes more apparent.

on Nora's death took place in November 1982.

An eyewitness to the shooting who was a local resident testified that she had seen an RUC landrover, which was travelling down the Falls Road, turn partly into Linden Street and stop.

She said she saw what appeared like a 'black rubber thing sticking out of the right hand side of the landrover.' She gave evidence that she then heard a bang, saw sparks at the side of the landrover and saw Mrs. McCabe, who had stopped and was standing frightened against a wall, fall to the ground.

She also said that there was no riotous behaviour of any sort in the area at the time, no stone throwing, no petrol bombs, not even a crowd gathered.

Evidence

In contrast the RUC evidence of the then Chief Superintendent, James Crutchley and numerous 'about sixteen' other RUC officers was that at no time was a plastic bullet fired into Linden Street.

Crutchley stated that at the time he was in charge of two landrovers travelling down the Falls Road and that he was a front seat passenger in the vehicle in question, under oath he claimed that he had seen 'two youths running from the direction of Clonard Street (which is 20-30 yards below Linden Street) and ordered one plastic bullet to be fired.'

He claimed that he did not know if anyone was hit but 'What I do know is that no baton rounds were fired after we passed Clonard Street and I am definite that none were fired either into Linden Street or at the junction of Linden Street and the Falls Road.'

RUC evidence also claimed that there was a riot going on at the time and that stones and petrol bombs were being thrown and that the RUC officers were in danger.

Nora's injuries suggested that she had been hit at very close range, an estimated six feet, much closer than the 20 yards stipulated in the rules governing their use.

When the RUC evidence had all been given the barrister representing the McCabes sought leave to introduce some new evidence.

Unknown at the time of the shooting, and purely accidentally a Canadian-film crew were videoing the events in the Falls Road that morning.

The video clearly shows two landrovers driving up the Falls Road, it shows the

first of the two reach the junction of Linden Street, turn slightly into the corner of Linden Street and then stop.

Then a puff of smoke

'I personally will never give up until I have the Assistant Chief Constable in court to give his reasons why he ordered one of his subordinates to shoot Nora in the back of the head'

appears from the right hand side of the vehicle, the side facing Linden Street.

In the video, there is no evidence at all of rioting, no stones or no petrol bombs.

When this evidence was introduced into the inquest the Coroner asked why it had not been placed in the hands of the RUC.

Jim said, 'The obvious reason that we had not placed this evidence in the hands of the RUC was because they had concocted their story and everyone knew it was a tissue of lies in order to protect themselves.'

'They had already tried to make our eyewitness look like a liar.'

Plausible

'I think there were sixteen of them, all telling the same story and it would have seemed very plausible to anyone who didn't know, to the jury for example.'

'We knew that if they had seen the video they would, in some way have made their story to fit it.'

'I had wondered how the RUC were going to excuse the killing of Nora, because it was obvious she had been killed by a plastic bullet and there was an eyewitness who saw the actual shooting.'

'I had no idea they would try to deny that they had done it.'

'Medical evidence states that Nora's injuries were caused by a plastic bullet, now civilian people have no access to plastic bullets, or plastic bullet guns.'

The British army was not in the area at all at the time.

'Apparently the RUC knew of the existence of the video

and they had searched for it and had failed to come up with a copy of it, so they assumed that the Canadians had either destroyed it or taken it back with them.'

idea that the Coroner is totally sympathetic with members of the security forces and is hostile to people who bring cases against them.

'We requested that the video be placed in the hands of the Director of Public Prosecution.'

The inquest was adjourned to assess the new evidence.

An RUC officer was put in charge of the investigation.

Statement

When the inquest was reopened twelve months later, the jury issued a statement which agreed that the bullet that killed Nora McCabe had come from the RUC landrover and said: 'There is no evidence to suggest that there was a legitimate target to be fired at in the street.'

'Neither is there evidence to suggest that the deceased was other than an innocent party.'

After the inquest Jim felt that the coroner should have recommended that the men responsible for his wife's death should face charges, but no such recommendation was made.

In fact James Crutchley who by his own admission

Announcement for WRP members
WRP Irish Commission
WEEKEND SCHOOL
 Saturday-Sunday September 27th-28th
 College of Marxist Education, Derbyshire
DISCUSSIONS ON:
IRISH SOLIDARITY WORK
THE IRISH WORKING CLASS AND THE NATIONAL STRUGGLE
PROSPECTS FOR TROTSKYISM IN IRELAND TODAY
 Cost £12 plus fares from areas. Please make bookings with WRP Irish Commission, 21b Old Town, London SW4 OJT.

was in charge of the two landrovers and ordered the firing of a baton round into 'Clonard St', has since been promoted to Assistance Chief Constable of the RUC.

Jim said, 'I hold him (the Coroner) responsible for those RUC men not being brought to court.'

'I hold the Director of Public Prosecution responsible for those people not being brought to court and I hold the RUC in general responsible for their colleagues not being brought to court and facing charges in relation to Nora's death.'

'This is another aspect of the plastic bullet issue which makes it much more difficult for people to live with it.'

We are so helpless in the situation, the only way open for me and other people who have had relatives killed is to take a private prosecution, that entails a lot of expense, which the ordinary working class person cannot afford.'

Nevertheless Jim is working towards such a case, he has been awarded an 'undisclosed' amount of compensation, so in a way guilt has already been admitted.

Jim is fully aware of the difficulties he faces in trying to get such a high ranking official of the state brought

to justice, he said: 'It is very difficult to envisage or imagine a judge finding a case against him.'

It is also very difficult, if the D.P.P.

had brought a case against him to imagine a public prosecutor cross examining an Assistant Chief Constable in the way that he would examine a working class person who is accused of membership of an illegal grouping or party, so the entanglement of the fight for justice is much more difficult here in Northern Ireland than it would be in England.

Prosecution

'As far as the RUC is concerned Nora's case is closed But I am still working on a private prosecution and I personally will never give up until I have the Assistant Chief Constable in court to give his reasons as to why he ordered one of his subordinates to shoot Nora in the back of the head.'

'I'm going to continue fighting, I've got nothing to lose, I never had anything.'

What I have to gain, is not a vindictive procedure, I want it to be seen that plastic bullets have been used to kill innocent people.'

Crawley Branch WRP
Day School
 Political Economy — Geoff Pilling
 Sunday, October 5
 10.30am - 4.30pm
 Ifield Community Centre
 Ifield Drive, Crawley
 Entrance £1, Creche and refreshments available

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

<p>WAKEFIELD HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636. SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661. CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662. PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532. NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.</p>	<p>FRANKLAND HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085. MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087. BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662. PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034. EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.</p>	<p>LONG LARTIN HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984. JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989. EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637. ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877. GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016. JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715. ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576. PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.</p>	<p>DURHAM HM Prison Durham, Old Elvert Street, Durham. MARTINA ANDERSON: Life sentence, D25134. ELLA O'DWYER: Life sentence, D25135.</p>
<p>ALBANY HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064. HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638. BILLY GRIMES: SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418. STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence 758663.</p>	<p>LEICESTER HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888. BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380. GERRY McDONNELL: Life sentence, B75882. PATRICK McGEE: Life sentence, B75881.</p>	<p>PARKHURST HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence 879225. PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603. TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence 69204. PETER SHERRY: Life sentence, B75880.</p>	<p>INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE: CAROLE RICHARDSON: 290719, HM Prison Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire PATRICK ARMSTRONG: HM Prison Gartree. PAUL HILL: 462778. HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs. GERARD CONLON: 462779, HM Prison Long Lartin. JUDITH WARD, HM Prison Durham. HUGH CALLAGHAN, 509499, HM Prison Gartree. JOHN WALKER, 509494, HM Prison, Long Lartin. BILLY POWER, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs. GERARD HUNTER, 509495, HM Prison Frankland. RICHARD McILKENNY, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree. They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.</p>
<p>GARTREE HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-year sentence, B32954. RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799. JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635</p>	<p>HULL HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.</p>		

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

An aggregate of the Communist League of Peru rejects International Committee slanders

AN AGGREGATE meeting of the Communist League (Peru) on Saturday June 28 unanimously rejected slanders hurled at it by the so-called International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI) in a statement made on June 1 and published on June 17 in the twice-weekly north American 'Bulletin'. This report from that meeting is translated from *Prensa Obrera* issue no. 235. The Communist League (Peru) is in broad political solidarity with the WRP in Britain and the Communist League of Australia.

Workers Press is pleased to have this opportunity to set the record straight concerning the political stance of the CL.

The aggregate had assembled the majority of the Lima militants of the Communist League together with a number of provincial delegates.

It first paid homage to the political prisoners massacred in penal institutions who, despite strategic and tactical differences, were considered martyrs in the common struggle for the social revolution.

The ICFI statement was entitled 'The Communist League of Peru breaks with Trotskyism' and is filled with lies, half-truths torn out of historical context and quotations arbitrarily cut out of the journal 'Comunismo'.

These were used in the crudest way to attempt to show the leadership of the Communist League as a 'Nationalist, petty bourgeois right-wing camarillo' which has 'used the crisis in the IC' to repudiate 'all the foundations... of the Trotskyist movement' and to adopt instead 'neo-Stalinist, pro-Maoist, petty bourgeois nationalist perspectives'.

Real differences

THE MILITANTS at the meeting repudiated these slanders and denounced them as part of the manoeuvres at international level that the ICFI leadership is carrying out to hide its real differences with the Communist League and to resolve them in the most bureaucratic way.

These differences began to widen at the beginning of the year and concerned how to confront the crisis of the ICFI which had exploded in October 1985 with the expulsion of G. Healy, in practice the principal leader of the ICFI and its British section, the WRP.

Healy was expelled for using his political authority to gratify his personal needs and for refusing to submit to a control commission investigation, opting instead for a series of manoeuvres against the ICFI and the WRP.

The majority of members of the WRP and sections of the ICFI, including the Com-

munist League, supported sanctions against Healy who had only the backing of a small number of WRP members and the Greek and Spanish section.

Later, an ICFI control commission discovered that Healy and three WRP militants who had fled with him had established mercenary relations with bourgeois Arab governments in the process of a revision of the theory of permanent revolution.

ICFI Delegates decided to suspend the WRP, arguing that this was the only way 'to defend the integrity of the ICFI'.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist League on January 26 also unanimously condemned the WRP's mercenary relations with the Arab bourgeoisie but, unlike the ICFI delegates, the majority were opposed to suspending the WRP.

In the first place this was because the decision had been taken without any regard for the most elementary norms of procedure and in violation of the statutes of the Fourth International.

Secondly, because those directly implicated in mercenary relations had already been expelled from the WRP and the ICFI together with Healy and because the suspension meant sanctioning the immense majority of WRP leaders

and members — the very ones who had participated in the struggle against Healy.

False Premises

THIRDLY, and most important, the argument that the suspension of the WRP was necessary to 'defend the integrity of the ICFI' showed that the suspension was based on the false premise that the only problem was that of mercenary relations with the Arab bourgeoisie and the consequent revision of the theory of permanent revolution.

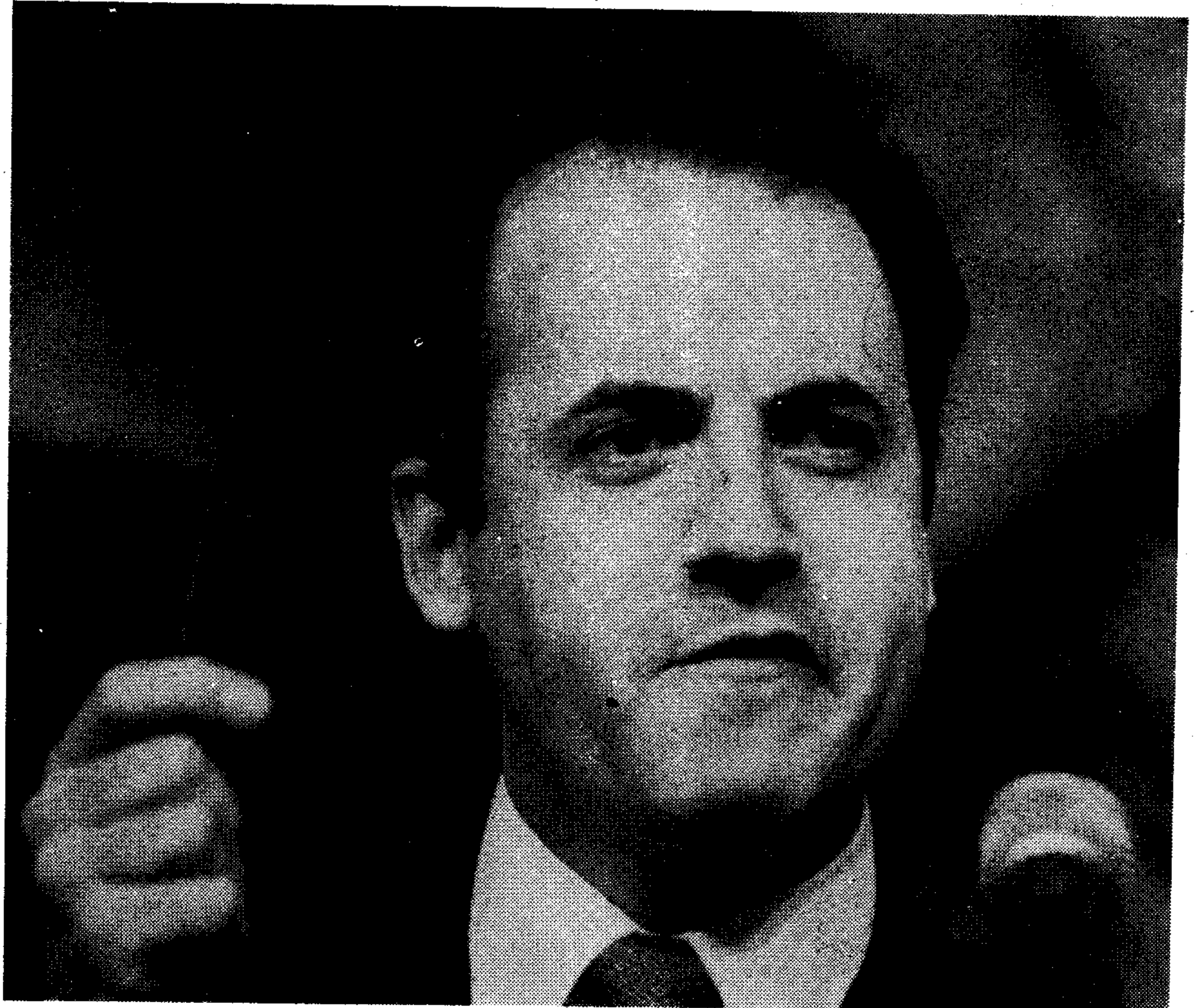
It was argued that this problem had only been manifest inside the WRP while the rest of the ICFI had followed a principled path.

On the contrary, under Healy's direction the WRP had always exerted a total domination over the whole of the ICFI, clearly shown by the fact that, in one form or another, every section had revised the theory of permanent revolution in relation to bourgeois Arab governments like Iraq, Libya and Iran.

Some leaders, like Mike Banda, formerly general secretary of the WRP, and David North, general secretary of the Workers League, (which, due to reactionary north American legislation, could only enjoy a relationship of political solidarity with the ICFI), had criticised some of the forms taken by the revision of the theory of permanent revolution.

However, they had always done this without making these criticisms available to the international membership and had always in the end abandoned their criticisms when confronted with Healy's bureaucratic threats.

The most important thing, however, was that Healy's expulsion and the end of his



DAVID NORTH — of the north American Workers League — denies any responsibility for the degeneration of the ICFI, a body which his party supports

overbearing and bureaucratic regime had created the conditions for revealing that the political trajectory of the WRP and the whole of the ICFI had been criss-crossed with errors as serious as the movement's subordination to the Arab bourgeoisie.

Manifesting an adaptation to the British imperialist state, the WRP had originally taken a neutral position in the Malvinas war and had abandoned any serious work for participating in the struggle to overthrow British imperialism in the north of Ireland.

As had been demonstrated at the 10th Conference, with North's acceptance, the Workers League had also adapted to the American imperialist state in adopting a pacifist position in relation to Yankee imperialism's invasion of Grenada.

The Communist League had itself initially taken a cowardly position in relation to Sendero Luminoso, refusing to see it as a legitimate expression of the radicalisation of sections of the peasantry and refusing also

to start from the need to defend it against the common capitalist enemy.

It realised that only on this basis could a clear break be made with its incorrect positions.

Security and the Fourth International

THE UNMASKING of Healy's personal degeneration and of his overbearing and bureaucratic method had also raised doubts about the veracity of the campaign for Security and the Fourth International in which Joseph Hansen of the north American SWP was accused of being a GPU/CIA double agent.

It was said that any Trotskyist organisation that rejected this charge had passed over to the trench of the class enemy.

Doubts had begun to surface when the Trotsky archives were opened in 1980 and a letter from Hansen to Trotsky was unearthed which confirmed Hansen's assertion that he had had contacts with the GPU in the course of a security assignment approved by Trotsky himself — which refuted a central plank in the campaign for Security and the Fourth International.

The ICFI's reaction to the discovery of the letter was forced and contradictory but, in spite of this, the sections of the ICFI all pressed on with the campaign which had started in 1975 and then developed always under the personal direction of Healy and North.

The ICFI as a whole used the campaign for Security and the Fourth International to demonstrate enthusiastically that it was the sole continuer of Trotskyism and the sole nucleus of the world party of socialist revolution — its complete and total incarnation, in fact.

All these considerations led the Communist League to establish that it was not only necessary to investigate and evaluate the trajectory of the WRP, but of the ICFI and its national sections in relation to their capacity to complete the task of building

the Fourth International as a world-wide alternative revolutionary leadership.

The theoretical, political and organisational problems revealed by Healy's expulsion showed that the trajectory of the ICFI was no different in all essentials to the path of other international groups that claimed to be Trotskyist.

Instead of fulfilling the tasks laid down by Trotsky in the struggle against Stalinism and the building of a Fourth International, they had constituted themselves as sects which, in the majority of cases, merely contemplated and, in the worse cases, turned their backs on revolutionary processes unfolding at the international level.

As a result they were unable to develop Trotskyism and in practice fell victims to the pressure of the bourgeoisie and of imperialism.

Historically and objectively speaking, this entire trajectory was hidden behind a formal adherence to Trotskyist principles.

Each crisis was answered with a new, equally formal, reaffirmation of these same principles, without learning anything about the objective changes or the problems that had given rise to the crisis in the first place.

Objective evaluation

IT WAS for this reason that, faced with a crisis of the ICFI, the Communist League stressed that it was not a question once again of reaffirming Trotsky's principles, but rather of developing them.

This required the drawing of all the lessons from the objective changes and the revolutionary processes that have taken place since Trotsky's death and of making an objective evaluation of the reasons why international groups calling themselves Trotskyist had not managed to constitute themselves into an alternative revolutionary leadership but had rather embarked on a process of decomposition.

None of this signified



ALEX MITCHELL and VANESSA REDGRAVE while guests of an Arab bourgeois government. Trotskyists the world over might look a little askance at a life style revealed in this photograph found in the WRP archives after the split



abandoning Trotsky's struggle against Stalinism to establish the continuity of Marxism-Leninism, just as for Lenin and Trotsky the struggle against the bankruptcy of the Second International had never implied an abandonment of Marxism but rather its very development.

The decision to suspend the WRP to sanctify the ICFI, and in so doing implicitly to deny all evaluation of its history and the history of Fourth International, obstructs the struggle for the development of Trotskyism.

It was for this reason that the Communist League opposed sanctions.

Despite this, our Central Committee meeting of January 26, 1986 resolved to respect the new leadership of the ICFI imposed following the WRP's suspension, to work faithfully within its ranks to reverse the trend to resolve the crisis by administrative means and to try to promote honest discussion on the history of the Trotskyist movement.

But subsequent events showed that the ICFI was not disposed to accept in its ranks any objective discussion on the trajectory of the IC because it did not wish to confront its own political responsibilities in this process of decomposition.

It preferred to hide them, sheltering behind the indubitable primary responsibility of the WRP, and to employ all possible kinds of manoeuvre.

Thus it became known that leaders of the Australian section had also established mercenary relations with the Arab bourgeoisie but that this had been consciously hidden by ICFI delegate Nick Beams and by David North at the meeting at which the WRP was suspended for the same offence.

North began publishing a series of articles with which he purported to defend the veracity of the campaign for Security and the Fourth International in which he merely demonstrated total political dishonesty and a total absence of revolutionary honesty.

He continued to attack Joseph Hansen as a GPU/CIA agent without deigning to mention the discovery of the relevant letter in the Trotsky archive and without attempting even a minimal analysis of the use and development of this campaign in relation to Healy's degeneration and the decomposition of the ICFI.

At the same time he kept a total silence regarding the renegade Healyites' intentions of using the bourgeois courts to destroy the WRP.

This clearly revealed that his factional manoeuvres were designed to obscure his political responsibilities.

This was rated as more important than a principled position, not only in relation to history but also in relation to a left-wing organisation under attack by the capitalist state.

Factional Manoeuvres

ALL NORTH'S factional manoeuvres were accentuated in Peru, when the Central Committee meeting of the Communist League of March 26, 1986 received the first documents from its members on the history of the Trotskyist movement and unanimously endorsed a resolution that the article 'Twenty Seven Reasons Why We Should Bury The ICFI and Build The Fourth International' by Mike Banda was a legitimate discussion document.

It reaffirmed the need to place in the forefront an historical evaluation of the Fourth International and a development of perspectives for the building of revolutionary parties of the working class.

It rejected the threats and the ultimatum and bureaucratic suppression of internal political discussion by the north American Workers League.

The documents and the resolution of the Central Committee, which were initially considered for internal circulation only, reached North via two of his envoys both of whom had participated freely in the aggregate meeting

and one of whom had attended the Central Committee meeting itself.

North's reaction was clear but repugnant.

Through the leaders of the ICFI, he explicitly rejected the legitimacy of any critical evaluation of the trajectory of the ICFI with the argument 'For or against the ICFI'.

He held that the defence of the prestige of the ICFI was more important than any discussion required to draw out the lessons of its own history.

He justified every conceivable manoeuvre to hamper evaluation and discussion inside the Communist League.

In fact, parallel with this, he used inexperienced members of the ICFI to mount a factional campaign within the Communist League, based on totally subjective and liquidationist methods.

The campaign collapsed but in practice it marked a point of rupture between the new leadership of the ICFI and the Communist League which, at that point, made public its documents and resolutions with the reappearance of the Journal Comunismo.

This met with a positive response in sections that had once belonged to the International Committee and other tendencies inside the Trotskyist movement.

This is why the aggregate meeting of June 28, 1986 considered that the ICFI's declaration of June 1 merely formalised a split that had already occurred and demonstrated again the correctness of the position taken by the Communist League when faced with the crisis of the ICFI.

Those who refuse to develop the evaluation and discussion necessary to learn the lessons of the history of the ICFI and the Fourth International in order to overcome its crisis — whether because they wish to hide their political responsibilities, as in the case of Beams and North or because they persist in con-

HEALY — whose bureaucratic methods always cowed leaders of the ICFI when they criticised his rampant abandonment of Permanent Revolution — seen speaking on a platform in Iraq beneath a picture of Saddam Hussein. Here, 'A' is definitely 'A' and the evidence irrefutable

sidering an organisation like the ICFI as a thing-in-itself which has to be preserved at all costs, rather than a tool for revolution, — can only expect to keep reproducing the worst features of the degeneration of Healy and the decomposition of the IC.

This is demonstrated not only by the ultimatum, bureaucratic and factional manoeuvres hysterically displayed by North in this recent period but also by the total theoretical and political bankruptcy shown by all the leaders of the ICFI in their statement of June 1.

This shows absolutely no interest in answering politically the position established in the Journal Comunismo: instead, a string of slanders based on lies, half-truths and chopped quotations.

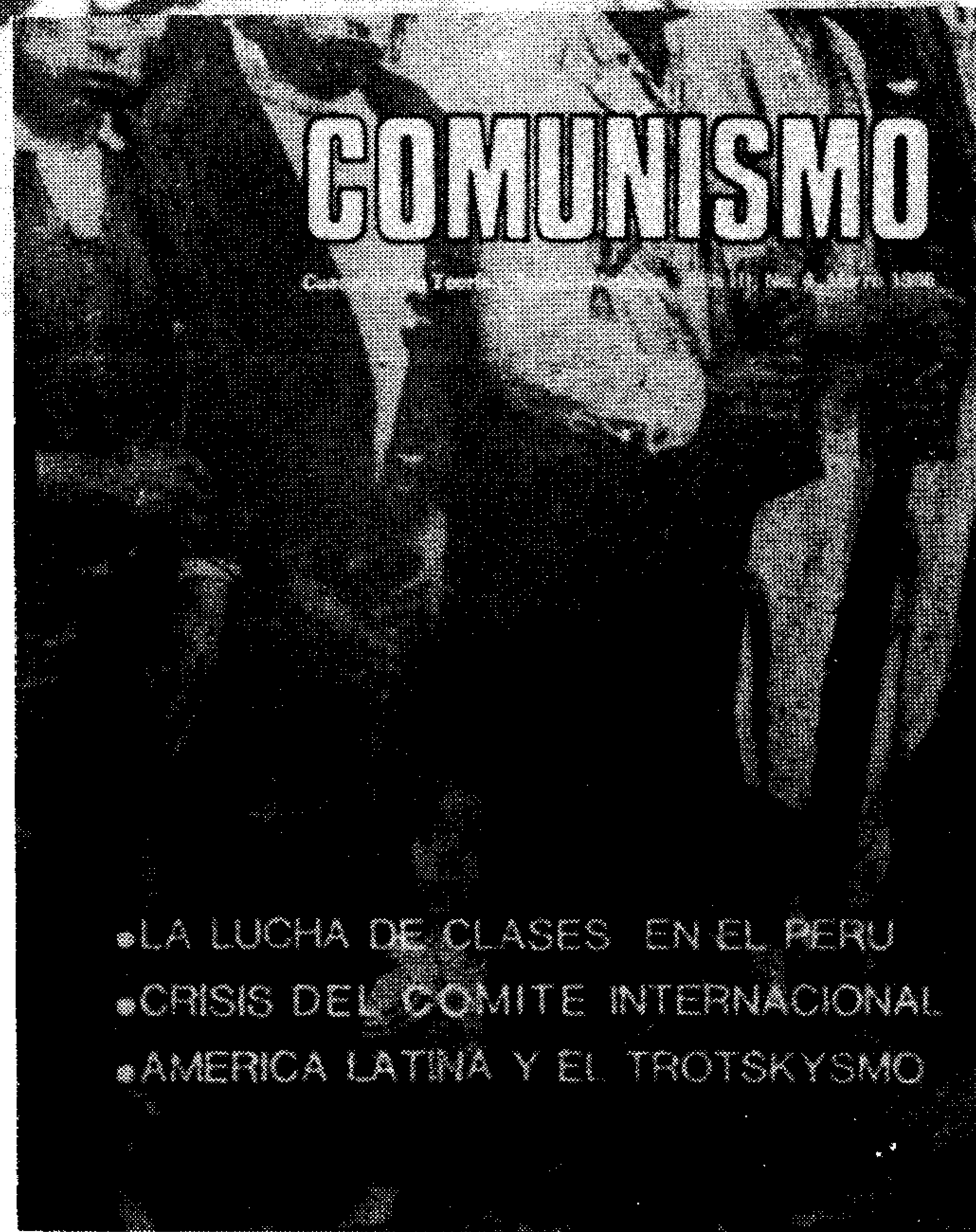
None of them can overcome the problems of the past nor can they learn anything from the crisis in the ICFI.

The prognosis, for the best of them, is to be condemned to exist as part of yet another international sect outside of and in opposition to the struggle to build the Fourth International as the world party of socialist revolution.

Theoretical Development

ON THE other hand, the Communist League's decision to face up to the crisis in the ICFI by consciously breaking with the methods and the practice of the past period and to make an objective evaluation of the history of the ICFI and the whole of the Trotskyist movement, has allowed it to make a theoretical and political development through the Journal Comunismo.

This is only a beginning



Cover of the Peruvian Trotskyist journal 'Comunismo'

but nevertheless contains important lessons on the basis of which the Communist League is trying to participate actively in the struggle to build the Fourth International and a revolutionary party of the working class.

In a fundamental way, this has enabled it to discover Trotskyist forces inside and outside the ICFI which are also committed to the fight and are prepared to join forces to advance it.

Such is the case with the

Socialist Workers Party of Peru and, at international level, the British WRP and the Australian Communist League (which also belonged to the IC), and the International Workers League.

● The aggregate meeting of the Communist League of June 28, 1986 ended by unanimously approving the joint activities carried out to date with the above mentioned organisations and a commitment to establish a firm base for their future development.

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BOOKS

DATELINE P

The 'Iron Hand' of suppression INTERVIEW WITH BASSAM AL SHAKA

NABLUS — 'Troops placed roadblocks around an-Najah University in Nablus, forbidding students to enter, after the pro-Arafat Palestinian Student Youth Movement won victory in student council elections.' (January 1986)

'Wael Hasan Jadeh, aged 14, of Nablus, was sentenced to seven years jail plus five suspended, for a security offence.' (February 1986).

'Huge crowds turned the funeral into a demonstration of anger. Carrying portraits of murdered mayor al Masri and Yasser Arafat, they marched through Nablus for two hours, chanting "No Hussein! No Assad! No "autonomy"! Only the PLO!"' (March 1976)

'The military court in Nablus confirmed a six-month detention order on an-Najah student council chair Khalil Ashour.' (April 1986)

'Seven people were wounded when troops opened fire at demonstrators in Nablus who had been protesting a provocative parade by Israeli settlers.' (May 1986)

'Anticipating demonstrations on the anniversary of the June 1967 war, army units sealed off Nablus and put a large part of the city under curfew for two days.' (June 5, 1986)

'Israeli troops stormed into the trade union federation's Nablus headquarters, and arrested union officials.' (June 27, 1986).

Situated between two mountains, Gerizim and Eibal, and with new houses spreading up the hillsides, Nablus is a busy commercial and manufacturing city, where the main route from Jerusalem northwards to Galilee crosses another from the coast to the Jordan valley.

As Sichem, it was known to Abraham and to the Pharaohs of Egypt — the 14th century BC Tell el-Amarna letters accused the king of Sichem of assisting Semitic infiltrators. Later it was capital of Samaria. There is still a Samaritan community in the area.

The Romans razed old Sichem to the ground during the 'Jewish Wars', and a new town on the present site was called Flavia Neapolis — hence Arabized as Nablus. Destroyed by the Crusaders, it was rebuilt again.

From a Roman amphitheatre being excavated to the south-east, a walk through the busy market brings you upon a late 19th century Ottoman clock-tower, across the street from a familiar red post-box complete with George VI monogram.

Another legacy of the British mandate is the big fortified police headquarters on the Jerusalem road, now used by the Israelis. Likewise the prison. The Israeli tanks and armoured troop carriers came round in a flanking movement in June 1967, entering the city from the east.

Already in the last century Nablus was a centre of emerging Palestinian Arab nationalism, challenging the Ottoman empire and other foreign rulers. As the selection of news items above indicates, Nablus is today a centre of Palestinian resistance to Zionist rule.

Perhaps the best-known of its citizens, and a man who would surely be prominent politically in a Palestinian state, is former Mayor Bassam al Shaka.

Victim

Since being victim of a Zionist bombing in which he lost both legs, Bassam al Shaka has spoken in Britain and elsewhere for his people's cause. Besides depicting him as mayor, the Israeli occupiers have for some years subjected him to various forms of harassment, including stopping him from receiving visitors — whether local people or from abroad — for long periods.

I arrived in Nablus in July with a tour-party organised by Jerusalem and Peace Services. (A new specialist tour firm. See listings.) Our guides were not sure whether we'd be able to see Bassam, or be stopped by

the Israeli guards. Fortunately we were able to call at his home, where he gave his views and answered our questions.

'The Palestinian problem began through the strategic relationship between imperialism and the Zionist movement which began outside Palestine in 1917, and through imperialism's plans against our land and people.

They wanted to control the area, and guarantee their interests. They put the Zionists in front to be a guard against any movement for national liberation in the area.

The Zionist movement considered Palestine belonged to them. They did not recognise others' rights, or the facts of the area. Now they occupy all Palestine, and they are still in south Lebanon.

In the Zionist ideology they did not consider the rights of the people in the country. They treat the land as belonging to them, and all their activities are directed against our people.

They have set up military orders controlling every aspect of daily life. They want to change the function of all our institutions, like the municipalities, the universities, even the children's schools.

They control our economic activity, our agriculture, our trading and industries, and they aim to build their de facto rule against our interests.

They use deportations. In 1967 the Labour government tried to deport tens of thousands of our people. But the people stayed, and there was international pressure. At that time they completely destroyed three villages.

From that time to today they have deported many of our political leaders. They continually make problems for our people, and there is always oppression whether directly by the 'Iron Hand',



Deposed Nablus mayor Bassam al Shaka with his wife

or indirectly by the problems they create by military orders and control of our daily life.

We have no national authority to look after our life, our work, our security.

Nablus suffers very much, like any city. We have had many of our leaders deported, many houses destroyed.

Since 1967, I am the third elected mayor. Both those before me resigned because of the problems made for them, because they could not serve the city, could not do their duties freely and well.

As for me, after I was elected in 1976, they tried to stop us from serving the city by military orders. All the military orders are against local interests, against national interests, against international law.

Build

If we try to carry out any simple duty, like if we want to build schools we face problems. If we want to develop our electricity or water supplies — everything we try to do — they make problems.

We face pressure to take, as they call it, 'security' responsibility. When the people protested against taxes, they wanted the council to take responsibility for stopping the demonstrations.

Likewise they wanted us to stop strikes and they threatened the mayors, they tried to threaten me, to help the Israeli aggression against our people.

The clash began to get harder and harder between us. The Minister of Defence threatened me in his office. He said 'Look Bassam, you will face physical punishment if you continue your political activity.'

I asked: 'What do you mean, "political activity"?' We are only defending our rights.' He said: 'You have been on the demonstration at Elon Moreh.'

They tried to establish a settlement at Elon Moreh, the Gush Emunim. All the citizens of Nablus went on the demonstration. It was

peaceful. But they fired on the demonstration.

We had tried to keep the demonstration peaceful, and Ezer Weizmann said to me: 'You face physical punishment if you do that again.'

They arrested me. I was in Ramleh jail. There was a big struggle from our people, and we succeeded in regaining our freedom. We were able to return to our responsibilities and our families.

Then they tried telling lies about me. They tried to say I encouraged attacks on Jewish children. I didn't say anything like that. When they were obliged to publish the verbatim account of our meeting, everyone could see they had lied. They were in difficulty, and had to let me alone.

After that they deported Fayed Kawasmeh and Mohammed Milhem. After two months they tried to kill me and Karim Khalif and Ibrahim Tawil. The murder

local laws, it must be that he's an employee.

Now they close the 'Iron Hand', and they want to control all the organisations of Nablus.

We have a population of about 105,000 people. The city is famous for the Nabulian soap factories. We have many soap factories from olive oil. It's a traditional industry using old methods.

We have other small industries. Some closed through the bad situation. We have a modern flour mill, but it couldn't compete with the Israeli mills. We have a margarine factory which sells to the market in Jordan. We have sesame and olive oil factories, and quarries exporting building stone.

We have here the biggest Palestinian university, and we have many schools. All Palestinians love to study, and we need it, because every family wants their children to have a chance.

'Those who are interested in keeping unemployment in Britain will never be able to understand the Palestinian people.'

attempt was a step in line with their policy to go for the mayor, it's a strategy for the Israeli occupiers.

In 1982 they tried to change from military to a supposedly civil authority. We refused to collaborate, because it's an attempt to legalise the occupation.

They dismissed me, they dismissed Rashid Shawa too, whom they had considered a moderate. They dismissed more than half the municipalities.

After that they appointed Israeli mayors in some places. Now they appoint committees for municipalities as a 'special authority'. That's what they called it in the order.

They give power to someone to be responsible for Nablus municipality through security laws. When we know security laws cancel

You have heard about Law 854, which the universities refuse. The children's schools have difficulty. Every school has to renew its licence every year. They wanted the university to do this, they refused. But for children's schools it is not so easy.

They began to try and settle around here. We have now a settlement on top of Mount Gerizim and a military camp on Eibel, with a settlement beside it. We have Elon Moreh in the east, and there are other settlements.

They have started to speak about settling inside Nablus. There's a holy place called Joseph's grave which Moslems took care of. Now they are saying it's a Jewish site and established a Jewish institute inside.

The settlers believe they



'Every Palestinian likes to study, every family wants their child to have a chance.' At an-Najah University, Nablus, young Palestinians express both individual and national aspirations. Students here firmly support the national struggle

ALESTINE

THE BOMBING AND AFTER

In 1980, attempts were made on the lives of three Arab mayors in the occupied territories, Bassam al Shaka of Nablus, Karim Khalil of Ramallah, and Ibrahim Tawil of El Bireh.

Bassam al-Shaka, mayor of Nablus, survived the bomb planted in his car, but lost both legs in the explosion.

In March-April 1982, while media attention was focussed on the Israel withdrawal from Sinai, the Israeli ruler of the West Bank, Colonel Milson, ordered the dismissal of the three mayors. Israeli armoured cars prowled the streets of Nablus, where Mayor al Shaka had been taken at dawn to military

headquarters and told of his dismissal.

The military said he had failed to co-operate with Israeli administration, and 'incited' the people to 'revolt'.

Distorting Bassam al Shaka's response to questions from the military, the Zionist state's propaganda slanderously presented him as supporting attacks on civilians — thus setting him up as a target for the Zionist terror gangs.

The car bombing followed.

The chief suspect in the car bombing, one Ira Rappaport, is now reported to be living in New York, and active in right-wing Zionist groups. There's no need

for him to hide himself.

The Israeli Justice Ministry says it is not considering any extradition request, and we may guess that Reagan's 'war on terrorism' won't extend to yet another of the terrorists harboured in the United States.

As for Bassam al Shaka, since his dismissal the injured mayor has remained a target for harassment, being subject to long periods of house arrest, and frequently denied visits.

Evidently, just as Nablus has a long tradition as a centre of Palestinian struggle, so its former mayor is still regarded as a dangerous symbol of Palestinian militancy.

must settle the whole area. Israeli newspapers speak about settling inside Nablus like Hebron. The settlers have bought houses, secretly, and by tricks.

Our people oppose them, because they are occupiers, and they cannot change the geography of the occupied territories.

Maybe you have heard propaganda that today it's a different policy, that Peres is better than Shamir? I can tell you it's worse than ever, the 'Iron Hand' is worse than before. They have arrested more people, they are destroying more houses, they deport citizens.

Today's settlements are double what they were in Shamir's time.

Aggression

Peres speaks more about peace, but starts more aggression in our land. They still take land, they still develop settlements, and the 'Iron Hand' is worse than ever.

This game of negotiation, this game which the Labour Party under Peres' leadership plays has begun to be very clear.

He spoke about negotiations with Jordan. When there was agreement between Arafat and Jordan, he said: 'No negotiations with Palestinians who are supported by the PLO.'

When the struggle began between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat, he began to say he wanted to negotiate with Jordan, and with people from the occupied territories who are not of the PLO. Then King Hussein said he was ready to negotiate with Israel.

It's very clear for us, the Palestinians. We hope it will be clear for international opinion.

Peres speaks about negotiations, but he doesn't speak about withdrawing. He doesn't speak about stopping the settlements. As for Jeru-

salem, he doesn't say anything.

Always he makes big propaganda about 'peace', but without facts, he says 'without conditions'.

Now they have begun to speak about 'improving the quality of life', and who can believe there is a better life without freedom? We are under occupation. We are not animals. We are human. We have rights, and we look for our freedom.

Their ideology does not allow for that. Anyone who speaks about peace must recognise this.

I am not against the rights of Jewish people in our land. We lived together before, we can do again. Zionism did not begin here, it began outside. They never recognised our rights.

I look for the liberation of our land not for ourselves only. If we get our freedom, we are not aggressive. We look through our humanity, through our international future.

The British government after Mrs Thatcher's visit is very active, but not with the national groups. It is active to help the strategy of Zionism, the strategy of the Americans. The British government has no independent role.

We must be more active to change policy in Europe. Their policy today is delaying our liberation. They said Arafat was a 'moderate', thinking they could use him against the other Palestinians. If Arafat is a moderate why don't you recognise him? It's very dirty politics.

Thatcher met Mohammed Milhem before, I know that. In America they met Mohammed Milhem officially. But they wanted to use them (*the Palestinian delegation that was due to meet the British government — CP*) for the security of Israel, they weren't serious for peace.

Because they have aggressive aims against us too,

Thatcher and Reagan.

I met the last British consul. He tried to discuss with me about negotiations.

If anyone has hope for peace in the future, he must consider that in daily policy. They contain our life from Israeli interests, economically, socially, in every way.

You can see today the main road from Jerusalem goes to Elon Moreh and the settlements, the Nablus road has become a branch road. If any father wants to visit a daughter in another village he has to go a roundabout way.

The new roads help their military aims. They stop development of Palestinian cities or villages, and prepare for settlements. You can see this, it is very clear.

They start from the view that this land belongs to them, and them alone. They didn't hide this, from the beginning — they said they 'liberated the land', they didn't say they occupied.

For myself, I am sure they speak about peace prospects without any intention of making peace. They want to create more and more 'facts', then annex by law, and say this is 'Israel'.

'Autonomy,' they say, 'it's not for us.' It's for their ideology, because they want to keep a 'pure' Jewish state. They want the land, they

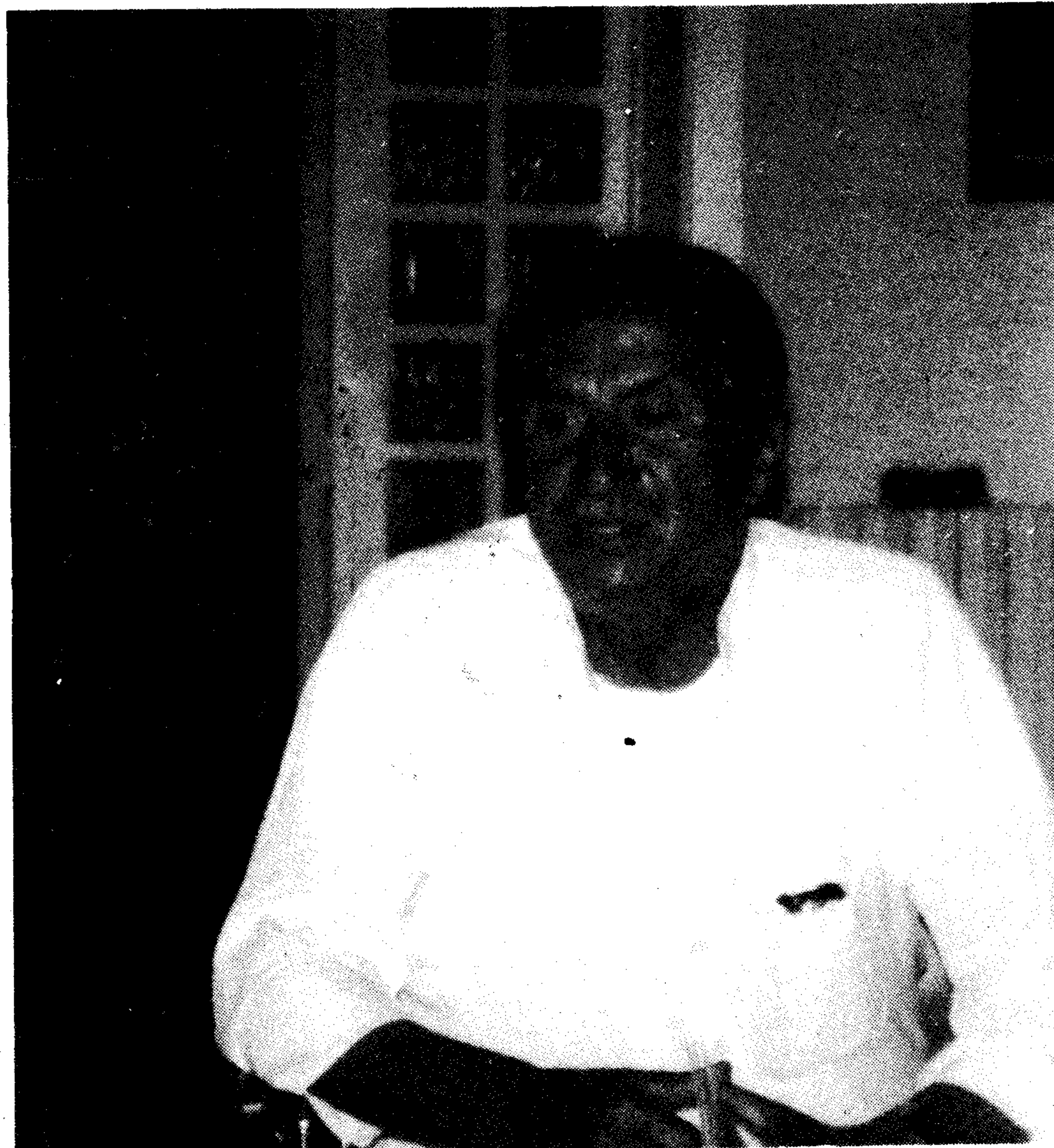
'I believe that the Palestinian cause is connected with the struggles of people in Britain. It is all connected.'

didn't want the people. 'Autonomy' through military orders, through occupation? 'Autonomy' to break the unity of the people, and to cut the link between the people and their land.

Of course we Palestinians do not have democratic channels, under occupation, to struggle. Any simple way to defend our rights, we haven't. They even stop the courts from helping us defend our rights, our land. If they want to take land, the Israelis have put military authority before the courts. It means you cannot take anything to court.

After the murder attempt, for four years I lived under harassment. There was a military guard on my house all the time. They interrogated any visitors, often forbade visitors. Some visitors came into my house and we had to wash the blood off their face, because the soldiers had beaten them.

When the British consul came, the guards had gone for cigarettes or something. Then they came and spoke to the driver, told him to fetch him out. The consul said he would send his ID out. They



'I have to be objective...'

said he must come out, if he didn't they would bring him out by force. He was kept 15 minutes with them before he got permission to come in.

I protested over this treatment, but the British consul did not protest.

When Carrington came to Tel Aviv, one of his assistants wanted to visit me, but the Israelis refused permission.

The second consul came with a letter, and the soldiers stopped him. I asked if we could let him have a chair, to sit and speak with me over the garden wall, but they did

not let him take the chair. They made him stand by their car.

They have kept local people away also. And when I left the house they followed me everywhere. When people stopped to speak to me they beat them. I'm not sure now whether I'm allowed to move or not. They say I'm under house arrest, without official word on this.

We keep our determination for our rights. We maintain our struggle. When they continue to settle they create a big obstacle for any hope to peace. It means the Zionist movement will not only hit the Palestinians. They will oblige King Hussein to be ashamed to talk about peace if they continue.

They went into Lebanon. Today the Lebanese fight against Israel more than ever. Today the Zionist movement is turning against itself. Like a rabid dog, Zionism will kill itself. Not in 14 days, but maybe in 40 years.

They cannot continue because it goes against the facts of our world, against the future. I am very optimistic. They cannot con-

tinue. We shall get our rights. We can see very big changes in our world.

It's not easy. The governments you have in Europe are still typical, like the Arab governments, tied to imperialism. You are beginning to face problems because of that.

The 'Palestinian problem' is also the 'British problem'. I believe that the Palestinian cause is connected with the struggles of people in Britain. It is all connected.

If you take on the problem of unemployment in Britain you can open people's minds, and lead to better understanding of the Palestinian cause.

Those who are interested in keeping unemployment in Britain will never be able to understand the Palestinian people.

When the Zionist movement entered a strategic relationship with imperialism, our rights became linked with the rights of any people in any part of the world. We must keep this daily connection with our struggle. We need very much more attention, determination.

The governments of Europe are still tied to imperialist strategy, and support Israel. When we want to change policy in Europe,

people there must do it for themselves.

I know also there are many problems economically between America and Europe.

When I oppose America, that doesn't mean I shall be with Russia. But I have to be objective. If I look for change, and it means going against America, what can I do?

We cannot say something is good if it's not. We have to look at our world objectively if we want to change it, if we want international peace. If the facts push me to be against America, that's how it is.

If we look for change from Europe, that doesn't mean we shall wait. We shall struggle. We have the right. There are many possibilities here to encourage us. What happened in Lebanon, what's happening in Israel, the economic situation, all encourages us.

We live under military rule. There are difficulties among ourselves. But everybody looks to get back unity. We tried unity with Jordan, and with Mubarak. You know the result. America didn't accept it, and the Israelis used it.

Everybody has to think again about the results if we continue our splits. We hope for unity quick. ♪



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WORKERS Power has always been accused by the WRP of being weak on philosophy.

We are rebuked for not studying the great philosophers nor dialectics in general.

For our part we have stressed the question of programme. Not because this enables us to avoid the question of theory.

Quite the contrary. An incorrect programme has its origins in incorrect theory.

In fact programme is the best way of illuminating differences in theory.

In other words, a discussion on dialectics and method in general may reveal no differences.

It is only when method is applied that differences, if they are there, really appear.

This is as true for political economy as it is for programme.

From those early meetings on Capital in Conway Hall to the present day, I am convinced that the WRP does not understand Das Kapital and therefore Marx's method.

In the Workers Press of September 6, there is an article 'Wapping and Marxism'.

This article is very confused on the question of the laws of motion in capitalism.

It makes the statement that the capitalist crisis is caused by the overproduction of commodities:

'However, the original problem was one of too much production chasing too few markets'.

This is a reformist view not a Marxist view. It is the theoretical starting point for underconsumptionism.

After all, if the problem is one of lack of demand then the remedy is increasing demand by raising wages and government spending.

But we cannot leave it at that. Why is this view of underconsumptionism so prevalent in the labour movement?

Because superficially, on the surface, it appears there is over production of commodities.

In fact this overproduction of commodities is really an overproduction of capital.

Alas, the distinction between capital and commodities is not immediately visible.

Obviously, commodities do not march around wearing labels saying, 'I am capital'.

The real source of the confusion stems from the fact that workers are paid their wage or salary at the end of the period of production (week or month).

This makes it appear they are being paid out of present production.

In reality they are being paid out of past production. To be a capitalist one must have accumulated capital.

This means one must have sufficient capital beforehand to purchase the necessary means of production and pay wages until the commodities one's workers have produced can be sold.

It therefore follows that if workers are paid out of past production, then the new product is owned in its entirety by the capitalists.

Part of it will be consumed by the capitalists, the rest invested in a renewed round of production.

However if some capitalists refuse to invest then some of this new capital will lie idle.

It appears as unsold commodities, in reality idle capital, the property not of workers but of capitalists unable to find profitable outlets for their capital.

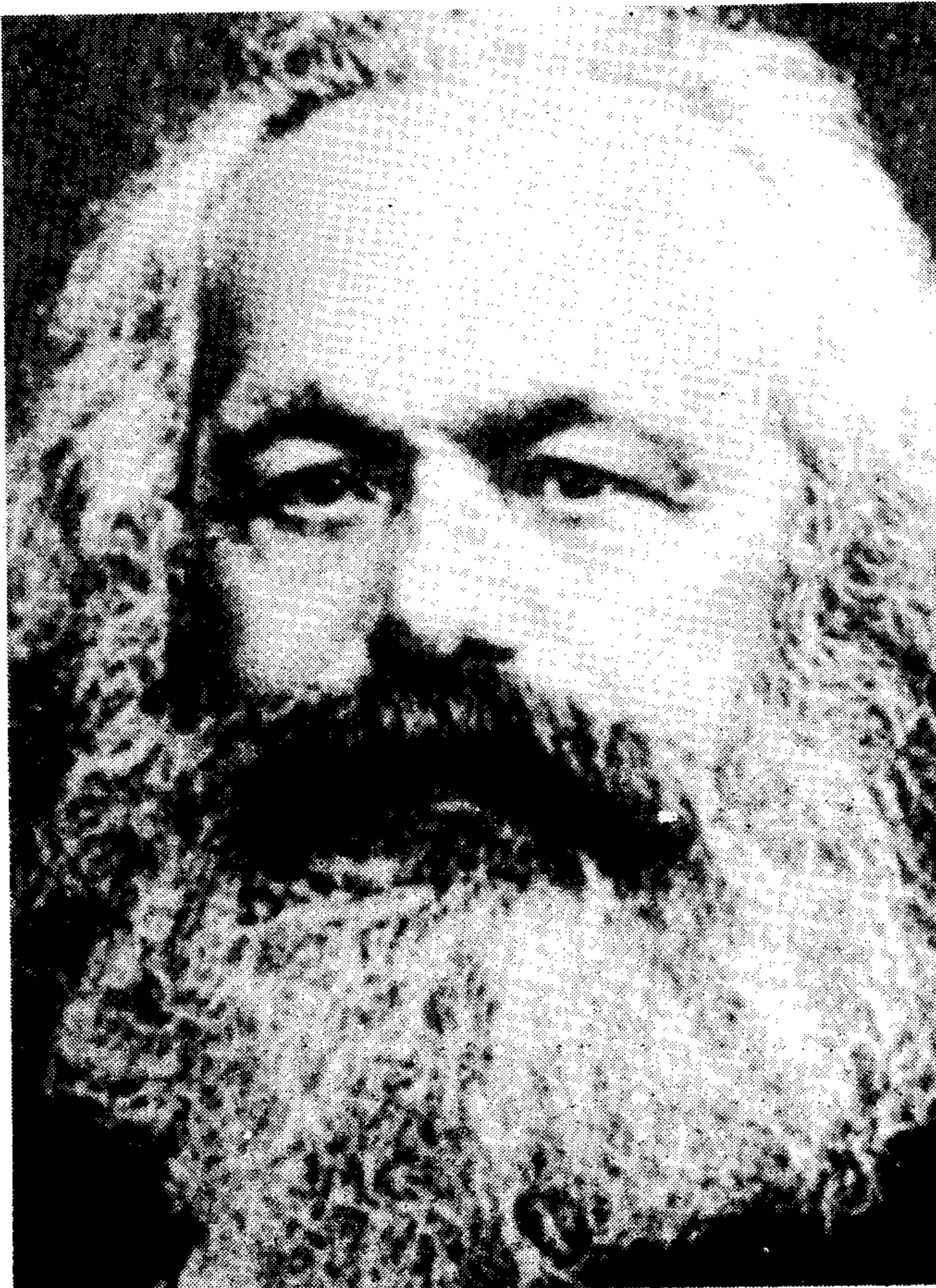
The importance of the distinction between overproduction of commodities or overproduction of capital may not be grasped at first.

But it has the most profound political consequences.

Through it we understand that raising wages and government spending, far from solving the capitalist crisis, would only make it worse; that the overproduction of capital demands lower wages and government spending; that workers have no alternative but to fight to defend their living standards.

Similarly on the question of prices. The article declares:

'... a fall in prices... is not a sign of economic recovery but of the fact that the artificial barriers put up to protect high prices are breaking down.'



KARL MARX

From this we can only understand that prices during the period of expansion were artificially high.

Once again the world is turned upside down.

In fact prices today are 'artificially' low.

In the language of Marx — market prices have fallen below their prices of production.

This has resulted from the fall in investment. When capitalists reduce their investment two things happen.

First they purchase less means of production from each other.

Secondly they employ fewer workers, which means there are fewer workers with

wages to spend on food, clothing etc.

Accordingly a lack of investment leads to a fall in demand throughout the economy.

This results in a price war as capitalists seek to move unsold stocks. Hence recessionary periods are always characterised by price contraction.

At this point I would like to make it clear that the mistakes in the article are no aberration.

They litter the propaganda of the WRP. The same confusion exists in cde Kemp's 'Theses On The Crisis'.

I could easily fill your whole paper with a critique of the Theses. Unfortunately I will have to limit myself to a few fundamentals.

Cde Kemp's main theses is that the depression of the 1930's was never overcome

and that the post-war boom was fictitious.

However, later in Thesis 11, he says that massive investments were made throughout the 1950's and 1960's.

Effectively he has contradicted himself. The very basis of capitalist development is the accumulation process — investment.

A healthy boom is always based on a surge in investment. How could the post war boom, the longest and most dynamic boom in capitalism be fictitious when it was based on the most rapid accumulation of capital the world had seen.

Cde Kemp then finds himself in a problem. How does a 'fictitious' boom end?

In Theses 13 and 14, he grapples with the problem. He says that the enlarged capacity could no longer be profitably employed.

Why it could no longer be profitably employed is not explained.

But, more importantly, to say it could no longer be profitably employed is to imply that production was previously profitable.

So how could the boom have been both fictitious and profitable?

Cde Kemp then gets himself into a deeper muddle. He claims in Thesis 14 that it was the shrinking of markets that led to 'pressure on the rate of profit'.

In fact it was the fall in the rate of profit that led to shrinking markets.

To get himself out of this mess, cde Kemp is forced to enter the sphere of money.

In Theses 16, 17, 18 and 19, he declares that it was only the continuous flow of dollars into the world economy that was responsible for the economic miracles of the 1950's and 1960's.

Cde Kemp may not know it but he is really a monetarist (or, as Marx called it, that most vulgar of the bourgeois economists).

Marx showed in Volume 1 that the quantity of money is determined by the value of commodities in circulation and their velocity of circulation (everything else being equal).

In other words the quanti-

ty of money in circulation is determined by the demand for it and not its supply.

It was the expansion of capitalism and world trade that required more dollars not vice versa.

How well this is confirmed today.

To try and shore up their sagging economies, Thatcher and Reagan are pumping money into their economies as fast as they can: 18 per cent in Britain and 13 per cent in America — one of the highest real rates in history.

According to cde Kemp, we should be experiencing a roaring boom.

In fact most of this excessive supply of money is lying idle. As a result an estimated 80 per cent is going into speculation.

No, to understand changes in the spheres of money we first have to understand changes in the sphere of production.

Changes in the sphere of money are symptoms of changes in production and not the cause of these changes.

Only when the dialectical order is established, can we study the interaction between money and production.

Unfortunately, cde Kemp's Theses owe more to Healyism than Marx. Their infatuation with money represents not a break with Healyite economics but its continuation.

In conclusion; it is high time we brought our dispute over method to a head.

The real test of method is not whether one has studied and understood Aristotle, Hegel, Kant etc. It is whether one understands Marx's method as elaborated in Capital.

The reason is clear. Contained in Marx's method are all the previous conquests of bourgeois science shorn of their contradictions.

Marx's method is therefore the most developed social science. To understand it is a test of the highest level.

A test which unfortunately the leading theoreticians of the WRP fail.

Brian Thomas

Workers Power

'Restart' is more than just another scheme

THE LETTER in last week's Workers Press headed 'How you can fight the Restart scheme' contains essential information for any individual who wishes to dodge being victimised by the MSC and the DHSS.

However, Bill Bennett, the writer of the letter uses a formal approach in looking at the subject of fighting the

scourge of cheap labour.

Thus he fails to point out the role of the trade unions, the requirements of British capitalism and the requirements of Britain's four million unemployed.

The Restart scheme is not an option which unemployed workers can choose to take or be forced to do rather than claim benefit.

It is part of a whole package of cheap labour which has been engineered by the last Labour government and the present Tory government to destroy the strength and independence of the organised working class.

The MSC is the outcome of mass industrial collapse and the need for the capitalist class to extract more profit

from commodity production and to spend less, or nothing, on necessary social services, the most expensive of those being social security benefits.

It threatens the very existence of the trade union movement and poses massive tasks for all workers.

It is not something which four million unemployed

workers can simply 'dodge' through the 'incompetence' of MSC offices.

Because cheap labour is the last source of food for capitalism, its riddance, along with the maintenance of the social security system, requires a much more serious approach which must involve the whole of the labour and trade union movement.

We must recognise that cheap labour can be purchased because of the bankruptcy of the trade union leaders who realise that the fight against cheap labour means a struggle against the capitalist state.

It doesn't leave room for privileged sections like themselves who actually sit on MSC co-ordinating committees.

In his letter, Cde Bennett falsely points out that 'the union movement is not capable of representing the interests of claimants'.

He doesn't find the time to explain briefly why not.

How does he explain the numerous strikes which have been carried out by CPSA members which are seriously undermining the

government's 'ethnic minoritying'?

If unemployed workers were in the CPSA and other unions, the possibilities of mobilising large numbers of rank and file workers in defence of the unemployed would be tremendous.

It would also undermine the trade union bureaucracy and their collaboration with the capitalists which is what allows enforced cheap labour to be carried out in the first place.

A stronger network of unemployed workers groups is essential but it must be united with the organised employed workers as members of the trade union movement with reduced rates and full rights to organise trade union action in defence of unemployed workers, and not fighting 'alongside union branches and other interest groups' as Cde Bennett points out in his letter.

● Don't let trade union leaders who will not fight off the hook!

Chris McBride
Shop steward,
ACTSS Lambeth unemployed shop.

Just for the record . . .

WHILST not wishing to become involved at this point in the overall argument taking place in the columns of 'Workers Press' between Steve Masterson and Alan Thornett, may I, on behalf of the Political Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party, make one thing absolutely clear?

Discussions are taking place on a regular basis between representatives from the central committee of the WRP and representatives of Workers Power, the Socialist Group and the International Group.

All developments in these discussions are reported back to the membership of the WRP.

Indeed, we are now producing a regular report in written form not only of our discussions with groups in Britain but internationally.

In answer to the allegations made by Steve Masterson (Workers Press, September 13) may I say that, in the view of the Political Committee, the approach of the Socialist Group to the WRP has been exemplary.

Nor is their approach news to the vast majority of

the WRP members' as Masterson alleges.

His accusations of 'quiet backroom chats to twos and threes, which are not minutes of course' are nonsense.

Together with Gerry Downing, earlier this year I attended the Socialist Viewpoint school on behalf of the Central Committee of the WRP.

At this school a full discussion took place between members of the WRP, Socialist Group and the International Group on the problems and possibilities of

regroupment.

All three organisations had actively encouraged their members to participate in this school.

May I finish by saying that we certainly value very much the discussion we have had with these organisations and with Workers Power and feel they have been very constructive in all cases.

Chris Bailey

Workers Revolutionary Party

● Note from the editorial board of Workers Press: We now declare that the contest is over but decline to announce a winner.

LETTERS

Your letters are welcome at Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT.

A double-barrelled letter from 'A Correspondent'

THE SOVIET historian M.N. Pokrovsky described the method of certain other ('bourgeois') historians as 'projecting present-day politics into the past.'

It is also a good characterisation of Pokrovsky's own method — and of R. Bobinska's, except that the latter goes much further in his 'Marxist' variant of what has been called 'the Whig interpretation of history.'

What he does is to wipe out all distinctions of period. The proletarian revolution might just as well have begun, it appears, in ancient Rome as in 20th century Russia. (If Lenin, why not Spartacus?)

For Trotsky the events of June 1848 in Paris marked a turning point in world history.

Since then, according to

Trotsky, the bourgeoisie has been incapable of playing a revolutionary role, in the sense of leading progressive revolutions.

That implies, of course, that things were different before the events in question. But not for R. Bobinska.

Incidentally, what was the 'bourgeois revolution' of 1905 that he mentions in passing?

Of course 'there is a history of humanity'. For example, there were human beings in the New World before Columbus arrived and they had their history, just as the Europeans had theirs.

But there was no connection between the two communities (except that, in the very remote past, the Amerindians presumably crossed over from Asia).

It is only with the effective

binding together of every part of the world by capitalism that there has been 'world history' in the sense of a unified process.

And that unified process does not eliminate, or even render unimportant, the specific local factors derived from the previous histories of the different countries and regions.

Surely we have seen all that enough in the case of the Russian ('Russian?') revolution?

Anyway I'm glad Luther, Cromwell and Robespierre have found some favour with R. Bobinska, even if only because they were men of different nationalities as well as periods, and this makes the mention of them in one sentence 'a correctly internationalist formulation.'

Seriously, though, it might be useful if R. Bobinska would abandon vague denunciations and give us, say, a concrete critique of A. L. Morton's *A People's History of England*, which is doubtless one of the 'people's-front-inspired' works he dislikes.

It appeared originally in 1938 — a second edition, considerably revised (with the help of the Communist Party's Historians group) was published in 1948, and is now available as a paperback.

There is not, so far as I know, any other book that attempts a survey of the whole history of this corner of the world continuum from what the author considers a Marxist point of view.

Brian Pearce
aka 'A Correspondent'

P.S. If it is the use of the concept 'people' that gets up R. Bobinska's nose, what about the opening sentence of that book by Engels on the

Peasant War in Germany in 1524-25?

'The German people (Volk) too has its revolutionary tradition.'

AS BILL Hunter rightly observes in his article on the Nuremberg war-crimes trials of 1946, at that time: 'The capitalist governments did not want to embarrass the Soviet government.'

That is indeed the truth of the matter, contrary to the legend that the US and Britain were waging a cold war against the USSR already in the immediate post-war period.

Another example of the same thing was the handling of the Katyn massacre at the trials.

In the indictment of the Nazi leaders, one of the charges was that they were responsible for the slaughter of several thousand Polish officer prisoners-of-war in Russia.

The circumstantial evidence pointed overwhelmingly to the Soviet government's own agencies as the murderers.

(These were Poles captured by the Red Army during its invasion of Poland in 1939 and held in camps in the western part of the USSR.)

The Soviet prosecutor's attempt to shift the blame onto the Germans failed miserably. So what was said about this charge when the verdict was drawn up?

Nothing. The Germans were neither found guilty of the Katyn killings nor cleared of them. 'The capitalist governments did not want to embarrass the Soviet government.'

In my opinion, the mass murder at Katyn was a follow-on from Stalin's extermination of the Polish Communist leaders in the USSR in 1938.

The victims at Katyn were mostly not regular officers but reservists — men who in civil life were teachers, journalists, lawyers, professional men of all kinds.

By 'liquidating' them (apparently in the spring of 1940, when relations with Germany still seemed good), Stalin may have hoped to weaken Poland still further, depriving the Polish people of potential leaders, left and right.

We know from the 'secret' clauses of the 1939 Pact that he and Hitler had agreed to co-operate in preventing any Polish liberation movement from getting off the ground.

Brian Pearce

The Good, the Banda and the Ugly

I NOTE that the Banda's 'Communist Forum' group have produced a so-called 'WRP Internal Bulletin No.14' and also a 'No.15'.

This is an odd name to give to pamphlets produced by people who left the WRP some months ago and which are sold (at £1.20 each) outside the WRP.

On top of this, they describe these Bulletins as 'suppressed by WRP Central Committee'.

One of the contributions included is a piece written by me which I distributed in small numbers but never submitted for inclusion in the Internal Bulletin!

To redress this roguery, I enclose herewith another piece by me, this time 'suppressed' by the Banda group.

It is a personal letter to Dave Good, one of the Banda's main supporters, which was sent in April this year. Good never did me the courtesy of writing a reply.

With hindsight, the matter referred to in that letter was clearly an early warning sign of the anti-communist, liberal and thoroughly bogus moralising that has become a hallmark of the Banda group.

Martin Topping

Dear Dave,

The issue I want to raise here is one I've been meaning to ask about since I first read your letter on the Brixton riots in the News Line October 24, 1985.

In it you say that the 'rioting involved looting and vandalism, even going as far as racist attacks on our journalists', Vevers and Arkell.

The point that worried me was the phrase 'racist attacks'.

For all we know, Vevers and Arkell may have been taken for Fleet Street muck-rackers or even plain-clothes cops.

But even if, as you assume, they were attacked just for being white, I think the use of the term 'racist' is totally mistaken.

It is the stock-in-trade of a certain kind of liberal (and of not-so-liberals) to equate the racial prejudices of the oppressed (evolved in response to their oppression) with the racism of their oppressors.

I recall that the first person to be convicted under the Race Relations Act (ostensibly passed to protect ethnic minorities) was in fact the black man Michael X.

The 'violence' of pickets cannot be equated with the violence of the police; nor the nationalism of oppressed peoples with the chauvinism of oppressor nations.

That is why, to me, the use of the term 'racist' applied to blacks in this country is quite unacceptable.

What I would like to know is what you think about that now. I don't want to be nit-

picking or score a factional point, nor do I wish to make too much of a careless remark or a view you no longer hold.

A fundamental issue of ideological outlook is involved here, so I would like to have the matter clarified for me.

Yours fraternally,
Martin Topping

Who are 'Our People'?

BOB MYER'S article in Workers Press 41 is seriously wrong in referring to the martyred revolutionaries of the ANC as 'Our People'.

In the first place we cannot claim credit for their courage as we are Trotskyists and they were members of a Stalinist-dominated organisation.

Only in the most general sense of solidarity with all anti-imperialist fighters were they 'Our People'.

But then we must also count Ben Langa, the black consciousness leader murdered by Xulu and Payi, as 'Our Man'.

If the ANC say this political killing was a BOSS set up, then they eliminated Langa, Xulu and Payi, whose revolutionary credentials are equally impeccable but Trotskyism (Revolutionary Marxism) is the memory of the working class.

Rivers of blood do divide the working class in revolution from Stalinism.

From the summary mass

execution of the Russian Trotskyists in Siberia in 1937, to the Moscow Trials, from the assassination of Andreas Nin and Carlo/Berneri in Spain, Rudolph Klement, Ignace Reiss, Erwin Wolf, Leon Sedov and Trotsky himself, Tau Tu Thau and the Vietnamese Trotskyists, we may perhaps draw another conclusion.

We hear that in the Eastern Cape the cry of the ANC is 'Kill the Marxists' and that two Trotskyists have been murdered already.

Alongside the legitimate execution of informers, political opponents are being eliminated on the orders of top leaders — and who better than the Stalinists to fill their historical role?

The black consciousness movement emerged spontaneously in 1976 in Soweto and rejected the dead hand of Stalinism.

Similarly the growth of black trade unions rejected SACTU, the Stalinist dominated trade union confederation

and formed FOSATU and COSATU in December 1985.

If South African Trotskyist groups are as sectarian as we were, then we must aim to assist them to turn to the masses in this situation of developing revolution.

They are our people and, if we could break with Healyite sectarian dogmatism in a non-revolutionary Britain, then they too can do it in the more favourable circumstances (as regards class war) in South Africa.

They have a long history of struggle on principles, as Trotsky's letter of 1934 shows and their opposition to Stalinist peaceful co-existence was never in doubt.

I refer, of course to those groups who have not gone the road of Jack Barnes and the American SWP. We must take care that we too do not mistake the ANC with the revolution.

Gerry Downing
Kilburn WRP



Black youth being taken off to the white maria. Can we equate the racism of the state with the prejudice of the oppressed?

On the 30th Anniversary of Moscow Trials

THE FOLLOWING letter was sent by WRP Central Committee chairman Dave Temple to the Guardian newspaper following the newspaper's article on the thirtieth anniversary of the Moscow Trials.

Since it was not published, we print it here for the information of our readers.

IT IS important to mark the anniversary of the start of Stalin's infamous frame-up trials, as you did with Geoffrey Robertson's article on August 16th.

Whatever the changes in the Soviet Union over the past half century, we must not forget these reactionary crimes and their international

significance.

I should like, however, to point out some omissions from Robertson's account. It was rather strange that he did not mention that the chief defendants in the trials were not actually present in the dock, nor did they 'confess'.

Leon Trotsky and his son Leon Sedov were the main targets of the trials and the world-wide slander campaign which accompanied them.

Tried in absentia, they were both later murdered by Stalin's thugs.

Robertson discusses at length the problem of the confessions, on which the en-

tire proceedings were based.

I do not think it is possible to explain them without noting that the former revolutionary leaders who participated in the monstrous proceedings had all capitulated to Stalin long before, and had collaborated with him during his rise.

Zinoviev and Kamenev, for example, had led the first campaign against 'Trotskyism' in 1923-24; Bukharin had been his chief spokesman in the crucial years of 1925-8.

Of course it was the violence of the NKVD interrogators which organised the actions of the men in the dock.

Special mention should be made of the amendments to the Soviet penal code, making the families of 'enemies of the people' equally guilty, and rendering children liable to the death penalty.

Most of the confessors had young families, but these barbarities were secondary to the political histories of the accused in explaining their actions.

The other aspect I should like to refer to is what Robertson calls the 'suspension of disbelief' on the part of Britain's left-wing intellectuals.

How was it that people like Kingsley Martin, while certainly being aware of the

farical nature of the trials, could avoid any challenge to their acceptance?

How could a liar like D.N. Pritt get away with such blatant lies?

Why were people like the Webbs so ready to swallow such distasteful refuse?

The answer, I believe, can only be found in the political counterpart of the trials, namely the so-called Popular Front.

Only here, I think, can be understood the necessity of the trials for Stalin and his supporters.

Trotsky represented those forces which fought to continue the struggle for social-

ist revolution.

Stalin was desperately seeking allies among liberal and social-democratic circles, as a step towards an alliance with 'peace-loving' powers.

This friendship was to be cemented in the blood of the leaders of the 1917 revolution.

I hope that there will be further articles over the next three years, as the anniversaries of the events of the 'thirties' pass.

Dave Temple
Chairman — on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

STALINISM IN CRISIS

The challenge for the
Trotskyist movement

Commitment, doubts and clarity

THIS WEEK BILL HUNTER talks to RON THOMPSON about the impression which the Hungarian Revolution made on him in 1956.

At the time Ron was working as a miner in Wigan, Lancashire and a national committee member of the Young Communist League.

He was to play a leading part in the crisis which erupted in the Party as a result of the 1956 Khrushchev Speech which lifted the lid on some of Stalin's crimes and later that year the Hungarian Revolution.

Ron broke with Stalinism, joined the Trotskyist movement and, with his then wife Liz, played a prominent part in building up the Trotskyist forces in the Labour Party youth movement when it was re-founded in 1959.

I JOINED the Young Communist League in Wigan in 1951. After leaving school I worked for about 18 months in the Post Office and then became a miner at the age of 16 in 1951. I was elected to the National Committee of the YCL in 1954.

I attended two World Peace Festivals — as I remember in 1952 and 1955. The first one was in Bucharest and the second in Warsaw.

This was when I first began to have a few doubts about the Communist Party. It's publications had blown it up that the countries of eastern Europe were ideal states, second to none.

I went to the festival in Bucharest politically still raw. We never met many people

When we went to Warsaw a lot of people approached us with criticisms of the regime. There was a lot of unease in the cities. Little had been replaced after the war time damage. There was a real sense of destruction and poverty.

There was a lot of criticism of the Polish regime, especially over the University Moscow had built in Warsaw. There was also widespread criticism of the Stalin Palace of Culture. People objected to the fact that Moscow was pumping money

into these things but not into housing for the people.

There were certain international meetings of delegates, for instance we had meetings with other miners. On my way to the meeting there was a guy running along the street towards me and the next minute three police came up on a motor cycle and side car and shot at him. I went to see if the guy was OK. The police waved me away and dragged the guy into the side-car.

I got blood on the white shirt I was wearing and I apologised to the leader of the delegation. The incident was passed off as a spy or an agent provocateur doing wrong against the socialist state. I accepted this but it went into my consciousness: why had this happened?

At night when we were in our dormitories at the University there was gun fire going all night. It was a real shambles. It was then that we got the criticisms — the money spent on the International Youth Festival could have been used for the development of the Polish people. Those with relatives in the west had particularly strong feelings.

Doubts

Despite these doubts the Khrushchev speech of 1956 came out of the blue. With all our reservations we'd gone along with the ideology of the Communist Party from 1951. Together with my brother I had supported the Five Power Peace Pact, collected signatures for peace petitions and so on.

We had gone along with the call of the Communist Party that the conscription National Service should be cut from two years to one year. We petitioned all sorts of people. There were even slogans on the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve building in Wigan calling for this cut.

By the time of the Twentieth Congress we had big reservations. I'm trying to recall when they came up. The speech appeared in the Observer. It was never published by the Communist Party.

On reading the statement with my brother we felt that all was not well. They had built up Stalin as a monolithic figure beyond criticism. He'd done no wrong. He'd led the great Soviet Red Army. It was a body blow to



'They had built up Stalin as a monolithic figure beyond criticism.' But in Hungary in 1956, they knew different!

say the least that big crimes had been committed. It was a big shock to us all.

There was a big discussion in the Wigan YCL. Many older members — some in the Communist Party from the 1930s — said the article wasn't true. It was a trick by British capitalism to undermine the great Soviet Union.

The doubts we had had — on the Five Power Peace Pact and the British Road to Socialism — boiled up. We began to read Lenin and certain books of Trotsky.

We now had to consider the strong animosity the Stalinist bureaucracy had for the Trotskyist movement. We came into contact with the Trotskyist movement for the first time.

We were forced to the conclusion that the Stalinist bureaucracy could not lead the working class to power.

The Young Communist League had some 16-17 members in Wigan at the time of the Khrushchev speech. The Communist Party had 40 or 45 members in Wigan. We were part of the Manchester District. As a rough guess I would say that the District had some 2,000 members in 1956.

The Merseyside District then presented a resolution to the YCL National Committee, critical of the Party on the Twentieth Congress speech. I supported this resolution.

There were a lot of people outside the YCL national

conference which met after the Khrushchev speech. We were told they were CIA agents and social fascists. But I read some of the bulletins.

The criticisms of the Trotskyists filled in what we had been thinking and we had a feeling that they were right.

The Communist Party leaders said they would sort things out in their own time. 'We will resolve the differences': this is what they were saying. I remember being impressed by the leaflet 'Sack the Guilty Men' with photographs of the Old Bolsheviks who had been murdered by Stalin.

Log jam

The Twentieth Congress broke the log jam. Hungary was only another expression of what was wrong. It gave more weight to our position. We were trying to draw up a Leninist programme in the YCL.

The Party leaders tried to pass off Hungary as the work of provocateurs. They said that Hungary was a Catholic country and that the Catholics had had a lot to do with it. We also understood that the Communist Party had the rights to John Reed's 'Ten Days that Shook the World' but that they were refusing to publish it.

There was a feeling of deep concern and dismay that this had happened.

There were quite a number of emigre workers in the pits at that time, including Hungarians. The Communist Party position was that they should not have been employed by the National Coal Board. The Party considered them 'anti-social elements'.

I used to chat with some of them — Estonians, Latvians, Poles — they stood for socialism in their countries but they wanted self-determination. The Hungarian workers I spoke to were not surprised at what had happened.

We built a faction in the Wigan YCL. There were about nine in it at the time of the Hungarian revolution. The British Road to Socialism, then the question of Hungary was discussed by the faction.

We fought for our positions and we had a big faction in Manchester and the Merseyside. Then it became a national faction and we took up discussions with comrades such as Cliff Slaughter and Brian Pearce.

Hungary was a concrete expression of the rising up of the working class against the bureaucracy.

We couldn't go any further in the YCL. I joined The Group, a Trotskyist organisation working in the Labour Party and led by Gerry Healy, in 1957.

In 1959 we went into the Labour Party and began to build up the Young Socialists. In the meantime I got married and had a child.



'Hungary was only another expression of what was wrong.' Above: Bread queue in Budapest in 1956.

REVIEWS

Social crisis in ancient Athens

IN PLACE of our reviews this week, SHAUN PATRICK-MAY writes on the background to Aeschylus' 'Oresteian Trilogy' recently screened on Channel 4. He argues that the work served a political and ideological function at a time of profound change in Athenian society and that this social ferment must be understood fully to appreciate Aeschylus' great work.

THE RECENT showing of the Oresteian trilogy of Aeschylus on Channel 4 TV is a welcome change from the banal trash that we have grown accustomed to on commercial television.

The Oresteian trilogy reveals to the Marxist a vivid insight into the class struggle of ancient Athens as well as into the early prehistory of Greece.

The ability to penetrate the forms and appearances of the drama to its historical and social roots can only be achieved by utilising the theoretical tool of historical materialism.

The theme of the struggle between blood-bond and bed-bond in the play is grounded in the development of the productive forces in prehistoric Greece.

This was expressed in the rise of property in the nuclear family at the expense of clan property held through blood-right.

The guardians of these kinship relations were the Furies (Eumenides). They personified revenge for shedding of blood within the clan which, in prehistoric Greece, was originally matrilineal.

Being part of the old Orphic and Chthonian earth religions, they dominated the clans based on common tribal property.

In the 'Oresteia' the clan law of 'lex talionis' or blood-for-blood is seen to be coming into increasing conflict with production based on the class stratification, slavery and the monogamous nuclear family of an essentially patriarchal society.

The transition from matriarchy to patriarchy was mediated through the traditional control of movable property by the male.

This enabled man to wrest control of the family from the woman by using the weapon of productive labour — slavery. Such a profound historical development was manifested in changes in religious allegiances.

Traditionally the earth had been seen as a feminine object since it engendered all the things necessary for life — gave birth to these things necessary for human survival.

These beliefs corresponded to the worship of the Old Chthonian Gods like Ouranos and mother earth (Gaea), the dominant religious forms under the matriarch.

In the 2nd millennium B.C. (around 1500 B.C.) northern Aryan (Indo-European) peoples invaded Greece and brought with them the new Olympian Gods and higher social relations in the form of the patriarchal family.

These peoples conquered the indigenous tribes who worshipped the old gods of Earth. Despite this conquest, the Old Chthonian gods lived on as cults within the new religious practices of the Olympians.

These new Olympian gods, identical in theogony to the Norse gods, were patriarchal.



Orestes and the Chorus of Furies in the National Theatre's production of 'The Oresteia'

This reflected the nature of the social relations among the invading Aryans.

The gravitation to these gods, during the pre-Mycenean period, was an expression of the mounting struggle against Matriarchy.

This is a theme that runs through the Oresteia — the battle between the old earth religions based on blood-bond and matrilinearity on the one hand and the strongly patriarchal Olympians on the other.

The strength of this patriarchy is reflected by the fact that the greatest goddess — Athene — springs from the head of her Father, Zeus, rather than from the womb of a female, thereby excluding any mother-right

and matrilinearity.

Such legendary or mythological phenomena were intrinsically connected with property rights in the clan.

The replacement of 'lex talionis' based on blood kinship by a state-run system of justice was an expression of the encroachment of private property on common tribal ownership of the means of production.

This negation of natural justice was therefore necessary for the orderly regulation and functioning of class society, based on slavery and patriarchy.

Property

In this way, the rights of private property and the monogamous family gradually swamped clan rights and common property.

The state therefore originated as an organ suited to defend private against common property and enforce class rule.

Thus, for the Olympians (who judged in favour of Orestes) it was the transgression of the bed-bond (private family property) rather than of the blood-bond (communal clan property) which was critical.

Both Agamemnon and Orestes break the Kinship rule to appease the Olympian gods whereas Clytemnestra breaks the marriage relation and is subject to the wrath of Apollo.

Consistent with these actions is the proclamation by Apollo in the 'Eumenides' that:

'The mother is not the true parent of the child which is called hers. She is a nurse who tends the growth of young seed planted by its true parent, the male.'

Therefore it is the bed-bond of Patriarchy that stands paramount over blood since this is the expression of the new order of things, of society which maintains the private property of monogamy.

We must also note that, in the Trojan legend, Agamemnon and the Greeks went to war over the breakage of the marriage of Menelaus and Helen by Paris, although in historical reality the war was economically determined, probably over trade dominance in the Aegean and Mediterranean seas.

Accordingly the downfall

of Troy opened up the Aegean for unhindered exploitation by the Greek merchants.

The matricide of Orestes is his assertion of patriarchy. In doing this, he asserts his Father's, and so his own, right to rule and control the property of the 'House of Atreus'.

The unavenged murder of Clytemnestra is the dramatic manifestation of the economic unimportance of blood kinship in a society that was becoming dominated by family property based on slavery and the steady growth of the productive forces as a whole.

Empirically, it can be observed that during the course of historical and social development, the size of the family has always stood in inverse relation to the productive capacity of the means of production.

Thus, with the development of the productive forces we observe the transition, through various forms, from the consanguine Family to the monogamous nuclear family of modern Capitalism.

The dramatic outcome of the 'Oresteia' was engineered by Aeschylus under the influence of the stage of the class struggle in Athens at the time of its writing.

Just as Virgil wrote his 'Aeneid' as a eulogy to the rule of the emperor Augustus during the period of transition from the republic to the empire, so the writing of the 'Oresteia' also served a political and ideological function.

Struggle

The Athens of Aeschylus was one of bitter class struggle resulting from the socio-economic changes brought by the Persian invasions. The constitution of the debt tyrant, Solon, still held sway and this served the interests of a moneyed landowning aristocracy.

The increasing growth of small scale production in Athens with the emergence of a merchant class and greater intellectual freedoms threatened the stability of aristocratic rule and their legislative body, the Areopagus.

A political revolution ensued when the progressive democracy of the Athenian

assembly dispossessed the Areopagus of its powers in 462 B.C., four years before the writing of the 'Oresteia'.

The reaction of the Aristocracy was to win the rural poor to their side on the basis of their common worship of the Old Chthonian gods.

Despite this, the tenacious struggle of the Athenian populus and assembly forced through the democratic constitution.

The balance of class forces was shifted in favour of the townspeople on the base of slavery.

Majority

The struggle was essentially between Freemen who held the majority of the population, the slaves, as their own property.

The ideological function of the Oresteia centres around this struggle between Aristocrats and Populus.

The final part of the drama, the Eumenides, where the Olympians side with Orestes yet welcome the Furies (Eumenides) into the new order is, for Aeschylus, a concerted dramatic representation of a class compromise in the Athens of his day.

It is a direct political attempt to encourage and sanctify this compromise between Aristocracy and Populus.

It is equivalent to the compromise between the Olympians and the Furies in the 'Eumenides'.

The democratic constitution and the new balance of class forces prevails yet the Aristocracy is not annihilated as a class but retains certain rights and privileges: e.g. the Areopagus, as a centre of the Chthonian religion, was still allowed to judge cases of homicide.

The great achievement of the trilogy of Aeschylus is not simply its tremendous artistic merit; it also displays the historical fact that the dialectical development of the class struggle is essentially sublimated and the Oresteia is a dramatic confrontation of this truth.



Cassandra and Chorus of old Men of Argos.

Workers Press

Saturday September 20 1986.

WAPPING: NO JOBS— NO DEAL!

Bolton is rattling on Scottish fight

● FROM PAGE ONE

might have fought.

Young pointed out that, at the Scottish Miners' Gala on June 14, Bolton had claimed, in a typical bombastic speech, that the NUM was fighting for investment in the five-foot seam of coal at Comrie.

Just ten days later, a joint consultative meeting at which all unions were represented, accepted unanimously British Coal's cut-back proposal, including the Comrie closure.

Naturally the Stalinists will point to the fact that the cut-backs have been accepted by miners and

there has been no shortage of volunteers for redundancy.

But this must be played against the background of years of their snivelling cowardice in front of management provocations and the threat to the Scottish coalfield.

When miners occupied Kinneil in December 1982, Mick McGaghey travelled to the pits three times to ask them to call it off and the word went out on the Stalinists' grapevine to torpedo a sympathy strike.

When management deliberately flooded Bogside a year later, Bolton was on the premises as water filled the pits and men were ordered to leave.

Stalinist NUM officials encouraged acceptance of

out work when a job becomes available.

The other sting in the tail is that, apparently, the union must recommend acceptance of the offer to their members, otherwise the deal will be withdrawn from the table.

Once again, Murdoch is dictating the terms of any ballot and the unions are saying nothing.

As we go to press, the National Graphical Association (NGA) will be meeting their members to discuss the deal.

Brenda Dean, general secretary of SOGAT, will also be meeting with all

FOCs and MOCs involved in the dispute, no doubt to convince them that this really is the final offer and that it should be accepted.

But Dean might just underestimate the feelings of her members once again.

The mood of printworkers on the picket line is one of anger at the latest offer. They came out for jobs and union recognition; they will not accept less.

There can be no deal if there are no jobs in Wapping.

There can be no compromise with scabs now working in Wapping and certainly there can be no going back while the EETPU are still there.

November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424. Kirkham Jail, Freckleton Road, Preston, Lancs

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

DURHAM
JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.
GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody. (Not a miner but arrested during the course of the strike)

SOUTH WALES
DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS
nr Market Harborough, Leicestershire
RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicestershire

YORKSHIRE
MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds
NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from

BY ALAN CLARK

IT LOOKS as though the latest offer on the eight-month old Wapping dispute, negotiated over the past few days, brings a final settlement no nearer than it was four months ago, when the sacked printworkers rejected a £50 million offer

According to reports, compensation this time has now been increased to nearer £60 million but it does appear that job recognition at Wapping is not in the final package — only the setting up of a committee of union representatives and management to work out a register for sacked printworkers seeking

strong leadership they left it to individual unions.

'Of course they are not empowered to call strikes, but, as the senior body of the movement, it was their responsibility to pass the word down the line that people should hit the tiles.'

'They did the opposite.'

'The result is that the trade union movement is more or less disunited.'

'I don't believe anything like the miners strike will happen again unless the TUC gets its act together and organises as it should organise.'

● Young pointed out that while trades unionists are holding out hopes of change under a Labour government, the Labour and TUC leaders have already made it clear they intend to continue aspects of Tory policy regarding union law, nuclear power etc.

ANNOUNCING A NEW EDITION OF

HUNGARIAN TRAGEDY

PETER FRYER



The Hungarian revolution of 1956 and its brutal suppression by Russian tanks was a watershed in the history of socialism.

In October 1956 Peter Fryer was sent to cover these events for the Daily Worker. He reported what he saw — only to have his despatches suppressed and to be suspended and then expelled from the Communist Party.

He saw people in arms demolish a regime of fear and poverty and take power in their own hands. He saw security police atrocities — and the people's terrible revenge. Then he watched appalled as a nation's new-born freedom was relentlessly crushed.

Peter Fryer's eye-witness account, first published in December 1956, had an immediate impact, bringing home to many things which they wished were not true.

Thirty years later his Hungarian Tragedy, now published by New Park Publications with a new introduction by the author, still stands as a model of journalistic insight and integrity and is as valuable now as it was in 1956.



Published on October 23 1986
Price £2.95
ISBN: 0 86151 072 6
New Park Publications Ltd.
10-12 Atlantic Road, London SW9 8HY
01-274-8342

LISTINGS

ALTERNATIVE BOOKFAIR New and secondhand books and pamphlets, including Trotskyist material. Saturday September 20, 11am to 5.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

NON-STOP PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE. For the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa. For sanctions against the racist South African government. Outside South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London. Organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid.

BENEFIT FOR THE FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR CAMPAIGN. Thursday September 25, 7.30pm. The William Morris Club, 267 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19. Featuring Leon Rosselson, Maria Tolly, Schooners Rig (Irish Traditional Music), SOGAT Singers (songs from Wapping). Compered by Patrick Cunnane (Ragged Trousered Cabaret). Plus a speak-

er from the Guildford Four Campaign. Tickets £3 (£1.50 concessions).

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR PICKET OF THE HOME OFFICE. Monday October 6, 5pm-6pm. Outside the Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

SOCIALIST ACTION: BUILDING AN ALLIANCE FOR SOCIALISM. Weekend November 22/23, in London, a major political event with speakers, debates and discussions. Details from PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM. Workshops and forums on the theme of an alternative socialist strategy in Europe. October 17-19, Kingsway Princeton College, Sidmouth Street, London WC1. Details from Symposium, PO Box 503, London N1 1YH.

BUILDING WORKER NATIONAL MEETING. Saturday 20 September, 12 noon-5p.m. The Union Tavern, Kings Cross Road, London WC1 (corner Lloyd Baker

Street). Agenda: 1) Job Reports. 2) Internal UCATT Democracy and Rules Revision. 3) Building worker paper sales and organisation, election of Treasurer, Secretary and Editorial committee. All building workers welcome.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: RACISM. The spectre haunting Europe. Aston University, Birmingham, 2 November 1986. Speakers from anti-racist organisations in France, Germany and other European countries, as well as Workers Against Racism and other British anti-racists.

PALESTINE AND ISRAEL See for yourself, and meet the people. Join a tour with a difference. Jerusalem and Peace Services, 13, Goodwin St. N4. (01-226-7050) for brochure.

'ESCAPE FROM GENOCIDE' Video on Tamil refugees, produced by Tamil Women's League. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, 27 September, 7pm.

Funded by GLC Women's Committee. Information 809 4630, 226 2367.

CONFERENCE for all groups and individuals to increase co-ordination of opposition to the Public Order Bill, organise the 'Saturday After' march, discuss subsequent tactics and action. Organised by Campaign Against Police Repression, Sunday September 28, 12 noon to 4pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. No creche.

SUBVERSIVES' SPONSORED STROLL Round State Surveillance Sites. Organised by Campaign Against Police Repression, Saturday September 27. Meet 12 noon outside Imperial War Museum (Lambeth North Tube) for 10 mile 'guided' walk through central London.

BROCKS FIREWORKS PICKET by the United Campaign on Plastic Bullets, October 6, Dumfries (address and time to follow).

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC LECTURES

All on Thursday evenings start 8.00pm sharp
The Shaw Theatre
Euston Road, London WC1

PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIALISM
Lecturer: Cyril Smith

September 25 - Knowledge and the labour process
October 2 - What is a human being

To be followed by classes on
Marxist Political Economy - G Pilling
The State and Revolution - B Archer
The Revolutionary Party - D Bruce

PUBLIC MEETING AND DISCUSSION

1974

The events surrounding the expulsion of Alan Thornett from the WRP

October 12, 1pm - 6pm
East Oxford Community Centre
Princes Street, Cowley Road
OXFORD

Session 1. MEETING 1pm - 3pm
Speakers: Alan Thornett
From WRP (to be announced)
Chair: Steve Howgate (Oxford & Swindon WRP)
Break

Session 2 DISCUSSION 4pm - 6pm