

As strike wave grows

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Leeds central branch of the Fire Brigades' Union is sending observers. In Middlesbrough the electricians' union branch has called on the Trades Council to mount a vigorous campaign. The branch's resolution 'expresses its deepest concern at the action of the Pilkington's management in sacking 300 men for exercising their right to strike. At a time when a Tory government is taking steps to make such actions of employers legal the Pilkington workers must be defended by the trade union movement'. A similar resolution has also been passed by the Middlesbrough plumbers' union branch.

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BY MICHAEL BANDA

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The number of man days lost in the first eight months of 1970 are 6,617,000 as against 3,665,000 for the corresponding period in 1969.

While not representing the full situation these figures nevertheless do express the irreversible decline of British imperialism and point unmistakably to an approaching period of revolutionary storms.

Maddened by the prospect of even more strikes, and bigger ones, such as the miners and local government workers, the capitalist press can hardly contain its hatred for strikers.

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On the contrary—and against the reformist and Stalinist prognosis that the Tories will yield to 'pressure'—it is crystal clear that the Tories' desperation is tempered by a savage determination to fight to the end.

Those who think that we are exaggerating would do well to read yesterday's 'Telegraph' editorial, 'Stand up to the Strikers'.

Undeterred by the prospect of uncollected garbage, undug graves and unprocessed sewage, the 'Telegraph' cheers the government on:

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'The government at the moment needs to do nothing; but it has powerful weapons in reserve. It could restrict the credit of faint-hearted employers, whether in the public or private sectors. It could also eliminate the indirect subsidization of strikes by cutting out social security benefits strikers dependents. The time for bluffing has gone.' (Our emphasis.)

If the 'Telegraph' can say these things editorially, it is only because it accurately reflects the feeling of the CBI, which also suggests that tax rebates and supplementary

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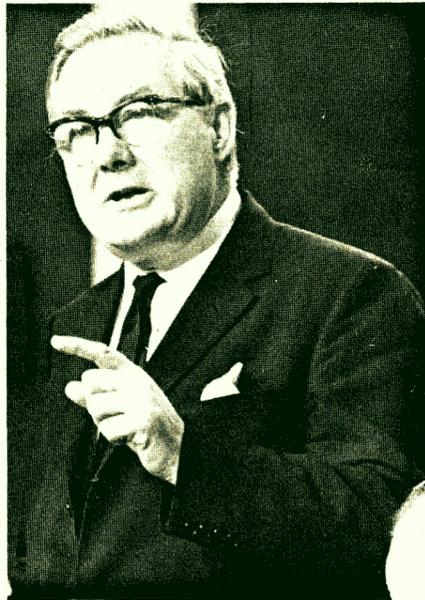
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Nasser's death cements imperialist-Stalinist unity

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The flood of tears in these quarters measures the extent to which both imperialism and Stalinism relied on Nasser in implementing their plans for a Middle East 'peace'.

The nature of such a 'peace' is clear. As right-wing Al Fatah leader Yasser Arafat prepared

to leave for Cairo to pay his last respects, his agreement with Hussein—signed in the Egyptian capital over the corpses of thousands of Palestinian fighters—was shattered by the Jordanian army.

While troops and guerrillas both prepared to move out of Amman under the agreement, Fatah spokesmen reported that the army had begun shelling the Northern towns of Irbid and Ramtha from dawn yesterday, in an effort to destroy the remaining commando strongholds.

This was the meaning of the 'Nasser-Arafat-Hussein truce' plan.

LINE-UP

The Palestinian guerrillas should look carefully at this line-up of forces.

It is clear that even President Nixon—at present discussing with NATO military commanders in the Mediterranean—was tempted to ignore diplomatic formalities and attend Nasser's funeral.

His expressions of sorrow have been joined by those of General de Gaulle.

'Thoughtful' Israelis are reported to be in a 'sober' mood over Nasser's death.

Clearly, leading Zionists were rapidly coming to recognize—behind the 'anti-imperialist' demagoguery—Nasser's intention to speed a 'settlement' which would put the stamp of Arab recognition on the State of Israel.

Tory premier Heath stated: 'Nasser's power and influence were recognized not only in the United Arab Republic but throughout the Arab world.'

He was also 'shocked': not because of some miraculous change in the Tory Party's class position since the 1956 Suez invasion—but because Nasser had proved time and again the reactionary nature of bourgeois nationalism.

BUTCHERY

Social democrat Lord (George) Brown—notorious for asking US imperialism to 'stop weeping' and get on with the butchery in Indo-China—said it was a 'sad thing that the best man the Arab Middle East has produced has gone... before he achieved his aim', i.e. the butchery of the Palestinian Arabs.

The Stalinists to a man agree with these sentiments—to stop weeping and get on with the job of selling out the Arab revolution.

While Kosygin and his deputation wept in Cairo and called for 'unity', the 'Morning Star' yesterday stated that 'Nasser was an outstanding leader, whose contribution to his people's struggle far outweighed his limitations and defects' (!)

Evidently, whatever the 'limitations and defects' of those who take over the Egyptian leadership, the Stalinists are preparing to support them in further action to resolve the Middle East 'conflict' by recognizing Israel and dealing brutally with the revolutionary guerrillas.

The line-up of class forces is clear. The guerrilla movement is in great danger.

The development of a Marxist programme and tactics is now urgent if the guerrilla leadership is to be purged and victory won.

Berlin deal: Another meeting

THE AMERICAN, British and French ambassadors to W Germany met the Soviet envoy from E Berlin yesterday in another attempt to prepare a deal over the divided city.

This was the seventh meeting in the top-secret discussions that began in March.

The Soviet Union's aim is to preserve the status quo in Europe particularly at the expense of the German working class.

The Moscow-Bonn pact signed in the summer does not mention recognition of the GDR and strong Soviet pressure has been brought to bear on Ulbricht to silence protests on the pact and its implications.

The W German government has made ratification of the pact dependent on a 'positive' outcome of the present talks.

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SPEAKING in a TV interview last Thursday, Tory Prime Minister Heath broke a long silence.

He echoed the previous Saturday's speech by Employment Minister Robert Carr, attacking the trade unions and insisting that a new anti-union law would be put forward immediately.

He spoke for the capitalist class, determined to settle accounts with working-class militancy despite the fact that '... I know there are going to be a great number of howls going up about it'.

Mr Victor Feather, in his Workers Press interview last Saturday (September 26), demonstrated the kind of trade union 'leadership' which has encouraged Heath and the Tories to go ahead all the more determinedly with their anti-working-class policies.

Questioned on all the main issues confronting the working class—unemployment, productivity deals, the Tory government, the Pilkington dispute, wages—Feather gave classical reformist replies.

These replies represent the ideas of a definite privileged caste of trade union bureaucrats and middle-class Fabians who exert a grip on important sections of the working class, keeping it back on behalf of the capitalist class.

All Feather's 'regrets' about the sacked Pilkington's men, about unemployment, about the plight of the lower-paid workers, arise from the worries of the capitalist class and their friends that the working class is threatening to escape from their control.

Organize

Next Saturday, October 3, large numbers of workers from all over Britain will gather in Liverpool in support of the sacked Pilkington's workers to organize the fight against the Tory government and to draw up the balance-sheet of over three months of Tory rule.

How does Feather see the situation? He 'regrets very much' that the Pilkington's men are out of a job. He is 'sorry' that the General and Municipal Workers' Union did not turn up at the meeting with the rank-and-file committee which he had arranged to chair... and he is sorry that the men involved did not take his advice, but he 'can't take responsibility'.

Here we have a very decisive issue for the whole working class. Pilkington's, like GKN, is not some smalltown backwater business. Both are part of great monopolies, occupying decisive economic positions and prominent in the counsels of the ruling class.

The trade union movement cannot escape responsibility for the outcome of disputes in even the smallest firm, let alone in these great monopolies.

Heath, for example, was very clear:

'The dock strike resulted in one of the lowest settlements of recent months. This lesson, he added, had got home and the GKN dispute ended with the acceptance of an offer which was made at the beginning. "The country has to learn this lesson", he said. ("The Times", September 25, 1970.)

What was Heath saying? He was saying that the trade union leaders are retreating all along the line, and that because of this the workers can now be intimidated into accepting minimal offers by the employers.

Meanwhile unemployment and the coming anti-union laws will provide the basis for an even bigger offensive against the working class.

Feather has led this retreat. He has no answer to his interviewer on Pilkington's.

His policy of bringing the two sides together (union and men) having failed, he washes his hands of the affair. But can the working class be content with this, while the employers conclude that it gives the green light for further attacks?

Feather's intentions are really beside the point on this question.

The results of his actions are that the Tories feel able to press ahead with their attacks, and sections of workers leading bitter and determined struggles get isolated.

They have to unite with the rest of the labour movement against Victor Feather and his policies.

All of Feather's policies, stated in this interview, reveal the same basic class line: while the capitalist class and Tory government, inexorably driven forward by the crisis of the system, must strive to establish all the lines of a corporate state similar to fascist Italy and Spain, the union leaders persist in reformist phrases which serve only to disarm the working class in face of these Tory plans!

This is really the greatest value of the interview with Feather. It holds up to the working class a more or less perfect expression of everything the trade union movement must urgently throw aside.

Feather tells us, for example, that he will not say what his strategy against Tory attacks will be. On the contrary: 'My approach is to deal with a situation as it arises'.

Muddle

This approach is the old English 'muddling through' 'crossing your bridges when you come to them', and so on. Some militants accept this with the excuse that it is better not to tell the enemy what you are preparing.

The fact is that Feather is preparing no resistance. He will undoubtedly become involved in all sorts of parliamentary pressure and anti-government policy statements, but he is preparing no resistance.

Working-class leadership demands the broadest possible campaign on an alternative policy: it is necessary to unite the working class with the resolute will to defeat the enemy, not to lull them to sleep with the message that Feather and the TUC General Council have the matter under consideration.

Feather is against the mobilization of the working class to fight the Tory government. This is the reason why he puts forward no alternative:

'... I don't believe in industrial action for political ends. I think that the democratic processes and the lawful means that exist for increasing pressures on governments are the ones we should use.'

Let us examine this argument from another side.

When an employer sacks workers, is he using industrial action for political purposes? Will not these sackings, if not fought by every means, weaken the organized working class industrially and politically?

Does not the employer use the fact that a Tory government is in power in order to proceed with greater determination against the workers?

Can the unions fight the employers on industrial questions, if they do not fight the political measures of the Tory government against the unions?

Myth

These, and many other similar questions, explode the myth of a division between industrial and political ends, between industrial action and political action. To persist in this division today, as Feather does, is to do the work of the Tory government.

All the talk about an '... accumulation of reforms' to bring about a peaceful social revolution' is old-fashioned Fabian claptrap to cover up an adaptation to the counter-revolutionary plans of the enemy

ON SATURDAY (Sept. 26) WORKERS PRESS PUBLISHED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH TUC GENERAL SECRETARY VICTOR FEATHER ENTITLED 'UNEMPLOYMENT, WAGES AND THE PILKINGTON DISPUTE'. BELOW CLIFF SLAUGHTER, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, TAKES UP SOME QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE INTERVIEW.

employers' most diabolical plans.

Feather thinks 'democracy works'. He chooses to ignore the fact, which he understands very well, that behind this 'democracy' is the bitter struggle of opposed class interests. He chooses to ignore the fact, which he well knows, that the capitalist class prepares its attack behind the mask of this 'democracy'.

When questioned about the closure of Palmer's shipyard, Feather reveals the bankruptcy of his position. Forced to acknowledge that with all the power of the TUC he was unable to save a single job, he continues with the same stream of words.

Having denounced strike action as 'dramatics', he only says:

'I think the way to do it is by a lot of pushing, shoving, arguing and stressing, thousands of men are still sacked, Feather insists on... more pushing, shoving, talking!'

There is a very dangerous warning here. Feather's talk sounds 'reasonable' to millions of British trade unionists, whose experience has always been of talk (negotiation, arguing, stressing, etc.) plus militancy (pushing, shoving, etc.).

Now, when we reach a situation in which at the end of all the pushing and shoving and arguing and stressing, thousands of men are still sacked, Feather insists on... more pushing, shoving, talking!

Meanwhile the employers press on a planned and resolute way to sack and sack again.

Feather's arguments against strike action to fight unemployment must therefore be rejected out of hand.

All the strength of the employed workers must be thrown against the employers and the government. This is the basis of a fight for a new, political, anti-capitalist leadership in the unions, and a Labour government which will nationalize the monopolies without compensation and under workers' control.

Demand

Instead of this, Feather wants productivity deals plus pressure on the government to create

When he says 'higher productivity' he means 'higher rate of profit'.

When he says 'productivity deal', he means a deal which fixes wages in accordance with a fixed higher rate of surplus value. There is no question of pressure to get it back in higher demand.

The Tories' and the employers' policies are as one, and must be fought as one, through a political fight in the unions, to mobilize the working class on every front against the government to force it to resign.

This is why Feather's opening remarks about 'two kinds of Conservatives' is so dangerous.

As always, in any war, we must try to take advantage of hesitations and divisions within the enemy command, but it is not at all a question of two types of Tory. They differ slightly, if at all, only on the question of how and when to attack the working class.

This division may loom larger to Feather, because these different elements debate precisely just how contemptuous they can afford to be of the Victor Feathers of this world.

Point proved

The few days since Victor Feather gave that interview have proved the point to a certain extent.

Ten days ago, the outspoken anti-union speech by Carr might have been taken as not necessarily representative of the wisest counsels of the Tory leadership.

It is clear that such an interpretation would have been mistaken. Heath went to the extent only five days later, of saying he would risk a general strike to get his anti-union laws through.

All the 'plain talking', 'common sense' of Feather will not prevail against these implacable class realities. Heath's strong words have nothing to do with Heath as an individual leader. The other retreats and successive betrayals of Feather and the union leaders have given the Tories a calculated confidence that now is the time to show their hand.

SOME COMMENTS ON

VICTOR FEATHER'S INTERVIEW with

workers press

BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER



Cliff Slaughter



Heath

more demand. We know, of course, that the government will not change its mind about attacking the working class. They have this policy for the very basic reason that they must preserve and improve their profit rate.

Feather's proposals do not amount to a policy at all. They simply keep the working class out of action while the Tories and employers press on with their attacks.

How, for example, could the employers 'create more demand' as well as carry out their main aim in productivity bargaining and unemployment?

The whole purpose of the Tories is to get more unemployment, to put the capitalists in a stronger bargaining position against the employed. This would keep wages down... and so 'demand' would go down!

And so, if a number of productivity deals are negotiated in a particular year, and more capital invested on new machines, a number of jobs will disappear.

The employer will certainly not pay a bigger total of wages to the smaller number of employees, or the whole point of the exercise, so far as he is concerned, is lost!

His aim was to increase profit, accumulate capital, and have more to invest in order to compete with rivals doing the same!

Now, says Feather, what about 'democratic' pressure on the government to 'reflate' and increase 'demand'?

But this can only be done by putting more purchasing power in the hands either of the people or the government departments. And this money would have to come out of the surplus value appropriated by industry.

Reduction

No! The fact is plain. Capitalism can survive only by reducing the share of the working class in the national income and in the income of every industry.

All the employers' and the government's plans are in this direction. For Feather to echo the Jack Jones idea that the Tory government is 'a fact of life' is the vilest treachery, and is an acquiescence in their plans.

When an employer says 'productive' he means 'productive of profit'.

No doubt Feather, on the basis of what he says in this interview, will continue to treat this government 'like any other government', 'pushing, shoving' to persuade them to listen to reason. This is what the Tories want him to do.

The working class faces very grave historical decisions.

Victor Feather and the trade union bureaucracy want to cut down these decisions to the stature of their own professional role of 'bargainers', keeping the capitalist system going.

But every 'bargain' struck today on wages, because it involves productivity, holds within it the immediate prospect of unemployment.

Feather's role is to collaborate with the class enemy and try to prevent the working class's strength being used in action against unemployment.

That is another side to this interview, and it is of the greatest importance. On every question, Feather persists in his 'English', 'matter of fact' attitude, as if to say 'it has always worked, and it will work in the future'.

Admission

We know that in a situation of rapid change, when preparation for power is the question before the working class, this persistence is fatal.

That is why Feather defends his approach, while at the same time admitting that it is actually leading to unemployment, shipyard closures, victimization, economic slump and so on.

The capitalist class is forced by the capitalist crisis, and by the workers' wages offensive, to prepare its attacks, and it will bring together all its political and economic resources to do so, first and foremost being the trade union bureaucracy.

But it is a historically bankrupt class, with an outlook reflecting its bankruptcy, an outlook which cannot provide the answers for this revolutionary epoch. It can and will be challenged and overturned.

The All Trades Unions Alliance and the Socialist Labour League, through the Workers Press, will raise in the working class a fighting force based on Marxist theory which will enthusiastically take on the responsibility of building a new leadership, able to win workers' power and socialism.

Bitter

They are more afraid of the real strength and mobilization of the working class than of the

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STALINISM IN BRITAIN

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CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

By N. Makanda

Nasserism

THE WRETCHED ROLE of the late Gamal Abdel Nasser in the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist war in Jordan was a surprise only to those who have illusions in the colonial bourgeoisie.

These illusions are usually due either to being colonial victims of the deception spread by or about this bourgeoisie, or else through a patronizing 'metropolitan' attitude towards the colonial agents of imperialism. Pablote revisionists spread such illusions in Ben Bella in Algeria and Mrs Bandaranaike in Ceylon, and Nasser's earlier 'militancy' made him a candidate for their patronization. Not only have the experiences of the Egyptian fellahin and city workers, the socialists in Nasser's prisons, as well as the strikers executed by his Free Officers Movement two weeks after it overthrew King Farouk in 1952, taught many Egyptian workers and peasants what Nasserism really is, but there is also considerable literature on the subject.

This 'subject' is not Nasser the man, but Nasserism as the policy of a class. There never has been any question of 'neutralism' by revolutionaries regarding Israel's recognition and existence. It was the duty of the working class everywhere to support Nasser against Israel, just as it was its duty to support the feudal, reactionary, corrupt King Farouk in 1948 against 'modern', colonialist Israel.

This support was unconditional and was given no matter what Nasser did to communists, workers or peasants inside Egypt. Lenin supported Kemal 'Ataturk' in Turkey's struggle against imperialism after the First World War and at the same time condemned the Ataturk regime for its merciless persecution of the young communist movement inside Turkey.

But unconditional does not mean uncritical support. On the contrary, as the lessons of the struggle in China against Chiang Kai-shek and against Japan have shown, it is necessary to maintain the organizational, political and ideological independence of the working class, its unions and its revolutionary party from the party of the colonial bourgeoisie.

There can be no Popular Front with this bourgeoisie. The

joint fight against the imperialist enemy is on the battlefield and support for this bourgeoisie means full military backing, including co-ordination and, if necessary, working under the military command of the bourgeoisie.

Just as the failure of Farouk to cope with Israel in 1948 led to his downfall at the hands of Nasser and Nasser in 1952, so the failure of the Nasser regime to deal with Israel militarily in 1956, 1967 and now again, has, step by step, jeopardized his own regime in the eyes of the Egyptian workers and peasants and also in the eyes of opposition elements among the students and his own bourgeoisie group.

The Nasser regime was always in the hand and foot by the powerful Mizr financial group which was associated with the Saadist Party in Farouk times.

This group, representing the small industrial class in Egypt at the beginning was intimately bound up both with the old feudal aristocracy, which still owns 50 per cent of the land in Egypt that can be cultivated, and with imperialist monopoly capital, which continues to dominate the Egyptian economy.

During the time of both the unofficial, but *de facto* British 'protection' of Egypt, from the time of Lord Cromer, and of the official occupation, British imperialism bled Egypt dry. British imperialism converted Egypt into a one-crop exporter. Cotton replaced food.

Lancashire and other textile areas in England lived off the sweat of the Egyptian cotton-producing fellahin.

On the other hand British industry saw to it that no industry of significance grew up in Egypt. The consequence of this policy was that Egypt, despite its population superiority over Israel (about ten to one), could not match Israel industrially, despite considerable industrialization after the struggle of the Egyptian people forced the British out of the country and its troops out of the Canal Zone.

Nasserism could not overcome this basic weakness in the country's war potential, because of its own association with the Mizr group and the latter's subservience to imperialist finance capital.

It was this subservience which forced on Egypt a policy of industrial starvation.

OUR ANSWER to the question: 'Is there intelligent life on other worlds?' must be 'Yes, there is'.

Naturally, the subject of extra-terrestrial life has attracted a great deal of speculation from science fiction writers and others but, as far as we are concerned, any such speculation must be strictly conditioned by the present level of man's knowledge of the material universe.

No science writer would speak today of the earth being flat, or of the possibility of sailing to the moon in a ship or, like Jules Verne, consider firing astronauts into space from a huge cannon.

The advance of scientific knowledge has dismissed such possibilities as man has come to understand the necessary obedience to physical law of both himself and his environment.

Therefore, to answer the central question of this series of articles in the affirmative is not to assert a faith, even though it is impossible to say why direct proof will be forthcoming, but a question of method.

Man is beginning to understand the origins of the universe, the process of star formation, the conditions in which planetary systems develop.

Processes revealed Over the last 50 years, the advance in scientific techniques has yielded a wealth of data which is rapidly revealing the basic processes of life itself and the basic of its development on Earth over millions of years.

In all of these huge advances, there has been no place for some supernatural mover, no forbidden area scientifically out-of-bounds for man.

It is almost a certainty that before the end of this century unmanned probes to Mars will bring back samples of material that will contain direct evidence of life's existence on that planet—even if only in the form of the simplest virus.

Of course, there is a huge gap between a virus and intelligent man. However, the striking fact about life on earth is its essential unity despite the myriad forms that it takes.

Science writer Isaac Asimov expresses it: 'Life on earth is merely a long-playing, imaginative variation on a single chemical theme, and life on any earth-like planet may prove to be a series of variations on that same perpetual theme.'

Man, along with the rest of life on this planet, is based on protein molecules and nucleic acids. All make use of the same vitamins, the same types of chemical changes, the same methods of liberating and utilizing energy.

Life, which began in the sea, is made up of precisely those elements that are, and were, common in the sea.

'There are no "mystery ingredients", no rare and magical items that were included only through a stroke of great good fortune,' insists Asimov.

This is, of course, a bitter blow to vitalist theories that insist that the difference between living and non-living matter lies

SCIENTIFIC WORLD

in a certain 'essence' which has no material base.

Research into the history of man and his complex development into a self-conscious social being also needs no 'divine spark' and here chemistry, biology and other natural sciences are transcended by the science of society—historical materialism.

The certainty of intelligent life elsewhere follows from the materialist method and the immensity of the universe.

Is contact possible in any way? Well, despite all the rumours, it is unlikely that a flying saucer will land in your back garden, disgorging little green men demanding 'Take me to your leader'.

Such rumours which arose from thousands of sightings of strange lights in the sky and similar phenomena led the US government to make a thorough and lengthy investigation after the Second World War.

The scientists concluded that either imagination had been at work or the events could be explained 'away by natural phenomena.'

A journey between stars—as we can conceive it at present—would take hundreds or thousands of years at moderate speeds. The faster a spacecraft travels the more the danger of damage to the occupants increases from interstellar matter.

It would be like sitting inside one of the most powerful atom-smashers that man has made!

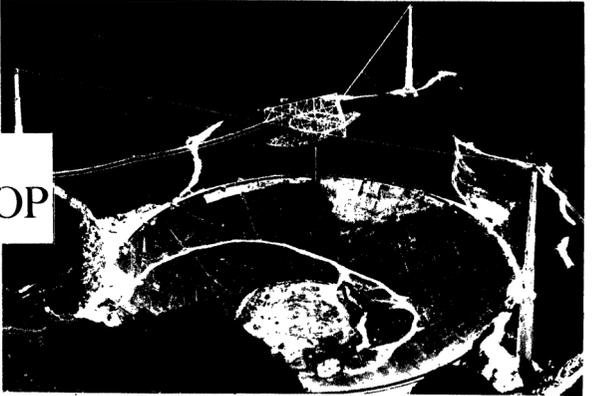
Surpasses Such a journey therefore presupposes a technological level far beyond that of man. Indirect contact by radio has also been discussed and attempted. All stars emit radio waves over a wide spectrum of wavelengths. Is there a natural choice?

One suggestion put forward during the 1950s was the 21-centimetre wavelength. This is

LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS by MARTIN ZARROP



Is anybody there?



The Arecibo Ionospheric Observatory, the world's largest radio telescope

the 'natural' wavelength for hydrogen which is by far the most plentiful element in the universe.

Scientists reasoned that any intelligent beings who were capable of transmitting signals would be familiar with and make use of this simple and universal natural law.

Between May and July 1960 a team under Frank Drake, a young astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, West Virginia spent about 150 hours tuned in to a number of stars on this wavelength. The results were negative in that no recognizable pattern of signals was received.

This was not particularly surprising. The chances of receiving a signal from a particular star—a signal which might have begun its journey 100 years before—is small, to say the least.

Conference

Soon after the conclusion of the first phase of Project Ozma—the codename for the search—a conference was held at Greenbank to discuss the prob-

lems connected with the programme in a wider context. These present attempts to calculate the number of civilizations in the galaxy capable of communicating with other solar systems.

Drake suggested that such a calculation depends on seven factors, five of which we have already discussed and involve stellar and planetary development and the conditions under which life can emerge.

The discussion on the other two factors plummeted the conference into the most crude interchange on bourgeois sociology.

The factors were 'the fraction of intelligent societies that develop the ability and desire to communicate with other worlds' and 'the longevity of each technology in the communicative state', i.e. the length of time that the society is interested in establishing communication.

In his book 'We Are Not Alone', Walter Sullivan comments:

'Here the conferees felt the need of a sociologist, anthropologist or historian.'

His report of the discussion reveals how the most banal generalities and impressions replaced scientific objectivity once the participants were faced with these important questions.

'If a society has conquered poverty, disease, hunger and overpopulation, greatly achieved the life span of its citizens minimizing their labour and their worries, what would be their state of mind? Would they become bored and lazy, losing interest and science, forfeiting their intellectual curiosity?'

Without mentioning capitalism explicitly, we have here expressed the hoary myth that the end of the profit system and its degradation would mean the end of man.

'Are we smart enough to suppress our aggressions and prejudices to survive the crises that confront us? If we lack the ability, the chances are that other civilizations will lack it, too. . . . It was not inconceivable that the typical lifetime of a technology sufficiently advanced to destroy itself is only a few decades. If that is the case, no one is calling us.'

And so it went on. One participant calculated that, 'if our civilization survives only ten years after reaching its present potential for self-destruction, and if this is typical (1), then, on the average, there is only one communicative site in the galaxy at any one time.' (Sullivan, p. 284.)

It would, of course, be difficult to put a figure to any assessment of 'communicative sites'. However, the strand that runs through all the 'assessments' is the acceptance of imperialism—not as the last stage of man's prehistory—but as an advanced stage in the development of 'technological society'.

Intelligent life exists elsewhere—of that we can be certain.

With the release of production and technology from the shackles of capitalism, man can begin to explore the universe in which he lives in a planned way.

We will then be able to answer in the affirmative the question: 'Is there intelligent life on earth?'

YS RECRUITING TEAM IN SCOTLAND



Glasgow youth say no to this



GLASGOW—the city where road after dreary road has the same slab tenement houses, most of them slums, grim, dark and dull.

The impression you have when you come into Glasgow is that for some of the thousands who live there the economic slump conditions of the 1930s still exist, reports YS National Secretary John Simmance who, with the national recruitment team has been campaigning in Scotland for the past week, as part of the nationwide build-the-YS-to-defeat-the-Tories campaign.

The Gorbals, most notorious slum district, has virtually disappeared, but the new estates on the outskirts of the city cannot compensate for high unemployment, low wages and dead-end jobs.

Glasgow is famous for its gang violence and it is easy to see why, says John Simmance, whose team went into places like Springburn, Paisley and East Kilbride.

INTERNATIONAL youth NEWS



Two new recruits to the YS talk to a member of the team outside a Glasgow factory

licised intervention of singer Frankie Vaughan in Glasgow to set up youth clubs under the patronage of liberal moralists and the church has died a slow death.

The campaign team visited East Kilbride which, like many new towns all over the country, has very little to offer the youth.

The biggest reception was at the Better Sound Recordings (BSR) factory the women and girls who work there had been involved in a 14-week union recognition strike. They took

leaflets and papers enthusiastically. Two new members to the thriving East Kilbride YS branch reported that the only jobs they had been offered were at £5 for a 55-hour week. On the dole they each get £3 10s and £2 10s.

'No one can live on that,' they said. 'Sometimes at the dole we have to queue for as much as an hour just to be told that there are only vacancies for skilled men.'

United fight

A future under the Tories, as the Glasgow working-class youth are beginning to realize, means increased exploitation or a rapidly lengthening dole queue.

That is why many of those the team spoke to during the Scottish campaign agreed that only a united fight of employed and unemployed for a socialist programme of the right to jobs and living wages through building a mass Young Socialists' movement can free them from the grip of the capitalist system which seeks only to degrade them.

YOUTH NEWS EVERY THURSDAY

TV

BBC 1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.00 p.m. Bric-a-brac. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-doo, where are you? 5.44 Babar. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. Your region tonight.

7.05 TOP OF THE POPS.

7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'First of the Many'.

8.15 CLIFF IN SCANDINAVIA. Cliff Richard with Una Stubbs and Hank Marvin.

9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.20 PRIZEWINNERS. The Morecombe and Wise show.

9.50 MORECAMBE AND WISE'S CINEMA.

10.35 24 HOURS.

11.20 CONFERENCE REPORT 70. Labour Party Conference.

11.45 THE SELLING GAME. 'Cinching the Deal'.

12.10 a.m. Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. 6.45-6.55 News and weather. 12.12 News, weather.

North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North. 12.12 News, weather.

Wales: 2.30-2.50 Gwlad a thref. 6.00-6.45 Wales today. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.45-8.15 Week in week out. 12.12 Weather.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 Around Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. Nationwide. 12.12 News, weather. 12.12 News, weather.

N Ireland: 2.30-2.50 Ulster in focus. 6.00-6.45 Scene around six, weather. Nationwide. 12.12 News, weather. Road works report.

SW, South, West: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW. Weather. 12.12 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

7.30 p.m. NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 FIRST ELEVEN. 'Mona Lisa'.

8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME.

9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'Man and Mountain'. Joss Naylor, a Cumberland hill sheep farmer.

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. 'Scott on History'.

10.05 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.10 WORLD CINEMA. 'Maharaja'. With Madhabi Mukherjee and Anil Chatterjee. Indian film directed by Satyajit Ray.

ITV

9.30 a.m. Labour Party Conference. 11.00 Schools. 2.55 p.m. Racing from Newmarket. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News from ITN.

6.02 TODAY.

6.25 PEYTON PLACE.

6.55 ON THE HOUSE.

7.25 THURSDAY FILM. 'The Vips'. With Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Margaret Rutherford. Passengers at a fogbound airport are brought together for 24 hours.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

11.30 CINEMA. Michael Parkinson's Choice.

11.00 THE AVENGERS. 'Return of the Cybnauts'.

12 midnight FATHER D'ARCY'S FRIENDS AND CONTEMPORARIES.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.40 London. 4.00 Zuffa's birthday greetings. 4.10 Origami. 4.25 Wendy and me. 4.35 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Chester. 6.15 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Houdini'. With Tony Curtis in the title role. 9.00 London. 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.00-3.40 London. 3.58 News. 4.00 Gun Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 Faith for life. 11.35 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.00-3.40 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 On the house. 7.05 Film: 'Three Young Texans'. With Mitzi Gaynor, Jeffrey Hunter, and Keefe Brasselle. 8.35 Departments. S. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 NYPD. 11.40 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 10.00-4.10 London. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Batty town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'The Notorious Landlady'. With Kim Novak and Jack Lemmon. An American diplomat rents a London flat from a notorious murder suspect. 9.00 London. 11.30 'Murder of Enthusiasm'. 11.10 Mike and Bernie's special. 12.10 Weather.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

After Palmer's closure Tyneside delegates call for nationalization

NORTH EAST Labour conference delegates, shocked by the closure of Palmer's Hebburn-on-Tyne shipyard, demanded yesterday that the next Labour government nationalize the shipbuilding industry and direct new factories into Tyneside.

Leader of the Jarrow Labour Council, Councilor Don Dixon, told the Workers Press that the biggest mistake of the Labour government was its failure to direct industry into his area where unemployment is 8 per cent.

I served my time at Palmers. We went to see Wedgewood-Benn under the Labour government and then he came to Tyneside and pledged £250,000 as a stop-gap for the shipbuilding industry pending its reorganization.

But under the Tory government we went to see Davis concerned mainly about the future of Palmers but came out concerned over the whole future of the working class on the NE coast.

Apparently, according to the unpublished Minter report on the shipbuilding industry, shipbuilding on the Tyneside will be wiped out.

Davis's attitude was that this was economics and he wasn't going to do anything about it at all. We demand that the Labour Party adopt a policy of nationalization and direction of industry into Tyneside. This was the biggest failure of the last government.

Doris Starkey, acting secretary of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Labour Party, said that the unemployment situation in the North East was 'simply explosive'.

There should have been direction of industry under a Labour government. Where industries are threatened with closures like Palmers there should be public ownership. The Labour Party should listen to the rank and file on this question.

Less constituency control over choice of MP

LABOUR PARTY bureaucrats strengthened their arm against future rank-and-file rebellions in the Party at Tuesday's closed conference session.

They forced through a resolution giving the National Executive Committee power to reverse constituency party decisions regarding their MPs.

From now on, the NEC will have the right to 'confirm, vary or reverse' a constituency decision to get rid of their MP on the grounds that he does not represent the movement.

Significantly the NEC move was supported only by the right-wing Lord Cooper of the G&MWU and

the Party whip Robert Mellish, almost all the constituency delegates threw their votes against the NEC amendments.

On Tuesday night many rank-and-file members expressed grave concern at this development. Already it takes over six months before a recalcitrant MP can be called to account by his

constituency rank and file. Now the NEC can virtually instruct a constituency party as to what candidate it can field.

As one Liverpool delegate said: 'It means that if we say to an MP "You must put forward socialist policies or else", he now knows that if we dismiss him, he has the right of appeal to

the NEC who will probably support him.

It is now only a small step before the bureaucrats can decide exactly who we can choose as candidates.

I see this move by the NEC as an attempt to strengthen the professional careers politicians that now riddle our Party. It is a move against those who genuinely want a fight for socialist policies in the party.'

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

Price-war hits micro-electronics jobs

By an industrial reporter

RECENT REDUNDANCY notices by Texas Instruments of Bedford to 250 (9 per cent) of its employees reflects a crisis situation, including a price war, which has hit the world micro-electronics industry over past weeks.

What is particularly significant about the situation is that this is one of the most modern industries in existence.

Micro-electronics, circuits, in particular integrated circuits, are the extremely small components used in computers, television and radio systems,

aircraft, automation control, rockets and space vehicles.

The present crisis stems directly from the United States trade recession. Cut-backs in the space programme and in other branches of industrial development mean huge surpluses of unsold integrated circuits in the USA.

The average price per circuit has dropped from £1 to 7s and American companies have taken to dumping their stocks on the European market at greatly reduced prices.

Pilkington conference

FROM PAGE ONE

support the Pilkington worker's reinstatement fight.

Sunderland Trades Council unanimously supports the struggle of the victimized Pilkington workers and is sending the following letter—drafted by the Wearside DATA branch—to TUC headquarters:

LETTER

We deplore the situation which has developed after the recent Pilkington dispute, arising from the return to work upon the assurances by the secretary of the TUC that there would be no victimization and that the General and Municipal Workers Union would fight for the reinstatement of the Pontypool workers.

These undertakings have not been fulfilled and the situation has worsened. The company have since sacked 300 glass workers at St Helens after they had withdrawn their labour in support of a victimized workmate.

However these 300 have been dismissed because of their efforts and action in defending the basic trade union right to strike. It must be obvious that these trade unionists will find difficulty in obtaining employment in the area.

CONCERN

We view these matters with great concern and the Sunderland district trades council will attempt to bring this dispute to the attention of the members generally in order to obtain support for these fellow trade unionists.

LUCAS BACKING

STEWARDS from Lucas Industrial Equipment and CAV have decided to support the seven-week strike of works engineers at the Fazakerley, Liverpool, site demanding a £5-a-week straight increase.

The meeting demanded that the unions involved make the strike official and called on the hourly-paid workers still employed—mainly transport drivers—to withdraw their labour to bring about a quick victory.

SAFETY CABS ON TRACTORS

SAFETY cabs on tractors will be compulsory as from this month, even though the National Farmers' Union asked for regulations to be deferred because they were 'unworkable'. They claimed the cabs were 'impracticable' and too expensive.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Of 1,600 fatal farm accidents since 1956, 464 have involved tractors (39 in 1969). Swedish farm deaths dropped to seven in ten years after cabs were made compulsory in 1959. Estimates claim 160 saved lives since legislation.

Aluminium price war

MEASURES against 'dumping' of cut-price aluminium sheet and strip products in Britain by European manufacturers are expected from the Board of Trade next week. This follows complaints from the British Aluminium Federation, who say that the market is being flooded by makers in Sweden, Norway, Italy, Belgium and Austria.

THAI-MALAY DEAL ON GUERRILLAS

THAILAND and Malaysia agreed yesterday on 'surrender terms' for more than 1,000 guerrillas operating along their common border.

The terms of the agreement, which were unspecified, were revealed in a joint press release issued after a meeting of the Malaysian-Thai General Border Committee, which meets every six months to discuss methods of suppressing guerrilla activity.

CBI calls for attack

FROM PAGE ONE

benefit payments for strikers should be attacked.

Having consulted its members, the CBI is now prepared to give full and unstinting support to Heath's Industrial Relations Bill and to complementary government actions by standing firm on all wage demands while forcing through productivity deals with the connivance of the trade union bureaucracy.

In this way unemployment will be increased. As the 'Telegraph' business section again states about the CBI letter:

'There is general support for the need for employers to make a more collective stand against high pay claims, including those to local authorities and nationalized industries. This would... be of limited value unless backed by industrial legislation aimed at unreasonable strikes.'

The employers, together with the Cabinet, worked out a unified strategy to attack the unions

are now batten down the hatches for such a combined assault.

The greatest danger now confronts the working class.

The trade union leaders and their syndicalist and revisionist supporters, by their refusal to match the plans and preparations of the Tories, as well as by their attempts to play down Tory threats as 'unnecessary and irrelevant' sabre-rattling, magnify this danger a hundredfold.

All the conquests of the working class are at stake. We say the Tories can and must be defeated only by a strategy and leadership which will defend the rights of the working class as implacably and ruthlessly as the Tories defend their privileges and power.

'The time for bluffing has gone!'

This indeed must inspire every class conscious trade unionist to make the October 3 conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance a success.

RECOGNITION STRIKE BY CROYDON DATA MEN



THE STRIKE of DATA members at the engineering firm of AGI, Purley Way, Croydon, for reinstatement and rights to negotiate has now ended its fifth week.

Management has refused to meet union officials to discuss sackings of DATA members following a struggle over recognition.

At a packed meeting of Croydon DATA branch on Tuesday, plans to step up picketing and to organize further support for the AGI men was discussed.

Croydon Trades Council is to be asked to help organize a mass picket of the AGI factory and the AEF district office is also being asked for assistance.

Strike wave growing in France

BY DAVID BARNES

WAGES AND UNEMPLOYMENT are at the forefront of a number of disputes in French industry and services this week.

On Monday and Tuesday Force Ouvriere (Socialist Union) members of the hospital services obeyed a 48-hour strike call in support of demands for an improvement in pay scales.

Ramtose jailed

S AFRICAN guerrilla Benjamin Ramtose gave the clenched fist salute in Pretoria yesterday as he was jailed for 15 years on six charges, under the Terrorism Act.

Dustmen have to work in this...



'YOU GET rats down here and swarms of flies, and here you can see maggots floating in the water,' commented Mr Black, NUPE shop steward at Southwark's Manor Place depot, as he showed our reporter some of the work dustmen have to do.

The picture shows a rubbish shoot under one of the Victorian tenements in Kennington.

'In summer the stench is terrible, and in winter you are wading through six inches of water as there is no drainage. You even have to bring your own torches to see anything.'

'Considering the conditions we work in I think our wages are ridiculous. For too long we've been used as cheap labour; but there's a younger element now who are not going to stand for this any more.'

LP looks for EEC safeguards

DAVID MAUDE in Blackpool

DELEGATES to the Labour Party conference yesterday defeated—by 3,049,000 votes to 2,954,000—a Transport and General Workers' motion that Britain 'should not enter the European Economic Community on terms which would involve a threat to full employment... a rise in food prices... or a loss of control over basic political, economic and foreign policies.'

They endorsed, by a large majority, a National Executive Committee statement reaffirming last year's conference policy of insisting on 'adequate safeguards for Britain's balance of payments, cost of living, national health and social security systems and

power of independent decision in economic planning and foreign policy.'

Proposing his union's motion, assistant T&GWU general secretary Harry Urwin warned that a decision to enter the Common Market would be irreversible and would interfere with regional development plans such as the Labour government had been pursuing.

Statements that the National Executive Committee should call a special conference on the Market issue—voiced by Party veteran Emanuel Shinwell—were welcomed by miners' union official Joe Gornley. After claiming to be uncommitted he was able to make use of the fact that the T&GWU resolution 'cloaked the issue' of whether or not it intransigently opposed entry.

LETTER

But the only step so far taken has been a letter to Prime Minister Chabanel Delmas urging him to lift the credit restrictions which are depressing the French car industry.'

Threatened with widespread strike action by the CGT, the management side of the coal-mining industry has finally agreed to joint negotiations with all unions involved.

Previously they had used the minority unions for playing off against the CGT, which represents a large majority of miners.

Faced with the obstinate refusal of the state aerospace industry, SNIAS, to agree to a straight 2 per cent per year increase above rises in the cost of living, Force Ouvriere has called a half-day strike for October 7.

CENTRES

SNIAS employs 43,000 workers, the main centres being Nantes and Toulouse. Gaullist politicians threatened to cancel the Concorde project at Toulouse as a lever in the present negotiations.

At La Redoute, the giant mail-order firm in Lille (NE France) most employees are back at work following the strike-breaking concessions made by CFDT (Catholic) union officials.

They put out a leaflet saying:

'All means of conciliation having been exhausted, it is useless to continue the strike.'

At Epinal, in the Vosges area of E France, a factory of the Levy textile combine announced 300 future sackings this week, in addition to 800 declared ten days ago.

The Vosges textile industry is faced with widespread redundancies, against which workers have tried to organize strike action.

'RESTRAINT'

But union officials, including the Stalinist CGT, have urged 'restraint', lest possible other employers 'be discouraged from investing in the area.'

AT CHARLEROI, in Belgium, the 7,000 workers of the ACEC electrical engineering plant struck on Monday for a guarantee against any future sackings.

Tories try to intimidate council workers

FROM PAGE ONE

As London rank-and-file co-ordinating committee chairman Tony Sweeney told Workers Press after Tuesday night's committee meeting, the Tories want to make an example of council workers.

'As far as I'm concerned it's a straight fight between us and Edward Heath. The Tories won't back down without a fight.'

'The press will no doubt start complaining about the public being forced to suffer. But their indignation about meals on wheels and old age pensioners is synthetic.'

Not sorry

'The Tories certainly don't feel sorry for these people—they don't put up their pensions or ensure that they are properly housed.'

The London men are to hold a mass meeting at Tower Hill on Tuesday morning to discuss further action.

Tony Sweeney said that most of the men were 'straining at the leash' to come out on strike, and union leaders have had difficulty preventing the strikes spreading.

Croydon

In Croydon council workers reviewed the first day of their strike at a packed and stormy meeting on Tuesday evening.

Angry that labourers in the Highways department were under union instruction to remain at work, the meeting decided stewards should explain the feelings to these workers, and ask them to take strike action in solidarity with other council workers.

Outside the depot gate at Factory Lane on Wednesday morning a meeting of labourers addressed by TGWU steward Johnny Ward decided to join the strike.

Contingents of stewards and strike committee members were touring Croydon throughout the day, holding meetings and discussions at depots and workshops.

Transport and General Workers' Union drivers on contract firms turned back from depots without making any pick-up.

Bob Lear, General and Municipal steward commenting on the statements of Lambeth dustmen's leader Frank Sully opposing the strike, said: 'He is wrong. I think the Lambeth men should come out—I think they will join us. Frank Sully has been under a lot of pressure, but I think he will change his mind.'

U.S. STUDENT LEADER HELD

AMERICAN STUDENT leader Michael Fleisher was arrested in Philadelphia yesterday in connection with the killing of a policeman during a Boston bank robbery last week.

Federal Bureau of Investigation said that Fleisher was a leading figure in the National Strike Information Centre at Brandeis University, Massachusetts, set up earlier this year to co-ordinate strikes on campuses throughout the United States.

This followed the shootings at Kent University and on other campuses by National Guardsmen and police.

Fleisher was detained at his home just before midnight on Tuesday and charged with attempting to evade arrest and being an accessory after the fact to murder.

The arrest has all the hallmarks of a frame-up, in line with the US government's recent Bill to increase police powers to deal with militants. Immediately after the bank robbery, Boston police commissioner Edmund McNamara claimed that it was part of a 'damned radical, damned revolutionary' plot.

WEATHER

London area, SE England, E Midlands: Becoming cloudy with rain at times. Somewhat brighter later. Wind westerly, moderate. Near normal. Max. 16C (61F).

Central northern England: Dry with sunny periods at first. Becoming cloudy with rain at times followed by squally showers and sunny periods. Winds SW, moderate or fresh. Near normal. Max. 15C (59F).

Central southern England, W Midlands, Channel Islands, SW England, NW England, N Ireland: Cloudy, rain at times and hill fog, becoming brighter with squally showers. Wind SW, fresh or strong. Near normal. Max. 15C (59F).

Edinburgh, E Scotland, Glasgow area: Dry with sunny periods at first. Becoming cloudy with rain at times followed by squally showers and sunny periods. Wind SW, fresh or strong. Near normal. Max. 14C (57F).

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Cloudy with rain at first in all areas and blustery showers.

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LATE NEWS

LEILA FREEDOM PLANS Plans were being finalized late yesterday afternoon to move his jack heroine Leila Khaled from Britain.

A clamp-down on all information about her departure was ordered at senior government level. It appeared likely that there would be no announcement from Whitehall until the aircraft taking her to the Middle East had left.

Many of the capitalist world's leading industries—aircraft, computers and many sections of electronics and electrical engineering—are rapidly tending towards steep reductions in rates of profit, 'over-production' and production cutbacks much to the confusion of the 'revisers' of Marx, who claim that since Marx's time capitalism has found ways to eliminate crises and stabilize itself.

A move to refer back the statement was crushingly defeated.

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OXFORD: Thursday, October 1, 7.30 p.m. Alma Hall, Alma Place, near The Plain. 'Pilkington sackings and the Tory anti-union laws.'