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CHILE DEMO: MAY 5TH

Support for the 5 May demonstration against the Chilean Generals is growing throughout the labour movement. A number of prominent trade unionists have given it their backing

EMLYN WILLIAMS, President of the South Wales miners, told *Red Weekly*:

'I absolutely deplore the decision of the Labour government to allow two frigates and two submarines to go to the fascist regime in Chile. This move will be welcomed by similar regimes in Spain, Greece, and elsewhere. There must be no trade with the Chilean junta. The excuse that it will bring work to the Clydeside doesn't hold water with me. I'm sure the men on Clydeside don't want to be employed on behalf of the Chilean generals.'

The 5 May demonstration comes at an important time when the Labour Government is vacillating over its conference decisions. Of course I support it. The Labour Party conference thoroughly condemned the junta. It seems that we need some clearer statements from the workers of this country to ensure that Labour does not flout its conference decisions.'

ERNIE ROBERTS, assistant general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers says:

'I shall be speaking at the 5 May demonstration. All of us who are members of the Labour Party should bring pressure to bear upon the Labour Government. We should insist that they carry out Conference Policy in relation to Chile which means that they must not supply arms to the Chilean Fascist Junta.'



ALAN SAPPER, General Secretary of ACTT, is also backing the demonstration. He says:

'As a Labour Party member I completely support the 5 May Demonstration. I am totally opposed, politically, economically and morally to the Chilean junta.'



JANET SUZMAN, well-known actress and one of several members of the actors' union Equity who will be taking part in the demonstration, told *Red Weekly*:

'I support this demonstration. I condemn Labour's failure to carry out its pledges concerning Chile. Yes, I shall certainly be present on the demonstration.'



JACK COLLINS, Kent Area representative on the NUM Executive, had the following to say:

'This demonstration, and any other form of activity that will highlight the Chilean situation, put pressure on the Labour Government to disassociate itself from the junta, and demand the release of the political prisoners, is, in my opinion, worthwhile.'

'A Labour Government that came to power as a direct result of the British miners' struggle against reaction must not encourage American and Fascist Capital in the murder of the Chilean workers. To continue with agreements and policies introduced by the Tory Government will be seen by the workers in Britain as hypocrisy and will be the rock on which the Labour Government will perish.'

'I would also say that I welcome the honourable statements made by many Labour Party members, and especially by Ron Hayward at the Scottish TUC, when they call for the release of all political prisoners languishing in jail. But it is very important that we do not forget our own comrades here in Britain who are in jail, like the Shrewsbury building workers.'

'It is fairly obvious that there will be a tremendous discussion inside the Labour Party. I think that if the Labour Government wants to retain any credibility it must not only allow this discussion, but actively encourage it. The leading figures inside the Labour Party who have made the right noises will no doubt be



listened to, but there must be pressure from trade union branches and political organisations on the Government to help isolate the junta from the rest of the world. I think it is very important for the international working class to express its solidarity and not just in terms of resolutions.'

'For example, the dockers of the world should refuse to handle any Chilean goods. We must not recognise or help the fascists in any shape or form. Whether it is trade, diplomacy or sport, I think the lot should be boycotted.'

ALL OUT FOR CHILE



Building for 5 May: Ad Hoc Committee supporters picket Downing Street

GRASS ROOTS

At grass roots level more trade union branches are coming out in support of the demonstration. The AUEW TASS No 16 division (Coventry) has decided to circulate the ad hoc committee leaflet throughout the division and is supporting the demonstration. The Coventry UCATT BE 222 branch has also passed a resolution of support.

On Friday 19 April the Highgate AUEW branch carried the following resolution: 'This branch strongly condemns the Labour Government for agreeing to send warships to Chile, and supports the 5 May demonstration in solidarity with the Chilean resistance.' A similar resolution was carried in the Kensington and Hamletersmith Trades Council.

JUNTA JETS BLACKED

Workers at the Rolls-Royce plant in East Kilbride, Scotland have dealt a major blow to the reactionary Chilean Generals by blacking all work on eight jet engines destined for the junta's air force.

CHILE SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE BACKS 5 MAY DEMO

Last Saturday the national Conference of the Chile Solidarity Campaign, attended by representatives from 25 local solidarity committees, voted to back the 5 May demonstration.

Delegates—by a vote of 32 to 17—accepted the argument that the Labour Government's decision to go ahead and supply warships and submarines to the junta made an immediate, massive mobilisation necessary.

The Communist Party opposed the resolution on the grounds that it would conflict with the May Day demonstrations.

However IMG delegates replied by pointing out that May Day could be used to mobilise for the Chile demonstration, and that the political urgency of mass action far outweighed any small organisational problems that might result from the date.

(Photo: Laura Levitt, Report)

(Photo: Chris Davies, Report)

(Photo: Chris Davies, Report)

(Photo: Chris Davies, Report)

Cowley witch-hunt a threat to all trade unionists

Backed by the local radio and encouraged by the national and local press, a number of Cowley wives are being whipped up to smash the strike against the victimisation of Alan Thornett, Cowley.

Thornett, deputy senior steward at BLMC, was refused steward's facilities after the defeat of the recent *Marina* strike. Management has trumped up several charges against him.

His department—Internal Transport—went on strike before the end of the *Marina* dispute, against the company's breach of the lay-off agreement. The workers are now prepared to return to work during negotiations, but the management refuses to meet any delegation including Thornett. The drivers insist on their right to elect their own stewards.

WITCH-HUNT

Over 12,000 workers are laid off without pay due to this strike. Since the three-day week, production at Cowley has been repeatedly interrupted as workers have fought against management attacks on agreements. Families are now feeling the pinch. Many have big mortgage debts or large rent arrears.

The astute timing of the victimisation lets the company make out that

Thornett is personally responsible for the workers' loss of earnings. This lie has been hammered home in an orchestrated campaign by the local radio and press. Frustrated at the tiny trickle of money coming into the house, the wives of laid-off workers have been encouraged by the witch-hunt to turn on Thornett.

When a few women suggested a wives' demonstration to demand that the company sack Thornett, the local radio gave unrestricted access to their campaign. Some right-wing stewards saw their chance. They, like the management, have wanted for years to oust Thornett, but have never won support within the unions.

The 'wives campaign' can be used as a front. These men endorsed the women's call but stayed in the background. They hope to ride to power if the strike is lost.

FRIENDLY DIRECTOR

Some 250 women and children, with a few men, marched on Wednesday to the factory gates. The Plant Director effusively greeted the demonstration, inviting a delegation in for tea and a chat. He assured them he was '100 per cent behind the demonstration' and suggested that they 'go on protesting'.

The women now plan a meeting in the Town Hall. They hope to persuade right-wing stewards to call an unofficial mass meeting to organise scabbing.

These events offer a terrible lesson to the workers' movement. If measures are not taken to win the support of workers' families for trade union struggles,

hardship can leave the wives prey to right-wing or even fascist demagogues.

SINISTER ALLIES

Support for the Cowley wives has appeared from a number of dubious quarters. One is the self-styled 'National Housewives Association', an outfit set up by a woman who later ran as a Tory candidate in Newcastle.

They conned housewives into joining by talking of 'opposing rising prices'. The Association claims to be neutral between employers and unions. Its intervention exposes that phony neutrality, and shows it to be a front for the employers.

Trade unionists must cut across the bandwagon of reaction unleashed by the witch-hunt. A big weapon for the employers is their monopoly of the mass media. But the boycott of the media by the union leaders is playing into the employers' hands.

A campaign must be launched, using all available channels, to convince the laid-off workers and their families of the need to defend Thornett. His victimisation threatens effective trade unionism at Cowley. Such a disaster would bring much worse hardship than they will ever suffer fighting employers' attacks.

Women in Cowley can be won to our side. The recent successful sit-in of women sewing machinists in the *Maxi* trim-shop shows that. The way that miners' wives mobilised to support the miners' strikes is an excellent example of how to develop solidarity in struggle.

National negotiations have broken

The use of the Cowley wives as strike-breakers is one of the most sinister and dangerous acts against the trade unions since wives were used against picket lines in the 1972 docks' strike.

There must be a massive mobilisation against this strike breaking. Militant women trade unionists must produce leaflets explaining why working class women must support their own class against the employers. Counter demonstrations must be organised against any attempt to scab.

On a national scale women trade unionists, supported by men trade unionists, should organise squads of pickets to go to Oxford. These pickets should visit the homes of women affected by the dispute and win their support for the strike. Pickets should be thrown up around Radio Oxford to demand radio time to put the trade unionists' case.

Organisations such as the Communist Party, the Workers Revolutionary Party, International Socialism, the IMG, and women's groups should mobilise on a national scale to fight this attempt to divide the working class along sex lines. A failure to defeat this latest piece of scabbing will give the ruling class a new weapon in its attempt to smash living standards.

down. The company refuses to talk if Thornett is in the union delegation. The Oxford district committee of the TGWU automotive group has now offered the management a mutually agreed inquiry into the charges against Thornett, conditional on BLMC reversing their action. On Wednesday the regional committee will decide whether to make the strike official if this formula is rejected.

Other car workers are giving support. The BLMC shop stewards' combine committee has backed Thornett, and donated £500 to the strikers. Collections are being organised throughout the combine. Delegations have also been sent to the Ford factories.

JEFF KING

Prentice slams teachers

Using the platform of the National Union of Teachers conference last week, the Labour Government served notice on the whole working class that behind its 'social contract' is a new incomes policy.

Reg Prentice, Secretary for Education, told the 1750 delegates at Eastbourne that teachers would continue to be low paid until they accepted the social contract and a Labour incomes policy.

Commenting on the half-day London Allowance strike on 29 April and possible further action he said:

'If any one thinks that I will do anything more because of pressure of that kind he does not know me... I reserve the right to tell teachers when I think they are being damn silly, and some of the suggestions made by a minority on this issue have been damn silly.'

While announcing an end to the 11 plus, Prentice refused to back down on the proposals for cuts in educational expenditure, and left little hope of improvements in the new comprehensives or for the opening of nursery schools.

Prentice's speech is an indication of the tactics the Labour Government will use against the trade unions: quell the actions of the weaker and less organised layers, and split the right from the left within the unions.

But the NUT left itself with few weapons to meet this attack. Led by the Executive, and supported by the Communist Party, it abandoned the £500 Interim Claim in favour of a submission to the Pay Board. The conference also rejected a Rank-and-File salaries motion (which was to be backed by strike action), in favour of an Executive-defined 'substantial increase'.

Throughout the Conference there was an implicit separation of the London Allowance campaign from the general salary struggle. This will leave the London teachers to fight alone, and sever the rest of the Union from London's militancy and grassroots organisation.

ANN TWINING

NALGO defies labour leaders' attacks

The Executive of the National And Local Government Officers association (NALGO) has decided to reject the TUC's request that the union call off its London Weighting Allowance campaign.

At its meeting on Friday 19 April the NALGO NEC decided instead to escalate the campaign, and further meetings this week will work out details for the extension of strike action.

One of the two branches currently on strike, Islington, organised a 600 strong picket from branches all over London, outside the NEC meeting. This was followed by a march to Congress House to protest at Len Murray's attacks on the campaign. Speakers at the picket stressed the need to step up strike action.

There has been mounting pressure on NALGO to end its action and await the Pay Board report on the general London Allowance situation, which is due in June. Employment Secretary Michael Foot and the chief of the London Labour Party, Bob Mellish, have made it clear that NALGO will receive nothing until June. Camden and Tower Hamlets councils, both Labour controlled, have attacked NALGO for its decision to ban voluntary work on local elections.

In this situation it is essential to extend action immediately. Tower Hamlets branch has voted for a total strike, and the council is threatening to send home, without pay, anyone unable to work due to the present selective strike action.

The NEC has decided to sanction a total stoppage if this happens, but have not so far given a general go-ahead to the branch.

Islington branch militants have pointed out that Islington should not be left to carry the whole campaign. The most effective support they



Islington NALGO branch mobilised 600-strong demonstration for march on TUC last week

could have would be for as many other branches as possible to be pulled out, and all-London action to be prepared.

ALL-LONDON ACTION

The union's leadership are running the campaign purely on 'special case' arguments. As some statements of General Secretary Geoffrey Drain show, they are quite prepared to accept the broad outlines of the 'social contract'. The implications of this are that, whether or not the London Weighting claim is won, the national 20% claim will be settled within the pay laws.

A strategy capable of overcoming

discussion of a resolution proposed by two IMG members.

This resolution placed NALGO's fight in the context of the need to smash the Labour-imposed pay laws, detailed ways in which struggles around the national pay claim could be organised, and linked these to the developing struggles against cuts in social expenditure.

IS's motion, which was carried unanimously with one amendment, gave a list of proposals to be put forward at

these problems would have to include:

- * The development of rank-and-file organisation around branches like Islington, and the London Boroughs Joint Computing Committee, which are involved in the struggle. This is the way to counter the manoeuvres of the bureaucracy and overcome the uneven development of the campaign.

- * The use of the London struggle to detonate a national pay struggle, by linking the two claims in the present action.

- * The organisation of solidarity at all levels with other unions coming into struggle against Phase

branches as motions to the NEC and Local Government Committee.

But it did not cope adequately with organising for the national claim, or relating the London struggle to the national struggle (although the amendment was a step in this direction). Nor did it draw the practical conclusions which are necessary in order to develop an all-out struggle by the working class movement to break the 'social contract'.

3. The NUT day of action on 29 April gives an opportunity for militants to develop these links through joint action.

ALAN BENNET

CP lead Shrewsbury campaign up blind alley

'If I were Des Warren the Charter Conference wouldn't even wake me up'.

This was the reaction of one Birmingham militant to the announcement, in the *Morning Star* of 22 April, of the Building Workers Charter national delegate conference, in Liverpool this Saturday. For months the CP have been putting the boot in on the Shrewsbury campaign, and now they breathlessly announce a conference which will devote only a miserable 25 minutes of its agenda to Shrewsbury. Let us trace their record:

Liverpool Trades Council Conference—a passing reference to support for the defence committees in the localities. A lot of huff and puff about the Pentonville Five, but no action; no real campaign.

Second Liverpool Trades Council Conference: No mention of the

Birmingham UCATT resolution calling for national strike action to free the Shrewsbury Three. No support for the call made by Terry Barret of the T&G and Cath Adams of NUPE for a link up with the miners in defence of pickets. The last chance for real action filtered away.

London UCATT and T&G conference: A 'new' strategy—lobby your MPs.

Kent Conference on Shrewsbury: which was called for last Saturday (20 April)—little action by the CP to mobilise support, so the conference had to be called off.

Now the Charter conference offers the same—but less. No wonder the Shrewsbury campaign is dying in its boots—it has been led up a blind alley by the CP. A fighting lead can come from the Charter conference—but it will certainly not come from the platform.

POWELL SPELLS IT OUT IN BELFAST SPEECH



Powell in full flow last week—he came up with a clear and viable strategy for challenging the inevitable drift towards British withdrawal from Ireland

'At the very least he could create a right-wing force in British politics which would make the National Front look like very small beer indeed'

Enoch Powell's decision to foul his nest in the Tory Party was probably the most under-rated event of the last general election. It has been estimated that his call for a vote for Labour may have lost the Tories up to eight seats in the Midlands. It was certainly not an idle boast when he claimed to have brought Heath down.

This all seems to have been part of a carefully thought out plan, and his break with the Tories was a move towards constructing a new political base.

NEXT STEP

His speech at the Ulster Hall last Thursday was the next step in that plan. Speaking from the platform from which Sir Edward Carson launched the struggle against Home Rule he told the loyalists:

That the result of the General Election had put the anti-Sunningdale Unionists in a stronger position than they had been in since Direct Rule.

That they should signal a new political course, by breaking their traditional links with the Conservative Party.

That their 'betrayal' by successive British Governments was the result of entry into the EEC, and the consequent need for concessions to a 'foreign' government in Dublin.

That they must aim to achieve complete integration into the United Kingdom, as a means of ending forever the possibility of a united Ireland.

That the first step must be to demand equality of representation at Westminster—20 seats instead of 12.

That having achieved integration they must then play a full part in the leadership of the 'British nation'.

In this one speech Powell has achieved something which years of tub-thumping by loyalist demagogues has failed to produce—a clear and viable strategy for challenging the

inevitable drift of British imperialism towards a withdrawal from Ireland.

He suggests that the loyalists should cease to be provincial reactionaries, and play their full part in constructing an all-Britain reactionary alliance against the current strategy of British capitalism. The leader of this alliance could, of course, only be J. Enoch Powell (possibly representing a Northern Ireland constituency as a Unionist MP).

VAST ADVANTAGES

For the loyalists this has vast advantages. They have exhausted all forms of opposition without success. Despite the loyalist victory at the general election, the Labour, Tory and Liberal leaders are still determined to push through the Sunningdale deal.

Nor have the loyalists been able to throw up a firm leadership. Harry West wants the return of the old Stormont Parliament, William Craig wants an independent 'Ulster', and Ian Paisley wants full integration with Britain.

Since none of the three could take over authoritative leadership, it would not be surprising if they were to turn to a powerful Bonapartist figure, who could unite them by balancing between the different forces.

For Powell the advantages would be equally important. His twin policies of racism and opposition to the EEC have won him a base of a sort, especially in the Midlands, but not a strong political position. If he can link up with the Ulster loyalists, and other elements like the protestant bigots in Scotland and the north west of England, he will extend this base.

In the context of the present fragmentation of representation at Westminster he could construct an important parliamentary bloc; this is the reason for his call for an expansion in Northern Ireland representation.

Of course Powell would be attack-

ing a strategy which has underpinned the policies of British Governments for more than two decades. But he would also be constructing the only coherent, and politically important ultra-right political bloc in British politics since the Tory opponents of Home Rule in the early part of this century.

RIGHT-WING FORCE

It would be an alliance on the fringes of British capitalist society: the yeomaners for the Empire, the lumpy racists, the sweepings of the Orange Lodges. But it could hope to appeal to those elements within the Army who are unwilling to accept the implied defeat of a withdrawal from Ireland, and the 'new' right in the anti-porn, anti-sexual freedom lobby.

The long struggle by the British bourgeoisie to push back the gains made by the working class in fifty years of organised struggle continues to be frustrated. Powell is probably gambling that the present chronic crisis will burst into a deadly inflammation and that a re-orientation by the capitalist class could result in his being called to power. But he cannot hope for this unless he first has a solid political base.

The danger must be taken seriously. At the very least Powell could create a right-wing force within British politics which would make the National Front look like very small beer indeed.

There is only one way to strangle this reactionary alliance at birth—and that is to build a movement in Britain strong enough to undermine the war effort in Ireland.

To force a withdrawal of the British Army from Ireland, under the twin hammer blows of the IRA and a massive campaign in Britain, is not solely in the interests of the Irish struggle, but more than even before is a pre-requisite for advance by the British working class.

BOB PURDIE

Lennon spied on trade unionists as well as Sinn Fein

More information has come to light following the publication of the statement by Kenneth Joseph Lennon, the self-confessed Special Branch informer, found dead last week.

It is now clear that Lennon was operating against industrial militants and the left in Britain, before being switched to infiltrating Sinn Fein.

This can be borne out by information revealed in the *Weekend World* television programme last Sunday, and in the Dublin newspaper *Sunday World*.

PROVOCATION IN NEWRY

Austin Currie, an SDLP member of the Northern Ireland Executive has since confirmed that the incident in which Lennon was photographed dismantling a police barricade was a provocation, designed to spark violence at a peaceful civil rights march in Newry in January 1969.

In all probability Lennon's membership of the Communist Party, and undoubtedly his later involvement with the Socialist Labour League (now Workers Revolutionary Party), was part of a Special Branch operation directed at the Chrysler factory in Luton, where there had been a series of militant struggles against the introduction of Measured Day Work.

The *Sunday Times* last Sunday (21 April), tried to cover up for Lennon's history as an informer. They quoted 'one of the [Workers Revolutionary Party] Party Establishment', as having said: 'Lennon had good credentials as a shop steward in the car industry. If he had wanted

to get on the inside of our organisation he could have done so'. The *Sunday Times* postulates that since the then SLL was a priority organisation for infiltration, his remaining outside was proof of his not being an informer.

But Alex Mitchell of *Workers Press* told *Red Weekly* that the WRP had given no such statement, and that they were considering a letter to the *Sunday Times* denying it. In any case, Lennon did not have to join the SLL to get information about militants inside the factory.

RELEASE REPUBLICANS

Given the evidence of Lennon's activities against trade unionists, and the Special Branch involvement in the Strachans' dispute, the labour movement must campaign for the release of the four Republicans convicted as a result of Lennon's activities. Only this can defeat the SB's use of entrapment to put militants inside.

This tie-up between SB activity against Irish militants and trade unionists is not accidental—it is organised by the Intelligence and Security Co-ordinating Committee, which controls Army Intelligence, the Special Branch, the SAS, MI5 and SIS.

In a statement published in the *Sunday World*, Brendan Magill of Sinn Fein in Britain named five members of this committee, and challenged them to deny their membership. He called for them to be subpoenaed to give evidence to a public enquiry into the Lennon affair.

The men he named were Sir Peter Wilkinson, Lieut. Colonel Louis de Bally, J.P. Watts MC, DSO, Martin Bowlen Hanly, and Maurice Oldfield.

The *New Statesman*, in a front page article last Thursday said: 'If there is one trapping of state power with which Labour can have no truck, it is the recruitment and deployment of agents provocateurs.'

The *New Statesman's* concern should be shared by the entire working class movement—and acted upon in the form of a labour movement enquiry into the whole sordid cesspit of the Littlejohn and Lennon affairs.

GAVIN ROBINSON

Police evict Strachan's workers

The workers occupying the Strachan's Engineering factory at Eastleigh near Southampton were evicted last Friday (19 April) by police acting in consultation with the management.

The police had cordoned off the area of the factory the previous day, and although they allowed people to leave, no-one was allowed in. The workers were able to break this siege by getting most of the next shift in over the fence to relieve those inside. However at 5.30 am on Friday morning the police broke through the canteen window, and entered the factory.

LEFT PEACEFULLY

The occupying workers were outnumbered by police and bailiffs, and in line with an Occupation Committee decision left peacefully. The fact that the phones were cut off just before the police operation, and that the development of support from local trade unionists had been slow, made resistance much more difficult.

As it was, the only support came from the workers at Marshall Richard Barrore, who abandoned their own picket line and joined the Strachan's workers.

Although the eviction is a set back, the fight is far from over. The men immediately set up a 24-hour picket outside the factory, and have lost none of their members.

TOTAL BLACKING

It is not yet clear whether the management have sold the factory, or are preparing to move the equipment and set up elsewhere. For the time being the place is in the hands of Burns International Security. If production does start again, only a total blacking of Strachan's products will give the pickets any chance of getting their jobs back.

The Joint Union Committee is organising a national speaking tour to win the maximum support for mass picketing at the factory. One way to broaden support would be for May Day activities in the Southampton area to centre on Strachan's. This would certainly be more useful than to have some bureaucrat peddling the Labour Government's policies.

Support for the Strachan's workers is vital. This company has shown complete contempt for the livelihoods of 600 workers; and the police, assisted by the Special Branch, have tried forcefully to bring to an end



Police move in on Friday morning — outnumbered workers left peacefully

their fight to save their jobs. The labour movement must show that it can meet such threats by building massive support for the workers on the picket line.

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On 12 May the Italian electorate will be asked, for the first time since the adoption of the present constitution, to participate in a referendum. The issue at stake will be the law on divorce, which has already been in force for several years and which reactionary groups are now demanding be repealed.

The Christian Democratic Party and the neo-fascist party, the MSI, are for the repeal of the divorce law. On the other side the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the right-wing Italian Social Democratic Party, the Republican Party, and the Liberal Party are against repeal. Not only is the present coalition Government divided on the issue, but divisions exist within the various parties as well.

The Catholic Church, while struggling ferociously against divorce, appears undecided. It has always maintained the pseudo-legal fiction according to which 90% of Italians are Catholics, and it fears the loss of prestige if the majority, or a very substantial minority, of these 'Catholics' vote for divorce against its advice.

As for the Communist Party, it has always openly proclaimed that it wanted to avoid a referendum: not only because it was scared of vacillations amongst its electoral supporters (and perhaps even amongst its members!), but, above all, because the confrontation over the referendum represents an obstacle for the CP's orientation towards collaboration with the Christian Democratic Party (what the CP's leader Berlinguer calls the 'historic compromise'). This is why Berlinguer and his friends have sought for an agreement right up to the last minute (on the basis of the adoption of a new law on divorce by Parliament). It was not the CP's fault if all its proposals were finally rejected.

We should not underestimate the significance for Italy of an elementary democratic right such as divorce. Nor should we overlook the demoralising repercussions which would occur if, after the great mass mobilisations of the last six years, such an acquisition could be quashed by a conservative and reactionary initiative.

But the real stakes are still more important. The 12 May will be a major clash between political forces, and the verdict of the electors will not simply affect divorce but will determine in an important way the solution to the Italian political crisis.

It is necessary to deal briefly with the context of the referendum, which is determined by the events of the last few years.

Because of the opportunism of the traditional workers' parties, and because of the absence of a revolutionary organisation which could intervene as a real political alternative, the Italian bourgeoisie succeeded in overcoming the pre-revolutionary crisis which unfolded in the country during 1969-70. Nevertheless, it was incapable of returning to the relative stability of 1968.

The situation remained extremely unstable and rent with conflicts. The working class did not retreat. The student movement, despite its ups-and-downs, maintained its potential, and large layers of the petit-bourgeoisie remained involved in the wave of radicalisation.

Finally, the bourgeoisie did not succeed in resolving its own crisis of leadership! It is this last aspect which is tied most closely to the present electoral struggle.

because there did not appear any alternative on the left and because, given the relation of forces created by the mass mobilisations, a right wing alternative appeared extremely dangerous.

All attempts to create a reactionary wave failed lamentably and certain initiatives by fascist groups—for example the attack which led to a massacre in a bank in Milan on 12 December 1969—rebounded against the reactionaries and against those who had sought to exploit these events.

Certain sections of the ruling class, politically identified with a wing of the Christian Democrats, started to move towards the right in the Spring of 1971. This move corresponded in the first place to the need of the employers to 'restore order in their house' (in other words, to restore their damaged authority and to re-establish a satisfactory rate of profit). It also corresponded to a fear that a prolongation of the unstable situation would help the neo-fascists make substantial progress.

The mounting economic crisis placed the workers movement on the defensive, and raised the spectre of redundancies and unemployment. This, at least partially, favoured such a right-wing turn.

RIGHT TURN

The election of Leone at the end of 1971 to the Presidency, on the basis of a right wing bloc, was the first concretisation of this turn. Soon afterwards the centre-left coalition Government was replaced by a Government of the centre-right, headed by Andreotti.

A second Andreotti Government was formed after new elections, but it continually found itself in an unstable and difficult situation.

The battle around the renewal of the trade union agreements in the most important industrial sectors, especially that of the metal workers, became a major new confrontation in which the Government and the employers—helped by an economic situation which put great pressure on the workers—hoped to consolidate their new formula and to wear down the fighting ability of the masses.

This six month battle was even longer than that of 1969. The demands of the unions were in general moderate, and the stubborn resistance of the employers could only be explained by political motives.

But the employers' operation suffered a defeat. Their delaying tactics not only failed to break the combativity of the workers but, on the contrary, provoked mobilisations of enormous dimensions (e.g. a demonstration of 250,000 metal workers in Rome in February 1973). In the decisive weeks of the struggle great explosions erupted such as the occupation of Fiat-Mirafiori and other factories in Turin. Andreotti's centre-right operation was liquidated in favour of a new attempt at a centre-left coalition—the Rumor government formed in July 1973.

CENTRE-LEFT AGAIN

The new centre-left coalition had two factors working in its favour: the upturn in the economy and the conciliatory attitude of the trade unions and the Communist Party. The trade unions were ready to accept a truce and to negotiate with the Government on its economic policy. The Communist Party, who considered the fall of Andreotti as a victory, declared that its opposition would be of a 'different type'. In other words, it did not want to

THE 12 MAY REFERENDUM ON THE DIVORCE LAWS HAS EXPLODED INTO A GENERAL POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE WORKING CLASS AND THE BOURGEOISIE

ITALY IN TURMOIL

create serious difficulties for the Government. The CP's theory of the 'historic compromise', involving a political bloc of Communists, Socialists, and Catholics, was launched with a fanfare in the aftermath of the coup in Chile.

However, the economic expansion was accompanied by an accelerated rate of inflation which rapidly eroded workers' incomes. The petrol crisis made things worse and nullified all the Government's measures.

In this situation the unions, always under strong pressure from the base, could no longer maintain the truce. They opened up a new stage of struggles which culminated, among other things, in the limited national strike of 27 February.

The Government was again torn by

internal contradictions and was paralysed. It resigned, and was replaced by another Government headed by Rumor which included representatives of the left-wing of the Socialist Party and from the right of the Christian Democrats (including Andreotti), who had not participated in the previous Government.

The new Government is a very shaky solution indeed. It could well be swept away by the result of the referendum on 12 May.

This succession of crises, which has been accompanied by a diet of scandals involving politicians, famous industrialists and managers, judges, and civil servants, has produced, in the context of the overall situation, a serious weakening of the bourgeois democratic regime set up after the Second World War.

TWO WAYS OUT

The extreme gravity of the paralysing crisis in which the ruling class now finds itself has been clear for some time. The best known daily newspapers openly acknowledge this state of affairs.

The bourgeoisie has two ways out. Faced with the wearing down of the Parliamentary regime and with the necessity of reorganising the economy it can decide to bring the crisis to a head, and install an authoritarian regime.

On the other hand, faced with a mobilisation of the masses which is still very powerful, it can move

On 14 January the elected Transport and General Workers' Union convenor representing five hundred workers at Armstrong Patents Ltd in Beverley near Hull was offered a £5,000 bribe to induce her to leave her job. She refused, and was promptly handed her cards.

Three months later Jean Jepson, the convenor, is still picketing the gate of Armstrong's Swinemoor Lane plant. And she is still waiting for official action by the T.&G.W.U. to support the strike committee's demand for her reinstatement by the management.

Not only has the union's bureaucracy failed to come to the defence of an elected convenor—scandalous enough under any circumstances—but it has blatantly ignored the fact that Jepson was openly victimised for attempting to pursue official union policy during the Tory Government's three-day week.

NATIONAL LOCK-OUT

The national two-day lock-out imposed by the Tories at the beginning of the year failed to achieve its principal objective of isolating and defeating the miners in their struggle against Phase 3. Nevertheless it was a roaring success from the point of view of some of the smaller engineering concerns, which used the lock-out as a lever to divide and demoralise

their workforce.

For the workers employed by these concerns, everything turned on what to do with the agreement between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and the engineering employers on the guaranteed 40-hour week. From the outset it was clear that this question was potentially divisive.

But instead of launching a centralised defence of the agreement, the leaderships of the Confed, and its constituent unions vacillated.

With one hand they instructed local officials not to sign away the agreement, while with the other they conceded in practice that it could not be enforced.

The result was that strongly organised sections of engineering workers who would do better on three days' pay plus two days' dole than on the guaranteed basic were permitted to abandon the agreement. Meanwhile, weakly organised sections which needed the guarantee to sustain their earnings were left to fend for themselves.

WOMEN WORKERS

The majority of workers at Armstrong Patents fell into the second category, consisting largely of married women workers, many of them paying the reduced National Insurance stamp which excludes unemployment benefit. A section of

THE VICTIM JEAN JEPSON. THREE MONTHS STILL NO OFFICIAL ACTION

the T.&G.W.U. membership led by Jean Jepson stood to lose as much as £6 a week without the agreement.

Jepson lost her job because she fought for the interests of these workers in accordance with the instructions of her union, but without any effective support from its national leadership.

In the absence of a coordinated strategy, the lock-out had also created divisions within the Swinemoor plant itself and this has hampered the struggle against the victimisation. Decisive leadership from the local full-time officials of the T.&G.W.U. was clearly called for. But within weeks district official, Les Upfold, was crossing the picket line outside the factory to organise elections for a new convenor.

Although 130 T.&G.W.U. members had followed Jepson out of the gate on 14 January, and in spite of a massive boycott of the shop stewards' elections held on 5 February, regional officials justified their inaction by parroting manage-

WORKERS' UPSURGE

The upsurge of workers' struggle in 1968-69 precipitated the crisis of the so-called 'centre-left' formula of governments which had been adopted at the beginning of the 1960s. This formula survived only



Rally in the Piazza Novano in Rome last week against the repeal of the divorce laws — outcome of referendum will determine in an important way the solution to the Italian political crisis

towards the opposite solution and, accepting the CP's 'historic compromise', attempt to conclude an alliance with the whole traditional workers' movement, including the Communist Party.

The dilemma of the Italian bourgeoisie resides in the fact that today it cannot realise *either* of these operations. The idea of a military coup, especially since the coup in Chile, has found many supporters in the barracks. At the same time the neo-fascists have intensified their

activity, and the police have engaged in provocations. But despite all this the arguments against a coup are enormous. The relation of forces and the mobilisation of the masses continually argues against an undertaking that would carry such dangers.

As for the project of the 'historic compromise', it continues to run into difficulties which cannot be overcome in the short term. It is for this reason that the centre-left staggers from one crisis to another without any worked-out plan and without

the possibility of translating even its modest programme into practice.

A real attempt at establishing an authoritarian regime is still a thing of the future. But this does not prevent certain important sections of the ruling class, and various political tendencies of some real weight, seeking to prepare in the meantime a better worked-out right turn than that of the two Andreotti Governments. They have decided to exploit the referendum of 12 May to this end.

In effect, the struggle for the abolition of divorce is aimed at constructing a bloc of conservative and reactionary forces with a very large mass base. This will demonstrate that a right-wing alternative exists beyond the present distribution of seats in Parliament. The victory of the anti-divorce front would severely damage the Socialists, the other parties in the coalition favourable to divorce, the left wing of the Christian Democrats, and the Communist Party and the workers movement in general. Simultaneously the room for manoeuvre by the fascists, who are to some extent the cutting edge of the anti-divorce coalition, would be greatly increased.

The Communist Party's leaders have understood what is at stake and know that their basic strategy is being subjected to a severe test. In the face of the new Rumor government, and in the face of the rejection of all compromise on the question of divorce by the leadership of the Christian Democrats, the CP has carried out a turn: its conciliatory 'opposition of a different type' has been replaced by 'intransigent opposition'. This helps them to solidify their ranks and causes difficulties for the extreme left.

As we have said, vacillations are possible on the question of divorce among the electoral supporters and even among the militants of the Communist Party. This has left the CP leaders with no choice but to politicise the struggle and present it as a test of force between 'democratic progress' and reaction. The radicalisation of their opposition to the Government also flows from this need.

Nevertheless, the thorough opportunism of the CP bureaucracy continues to show itself even in the orientation of the electoral campaign. The perspective of the 'historic compromise' has not been abandoned, and the campaign for the defence of divorce is carried out with timid and fundamentally conservative arguments: divorce is presented as a solution only for patho-

logical cases, and therefore as an instrument for the defence of happy families.

REVOLUTIONARY CAMPAIGN

The Italian Trotskyists are basing their campaign on the political consequences of the present confrontation, while at the same time seizing the occasion to explain their views on the family, bourgeois ideology, sexual repression, the liberation of women. They conceive their struggle as completely distinct from that of the other currents who support divorce. Here they differentiate themselves from the other organisations of the revolutionary left — from Lotta Continua to Avanguardia Operaia — who have not hesitated to participate in common demonstrations with bourgeois parties (including the Liberals) which support divorce.

This position was put clearly in the pamphlet distributed by the GCR, Italian section of the Fourth International:

"Turn the battle on the referendum into a general political confrontation. NO to the reactionary attempt of the Christian Democrats to coalesce the dissatisfied petit-bourgeoisie, the bigots, and the fascists into an anti-working class front. If the abrogation of the divorce law is approved, the bourgeoisie will go forward in its attack to impose "austerity", "order", "discipline". We say clearly: VOTE NO!

"No to all those who defend the bourgeois concept of the family, which is an instrument for the oppression of women and the young, and which is an instrument for the transmission of the ideology of the ruling class! For an anti-capitalist outcome to the struggle of the workers and students, no concessions to the "historic compromise", no going back on the struggle for the defence of wages and employment. To help prepare the workers' counter-offensive, VOTE NO!"

SATION OF JEPSON

S GONE AND SOCIAL ACTION

Jepson to her former job. Needless to say, he has so far failed in this noble effort.

Not content with capitulating to management's desire to rid itself of a troublesome shop-floor leader, Brother Shenton has turned in recent weeks to out-and-out scabbing.

The first sign of this was on 17 March when, with the aid of the employers' loudspeaker system and a convoy of coaches, scab stewards organised a mass picket of the Hull docks.

The dockers, who had maintained the blacking of Armstrong goods originally imposed at the instigation of district officer Upfold, correctly refused to back down despite the pickets' complaints that they were 'interfering' in the affairs of other workers. The dockers' leaders have also had to face strong and equally backward pressures from Shenton's office.

But this is not the end of the story. As soon as it became clear that the blacking would be extended into the car industry, for which Armstrong's makes shock-absorbers and other components, secretary Shenton wrote around the regions instructing them to give no support to the Jepson strike.

COWLEY

As reported in *Red Weekly* a fortnight ago, members of the 5/55 T.&G.W.U. branch at British Leyland's Cowley plant have instituted a black

on Armstrong shocks. The branch also sent a resolution to the union's executive demanding support for the strike at Beverley, and made an immediate donation of £25 towards the strike fund.

The example of Cowley needs to be taken up throughout the car industry, especially at Longbridge, Dagenham and Halewood, and in the Albion and Leyland plants in Glasgow and Preston.

The nature of the opposition to such moves needs to be stressed. Within half an hour of the first lorry being turned away from Cowley, stewards received new instructions relayed from Beverley via Shenton's office in Hull to lift the black.

The Defence Committee set up in Hull to campaign for Jean Jepson's reinstatement is calling on workers throughout the motor industry to ignore such instructions, stemming as they do from collaboration between Armstrong's management and the T.&G.W.U. bureaucracy on Humberside.

The Defence Committee is also appealing to T.&G.W.U. branches locally and nationally to condemn the scandalous behaviour of the Region 10 officials and demand official strike action now.

Messages of support and donations, which are still urgently needed, should be sent to: Strike Committee, 39 St Hilda's Street, Bridlington, E. Yorks.

Orders for a pamphlet now available on the dispute should be sent to Defence Committee, 7 Parkside Close, Park Ave., Hull.

ment's assessment of the amount of support an official strike could expect.

Casting aside the whole armoury of struggle they could have called in to avert the smashing of the union at Armstrong's, they held out only one hope: an appeal to the ruling class's tailor-made union-smasher, the NIRC.

FROM SELL-OUT TO SCABBING

On 21 March a special inquiry by the Region 10 Committee of the T.&G.W.U. came out in support of the claim that Jean Jepson was 'unjustifiably dismissed' and resolved that she should be reinstated. However, no mention was made of official action. And to back up his committee's decision, regional secretary Dave Shenton has refused to do more than 'endeavour to persuade the company' to reinstate



Chile Lucha

Dear Comrade,

I am writing on behalf of Chile Lucha to correct some misinformation about our group contained in your article 'Labour to Deliver Chile Warships' (*Red Weekly*, 13 April 1974). In the article you stated: 'Chile Lucha, a journal produced by Chilean Socialists in exile in this country... have pledged support for the mobilisation - ie the demonstration on 5 May.'

Firstly, Chile Lucha is not a journal but a committee. Among other activities we help with the production of *Chile Fights*, the official magazine of the Chile Solidarity Campaign, and its information bulletin, the *Chile Monitor*.

Secondly, Chile Lucha is not a group of Chilean Socialists in exile, but an independent committee most of whose members are British, which is affiliated to the Chile Solidarity Campaign. Our objective is to give effective support to the revolutionary struggle of the Chilean people against the Military Dictatorship and the bourgeois power structure. Therefore we are willing to support any action which helps to isolate the Junta. It is according to this criterion that we have decided to give our conditional support to the demonstration on 5 May.

Yours fraternally,
D. Macintosh
pp Chile Lucha

Immigration Act

As a working class man, fed-up with Labour and Conservative Governments, I decided to have a look at what your party had to offer the working man, so I bought the *Red Weekly* on sale outside the factory I work at.

After reading through your paper I have decided you have never met, let alone talked to, a working man. How you can call the Immigration Act anti-working class I will never know. I can honestly say I have never met a working man who doesn't at the very least say that all immigration

should be stopped.

May I suggest that your supporters go into the factories and find out the truth about immigration instead of listening to students who know nothing about what the working man is up against.

You will never get support in a thousand years while you have such policies.

D. KEED
REPLY

It is true that many workers support the Immigration Act and other racist laws. But that doesn't mean that they operate in workers' interests.

Many workers vote Tory, many supported the Industrial Relations Act. But that didn't change the vicious anti-working class nature of the Tories and their laws.

The Immigration Act creates a group of workers with 'second class rights' in this country. They are made almost totally dependent on the bosses and the state authorities for the right to remain in the country.

As a result they can be forced to work for the lowest wages and must tread carefully when it comes to sticking up for their rights or taking part in militant trade union activity.

This is certainly not in the interests of the trade union movement, or of any worker who is trying to stand up against the bosses and encourage his mates to do the same.

The Immigration Act goes along with a horde of other racist laws, and racist ideas peddled by capitalist politicians. They are designed to turn white, British-born workers against their black and immigrant fellow workers. Such divisions weaken the workers' struggle still further.

We can see how well the capitalist brainwashers have done their job on Mr Keed by the fact that he clearly doesn't count the many black workers and trade unionists in this country as 'working men'.

Of course, sometimes white workers will find themselves unemployed while black and immigrant workers are being given jobs. But this is not due to 'immigrants'. It is due to the bankruptcy of the capitalist system, which cannot provide jobs for all, even though there are thousands of jobs that need doing. Unemployment will not be solved by banning immigration, but only by overturning the crazy, inhuman capitalist system.

But brainwashed, racist workers like Mr Keed who think that it's in their interests to support the Immigration Act and 'keep the blacks down', help to divide the working class and guarantee capitalism a long lease of life.

The policy of the International Marxist Group—a policy which many trade unionists, both black and white, are coming to support—is to oppose all forms of racism and all racist laws.

We know that only the united struggle of the whole working class—black and white, British-born and immigrant—can defeat the capitalists. And such struggle can ensure that the needs of all these workers—for jobs, decent wages and working conditions, housing, a secure and rising living standard—can be met in full.

BENGALI FRIENDS in Europe and elsewhere, for Bengali books and *Lalal* (Fourth International paper), contact: Bengali, Mullvaden, Box 3274, 10365 Stockholm, Sweden.

LIVERPOOL RED BOOKS: Revolutionary literature—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Eastern Europe, Third World, Ireland, Women's Liberation. 81a Renshaw Street, Liverpool. Tues-Fri: 12.30-3. Sat: 11-3.

FREE IRELAND FORUMS: Friday 26 April—'Who Owns Ireland?'; Friday 3 May—'The British Labour Movement and Ireland'. 8 pm in the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road (5 mins Kings X tube).

NOTTINGHAM RED CIRCLES: Wide-ranging series of discussions based on the politics of the Fourth International. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday in the month at 8 pm in the Lion Hotel, Clumber Street.

MANCHESTER GLF will be meeting Wednesday 8 May to discuss leafleting for Manchester Anti-Racism Conference, due to be held 18 May at Reynolds Theatre, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Meet 8 pm in the Lower Turks Head, off Shodehill, Manchester.

'FIGHT THE BY-LAWS—Fight Repression': May Day Forum on the fight against the ban on street sales in Brighton. Speaker: Councillor Ron Wallis. Wednesday 1 May, 8 pm in Steaford Arms pub, near Preston Circus, Brighton.

SHREWSBURY PICKETS: Conference organised by Enfield College Trade Union Society—Tuesday 30 April in Enfield College, Queensway, Enfield at 6.30. Speakers: member of London Defence Committee, John Liywarth (one of Shrewsbury 24), plus legal expert. All trade unionists welcome.

CHILE SOLIDARITY MEETING: Organised by Tottenham IMG and Hornsey LPYS, Friday 3 May at 8 pm in Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, N8 (off Crouch End Broadway). Speakers: Robin Blackburn, Ted Corbett (ex-convenor at STC).

MAY DAY JUMBLE SALE: Saturday 4 May, 12-3 pm in Community Room, Clarence Way Estate, NW1 (corner of Kensal Town Road and Hawley Road). In aid of Red Weekly Fund Drive.

CHILE AD HOC COMMITTEE: Planning meeting for 5 May demonstration, Wednesday 1 May at 8 pm in Earl Russell pub, opp Camden Town Hall, Euston Road, NW1. Open to all organisations and individuals supporting the demo.

LONDON RED FORUM: There will be no meeting this week. Watch this space for future announcements.

State conspiracy at Essex University

Over the last fortnight, pickets at Essex University have bitten their lips with frustration and anger as squads of up to a hundred police have escorted small convoys of lorries into the welcoming hands of the authorities. The job of any campus worker who refuses to unload the scab trucks is immediately threatened.

The pickets have been fighting against the Essex University authorities and the bully boys in blue for five long months. During the course of that struggle one hundred and five have been arrested and charged, thirty five disciplined, three (including two IMG members) expelled. But they are still fighting back. They refuse to be crushed, despite the activities of the police.

CONSPIRACY

Superintendent Markham, head of the Regional Special Patrol Group and ex-star student at the University, has been seen regularly conferring with his old mate Albert Sloman, the University's Vice Chancellor. The police who arrested the 105 students now facing trial were drawn from as

far away as South London, in what was obviously a Scotland Yard-coordinated action.

The Special Branch, in addition to their more blood-thirsty activities, have shown great interest in Essex students recently, interviewing some of those arrested for more than two hours. Special Branch detectives have become a permanent feature of the landscape on campus.

There is abundant evidence of the police and college authority's conspiracy at Essex. At one point Sloman was trapped in his office by occupying students, demanding that he intervene to free arrested students. The police were up to that time opposing bail. After a while a communique came from the police that 'bail would not be opposed so long as the political situation on the campus did not deteriorate any further'.

Why will 105 students be in the dock on Monday? Why is Markham on the campus with hundreds of his men every time Sloman beckons?

The State is trying to smash the ability of students to take direct action—actions such as the picket of the Essex students, the massive occupation in Oxford last year of

over 2,000 students, the militant occupation which defied the Kent University authorities. The actual issues on which these struggles were waged were various: in Essex reductions in food and accommodation prices, against the cutbacks, for the NUS Grants Campaign; in Oxford, for a Students Union; in Kent, in defence of a victimised student. The next students in the firing line will be those at the Universities and Polytechnics holding out on rent strike in support of the NUS Grants Claim, which is at present waiting for a response from the Labour Government.

DIRECT ACTION

One thing binds all these struggles together. The students fighting them have realised that negotiations through participation and representation are useless and have turned to mass, militant action.

The authorities realise as well, if not better, than the students, that direct action does two vital things. On the one hand, it splits the authorities between those who think that 'the price of peace today is anarchy tomorrow' (Sloman, Essex), and those who buy peace today, the better to prepare for tomorrow (Kent University). This paralyses the ability of college authorities to act, and opens up the way for student victory. At the same time, direct action can attract student support and win workers' solidarity, on both a national and local level.

Such support has not been slow in coming for the Essex struggle. Students from other colleges have manned the picket lines through thick and thin. Messages of support have been sent by the Liverpool, Manchester and Salford Trades Councils, the National Ford Workers' Combine Committee and many other trade union organisations. Derbyshire NUM returned the support offered by Essex students in two miners' strikes by sending a blank cheque to cover the bail for arrested students. Action is being taken through the regional councils of UCATT and the TGWU as well as through the local Trades Council, to back the University in support of the students' demands.

This sort of support, some of it scarcely tapped as yet, is the raw material out of which a victory can be won at Essex and in similar struggles all over the country. The coming trials can be the focus not only for student action, but also for real solidarity action from the working class. The similarities with the hounding and jailing of the Shrewsbury pickets are too fresh in the mind to be passed over lightly.

RAY BURNS

See p.8 for latest news.



Part of NUS march in solidarity with Essex students last month

Photo: PETER HARRAP (Report)

IMG Rally - Sat. 4 May - Conway Hall

In the face of mounting attacks on students struggling to defend their living standards, many activists are looking for political solutions which the NUS leadership is failing to provide.

The IMG is organising a rally next Saturday, 4 May, with the aim of bringing together student militants from all parts of the country to draw out the lessons of the various struggles which have taken place, and to discuss more generally the contribution students can and have made to the struggle for socialism.

Leading representatives of the student movement from France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Chile will be speaking. Workshops will deal with the anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and anti-repression struggles.

For further details, tickets, or material produced for the rally, contact: IMG Student Commission, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1. (tel. 01-278-9526).



PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Registration and greetings
- 10.30 Prospects for World Revolution (*John Ross*) followed by questions
- 11.30 France and the elections (*Charles Micheloux*); Latin America - the lessons of Chile (*J-P Beauvais*); Stalinism and repression (*Ivan Hartell*) followed by questions
- 13.00 LUNCH
- 14.00 Workshops on anti-imperialism, racism and fascism, repression and the Strong State
- 16.00 TEA
- 16.30 Summaries from workshops
- 17.15 The revolutionary student movement (*Steve Potter*)
- 17.40 The Fourth International and the IMG (*Tarig Ali*)
- 18.00 Close of rally

In the evening there will be a film and a party with band and disco

STOP IMPERIALIST AID TO CHILE!

The prospect of easy profits is attracting a flood of new investors

Over the last seven months we have carried a series of articles analysing the development of the situation in Chile, the difficulties of the junta, the contradictions between different sectors of the capitalist class, and the first moves towards an organised workers' resistance.

Each time we have revealed the small margin for economic and political manoeuvre of the regime that resulted from the 11 September coup. Each time we have emphasised that in the present economic and political conjuncture in Chile, only massive international aid by imperialism could widen this margin of manoeuvre and give a more long-range perspective to the military rulers.

Up to the end of January, there was nothing massive about this aid. One after another, delegations from foreign governments and banks came to Santiago to study the economic and financial measures taken by the junta to get the economy going again. But their conclusions remained quite circumspect for the most part.

Of course, an American banking consortium agreed to a substantial loan. Of course, a series of multi-national corporations were talking of investing in Chile. Of course, Brazil agreed to a long-term loan of \$50 million. But in comparison to the crisis Chile is going through, these were just several drops of water in a wild sea.

In the last few weeks, the setting has changed. The odour of the corpses of September has receded. The junta has

proved it is in control of the country. It has shown every sign of good will toward foreign investors.

'Social stability', higher profit rates, an army of unemployed—these are encouraging preconditions for investment, are they not? That's what they're beginning to think (and to realize) in the various strongholds of world capitalism. And the responses to the junta's appeals are beginning to flow in, as this note received from Santiago and dated 7 March indicates:

... Raul Saenz, former finance minister in the Frei government and the junta's delegate to the Club of Paris [which agreed on 25 March to allow the junta to postpone repayment of debts worth \$760 million] painted a pretty picture of 'the success the Chilean economy will be able to achieve if it obtains a sufficient reduction in the heavy burden imposed on it by the present cost of servicing its foreign debt.'

'The Club of Paris has already provided sufficient warranties of its broad understanding. The 29 February issue of *El Mercurio* emphasised in this respect:

'The end of the negotiations with the Club of Paris will open promising possibilities for new public and private capital financing for the investments required by the projects under study. These projects could not be achieved by Chilean capital alone.'

'For his part, F. Leniz, the minister of the economy, obtained a series of long-term loans in February from the International Monetary Fund, the World

Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. The precedents thereby established count for more than the credits themselves.

'The Japanese firm Marubeni has just signed an agreement to install a plant for cellulose and other wood derivatives in the south of Chile. The Japanese corporation Mitsubishi Heavy Cement and the Ataka Cy corporation have expressed their intention of investing more than \$50 million in the exploitation of the iron ore deposits in Santa Clara, "given the guarantees that the government of the junta offers to foreign investors."

by
Jean-Pierre Beauvais

'A Canadian company is studying the possibilities of investing in the Carter Cove mine, in which a German Consortium also has an interest. Peugeot has just signed an agreement with Corfo (a Chilean state body) committing itself to invest several million dollars in the Corfo-Peugeot semi-private, semi-public investment corporation to develop automobile and related industries.

'Petrodow (a branch of Dow Chemical) and several petrochemical corporations are discussing a plan to develop the Bio-Bio region.

'Rumania has just offered credits, and

Huerta, the minister of foreign affairs, declared on 23 February in Mexico that Rumania is proposing to invest up to \$100 million in the Chilean mining industry!

'The creation of a Chilean development bank is envisaged for the end of 1974. Forty per cent of its capital will be provided by the World Bank and European investors. This bank will permit medium-sized businesses to obtain investment credits that are generally not available to them through the usual channels.

'On 1 March, a Chilean delegation led by the chairman of the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, Gonzalo Bofill de Caso, left for a three-week "visit" to West Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Spain. Its aim: to tighten trade contacts and present information about possibilities in Chile.'

And our correspondent emphasizes that this is far from being an exhaustive list.

The holy alliance is clearly mobilising to get Pinochet and Co. out of the slump. A holy alliance that finds itself reinforced in a not inconsiderable way by the so-called 'socialist' republic of Comrade Ceausescu. We can bet that very soon other 'comrades' from other so-called socialist republics will do likewise. The terms offered by the Chilean military are so advantageous.

'Aid from the socialist countries as well as aid from the revolutionary movements of the whole world will be funda-

mental,' Miguel Enriquez [of the MIR] told us in the aftermath of the coup.

Seven months later—at a time when a retired general has just been accredited as ambassador of Chile in Peking, when the Chilean CP's line of support to the Christian Democracy is being trumpeted on an international scale by the Stalinist apparatus, when Rumania is offering such credits, etc.—we can ask Comrade Enriquez once again and more insistently than ever: this aid is fundamental, but for whom?

Against the offensive of this international holy alliance we must continue and we must increase in every possible way our denunciation of the aid to the hangmen in Santiago. We must mobilise without let-up so that not one weapon, not a penny, goes to the Chilean military and their partners.

From Peugeot to Mitsubishi, from Hoechst to ITT, from the World Bank to the Club of Paris, the enticing prospects of superprofits paid out of the blood of the Chilean workers must be denounced and blocked.

In doing that, the world-wide movement of solidarity with Chile will develop concretely the traditions and practices of proletarian internationalism. It will continue to give powerful aid to the struggle of the workers and revolutionary militants—from Santiago to Arica, from Valparaiso to Punta Arenas—who, while repressed and decimated, are today laying the basis for the struggle against fascism and imperialism.

Dangers for revolution in Laos coalition

The coalition Government of National Union proposed over a year ago in the Accords on Laos was formally established earlier this month.

Two previous attempts at establishing such a Government, in 1957 and 1962, ended in disaster for the liberation forces, the Pathet Lao. So what are the chances that this one will lead to a more favourable outcome?

The first thing to note is that the signing of the Accords represented a public acknowledgement by the US that it had found itself incapable of halting the revolutionaries. The thousands of Thai mercenaries who made up the backbone of the Royal Lao Army were withdrawn, as were all US servicemen. US bombing missions over Laos also stopped.

POLITICAL STRUGGLE

This retreat of the US changed the emphasis of the struggle from the military to the political. At the same time, both sides saw it as a victory for the Pathet Lao—morale was boosted in the liberated areas, while the effect on the right wing was to shatter it into several quarrelling factions.

Since then the implementation

of the Accords has further strengthened the Pathet Lao's position. They now have a firm foothold in the previously unreachable capital cities of Vientiane and Luang Prabang; indeed, they even have more soldiers there than the Royal Lao Army. In contrast, the Royal Lao Government is unable to send any of its agents into the liberated areas. Moreover, their already dispirited army is being demoralised still further by the free movement of so many armed Pathet Lao cadre.

There remains, however, the question of the coalition. While it is true that the bourgeois representatives have entered the Government entirely on the conditions of the Pathet Lao, and that it formalises a situation in which the revolutionaries hold all the initiatives, there are nevertheless great dangers in this situation.

The main problem lies with the programme of the Pathet Lao, in

which such an alliance with the national bourgeoisie is seen as a necessary 'democratic' stage on the road to socialism. The whole experience of the last twenty years in Laos—in which it has been shown conclusively that socialism can only be won through a struggle against the national bourgeoisie—is thus ignored.

This not only severely miseducates the Pathet Lao cadre as to the real nature of the struggle; it also downgrades the importance of developing soviet-type organs of workers' democracy at the base.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Future developments in Laos will thus depend to a large extent on the ability of the Pathet Lao to break out of this programmatic straitjacket. What will they do when the right attempts to move against them, as it certainly will? What will be their response when the US and other

capitalists cut off all aid? Will they move against the national bourgeoisie—or will they give up the gains they have won in order to maintain the coalition?

The answers to these questions will be all-important for the struggle, and the imperialists have welcomed the present stabilisation as a chance to test out the Pathet Lao's intentions here.

But Laos's main importance for imperialism has always been its strategic position. They are hoping that the Cambodian and Vietnamese insurgents can be persuaded to follow the example of their Laotian comrades and enter an alliance with the local puppets—a move which would compromise the Vietnamese NLF and Cambodian FUNK far more than it has compromised the Pathet Lao. So far, however, there is no indication that either intends to take the hint.

DAVID JOHNSON



Pathet Lao patrol capital city for first time.

French Trotskyists set up new organisation

With the urgent need for revolutionary organisation highlighted by the presidential elections, our French comrades announced on 10 April the creation of a new organisation—the Revolutionary Communist Front. The text of their Appeal appears below:

Tremendous upheavals are on the way in France. The rising swell of workers' struggles, the questioning of the boss's authority in the factory, the mobilisation of school students and young workers against military conscription, unemployment and super-exploitation—these are all signs of the widening of the breach which was opened in May '68.

These struggles of the working class and youth have shown a militancy which neither the repression nor attempts at assimilation have succeeded in breaking. They take place in the context of a deepening of the crisis of the strong State established with the 'coup' in 1958: a crisis of the institutions which the bourgeoisie uses to maintain its rule—the courts, the army, and the police.

In this situation the presidential elections have a special significance. For millions of workers and young people, they can appear as a political outlet for the daily struggles they are involved in. This is all the more so because the impression given by the bourgeois political groupings is of a crisis and divisions without precedent since 1968.

But the response to the crisis offered by the Union of the Left is a joke. The very same people who failed to measure up to the task in May '68—denouncing this revolutionary crisis as a plot

cooked up by the capitalists—today propose nothing more than a slight rearrangement of the system, leaving a free hand to the capitalists to prepare economic and military sabotage for when the time is right.

Not only do they not call on the workers to organise themselves here and now—the only way in which the bourgeois repression can be opposed, and demands successfully won—but they advocate a 'social truce' and 'national unity' which can only have a demobilising effect.

The task of revolutionaries are therefore enormous. Not only must they be present in all struggles which challenge capitalist society, but they must also put forward a political perspective for an increasingly large workers' vanguard which has broken in practice with reformist policies.

It is equally necessary, in case there is a victory for the Union of the Left, to pave the way now for the self-organisation and self-defence of the workers against the determined resistance which will be put up by the capitalists.

Lastly, it is necessary to give these anti-capitalist struggles an internationalist dimension—both by drawing on the lessons of the Chilean experience, and by counterposing the creation of a Socialist United States of Europe to the maintenance of the Europe of trusts and

monopolies [the existence of the latter is not questioned at all by the 'Common Programme' of the Left].

It is because they defend such ideas, and strive to integrate them into their activity, that the revolutionary marxists have always had to put up with repression—bourgeois repression, which uses means such as imprisonment and the banning of organisations. This was what happened to the Communist League, to whose former militants we pledge our support in the struggle to overturn the scandalous decree of 28 June 1973, which hit at them because they had opposed the racist but officially tolerated initiatives of fascist organisations.

Elsewhere, in the very heart of the workers' movement, the revolutionary marxists have had to contend with bureaucratic repression, which has constantly striven—though with increasing difficulty—to exclude them from the workers' movement.

In order to face up to these tasks, to take up again the struggle embarked upon by the Bolshevik Party in Russia and carried on by Trotsky and the Fourth International, to take an active part in the struggle of tens of thousands of revolutionary militants in Europe and the world today, the undersigned have decided to set up an organisation.

In the traditions of proletarian internationalism, this organisation will

strive to integrate the struggle of the French workers with the world-wide struggle against capitalism. In recognising the right to form tendencies, while maintaining the centralisation necessary to prepare the destruction of the capitalist State by the workers themselves, this organisation will break with the Stalinist caricature of democratic centralism.

Finally, it will attempt everywhere to push forward the self-organisation of the working class, to prepare in the struggles of today the socialist self-management of tomorrow, democratically centralised by a State of Workers' Councils.

This is why the undersigned revolutionary militants, having taken part in the major struggles of the working class since 1968, call for the formation of a new organisation and the setting up everywhere of federations and branches so that a founding conference can be held within a short time. With this aim they have already appointed a provisional leadership, and call for a massive recruitment of workers and youth into the new organisation.

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST FRONT!

LONG LIVE THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!

Signed by presidential candidate ALAIN KRIVINE and 30 other leading militants.

International Marxist Group



(British section of the Fourth International)

97 Caledonian Rd., London N.1.

I would like more information about the IMG and its activities

NAME

ADDRESS

Red Weekly

Right wing groups play on women's isolation Rally against SPUC

Most of this week the pages of the capitalist press have been blazoned with reports of women marching in Oxford, calling for the victimisation of trade union militants and a return to work by British Leyland workers at Cowley.

This is a powerful reminder that although women are being increasingly drawn into struggles at their place of work, many remain isolated in the home. They are especially vulnerable to capitalist propaganda, and are a potential force which can be whipped into action by employers and right-wing organisations.

SPUC

Anti-abortion groups, such as the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, by arguing for restrictions on the Abortion Act, re-inforce the idea that women *should* see their first and most important job as housewife and child-rearer.

SPUC has called for higher family allowances, better housing, and an end to the 'stigma of illegitimacy' in leaflets for their rally to be held in London on Sunday, 28 April.

They thus appear to be tackling the problems which women have to confront daily. But what kind of part can women be expected to play in the struggles for better housing or any other demands, if they are even unable to regulate the number of children they have?

Moreover it is clear that SPUC's call for subsidies to induce landlords to house families with children, and for councils to provide larger flats, is not designed to help the homeless, but only to help keep women tied to the home.

Their demand for increased family allowances is the same. They see any addition to the family budget as a way to ensure that women aren't encouraged to find a job outside the home.

SPUC now claims a membership of 80,000. These members, many of them women, can be used for other causes which the SPUC Executive Committee may decide to take up. They have agreed in the past to circulate to their members Mary Whitehouse's petition for the Anti-Obsecenity Bill. Their willingness to use National Front members as stewards at SPUC meetings is even more ominous.

Ad Hoc Committees have been set up throughout the country to fight SPUC's ideas and to organise a counter-rally on 28 April.

Events at Cowley stress the urgency of getting increasing numbers of trade unionists—both men and women—on these committees. Only when the labour movement begins to organise to break down the isolation of women in the home, will they be able to count on the support of women in hard-fought industrial struggles.

The anti-SPUC Rally on Sunday 28 April will assemble at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, at 2.00 pm



Photo: PETER HARRAP (Report)

The Red Ladder group performed their new play on women's oppression for the first time in London on Monday night, before a packed audience at a meeting organised by the London Ad Hoc Committee against SPUC

Essex meeting votes to continue direct action

As the new term started, a mass meeting of the Essex University Student Union re-emphasised its demands for the re-instatement of the three expelled students, and the dropping of all charges and disciplinary hearings.

This occurred despite attempts by the Broad Left dominated Executive to get support for conciliatory moves towards the administration.

They wanted to offer a suspension of direct action if the disciplinary hearings are suspended, pending the results of an independent court of enquiry.

Last term's rent strike is to continue and shops and restaurants handling scab goods are being boycotted, as part of the campaign against victimisation and to underline the demand of the Autumn

occupation for a reduction in prices and rents.

On Wednesday 24 April a mass picket is to be held at the University, and a rally and workshops are being organised. The IMG is proposing a mass picket outside the court for the day proceedings begin against the 105 students arrested on the picket line last month.

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Mandel tour

ERNEST MANDEL, leading spokesman for the Fourth International and Marxist theoretician, is touring Britain this week. He is speaking on 'Europe in Revolt'.

The following meetings have been arranged:

BIRMINGHAM, Thursday 25 April, Digbeth Civic Hall at 7.30 pm.

LONDON, Friday 26 April—Enfield College, 1 pm; LSE Old Theatre, 7.30 pm.

OXFORD, Saturday 27 April, Ruskin College, at 2 pm — teach-in together with Bob Sutcliffe on 'Revolution and Repression'.

KEEP THE ICY WINDS BLOWING!

Last week's *Economist*, in its article on the struggle at British Leyland's Cowley plant, featured the IMG's factory bulletin — the *Organiser*.

Unfortunately, we will not be receiving the sort of copyright fees that the *Economist* would have to pay to any bourgeois journal under similar circumstances.

We rely on contributions from militants in the trade union, student, and women's movement who find *Red Weekly* a valuable instrument in their struggles.

So keep the money coming in—and we can keep the icy winds blowing up the trouser legs of the *Economist* and their ilk.

Send your contribution today! Red Weekly Fund Drive, 97 Caledonian Road, London N1.



A timely warning — this time from angry Lambeth marchers, who confronted their MP, Marcus Lipton, at the House of Commons on Monday

Police evict squatters

Two of London's most militant squatting centres have been attacked by police, and, in well-planned operations the squatters evicted.

A massive force of over 100 police took part in both evictions, and in both a heavy lorry with a winch was used to wrench the doors down.

The police arrived before dawn on Monday at 220 Camden High Street (which is contrary to the laws governing bailiffs), and at 6.50 am the following day at the squat in the Dover Street luxury flats, Mayfair.

There was difficulty in using the system of a phone 'pyramid' to mobilise support, because one of the key phones mysteriously went 'out of order'. Despite this over 100 people were mobilised in support of the squatters, within the space of 1½ hours. They carried out a mass leafletting in Camden High Street, and later that day marched to the home of Joe Levy, whose firm of speculato-

ors own both properties.

After the Dover Street eviction, the squatters marched to Levy's offices in Piccadilly, and then to Westminster City Hall to demand re-housing for all. They rejected the offer of bed and breakfast accommodation made to them by senior Council officials and encamped themselves on the City Hall steps for the afternoon.

Meanwhile a group went off to search for new squats in other Levy properties.

The careful preparation and large turnout by police involved in these evictions show that the State is taking squatting seriously. The active defence of these squats lasted for eighteen days, despite a High Court eviction order, and drew in support from tenants and trade unionists.

Despite the evictions these squats have paved the way for increased united action by squatters, tenants and trade unionists—against speculators, and for decent homes for all.

New support for Working Women's Charter

Forty-five women from nine trade unions met in London on Saturday (20 April) to discuss the basis for a campaign around the demands of the Working Women's Charter, presented last month by the London Trades Council.

There is a possibility that five trades councils in the London area—Camden, Islington, Hackney, Haringey, and Harrow—will be calling local conferences to take up the situation of women workers, and it was proposed that they should be asked to adopt the Charter.

It was reported at the meeting that women's groups in Birmingham, Coventry, and Bristol are already preparing to take up the campaign in their area.

Providing immediate assistance for women in struggle was regarded as a priority by the meeting in London, and a group of women teachers from a language school in Central London came along to discuss the problems they are facing in unionising the school and organising a strike.

An organising committee for the Charter Campaign was formed, and this will hold its first meeting on Saturday, 27 April, 11 am, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1. This will be an open meeting, to which all supporters of the Charter are invited.

DODIE WEPPLER

ARMY RAID BLACK HQ

On 28 March police raided the headquarters of the Caribbean Solidarity Movement in London.

The door was smashed in at six in the morning, and the premises searched along with the occupants. The police had a warrant issued under the 1968 Firearms Act. Needless to say, they found no weapons, but they were able to go through the address lists of the Movement.

This was not an isolated raid on black militants. On the same day a shooting incident occurred in Handsworth, Birmingham. Nobody involved in this incident had any political affiliations, but it was used by the police as an excuse to turn over a local militant organisation, the Afro-Caribbean Movement.

The headquarters of this organisation were raided. Some 30 armed police were involved, accompanied by 3 jeeps full of soldiers. A spokesman for the Afro-Caribbean movement described the soldiers as wearing camouflage battle-dress and red berets. They had guns in the jeep.

The original reason for smashing into the headquarters was that the man involved in the shooting was being hidden there. When this was shown not to be the case, the police accused the black militants of being involved with the IRA.

This is not the first time that troops have appeared in the predominantly black area of Handsworth on patrol. For a 3 week trial period in 1972 there had even been a helicopter patrol over Handsworth. This raid, however, is the first example of 'active service' by the troops.