

Socialist Challenge

SIX TORY POISONS

Photo: JOHN STURROCK [Report]



1. THE CUTS

Tory policies will lead to increasing misery and deaths. In London the GLC has decided not to build any more homes. The Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authorities have refused to implement the cuts. That's the best antidote. P. 5



2. MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

Tory policies will lead to 2m unemployed in 1980. The antidote for this particular poison is revealed on P. 6 & by Dave Bailey



3. IRELAND

Tories back their fellow Unionists in the North, even though the Monster is proving a bit troublesome. Our answer on 12 August See P. 3 & 12

Photo: G. M. COOKSON [Socialist Challenge]

CORRIE'S LAW Forced childbirth

4. ABORTION

Most of the Tories who want a return to hanging are also in favour of restricting abortion rights. The TUC has called a demo on 28 October. We'll make it the biggest yet! See P. 8



5. RACISM AND IMMIGRATION

The poison of racism has spread throughout British society. Nowhere more effectively than in the police and the Home Office. Deportations multiply, attacks continue. Southall asks that it not be forgotten. P. 4



6. ZIMBABWE

Thatcher's poisonous policies have antagonised most of Black Africa. Kaunda and Nyerere have referred to her as 'racially biased'. If she recognises the puppet Muzorewa regime, she could be forced to send British troops to defend it. P. 2 and P. 9

This is our reply to Sir Keith Joseph's BBC radio interview last Monday night in which he detailed his 'six poisons'. Top of his list? Trade-unions, strikes, public expenditure, high taxation, 'egalitarianism', and an 'anti-enterprise culture'.

OUR POLICIES

Capitalism is in crisis. The leaders of the Labour Party and the trade unions offer solutions that are in the interests not of the workers but of the capitalist class.

Socialist Challenge believes that the two vital tasks confronting revolutionary socialists are:

• To build broad-based class struggle tendencies in opposition to class-collaborationism in the labour movement. These should be non-exclusive in character, grouping together militants holding a wide range of political views.

• To begin to fight for the creation of a unified and democratic revolutionary socialist organisation which can, through an application of united front tactics, begin to be seen as an alternative by thousands of workers engaged in struggles.

Such an organisation should be based on the understanding that:

1 The struggle for socialism seeks to unite the fight of workers against the bosses with that of other oppressed layers of society — women, black people, gays — struggling for their liberation. This socialism can only be achieved by creating new organs of power and defeating with all necessary means the power of the capitalist state.

2 Our socialism will be infinitely more democratic than what exists in Britain today, with full rights for all political parties and currents that do not take up arms against the socialist state. The Stalinist models of 'socialism' in the USSR and Eastern Europe have discredited socialism in the eyes of millions of workers throughout the world. We are opposed to them and will offer full support to all those fighting for socialist democracy.

3 The interests of workers and capitalists are irreconcilable on a world scale. Capitalism has not only created a world market, it has created world politics. Thus we fight for working class unity on an international scale. This unity will in the long run be decisive in defeating both the imperialist regimes in the West and the brutal dictatorships they sustain in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Britain it implies demanding the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and letting the Irish people determine their own future.

4 The Communist parties in Europe are in crisis. Neither the 'Eurocommunist' nor the pro-Moscow wings have any meaningful strategy for the overthrow of the capitalist state. New revolutionary socialist parties are more necessary than ever before. Conditions today are more favourable than over the preceding three decades. But such parties can only be built by rejecting sectarianism and seeing internal democracy not as a luxury but as a vital necessity. This means the right to organise factions and tendencies.

If you agree with these principles and want to be involved in activities by Socialist Challenge supporters in your area, fill in the form below and send it to us.

• I am interested in more information about activities in my area.

• I would like additional literature and enclose 50p to cover costs. (Delete if not applicable)

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EDITORIAL

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Zimbabwe

ON THE face of it the possibility that Britain (already heavily committed in Northern Ireland) might send troops to aid Smith in Zimbabwe appears somewhat incredible. But is it?

Callaghan said in the House of Commons that it would be utterly foolish and counter-productive for the Tories to recognise Muzorewa. The logic of this, he insisted, would be to despatch British troops.

Last Sunday the Zambian President, Kenneth Kaunda, repeated the statement virtually wholesale on Canadian radio and an official Zambian paper warned: 'We do not want another Vietnam in Africa. A recognition of Muzorewa would suck British troops into that maelstrom.'

The following Monday the Financial Times went over the same ground and repeated the Callaghan-Kaunda warning:

'The case against Britain going it alone is that all other problems would remain: the fighting would continue and probably intensify. Soviet involvement would increase while Britain's relations with some of the key African states would deteriorate, perhaps to breaking point.'

The fact that three influential voices are

warning against British military involvement would suggest that something is up. We can be sure that A Foreign Office/Defence Ministry briefing which seriously discusses this possibility already exists.

For Margaret Thatcher has made no secret of her desire to recognise the Muzorewa regime. It is exactly the sort of government which could deliver the goods (hence the opposition of influential sections in the City).

If recognition took place and sanctions were lifted, the first demand of Smith-Muzorewa would be for arms and the second for military 'advisors'. And whether the Tories like it or not they would be drawn into a military intervention.

This may not happen. The British ruling class might pull the Tories back from the brink. But the labour movement should regard the present machinations as an early warning. For if British troops are sent into Zimbabwe a mass opposition (on the scale of Suez) will be vital.

Herbert Marcuse

AS WE were going to press we heard of the death of Herbert Marcuse at the age of eighty-four. It was not possible to publish an obituary in this issue, but a detailed appreciation will appear next week.

The row in the Labour Party

by Dave Bailey
Should the Labour Party be run according to democratic principles? Should the leaders of the Labour Party be accountable to the party rank and file? Should the programme of the Labour Party be democratically decided?

These are the questions raised by the NEC last week.

In reality, the Labour Party is two parties, not one. One of these parties operates, broadly speaking, by democratic principles. But the other party operates in the wings. This party, a clique accountable to no-one, has the power of veto over the first.

For years, the elected party conference has voted for one thing, only to find that the unelected PLP draws up an election manifesto containing something entirely different.

For years, the elected party conference has expressed discontent with Labour Prime Ministers, only to find that the PLP re-selects the same unrepresentative individual.

When Labour gets in power, the elected party is heartily trampled on the PLP. Supported by the PLP, MPs evade re-selection by the elected party bodies that first nominated them. Supported by the PLP the Prime Minister, uses wide powers of patronage to fill the government and the state apparatus with non-accountable bureaucrats, bourgeois and flunkies.

The decisions of the NEC, together with the other reforms suggested by Tony Benn, could represent an important challenge to this state of affairs though many of their proposals, such as those on how to elect the Prime Minister, are not good enough.

Callaghan and Basnett reply that the NEC's proposals are not democratic at all, saying that they exclude the views of millions of trade unionists and electors.

But did the electors of 1974 vote

for unemployment, wage controls, cuts in social services...? Of course not. The electors voted in 1974 for a programme that resembles the one drawn up by Benn and the NEC, not the one cobbled together by Callaghan, the PLP.

Did the trade unions vote for these policies? Of course not. Most union conferences have explicitly rejected the policies of Callaghan and the right-wing. The trade union leaders have silenced the true voice of their members by a process of bureaucratic usurpation in the unions matching that of the PLP in the Labour Party!

Callaghan and Basnett oppose party democracy because they know it is they who stand to lose by it. As everyone can see, the fight in the Labour Party is not just about democracy. It is a fight between the left and the right of the labour movement. And it could easily be turned into a bid for power by the left — if the left decides to fight.

If the left really wants to take power in the Labour Party, it will have to find a way of breaking the power of the union bureaucrats. Callaghan will use the union bloc vote to defeat them at the Party Conference in October. The left can do this only by appealing for support to the union rank and file over the heads of the union chiefs.

As well as denouncing the Tories in Parliament and taking their stand on party democracy, the lefts will have to promote mass struggles by trade unionists against the Tory government. This will take Basnett and his cronies in the rear. And the lefts will have to defend the democratic rights of these trade unionists when the union bureaucrats carve up their members for taking action against the Tories.

What Benn and the NEC are doing could take on tremendous importance for the class struggle.

Many workers will say: 'In 1971-74 we used our industrial strength to get rid of Heath, but we let the right stay in charge of the Labour Party. We shouldn't make the same mistake twice.'

We don't believe that the political programme of Benn and the NEC is



anywhere near adequate. But hundreds of thousands of people believe that Benn and the NEC stand for a fight against the Tories and for a socialist government. That is why such a heavy responsibility rests on their shoulders. A victory for the left in the Labour Party should be part and parcel of the fight against the Tories.

British Labour moves into action

Defend the 10 Chartists

AFTER a discussion on its political committee last week, the Communist Party of Great Britain authorised Reuben Falber, the assistant general secretary, to sign the international appeal for the release of the arrested Charter leaders.

The appeal has already been signed by more than 100 Labour MPs and has been officially backed by the Labour Party's NEC.

by Peter Gowan

TEN Fighters for civil liberties are facing trial in Czechoslovakia. As we go to press members of Charter 77 go on trial in the Prague District Court.

Even before the trial is held it is condemned to failure. It was a brutal enough act of violence to outrage virtually all currents in the international labour movement. But not anywhere near sweeping enough to break of the civil rights movement.

Following the arrest of the ten prominent Chartists at the end of May, two new spokespersons immediately came forward to replace the two who had been arrested.

Open letter

The work of editing the **Charter Information Bulletin**, previously done by Petr Uhl, continued. Twelve new activists came forward to join the Committee to Defend Unjustly Prosecuted Persons (VONS), to continue the work of the ten.

Some 231 people sent an open letter to the regime to demand the release of the ten, and public letters were sent from towns in North Bohemia, like Liberec and Turnov.

The journal **Quadrangle** — formerly edited by Jiri Dienstbier — continues to function.

As this kind of work was the very reason the 10 comrades were arrested, strict application of the law would require the immediate arrest of at least another two dozen people. But so far the regime has been content to sharpen the charges against the accused.

All the accused now face between three and ten years in jail if convicted. Many of the younger Charter activists have been threatened with imprisonment for carrying on the work.

But threats like this don't bite very deep when used against people who have long since dedicated their lives to the struggle to end arbitrary bureaucratic violence.

Take, for instance, Jan Bednar. He is a son of Otká Bednarová, one of the ten. Until last year, he was a student at the Economics High School in Prague. Like his mother and brother, Jan signed the Charter. He was then thrown out of the official youth organisation, and out of college.

Next, Jan found a job as a photographic worker in Prague's famous Jewish cemetery. But the police caught up with him, and he was thrown out of work.

Today he is a night watchman. The job could bring in less than £20 a week, an income level below the poverty line.

Jan's mother was once Czechoslovakia's leading woman TV journalist. She is now a chronically sick cleaning woman who faces many years in jail. She has already had her invalid pension withdrawn for political reasons.

What makes the Stalinist bureaucracy think that it can make Jan Bednar abandon his civil rights activities by threatening him with the prospect of joining his mother in prison?

The crackdown in Czechoslovakia has brought unprecedented protests

from the British labour movement.

The international appeal launched in this country by the journal **Labour Focus on Eastern Europe** is supported by such bodies as the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, the Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign and the Committee to Defend Czechoslovak Socialists.

Over 100 Labour MPs and more than 100 delegates to the Transport Workers Union conference have signed the appeal. The Labour Party national executive committee (NEC) has just recently officially backed it.

Members of Parliament like Alex Kitson, Frank Allaun and Rene Short — well known for their friendly attitude towards many of the policies of the Soviet leadership — have added their names.

A delegation from the Labour Party NEC will present the appeal to the Czech embassy this week.

The executive is also officially backing the Charter 77 Defence Fund to help financially assist the families of victims of repression in Czechoslovakia.

In another unprecedented move, the Labour Party executive has backed the provision of legal aid to the arrested Chartists, encouraging the Society of Labour Lawyers to help with their defence.

All these proposals are part of a resolution proposed by Eric Heffer, a leader of the Tribune grouping. They were passed unanimously.

Local Labour Parties, Trades Councils, and trade union branches

have sent resolutions of protest to the Czechoslovak Embassy. The latest resolutions have come from the Colchester and District Trades Council, the Prestwich Labour Party, the York and District Trades Council, and the Manchester local government district committee of the public sector union, NUPE.

The protest campaign will be stepped up after the trial in preparation for an appeal against the sentences. Today, the collection of funds has become very urgent. Defendants in Czechoslovakia have no right to legal aid. For each action a defence lawyer takes, however small, the defendant must pay 36 crowns (over £2).

The accused also have to pay for board and lodging in prison. This will come to many thousands of pounds.

Donations to: **Reg Race, MP, Honorary Treasurer, Charter 77 Defence Fund, House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1.**



LABOUR FOCUS ON EASTERN EUROPE

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A Socialist Defence Bulletin on Eastern Europe and the USSR

Vol. 2 No. 2 May - June 1979 25p

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Victory in Oldham— Abdul Azad stays, OK!

By Pete Clifford,
Secretary Abdul Azad Defence
Committee

LAST Thursday the agony of seventeen year old Abdul Azad came to an end. Returning home after a routine day at the textile factory he was not to know that victory was so close.

When he got home he was visited by his tormentors from the Oldham police. He must have wondered whether they'd come to serve the deportation order. But their mission was a different one.

They informed him that the Home Office had allowed him to stay in the country on 'compassionate grounds'.

Abdul Azad was overjoyed. He hugged his old father Marifatullah. Word of the good news spread rapidly through the Bengali quarter. Bengali youths gathered at the home to join in the celebrations.

Older Bengalis were equally overjoyed. They kissed Abdul and hugged each other. They all knew that it was a victory for the community as a whole.

Readers will recall the details of the Abdul Azad scandal. He was arrested from his factory after his mother was found murdered in her council house.

He was shaken, but not defeated. He threw himself into the campaign with a rare fervor. He spoke at public meetings. On 7 July he joined a picket outside Risley organized by the Campaign Against Immigration Laws.

The effects of the campaign obviously shook the faceless bureaucrats in the Home Office who sign deportation orders every day. Abdul went one step further. He filed a complaint against the police alleging brutality and racist abuse.

Because of the publicity (Granada TV put out a special programme detailing Abdul's plight) the Cheshire police started an investigation. But all the indications are that it will be a complete whitewash.

Sue Deardon, Secretary of Oldham ANL, said: 'What the police do to blacks in prison has become widely accepted. That is why police chiefs have been telling community leaders that they can't understand what Abdul is complaining about.'

'We are organizing an independent inquiry. The NCCL Michael Meacher, MP, and Colin Barrett, Secretary of North West TUC, have agreed to participate.'

The Defence Committee met to celebrate last Friday night. The mood was euphoric. It is not often that we



Southall Show Trials— An appeal from some defendants

WE ARE beginning to feel isolated. 342 of us are charged. Some have been sent to prison, others have been fined and bound over. The overwhelming majority of us will be tried in September and October.

The question arises: what is the British labour movement going to do about it.

We know full well that if even half of the 342 had been white workers, there would have been some action. We know that if a quarter had been members of the SWP or IMG there would have been more interest.

But the bulk of the Southall 342 who work in local factories, Heathrow Airport or in the shops and cafes in Southall, are black.

We do not expect much from the trades unions or the Labour Party. They are interested in collecting our dues and marshalling our votes during elections. But we do expect much more from organisations like the SWP and the IMG and from Socialist Challenge and Socialist

Worker.

When one white anti-racist in Wolverhampton was framed, your paper waged a regular campaign and built broad support. Are not the Southall 342 (who include the Editor of Socialist Challenge) equally important?

Socialist Worker ran an effective campaign to get John Deason and other Right to Work marchers released. They were successful. Are not the Southall 342 as important as John Deason?

We know your answer in advance. We can almost hear your answer in advance. We can almost hear you saying indignantly: 'of course they are. They are more important.' In which case what are you going to do about it, brothers and sisters?

Is not the Anti Nazi League capable of mobilising its London branches to defend the Southall 342. Can we not the ANL and the SWP/IMG to launch a national campaign, with meetings in the towns and the campuses in early

September to mobilise support for us in Southall?

This becomes even more important because of the problems inside Southall itself.

We were very interested to read in last week's Socialist Challenge that Vishnu Sharma, President of the Indian Workers Association, wants the trials stopped. One of our problems has been getting hold of Vishnu to use the strength of the IWA in Southall and get a campaign off the ground. There is growing discontent at the failure of the IWA to act in this situation.

On 10 September the trials will start again. We would like a mass picket of the court in Barnet to show solidarity with the political prisoners. One of those coming up for trial on that day will be Clarence Baker of Misty, who was nearly killed by the police at Southall.

We want your help. The credibility of socialists in Southall will depend to a large extent on whether we get it or not.

TEN DEFENDANTS



He was charged with being an 'illegal immigrant', and held incommunicado for nine days. He was subjected to ill-treatment and racist abuse. The fact that he was heartbroken because of his mother's death was exploited by police.

The Bangladesh Association, the Oldham Anti Nazi League and others, mounted a campaign immediately. An Abdul Azad Defence Committee was set up and the struggle continued.

Michael Meacher, a local Labour MP, took an active interest in the case. The JCWI (Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants) in London began bombarding the Home Office with missives.

Two big public meetings were held in Oldham. These drew in scores and scores of Bengalis. For the Bengali community the case of Abdul Azad became one of crucial importance. For if he could be framed, brutalised and deported, then so could hundreds of others.

The behaviour of Anderton's police (outrageous even by the normal racist standards) aroused hostility throughout the country. Abdul Azad became a symbol of the struggle against the hated immigration laws. The left press publicised the story in all its gory details. Under the pressure of the campaign the local press was forced to report what had taken place.

Most important of all was the fact that Abdul Azad and his aged father decided to fight back. After massive pressure Abdul was released from the notorious Risley Remand Centre. He had been in prison for thirteen weeks.

get victories. It has been agreed that we in the Defence Committee will participate in the regional co-ordinating committee against the immigration laws.

The main lesson of the campaign is simple. It is not British justice which saved Azad but the struggle of the Bengaldeshi community and its supporters.

Mr Khan, president of the Bangladesh Association, told us: 'We've won a tremendous battle. But he was imprisoned for 13 weeks. He lost wages in that period. He must be compensated. And what about the police harassment? We won't forget that. We must fight the racist laws now.'

The last word to Abdul Azad: 'I'm tired, but very pleased that people fought and came on pickets. I am thankful for that. They took ten months to reach a decision. I want to see a change in the law and stop people being held in places like Risley. Get them out!'

Co-ordinating Meeting to
Oppose Immigration Laws

Sunday, 19 August, 2pm.
West Indian Centre, Carmoor
Road, Rusholme, Manchester.

Pollyanna justice

By Steve Ferguson

AS REPORTED in Socialist Challenge in June, the Birmingham Campaign Against Racism in Clubs has been holding weekly pickets outside Pollyanna's, a night club which operates a colour bar. At our first picket, last March, seven people were arrested and they found themselves in court last week.

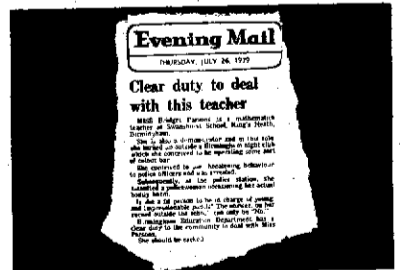
The picket that night was noisy, but nevertheless quite cheerful. That is, until the arrival of a senior police officer. As the chief inspector explained in court, when he neared the club he formed the opinion that a disorderly crowd had gathered.

He later said, when cross-examined, that he felt that he could have arrested the 120 person picket because they were acting 'like animals'. Because he felt it was best for 'race relations' he allowed the picket to remain, but told them to stop chanting and giving out leaflets. He then proceeded to instruct some comrades to remove their banner.

When they questioned his decision he became annoyed and grabbed a woman around the throat. This assault led to a scuffle. The SPG waded in and four arrests were made.

Not content with this, the chief inspector decided 20 minutes later to order his officers to clear the streets. More arrests resulted from this action. It became clear in court that all the senior officers at that picket viewed women demonstrators with utter sexist contempt.

One officer implied that women who use 'unlady-like' language deserve to be arrested. Because of the rough treatment received on the picket, one woman, Bridget Parsons, a SWP teacher, convinced that a comrade was being beaten up in the police station, became distressed. A policewoman tried to restrain her against her will which only made matters worse. The outcome of all this is that Bridget was charged with 'using threatening words or behaviour' and 'assaulting' the



policewoman. The local paper is leading a witchhunt against Bridget. They have already printed an editorial calling for her to be sacked.

Despite a good defence case all seven were convicted and fined a total of £2,000. Some of the fines were higher than for similar offences at West Brom!

This huge amount of money seriously endangers the important work being carried out by the anti-racist movement in Birmingham. With West Brom and now Pollyanna's we need all the help we can get.

If you can help us in anyway, please contact: BCARC, c/o 8 Park Ave., Balsall Heath, Birmingham 13.

Wandsworth SWP ask Are you dropping abortion on demand?

We are sure readers of Socialist Challenge support the campaign to defend abortion rights. However, we in the Wandsworth Socialist Workers Party are disturbed to find that local members of the IMG active on abortion have argued that the slogan 'Abortion on Demand' should be dropped in the fight against the Corrie Bill.

They suggest the central slogan should be 'Defend the 1967 Abortion Act'.

The shortcomings of the 1967 Abortion Act and the way the Act is being eroded by cutbacks in the health service are there for all to see. Yet to preserve the existing provision, we must raise demands that go beyond Corrie and the 1967 Abortion Act.

Merely to defend the existing provision suggests that it is adequate and that pro-abortionists are satisfied with it. Do the IMG and Socialist Challenge wish to create this impression?

Faced with savage Tory attacks, it is essential that the left go on the offensive. It has to demand NHS abortion day care units and better facilities for all women who want abortion.

The alternative to Corrie's Bill is 'Abortion on Demand'.

It is wrong to argue that the slogan may offend people who might otherwise get involved in the fight against the Corrie Bill. Was 'abortion on demand' not a major demand in the struggle against Benyon and White? Huge numbers of people were mobilised then.

The IMG and Socialist Challenge should clarify their position. Otherwise it will lead to serious setbacks in the struggle for 'Free abortion on demand - A woman's right to choose'.

MARION J UPDWICH,
(Wandsworth SWP)

Penny Duggan replies:

Women are facing the most serious attack on their limited rights to abortion since the Abortion Act was passed in 1967. The majority for Corrie's Bill at the Second Reading shows the increasing strength of anti-abortionists in Parliament.

Clearly we have to defeat Corrie's amendment to the '67 Act with all the strength we have. Marion and other SWP comrades are aware of the positions of NAC, which the IMG supports. NAC campaigns for free abortion on demand, for mandatory provision of daycare facilities, and against all legal and medical restrictions on abortions.

Unfortunately these demands do not have mass support. To build a massive campaign against Corrie's amendment's we have to mobilise much broader forces than those presently defending the positions of NAC.

It was for this reason that NAC decided to initiate a broad-based campaign with 'Defend the '67 Act' as the central demand. In so doing it was merely following the excellent example of the Anti Nazi League, which stated its opposition to Immigration Laws, but did not make that a condition for participating in its demos or joining a local ANL.

We agree with the SWP comrades that for us the slogan of 'Abortion on Demand' will be as important as building a broader campaign.

We think that the campaign for the demands mentioned by Marion would receive a tremendous boost if the SWP joined us in building NAC.

CAMPAIGN NEWS



OVER 1100 people bopped for abortion rights at Rock Against Sexism's gig at the Electric Ballroom last Saturday. Spoil Sports, The Gang of Four and Delta Five drew a widely varying audience. But a good time was had by all and NAC, RAS and each of the bands were £100 better off at the end.

Forty trades union supporters of NAC and LARC gathered to speak to members of the TUC General Council before they met last Wednesday. Although not many of the TUC leaders stopped to speak to the lobbyists the message seems to have got through, as the General Council confirmed the call for a demonstration against the Corrie Bill in late October. So far the exact date has not been fixed.

YET another man seems determined to prove that we still have a long way to go before women have the absolute right to decide what happens to their bodies. Brian Sturley is attempting to get an injunction to stop the woman to whom he was engaged getting an

abortion. SPUC have admitted that they are putting up £1,000 towards the legal costs.

Reports from the NAC office show that the campaign is really beginning to lift off nationally. Every day reports of local abortion campaign groups being formed, requests for speakers, and general information pour in. The leaflets and petitions vanish from the office as soon as they can be produced.

The NAC national planning meeting last weekend heard reports of new or revived NAC groups and local activity from as far apart as Brighton, Bristol and Sheffield.

The Standing Committee set up to consider the Bill has had its first meeting. This was dominated by discussions on procedure, with pro-abortion MPs particularly concerned because disputes in the Parliamentary printing firms prevented the members having access to necessary background documents. These included the report from the Royal Commission on the NHS, which recommended more abortion facilities in NHS hospitals, and reports of previous Commons debates

on abortion. The Standing Committee has 17 members, only five of whom voted against the Corrie Bill. Of course none of these five voted for hanging (as did most of the so-called 'pro-lifers') its a moot point who really respects the 'sanctity of life'. The Committee will meet again on 24 October, after the Parliamentary recess.

The campaign has discussed how to involve and inform black and immigrant women. Leicester will be producing leaflets in Urdu and Gujarati which will be passed on to the NAC office for other groups to use.

Outer-West London IMG Public Meeting on Abortion
Speakers: Sarah Roeloffs (NAC Steering Committee) Dr Berry Beaumont
Thursday 9 August, 7.30 pm, Southall Town Hall, High Street, Southall

The International Contraception, Abortion and Sterilisation Campaign (ICASC) is also rallying to support the British struggle. Requests have gone out for simultaneous demonstrations in other countries, for letters of protest to Margaret Thatcher, the Standing Committee and the local British Ambassador and for messages of support to NAC. Prominent pro-abortion campaigners from overseas, including Adele Faccio from Italy have offered to come to Britain at their own expense to speak at press conferences or public meetings.

International Women's Forum organised by ICASC. Friday 3rd August 7.30 Conway Hall: 'The Corrie Anti-abortion Bill and its implications'.

Newcastle Local Authority NUPE have voted to give the local NAC group £50 as material support for NUPE's national policy of support for a woman's right to choose. They are calling on all NUPE sponsored MPs to vote in line with union policy and for the North East Region TUC to put on a train to take supporters to the TUC demo!

The next NAC National Planning Meeting will be on September 1 in Leicester. All affiliated groups may attend and pooled fare will operate. Ring NAC office for details.

DEFEAT the Corrie Bill. N. Manchester & Salford Socialist Challenge Group meeting. Wednesday 15th Aug. 8pm. The Knowsley, Cheetham Hill Rd., near Cheetham Town Hall.

21-23 September 1979

MARXIST SYMPOSIUM

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10.30-1.30pm
CURRENT ISSUES OF MARXISM
Perry Anderson

2.30-5.00pm
Workshops
The Debate on English History, Alternative Economic Strategy, Bahro's Marxism
Speakers include: Perry Anderson, John Ross, Alan Freeman, Gunther Minnerup

7.30-10.00pm
RALLY
100th ANNIVERSARY OF TROTSKY'S BIRTH
Speakers include: Pierre Frank, Tariq Ali, the Voice of Leon Trotsky

DAY TWO

10.00-1.00pm
IS LENINISM OBSOLETE?
Dodie Weppeler and others

Workshops
Class Analysis & Political Strategy, Kautsky & Eurocommunism
Speakers include: Robin Blackburn

VENUE: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London

2.00-5.00pm
CULTURE AND POLITICS
Francis Mulhern

Workshops
The trade unions today; workers control, youth and revolution.
Speakers include: Dave Bailey, Celia Pugh, Judith Arkwright Steve Jefferys (SWP)

DAY THREE

10.00-1.00pm
TWO TRADITIONS OF MARXISM IN BRITAIN
John Ross

Workshops
Workers Plans, Women in Eastern Europe
Speakers include: Hilary Wainwright

2.00-5.00pm
THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT IN EUROPE
Chris Harman (SWP), Tariq Ali (IMG)

Creche facilities
Refreshments available

£1 a session.
£5.50 six sessions excluding the rally
£1 for rally.
£5 for all the sessions except the rally [£6 including the rally] if paid before 1 September.

FIGHTING FOR THE

With Thatcher in power, more and more workers will face the sack. The numbers on the dole are likely to grow dramatically if the policies her Cabinet have announced are applied.

The working class met Heath's redundancy offensive with a huge wave of sit-ins and factory occupations.

Much was learnt in those years which needs to be applied today. DAVE BAILEY discusses the great battles with Heath over jobs.

Everybody knows that Britain faces ever increasing unemployment. Nobody troubles to conceal this fact any longer. Millions face the sack.

It isn't because British workers don't work as hard as anybody else. It isn't because of the oil crisis. It isn't because the pound is rising against the dollar.

And although the Tories have a deliberate strategy of using unemployment it isn't because the employers have got their own people back into power.

The reason Britain is the sick man of Europe is because for two centuries it ruled the globe.

Britain was the world's first industrial power. It has fallen victim to all the disadvantages of being first, so that today it has been overtaken by all its major imitators.

The results are illustrated by the situation in two of the industries now in the news, shipbuilding and steel.

A century ago, when Britain ruled the seas, ships of less than 100,000 tons were big enough to carry the world's cargoes. Today, the most important commodities, such as oil, the life-blood of the industrialised countries, are carried about the globe by ships three times that size and weight.

The yards on the Clyde or on the Tees were not built to accommodate these. Ships of this class are built in Japan or the USA.

British shipbuilding is unable to keep pace even when it comes to ships of smaller size. Over two-thirds of British tonnage is built abroad, a record for an industrial power. The renewed attempt to close Govan is only the latest episode in a saga which still has many years to run.

Take steel. A century ago, steel was made with local ores and lots of coal. Hundreds of steel masters set up business in every nook and cranny of our coal rich country. Here were the roots of the industrial revolution. Today steel is made on the coast where ships can dock with thousands of tons of iron ore from abroad. And steel is made with an oxygen lance, using only the minimum of coal.

This is why BSC wants to restrict steel making to half a dozen oxygen using coastal sites. There is no place here for the old inland coal based mills like Bilston and Corby. But even

this plan will leave Britain miles behind. Japan and the USA have both already built a fully integrated steel mill large enough to produce the equivalent output of the entire British Steel Corporation.

Like every other capitalist country, Britain is facing rapid technological change. The introduction of the micro-chip for example, will revolutionise the information-handling side of businesses worldwide. But Britain is least able to absorb such changes when its traditional industries are in such great need of renovation.

The only way to avoid the harsh consequences of the uneven development of capitalism is to reconvert British industry under a single economic plan. But this can never be arranged under private enterprise. Britain needs a socialist revolution as never before.

Occupation

With the advent of the Thatcher government, the working class has to rally its forces afresh to the struggle for socialism. The labour movement has to pick itself up after four years of defeat and re-enter the fray.

Let's take a look at how the labour movement tackled unemployment last time — under Heath.

Under the last Tory government, workers faced with redundancy did something they had seldom done before. When redundancies were announced they occupied the plant. This was an important break with the past. Over one hundred factory occupations took place between 1971 and 1974.

A good example is the struggle that took place in 1971 in the Plessey factory at Alexandria in Scotland. Plessey, a keen rationaliser, had bought the factory from the Royal Navy. It wanted to sell off the valuable torpedo making machinery, and take the rest of the machinery to plants in southern England and to the low wage economies of Portugal and South Africa.

The workers occupied the plant. Anticipating police attack, they ringed it with barbed wire, and alerted the 7,000 workers whom private enterprise had already made

redundant in the area. It took five patient months to bring Plessey to its knees, but the 700 jobs were saved.

The factory occupations of those years met with varying degrees of success. Some were completely defeated. Some had good leaders, some bad. In some cases the workers gritted their teeth and held out for months. In others, they drifted off to jobs somewhere else.

Nevertheless, for several reasons, the seizure of the factory gave workers an invaluable weapon in the fight for jobs. The reasons are worth codifying.

The buildings of towns and cities are owned by private enterprise or controlled by its supporters. Municipal buildings and office blocks, with their meeting halls and communication facilities, are not there for the benefit of workers. The factory in which the workers spend their lives is often the best available place in which workers can organise the fight to save their livelihoods.

By seizing the factory, workers fighting for their jobs also keep themselves together instead of scattering to their homes.

The occupation also helps to prevent the dismantling of the factory. Physical occupation is often far more effective in stopping the movement of supplies, machinery and other property, than a picket on the gates.

Above all, by seizing the employer's fixed assets, the workers can radically alter the relationship of forces. By laying hold of the employers' assets, the workers can say: 'we will return your possessions to you, when you restore our future to us.' This is often decisive, especially when the machinery for the land is the object of speculative sale.

Occupation of the plant is the best thing to do when faced with redundancy.

UCS

Without socialism even the greatest successes in the fight to save jobs are likely to be temporary. The assault on jobs will roll on relentlessly. But these struggles, win or lose, are indispensable. Some of them leave behind lifelong opponents of the capitalist class. Yet others may

trigger off social movements that open the way to socialism.

The classic case of this is Upper Clyde Shipbuilders. UCS was a consortium of 5 Glasgow shipyards which Heath tried to break up. He wanted to close down two of them and hive off the others to private firms. The workers replied by taking over the shipyards. Overnight, the UCS workers were at the head of a national movement against the Tory government.

The occupation was not a conventional one. The workers took charge of the plant, controlled the gates, excluded the Liquidator, and prevented the movement of machinery. But they also paid discharged workers from a fighting fund, and finished the ships under the supervision of the shop stewards. This was the 'work-in'.

The work-in had its pros and cons. Finishing the ships under their own control was a symbolic affirmation of the right to work. It excited support. But there was the risk that the work would run out before victory was achieved, though there was talk of holding completed ships hostage.

(The present decision at Govan to give up holidays to finish the Polish order has little in common with this. Some of the men call it a 'work-out' rather than a 'work-in'.)

The tremendous impact of UCS stemmed basically from two things. First, the workers were in a strategic position. The shipyards were at the very heart of the Scottish economy, and tens of thousands of jobs depended on them. The seizure of the yards was therefore a dramatic event.

Second, the shop stewards seized the chance to raise a political movement to throw out the Tories. This was the most important point. Hundreds of meetings on this theme were held all over the country. 80,000 workers marched through Glasgow. Scottish miners talked of strike action.

There can be no doubt that the UCS workers played a big role in building the movement that led to the defeat of the Tory government in 1974 at the hands of the miners.

Heath could have been brought down much earlier if the TUC had seized on his predicament. The TUC and Labour leaders could have launched a determined attack on the Tories at the time of the work-in. Opposition to wage restraint, the Industrial Relations Act as well as the 'lame-duck' policy ran deep.

Instead, the TUC saved Heath after his first defeat by the miners in 1972, and one result of this was that the UCS workers were forced to make concessions over their jobs that they might otherwise have avoided.

What we need today is another



UCS. Thatcher's government is every bit as bad as Heath's. We need another UCS to raise a mass movement to sweep her out of power similar to the one that overthrew Heath.

But there are other lessons to be learned from the Heath period. The tremendous head of steam built up under Heath was wasted by the Wilson-Callaghan government. The chance to introduce socialism was thrown away. The working class should try to avoid a repeat of this experience.

The labour movement should not only occupy the factories it should draw up an economic plan for solving



Stop the chat and fight back

Liverpool to Blackpool, 1-5 September

Will I get paid my dole money?
Before you go on the march just tell the dole office you are going on the march and ask for a holiday form. You will get your money paid to you as normal.

What about food and accommodation?
The marchers will be sleeping in big tents we have hired. All food will be provided free to all marchers. We will be collecting the money from trade unionists up and down the country.

What sort of entertainment is laid on?
Big dances and discos are being organised for every town we will be in. Several punk rock, rock and reggae bands have already offered their services. While we are telling them that we've got the right to work we'll make sure we have a good time. It will all be free for the marchers.



I would like to join the march/have more information about the march

Name

Address

Send to: Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Rd., London N4
Phone 01-802 09781

RIGHT TO WORK



employment. The Lucas workers have a plan for alternative production on the basis of social need. The construction unions are demanding workers be taken off the dole to do useful public work, such as house building. All these schemes should be put together to make a national workers plan, for a socialised economy.

This would be a real asset to the working class. It would expose the minimal irresponsibility of private enterprise in Britain. It would show millions of people that unemployment is not natural or inevitable. It would show that it can be cured. And it would lay the basis for a real

socialist government.

Second, the left wing of the Labour Party should adopt fighting policies and make a serious bid for the leadership of the Labour Party. A heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of Tony Benn and the Labour Left, whom millions of people see as representing socialism.

Finally, we need to build a revolutionary socialist party that can lead the British revolution to success.

The fight against unemployment will be a vital part of building a mass movement to drive this government out of office and begin the socialist revolution.



Are co-ops the answer?

In the battles under the Heath administration, some workers tried to set up co-operatives. Is this a good example to follow in the future?

It is easy to see how the idea of co-operatives caught on. It always seems a great pity to have to hand a factory back to the employer at the end of the day, even if jobs are restored. The return of the employer threatens the freedom that is won during the course of the occupation.

Marx was very enthusiastic about co-ops at the time of the First International. The great merit of a co-op he said, is 'to practically show that the present pauperising, and despotic system of the subordination of labour to capital can be superseded by the republican and beneficent system of the association of free and equal producers'.

He recognised, of course, that the co-operative system could never transform capitalist society. To do this, the workers would have to take power and reorganise industry as a whole. But the co-ops could set an example and inspire other workers with socialist ideas.

It isn't always the case that the capitalist market rules out a workers' co-operative. The Meriden co-op is a good example. In 1973, Norton-Villiers Triumph tried to close its Meriden works in Coventry. All 1,750 workers faced the sack.

The workers did not accept that there was no market for the BSA bike. Since then, the co-op has been selling its bikes in the USA. The workers thought that part of the reason why NVT wanted to close Meriden was land speculation.

The co-op that produced the *Scottish Daily News* in Scotland in 1975 might have survived if it had been able to produce a different kind of product to the one produced by Beaverbrook. However, none of the trade union bureaucrats were interested in a workers newspaper and the paper folded.

However, other co-ops have foundered on the rocks of the capitalist market. The Kirkby co-op is a case in point. This demonstrates yet again that there are very few opportunities of profitable production that private capitalists overlook.

The biggest problem the co-ops face is finance. A co-op means the workers have to buy the enterprise from its owners. No retailer will accept products made with 'stolen stock'. No bank will supply credit to a company operating with 'stolen' assets.

The workers at Meriden and the *Scottish Daily News* contributed their life savings. But the millions needed to but out the employer's debts, could only come from the government.

When Meriden applied to Heath for capital, the Tories played for time. NVT was hoping to seize the factory with the aid of the police when the workers' backs were turned.

The 1974 Labour Government set aside up to £10 million for co-operative experiments. Yet while Labour handed out millions of pounds to private enterprise, the co-ops received loans.

Labour never considered expropriating the private owners. Instead, the workers were saddled with crushing financial burdens.

It is by refusing to waive the interest payments on the Meriden loan that the Thatcher government is seeking to close down Meriden now.

A real socialist government would assist co-ops. But more than that. It would nationalise private enterprise as a whole. The co-ops would then lose their private character and become part of an economy democratically run by the working class.

London to build no more homes

by Dave Bailey

The Greater London Council is to build no more houses. That was the decision taken at a meeting of the GLC last week.

This latest cuts move means that the GLC will commission the building of no more houses, either from its direct labour department (which is to close), or from private contractors. All house building is simply to end. It has also been reported that houses falling vacant are no longer being rented but sold on the private market.

Never mind the thousands of homeless people living in the capital. Never mind the thousands waiting to get out of the slums in Hackney, Islington, or Lambeth. Never mind the thousands of working class people who've been on the waiting list for a council house for twenty or thirty years.

As far as the GLC are concerned, all these people can just go to hell.

The workers and their families can rot in their rack-rented bed-sits. They

can make do with their rat-infested council estates. The overworked mothers should get some valium and stop moaning. The old-age pensioners can stay in the tower blocks. They're dying anyway.

Of course, the members of the GLC who took the decision live in Hampstead, St Johns Wood, or on estates in Surrey. They can get a hot bath and a shower every day. Or a swim in the back garden. Their old folks don't die of hypothermia. Their wives have servants. Their children don't play on balconies; They have nannies and go to the local pony club.

The GLC's decision is yet another step towards the disappearance of classes. This of course is a well known trend in a democracy.

The GLC's decision will also encourage those people who show a bit of initiative. The 250 sites once earmarked by the GLC for housing development will now be sold to private property developers. It is well known that this is one of the most

enterprising and hard-working sections of our community.

These people will build much better houses than the GLC: penthouse flats, and houses for people who've already got one in the country and want a weekend pad in town.

According to Labour's London housing spokesperson, Gladys Dimson, there are already offshore consortiums looking for the sites in Kensington, and Chelsea, Westminster, Islington and Camden.

This means that sites set aside to house teachers, bus drivers, hospital porters and refuse collectors will now be used for luxury homes. Still hospital porters and dustbin men are accustomed to rubbish. Let them stay amongst the garbage where they belong.

The GLC's decision will save a lot of taxpayers' money. It will cut out one thousand jobs and save £30 million. George Tremlett was justly proud of his decision. 'We're ahead of the Government in its cuts programme' he said.

He's setting a good example, and he predicts that councils in other parts of the country will soon be following it.

Will the TUC act?

by Alan Turner

THE PRELIMINARY agenda for the annual congress of the TUC, published last Monday, reflects the growing anger in the trade union movement against the ever-increasing Tory cuts.

A further one billion pounds worth of additional cuts are due to be announced this week. Even this will not be the end of the attack on social expenditure. The latest Tory plans include:

- ★ A slashing of the building of council houses from 90,000 a year to 30,000

- ★ £35 million to be sliced off urgently need capital building programmes for schools

- ★ The abolition of all subsidies for overseas students

- ★ A cut of £10 million in medical research

This new round of cuts comes on top of the plans to slash expenditure on education — with 50,000 teachers jobs at stake, the threatened abandonment of schemes to tackle youth unemployment and the mounting 'death list' resulting from the Tory attacks on the National Health Service.

In reply to these attacks the TUC agenda has ten resolutions scheduled for debate at its September congress in Blackpool. Among them is one from the Inland Revenue Staff Federation which calls on the TUC, 'to resist the damaging economic and

social consequences by every means open to it which are consistent with democracy'.

A resolution from the National Union of Public Employees sounds no less militant: 'Congress expresses its determined opposition to any restriction of socially desirable public expenditure. It instructs the General Council to develop a campaign which will co-ordinate the activities of all TUC affiliates to express that opposition'.

On the same subject a motion from the Civil and Public Services Association suggests a programme on which the fight against the cuts should be based. This includes the demand for an immediate and, 're-nationalisation without compensation of de-nationalised industries or functions'.

The only thing that is missing from all these resolutions is a concrete plan of action on how the cuts are to be resisted. But this is clearly what is needed — and needed quickly if the Tory Government's attacks on the welfare state are to be successfully defeated.

Such a plan would include linking up with local Labour councils who refuse to implement the cuts, co-ordinating the various local campaigns into one organised national fight-back and recognising that national, all-out action is the only way the modern welfare state can be saved from the Tory axe.

Lambeth says no to cuts

CONSTITUENCY LABOUR parties in the London borough of Lambeth have called for all-out opposition to any cuts in local government expenditure.

At the 100-strong Lambeth local government conference held last Sunday the delegates from the Labour Parties agreed a policy which, if carried out, would bring Lambeth council into direct confrontation with the Tory Government.

Among the policies adopted was one which called on the Labour group in Lambeth to, 'not agree to cut its programme and...fight a sustained

rear-guard action up and including, if necessary withdrawal or resignation from the Council or its committees'.

The conference went on to agree to 'work as never before to build a movement of solidarity with Labour councillors who resist the cuts'.

Labour has a majority on Lambeth council so if these policies are implemented then local government in Lambeth could grind to a halt. But the conference itself was only advisory and a number of councillors present made no secret of their opposition to the militant policies agreed by the delegates.



Photo: G. M. COOKSON [Socialist Challenge]



No cuts in John 'o' Groats

By George Kerevan in Thurso

SUMMER VISITORS to Thurso, near John 'o' Groats in the northeast tip of Scotland, have a new attraction this year. The experimental fast breeder nuclear reactor at Dounreay has opened its doors to the public in a bid by the UK Atomic Energy Authority to combat the rise of the anti-nuclear power movement.

Each week-day, three groups of ten well-frisked tourists are taken through Star Wars computer-operated vaults and airlocks into PFR, the Prototype Fast Reactor, to be lectured on how safe atomic power really is.

Such a thing could not take place

in France or Germany where reactors are heavily guarded, ostensibly against protestors, and even Dounreay was still dithering about the risks at the end of last year. But the reaction to Windscale and the mass demonstrations in London and Torness have convinced the UKAEA of the need for some concerted public relations.

The visit is intentionally disarming. Inside the Reactor Hall is like inside any big factory. Apprentices in dirty blue overalls stand around chatting, and the man in the 'irradiated fuel cave' reads his *Daily Record* with apparent unconcern. (There was a noticeable absence of women).

The weight of public opinion in Thurso itself is overwhelmingly in favour of Dounreay which has brought local prosperity for the past fifteen years. Two thousand of the town's ten thousand population work there.

But the UKAEA don't tell it like it is. It's what they leave out of the presentation that is disturbing. Attached to Dounreay is HMS *Vulcan*, a British navy shore station which trains naval personnel in the techniques of handling reactors in nuclear submarines.

Vulcan also carries out long range research into reactor designs for the submarines of ten years hence. This research work is handled by a civilian contractor, Rolls Royce Associates. The reason for the proximity of HMS *Vulcan* to Dounreay, however, consists not just to interchange

workers and facilities, though this happens. They are together because they share a common sewer.

HMS *Vulcan* uses the Dounreay water discharge system carrying the water used in cooling reactors back into the Pentland Firth. There are good grounds for believing that *Vulcan* is flushing atomic waste products out to sea through this system as a side-effect of the research work being carried on there. Further, and maybe more dangerous in the short term, *Vulcan* is using its common sewer with Dounreay to flush chemical residues away, including chromate.

Visitors to Dounreay leave without a word about HMS *Vulcan*. The military aspects of the Dounreay operation are never mentioned.

The British visitors in my group seemed a trifle muted by the whole

experience. No so a pair of French ecologists who made a gallant effort in broken English to convince our guide of the dangers of a hasty switch to a plutonium economy under capitalism.

Look, they said pointing out to sea, how much hotter is the water when you pump it back? Seven degrees centigrade, came the answer: too little to worry about. Besides, Dounreay has a fishing boat which keeps an eye on things.

I left the Frenchmen doing their best to explain that Captain Cousteau had been diving off where the French had been pumping hot water into the sea and had come up calling for a vote for the Ecology candidates in the French elections.

The guide replied that things are different in Britain. May'be, but not for long!

The 'African' Queen...

Despite the spectre of a ring of guerillas hiding in the bush with heat-seeking missiles at the ready, the Queen's lightning trip to Zambia and neighbouring states has gone ahead. Undoubtedly this was an attempt to revive the flagging spirit of Commonwealth 'loyalty' among black African leaders before the bitter rows of the Commonwealth Conference.

RICHARD CARVER takes a closer look at the site of the Conference and at the big issue that will dominate the Conference proceedings — Zimbabwe.

in Zambia

MOST Zambians are amused by the frenzy about the personal security of the Queen of England. Her Majesty invariably gets the very best hospitality.

By contrast 2,500 people — a conservative estimate — have been killed in recent Rhodesian raids on Zambia. The latest attack was an express warning to Zambia against Prime Ministers Conference in Lusaka.

The anxiety about the Queen's safety has been whipped up in Fleet Street to heap discredit on the Zimbabwean liberation movement. The Rhodesian regime is hardly likely to threaten the British monarch at a time when the Tory government seems to be creeping towards diplomatic recognition. And, Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU will be more concerned with lobbying the conference than with blowing it up.

The Queen will be carefully sheltered from the real Zambia. She will be shown no sign of an economy devastated by the war with the Rhodesians. In the south of the country, whole areas have been depopulated, leaving crops unharvested or rotting in storerooms. The Kazangula ferry, the trade link with Botswana, has been destroyed, cutting off 14,000 tons of goods a month.

The target of the Rhodesian onslaught is not the ZAPU guerillas but the Zambian Government. Kenneth Kaunda's regime has always been the weak link among the 'front line states'.

Kaunda heads a one-party bureaucracy which has used its monopoly of political power to transform itself into a capitalist class. To keep hold of its, economic power it

therefore needs to maintain itself in government. Self-interest predominates over principles even more than might be expected.

Kaunda is much given to spectacular turnarounds, generally accompanied by public displays of weeping. It was this doyen of independent black leaders who reopened the rail link with Rhodesia and responded to overtures of detente from South Africa. And it was Kaunda who organised the secret meeting between Ian Smith and Nkomo last August.

Both the Tories and the new Muzorewa government will put the maximum pressure on Kaunda to break ranks. Already Rhodesian Foreign Minister, David Mukome, is reportedly trying to organise a meeting between Kaunda and Muzorewa. The same reports indicate that Kaunda may be prepared to come to terms if Muzorewa declares himself an interim Prime Minister.

Accounts of these negotiations mention the background role played by a firm with Zambian and Rhodesian interests. This can only be Lonrho, the British-based multinational. When Kaunda organised the Smith-Nkomo meeting last August it was Lonrho which put him up to it.

According to an executive of a Rhodesian-based Lonrho subsidiary 'the removal of sanctions would mean a lot to us in plain material terms, at least 20 per cent in volume and about the same in price.'

Yet Lonrho has a far larger stake in independent black Africa. In common with most multinationals it would prefer sanctions to be lifted on terms which were acceptable to its black clients as well.

then, there should be little conflict. When Labour was in power, relations between Britain and the Commonwealth over southern Africa were harmonious. The Anglo-American plan for an all-party transition in Zimbabwe appeased all the various interest groups.

The Thatcher approach of dealing direct with the white puppet regime may have a similar end result, but it tramples on black sensibilities and black lives. The regimes which proclaim their pan-Africanism loudest are not generally the most radical. Nigeria, for example, enshrines pan-Africanism in its new constitution — alongside strict immigration controls!

However, countries which have been consistently trampled on and abused by imperialism are not now going to be bypassed over Zimbabwe. Nigeria in particular has the power to make its voice heard. It provides a large proportion of America's oil, for example — a particularly potent



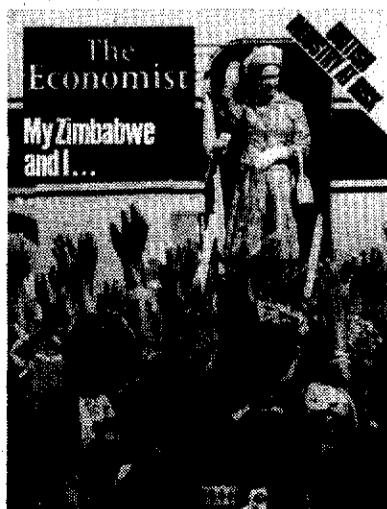
"To recognise or not to recognise? That is the question."

in Zimbabwe

WHEN Britain's last Tory government tried to reach a deal with the white Rhodesian government, the bulk of black leaders threatened to split the Commonwealth. This time they will be even quicker to use this threat. Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington have probably already toned down their speeches so as to head off trouble.

The Prime Minister made a tactless start with her declaration that sanctions would be lifted, regardless of what the Commonwealth or anyone else said. Thatcher has yet to learn what more experienced practitioners like James Callaghan know already — one has to go through the motions.

The vast bulk of the Commonwealth states are neo-colonial — ruled and exploited by a partnership of the local elite and the multinational companies. That is precisely the sort of state that British governments past and present want to set up in Zimbabwe. On the face of it,



weapon at the moment. And in June it put a ban on British companies tendering for contracts — just a warning of what it is capable of.

Thatcher is therefore likely to take

the Commonwealth conference quietly. She will see if she can pressurise some of the weaker black African countries. The host country, Zambia, will be first in line (see article on this page).

Whether Thatcher finally decides to lift sanctions in November will be decided by a combination of backbench pressure and manoeuvres in Africa. The boost for the Rhodesian economy would be considerable. The 15-20 per cent of trade revenue spent on sanctions busting could now be pocketed, and arms would be easier to get hold of.

Yet this will not solve the problems of the Muzorewa regime. It is wracked by internal dissent and the rivalry with Reverend Sithole has now broken out into open fighting. The publication of the budget last week — 37 per cent on defence — shows who is really winning the war.

The struggle on the ground remains the decisive factor — something which nobody at the Lusaka conference is likely to forget.

What sort of solidarity?

THE article by Steve Potter on the development of a Zimbabwe solidarity movement (28 June) invited others to contribute their ideas on the way forward for such a movement. I'd like to contribute on the basis of the experience of the Zimbabwe Solidarity Group in Nottingham, of which I'm a member and which has been active for six months now.

The planned demonstration on 11 November will presumably provide the national focus for the solidarity movement — but the priority now must be to organise locally to lay the groundwork for a movement with some power.

What this requires is:

- * Local groups affiliated to the Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee which are open to any individual or group willing to support the three main demands of ZECC. In some cities the existing Anti-Apartheid group may be able to fulfil this role. In others something new may be necessary, as was the case in Nottingham (though the university Anti-Apartheid branch works closely with us).

- * Close liaison with local members of ZANU and ZAPU.

- * The following are possible activities for such a group: fund-raising for the Patriotic Front or for campaign work; raising material aid (clothes, blankets, medical kits); putting out counter information; and obtaining support from trade unionists in workplaces with actual or potential trade links with Zimbabwe, for the direct implementation of sanctions should the Tories lift them.

Turning to Steve Potter's article, there's a lot that I agree with and in general Socialist Challenge is to be congratulated on its coverage of Zimbabwe, but I'd like to take up some of his points.

First, he talks about drawing black youth into the campaign.

In Nottingham we've been able to co-operate with black revolutionaries, partly because we've recognised that we are whites giving support to a black struggle, and that our role as whites is to challenge the racist and pro-imperialist consciousness of other whites, not to organise black people.

Second, Steve argues that raising material aid for the Patriotic Front is an irrelevance, compared to the task of building a movement that will tie the hands of our government.

In one sense that's true, but the two aren't necessarily in contradiction. We've found that asking people for materials for the refugees and the liberation struggle is a way of starting to talk to them about the political issues.

Third, he talks about getting resolutions through trade union bodies calling on the whole labour movement to implement sanctions. Fine words, but how many thousands of paper resolutions has the left, including Anti-Apartheid, got through trade union bodies to absolutely no effect?

We have to recognise both the importance and the immense difficulty of getting trades unionists to implement direct sanctions, and start a realistic discussion of how it can be done.

This will involve drawing on the kind of experience built up during the Chile Solidarity Campaign in boycotting trade, and also looking at the way Manchester Anti-Apartheid has built links with trade unionists through a speaking tour of factories.

Finally, Steve says that the International Marxist Group unconditionally supports the Patriotic Front in its attempts to overthrow colonial domination. Agreed! Yet in an article from the Africa in Struggle Collective on the opposite page both ZANU and ZAPU are almost slanderously written off as petty-bourgeois led (isn't the IMG?) and interested only in national liberation and not socialism.

JOHN WALLER (Nottingham Zimbabwe Solidarity Group, and member of Big Flame)

Why Paisley is a reason for getting out the troops



By Geoff Bell

THERE is a song by Cormac, the cartoonist and singer. It has the following verse:

'For liberals and moderates I do not give a straw,

They kept us down for 50 years and say now keep the law,

They say, now wait another hundred years,

And help allay the right wing fears,

Crawl back in your gutter Paddy Reilly.'

These words are topical. Ian Paisley is once more demonstrating the unsavoury nature of Loyalist politics. And this promises to produce all sorts of fresh warnings about what the Protestants would do if the British pulled out.

For the British ruling class, Paisley is a two-edged sword. The Loyalists' leader's outbursts at the European Parliament and his determined opposition to the Pope visiting Ireland is rather embarrassing for the British. After all, Paisley is the strongest advocate for them staying in the North of Ireland.

On the other hand, Paisley's mass support, as shown in the European elections, can provide a justification for British troops staying in Ireland: they are need to 'restrain the forces of Protestant extremism'.

Britain can once again raise the spectre of Paisleyism and its supporters applying the 'final solution' to Northern Irish Catholics.

But if the Loyalists have the desire and ability to inflict astronomical casualties on the Catholic population in the event of a British withdrawal, why does Paisley shout louder than anyone else that British troops have to stay?

Again, if the Catholics face the prospect of mass liquidation after Britain leaves, why are more and more Catholics demanding withdrawal?

The main political parties in the South, major political representatives of the Catholics in the North, and even the head of the Irish Catholic Church — all agree that Britain has to go. But the advocates of immediate withdrawal are found in the revolutionary and anti-imperialist movements.

Yet these would be the first targets of such a final solution. So unless they share a collective death wish, why are they so insistent on 'troops out now'?

This poses yet another gaping contradiction for those who argue that Paisley's final solution is at hand the minute Britain leaves.

Those who demand troops out now don't believe they would be in mortal danger if Britain were to go. On the contrary they believe there is

mortal danger while Britain stays.

What reason would the Loyalists have for starting an anti-Catholic pogrom? This is where the rise of Paisley becomes significant. That rise has witnessed the greatest splintering in the Loyalists politics ever seen. Paisley has emerged as the top dog, but there are plenty of other dogs in the pack and they are all barking at each other.

The reason for this is that the Loyalists can no longer agree on any single solution. They are divided over direct rule, over a return to Stormont, over independence. Some Protestant bourgeois even recognise that in a peaceful, capitalist, united Ireland they could well have much to gain. It is such splits that seriously weaken the ability of Loyalists to agree on a common way forward; the only agreement there is at the moment is that Britain has to stay.

Remove Britain and even that unifying factor goes. The splits in the Loyalist camp would multiply. No common way forward would be found and the physical danger to the Catholic population would diminish.

Of course, no guarantee can be given that not one ounce of Catholic blood will flow should British troops leave. What is certain is that the longer Britain stays, the longer blood will flow.

If, as many suggest, Britain were

to 'name a date' for withdrawal, say for three years hence, what would the Protestants do faced with such a declaration? It is fairly safe to predict that they would launch the most deadly assault on the Catholic population to try and force Britain to stay.

It is wrong to think that Loyalist violence is 'motiveless'. The worst period of sectarian assassinations of Catholics followed the suspension of Stormont in 1972, where there was real speculation about British withdrawal. The violence was launched to try and force the security forces to step up repression of Catholics, and to blackmail Britain into staying.

In the event of an immediate withdrawal these two reasons for violence would no longer apply. The bulk of the security forces would have gone. Little pressure could be put on Britain to stay because Britain would have left. On the other hand, a campaign of violence directed against the Catholics with the aim of bringing Britain back would be pointless. For if Britain were forced to withdraw, it would hardly have the will or capacity to return.

Troops out now is not just politically correct, it is sensible as well.

An Irish joke

Humphrey Atkins, the Tories' Direct Ruler of the North of Ireland is proving to be one of the rare amusing by-products of British presence in Ireland.

He was recently interviewed by **World In Action** on the assessment by General Glover that the IRA could not be beaten. Glover was author of 'document 37', the Army's pessimistic review of the North of Ireland situation leaked to the Provisionals.

The following, believe it or not, is an extract from the interview with Atkins.

Do you think the Provisionals can ever be beaten?

Yes.

Why?

Because, em, I think that one, eh, if one can be effective in one's operation eh em I think one can beat them. Em I'm afraid it's gonna take a little time...

What about General Glover's assessment that they have the dedication and the sinews of war, to wage war for the foreseeable future?

That, that, that, that, may be the, the case. I mean it's his, his, his opinion. It doesn't mean to say you can't beat them.

Would you say that General Glover has a good grasp of the nature of the conflict in Northern Ireland?

I'm sure he has. Otherwise the Ministry of Defence wouldn't have sent him there.

Would you regard him as an expert on the issue?

He's, he's a, he's a Major-General, he's a very able soldier, and ah absolutely certainly he wouldn't have gone to that position if he hadn't been really efficient and able at his job.

Would you say that the Provisionals are politically motivated?

No. I wouldn't. Because they've got no political motivation as we understand it.

Would you say therefore that they are mindless?

Well, to my way of thinking, yes.

Do you think it's time the British thought about withdrawing?

No.

Why not?

Because, eh, it depends on what you mean by withdrawing. If you mean withdrawing troops em, then the troops will be withdrawn when the security situation allows; that is the whole intention. If you mean political withdrawal — which is another matter — the answer is no. If the majority of the population wish to remain a part of the United Kingdom, as they do, then we will remain there. Of course we will politically. If a day ever comes, I don't know whether it will, that they — the majority of the population in the province — say 'No', we want not to be part of the UK, we want to go somewhere else, well that's quite a different matter. But that day hasn't come.

The Patriot Game: London showings

The excellent full length documentary film, **The Patriot Game** will be shown at the following London venues in the run-up to 12 August:

West London

Ealing Town Hall

Tues 7 August

7.30pm.

Organised by West London UTOM. Entrance 70p

East North London

Rio Cinema

Kingsland Rd, E2

Sunday 5 August 3pm

Entrance £1: Organised by Camden/Islington/East London UTOM

ICA Cinema, Nash House,

The Mall

Friday 3 August — Wed 8 August, 9pm

Coaches to the Demo...

Birmingham: Departs 10am, Hall of Memory

Newcastle: Departs 6.30am, Central Station. Phone 735979 for details

Middlesborough: Departs Teeside Poly 7.30am; Stockton Odeon 7.40am. Phone 87699 for details

Edinburgh: Departs Waverly Bridge 10pm, 11 Aug. Phone 2291861 for details

Full list of buses next week.

Beyond the fragments Don't forget Leicester

1

Valerie Coultas' review of **Beyond The Fragments** illustrates precisely one of the points made by Sheila Robowtham: whenever Leninism is called into question the Leninist usually responds by accusing the questioner of 'gross caricature'.

Leninism is not obsolete. But the Bolshevik tradition is inadequate because historical conditions have changed, and because some of its original positions were wrong.

Leninism holds a theory of consciousness that carries the danger of leadership fetishism and programmatic purism. It has a theory of cadres, professional revolutionaries and of politics that refuses to see personal life as the legitimate concern of collective political activity. It also has a static idea of the working class, which it sees as divided between an industrial sector, the 'centre', and the community sectors and autonomous movements, which are relegated to a devalued 'periphery'.

Many of these weaknesses have been uncovered by feminists in a struggle against orthodox Marxism and Leninism. If the best elements of Leninism, centred around the idea of the vanguard organisation, are to be

preserved, then other aspects of it must be rejected.

Valeria says that 'It's a crying shame that revolutionary women are not willing to do that' (build a party). This ignores the fact that Sheila has been in the IS and Hilary the IMG. Lynne is in Big Flame.

The real 'shame' is that the far left is totally unwilling to examine itself critically. It has driven away from revolutionary organisations a great many militants, especially those in the autonomous movements.

PAUL THOMPSON
(Liverpool)

2

In her review of **Beyond The Fragments** (12 July), Valerie Coultas argues that the book is hostile to Marxism.

More correct is the opening statement of her review: '**Beyond the Fragments** represents (an) attempt... to develop a...critique of Leninism'. By covertly assuming that Leninism and Marxism are identical in their views on consciousness, the role of theory, and methods or organisation, Valerie mistakes a critique of Leninism for an attack on Marxism. The real target of **Beyond the**

Fragments is not Marxism, nor even pure Leninism. It is Leninism as practised in the last 25 years by the majority of the British left (Stalinist, Trotskyist, Maoist, I.S., Euro-communist). Since she misses this point, Valerie fails to reply effectively to **Beyond The Fragments**.

Valerie concludes: '...you need to be organised nationally (and internationally), you need to have a paper...a popular socialist party, not a movement, that can challenge reformism...'. But I can find nothing in **Beyond The Fragments** that contradicts these ideas. Valerie simply assumes that any 'popular socialist party that can challenge reformism' must be Leninist.

I believe in the possibility of mass revolutionary politics. But we must learn from history, avoiding in future those organisational features of British Leninism which have helped to keep the revolutionary left locked in a ghetto or in dead-end entryist politics.

Revolutionary socialists need to embark on the most extensive self-criticism if the mass party Valerie wants is to be built. **Beyond The Fragments** is not perfect. But if it contributes the experience of feminists to this process, it will have done the cause of socialism a service.

GEORGE HARDY
(N.E. Leeds ANL)

Omission

There was an important omission in Davy Jones' report on the ANL conference. He mentioned the decision of the ANL to campaign against the racism of the state, but the conference also supported a campaign on immigration controls.

A number of delegates, including Sue Dearden of Oldham ANL, stressed the need for the ANL to work with groups like the Campaign Against Immigration Laws.

This unity is vital. All reports indicate that the number of deportations has multiplied since Thatcher's victory. **ANWAR HUSSEIN**
(West London)



The leg of a demonstrator after being attacked by a police dog.

IN THE aftermath of the police riot in Southall and the murder of Blair Peach, what happened in Leicester has been forgotten. We should remind ourselves that the police rioted in Leicester on 21 April. Many militants were arrested and some have received prison sentences, including a miner from Doncaster.

Our total court costs will be £20,000. We have so far raised £2,300. On 1 May and 21 July we organised solidarity demonstrations with the defendants and the prisoners. Some NF and British Movement thugs turned up to jeer and were well-protected by the police.

The use of the lower echelons of the judiciary to intimidate anti-fascists has never been so blatant. Many prisoners were charged two weeks after the events. Five are in prison and two-thirds have yet to be tried. One of the worst magistrates is a Labour Party member and a trade-union official.

Leicester ANL's appeal for solidarity has met with a good

response from Doncaster National Union of Miners; the local Indian Workers Association and Jim Marshall, the Labour MP for Leicester South.

We also face increasing harassment from racists. A local bookshop, Blackthorn Books, has had its windows smashed four times in a fortnight by racists. Needless to say, they have not been caught.

In the shadow of Southall it has not been easy to mobilise national support for Leicester. But this support is extremely vital. The Anti Nazi League has agreed to distribute nationally a pamphlet which we are producing. The National Council of Civil Liberties are producing a pamphlet on the police's role on 21 April.

We are still desperately short of funds and would appeal to readers to send us donations. All monies or enquiries to: 21 April Defence Committee, c/o Blackthorn Books, Highcross Street, Leicester. **PAUL CURTIS**
(Leicester)

Sexual harassment

I agree with your article on 'Sexual Harassment' in SC 105. I recently left the Health Department in Manchester Town Hall because a similar thing happened there.

For obvious reasons, I shall not name the person concerned. Let's call him 'Tony'. Last year, a young woman clerical worker walked out of the Department because of Tony's sexual innuendos and lewd advances.

What did the union do? Nothing! The reason was that Tony was a member of the ANL. The union was afraid of being accused of 'victimising socialist militants'. In reality, Tony doesn't do much except prop up the bar with other male socialists.

The union received no official complaint and did nothing. The rank and file activists did nothing because he was 'one of the lads'. Blatant sexism!

The sexism of some of our male socialist colleagues should be our first target.

I would appreciate my name not being published.
Name and Address Supplied
(Manchester)



SOCIALIST FEMINIST seeks own room in friendly household. N/NE/E London, lowish rent. Involved in photography, journalism. Tel: Susan: 359-0614.

HANDS OFF IRELAND! Rally: Against British Imperialism in Ireland! Film: The Patriot Game. Speakers: Hands off Ireland. Speakers invited from liberation movements. Sun 12 Aug 6pm NUR Assembly Hall, Unity House, Euston Road, London NW1. Tube: Euston. Adm: 50p (40p in advance).

HEALTH AND SAFETY Day school Sat 8 Sept at Haringey Trades Council Centre, Wood Green, London. Speakers: Dave Gee G&MWU, Alan Dalton, author 'Asbestos - Killer Dust'. Plus film. Aim: to set up area committee. Details from 15 West Green Road, London N15 - 01-802-0912.

SHEFFIELD Sales of Socialist Challenge and Revolution every Saturday 1-2pm at top of Fargate.

NALGO - National meeting for all IMG members and Socialist Challenge supporters (by invitation) in the union. Manchester Sat 15 and Sun 16 Sept (till 2pm Sun). Pooled fare. Venue to be arranged. Further details in National Briefing, or ring Centre.

NUPE NATIONAL AGGREGATE - for all IMG members, including Scotland. Sun 9 Sept, noon at National Centre. Pooled fare. Further details in National Briefing or ring Centre.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST Tendency public meeting: 'The Irish War In Britain - Fight the Prevention of Terrorism Act'. Friday 3 August 7.30pm. Speaker: Alan Harding. Dalston Labour Club, Dalston Lane, London E7. Adm. 20p.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S Forums: Fri 3 Aug: 'The Corrie Anti-Abortion Bill and its Implications'. Fri 7 Sept:

'International attacks on Abortion Rights'. Fri 5 Oct: 'Who Are the Anti-Abortionists?' 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Organised by International Contraception, Abortion and Sterilisation Campaign.

'PATRIOT GAME' Thurs 9 Aug, Clapham Common Library (Clapham Common North Side) 7.30pm. Adm. 75p. organised by South London UTOM.

ROOM AVAILABLE in North-west London from 13 to 28 Aug (inclusive). Reply to Box 1866, Soc Chall.

BOOKS for Southern Africa comrades - money desperately needed for this vital field of international activity. Or send any books you can spare. Books for Southern Africa, Box No 102, c/o Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1.

ENTRIES 5p per word. Display £2 per col inch. Deadline: Friday before publication. Payment in advance.

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THIRD QUARTER 1979

The Bookmarx Club is now an established method for socialists to get the best of new socialist books at a big discount—and delivered to your door. **HOW IT WORKS.** You send us £4.50 for which you will receive the books on List A below plus those on one other list of your choice. Extra lists can be obtained for £2.50 each. Don't delay, send in the form now with your subscription, you will save pounds on the retail value of the books (shown in brackets on the list).

LIST A
ASBESTOS, KILLER DUST by Alan Dalton (£2.25)

A new guide not only to the dangers of asbestos but also to the action which has been taken against it by companies and workers.

ANGER ON THE ROAD by Jimmy Reilly (85p)

Jimmy took part in the 1978 London Brighton Right to Work march, this is a similar account, and this is illustrated by Evans.

CAMERAWORK ON NORTHERN IRELAND (60p)

Special issue of a magazine which has set new standards of photojournalism.

LIST B
HEALTH IN DANGER by David Widgery (£2.95)

Brilliant new book by Widgery tells the danger which our health services face.

LIST C
THE WORKERS' REPORT ON VICKERS by Huw Beynon & Hilary Wainwright (£2.40)

Report by the Shop Stewards Committee on what the massive reorganisation and rationalisation means for the workers.

BUT THE WORLD GOES ON THE SAME, Durham Strong Words Collective (190p)

Powerful collection of testimonies and various forms from Durham on welfare.

LIST F
TRAPPED WITHIN WELFARE by Mike Simpkin (£2.95)

A socialist social worker questions the nature of his job and whose interests it really serves.

LIST D is split into two sets of well-known books which deserve a place on the shelves of any socialist. Each set counts as one list.

LIST D1

THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN by John Fowles (£1.25)

GERMANAL by Emil Zola (£1.25)

RED HARVEST by Daphne Hammett (60p)

LIST D2

SOLEDAD BROTHER by George Jackson (£1.00)

PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND by A. J. Mommsen (£1.50)

SPARTACUS by Howard Fast (50p)

LIST E

OUTRIFUL DAUGHTERS, edited by Sheila Rowbotham & Jean McCrindle (£1.50)

Newly typeset collection of articles which women take to the lines.

SLAVE GIRL by Buchi Emecheta (85p)

Story of a Nigerian girl sold into slavery by her brother.

BLACK NATIONALISM AND SOCIALISM by Tony Bogues (50p)

Essays in the struggle of black nations.

I wish to join/rejoin the Bookmarx Club and enclose £4.50 (1-£2.50 for each extra list)

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Socialist Challenge

Make 12 August the biggest ever

RUC boss to train British police



From Camerawork: Reporting on Northern Ireland, Half Moon Photography Workshop.

Britain's police are to be trained by the retiring chief of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Kenneth Newman, Chief Constable of the RUC, is returning to Britain to take over the police Staff College at Bramshill, near London.

This means that British police officers are going to be taught the 'lessons' Newman learned in the North of Ireland. Bramshill is where 'officer potential' from all over the UK are sent for further training.

Newman's appointment also means that he becomes one of six senior police chiefs who advise the Home Secretary on police matters.

Newman's contribution to the

'policing' of the North of Ireland can be summed up by one word: 'Castlereagh'. It was while Newman was head of the RUC that the 'interrogation techniques' were introduced at Castlereagh, the infamous RUC barracks on the outskirts of Belfast.

Since then the RUC has been branded by Amnesty International as a bunch of torturers. The RUC's own police surgeons have made the same allegation. Even the British Government's sponsored Bennett Report was severely critical of Newman's cops.

In some countries such a record would lead to the sacking of the

person responsible. But in Tory Britain Newman has been rewarded with promotion!

Northern Ireland Secretary Humphrey Atkins said that Newman's new job meant that 'his talents would be deployed in wider fields'.

This is not the first time the experience gained by British security forces in the North of Ireland has been applied in Britain. Riot shields for 'crowd control', electronic surveillance of demonstrators, and police 'snatch squads' have all been used in Britain in the last couple of years. All were first seen in Belfast and Derry.

Newman's appointment is made on the eve of the tenth anniversary of Britain sending troops onto the streets of the North of Ireland. His posting is a powerful reminder of the relevance of the Irish war to everyone in this country who may have 'dealings' with the British police in the future.

And into that category fall tens of thousands of trade unionists, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators and the majority of this country's black people.

The Irish war is coming home with a vengeance. That is one reason why militants in this country should commemorate the tenth anniversary of British troops entry into Ireland's

streets.

Not by welcoming home 'war heroes', but by insisting on the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

The London demonstration on 12 August is a chance to do that. The protest is being backed by 15 MPs on the demand that Britain declares its intention to withdraw. The United Troops Out Movement will be organising a separate 'troops out now' contingent, and Provisional Sinn Fein has said it will be part of that contingent.

All out 12 August!
Assemble: 2.30pm, Speakers Corner, London.

OUR FUND DRIVE

OUR financial situation has taken a very slight turn for the better in the past weeks. There's two reasons for this.

First, some of our supporters have raised substantial amounts of money through fundraising events. Last week, for instance, Brighton supporters raised £53.65 through a sponsored walk. This is only the first instalment — there's more to be collected!

We understand that over £100 will soon arrive in our offices thanks to the efforts of South London comrades who organised a sponsored swim.

Camden supporters have sent in £50 — part of their campaign for a day's income from each and every comrade.

The second reason for the

healthier state of our coffers is the serious approach by some of our sellers in tackling back debts to the paper. Bristol IMG has just paid off seven weeks arrears at a blow; Nottingham sent us £60. If some of our really big debtors followed suit, we'd be a lot closer to our targets. It can be done — why not try?

Nationally, we are planning an all-London benefit bop for the paper in September. And we are already discussing our annual calendar.

But we need all our supporters to exercise their ingenuity and energy in raising money for the paper. Do you have any ideas for other groups? Sponsored diets and non-smoking are profitable and they improve health at the same time.

Picnics and summer parties also have a dual function: as fund-raisers

and as social events.

We're taking a few steps forwards financially. Let's keep it up and make certain our targets are met!

Our thanks this week to:

Sue & Clive	£
S. Griffiths	5.00
D. Stevens	15.00
Bury supporters	3.00
Anon	6.00
C. Lane	100.00
T. Healey	25.00
J. Rivers	1.00
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