

Socialist Challenge

CND

LABOUR MOVEMENT MISSILES CONFERENCE



see pages 7, 8, 9 and 10

NO VIETNAM IN EL SALVADOR



THE US secretary of state, General Alexander Haig, is visiting Britain on 9 April.

It's not surprising that Haig should choose this country for his first trip abroad. Thatcher says that Britain will be America's ally — 'staunch, valiant, and true'.

Haig, a veteran of Korea and Vietnam, is now masterminding the US's intervention in El Salvador.

Already the notorious Green Berets and other military 'advisors' have been despatched to El Salvador, together with huge amounts of military hardware — to bolster the military regime and its death squads.

A new Vietnam is in the making, to crush the working people of El Salvador. General Haig should be given a warm reception when he gets to Britain.

Under Reagan and Haig, the United States is bolstering its role as world cop on every front. The US defence budget is being pushed through the roof.

The administration is in the process of rescinding a law which forbids it to give military aid to the UNITA forces in southern Africa, which are trying to overthrow the left-wing government in Angola.

The US government is making menacing noises against Cuba.

And Haig has said that the regime will do 'anything necessary', up to and including an invasion, to stop a 'Communist takeover' in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, despite the daily slaughter of civilians and oppositionists, the El Salvador military junta is far from secure. The guerrillas, supported by the overwhelming majority of the population, are expected to launch a second offensive soon.

There is an urgent need for solidarity with the struggle in El Salvador to be stepped up, to isolate the junta internationally and to stop the US intervention.

Picket Haig!

Thursday 9 April, 5.30-7.30pm, US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London W1.

Organised jointly by the El Salvador Campaign, Chile Solidarity Campaign, Liberation, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, and New Jewel Movement Support Group.

March and Rally Saturday April 25th

Chair: Stan Newens M.P.

Speakers:

Michael Foot M.P.
Leader of the Labour Party

Dr Salvador Moncada
Representative of the Frente Democrático Revolucionario (F.D.R.) of El Salvador.

Alan Sapper
Gen. Sec. A.C.T.T.

Ken Gill
Gen. Sec. A.U.E.W.-T.A.S.S.

Ted Sullivan
Nat. Sec. T. & G. W. U.

Eric Heffer M.P.
N.E.C. Labour Party

Fenner Brockway

Assemble 12.30pm
Speakers Corner
march past U.S. Embassy
to rally in Trafalgar Square.

GLC candidate

'We want a council that campaigns against the government'

THE Greater London Council is responsible for seven million people. It has a budget of more than £2,300m a year and employs a workforce of over 28,000.

Londoners will have the opportunity to remove the Tories from control of the GLC when they go to the polls on 7 May. If

Labour is elected and carries out the policies in its manifesto, the council is likely to find itself in direct conflict with Westminster.

Tessa van Gelderen talked to Labour candidate **KEN LIVINGSTONE**, who is tipped to be leader of the GLC if the Tories are toppled.

The view from the members' dining room in County Hall, Westminster — home of the Greater London Council — is across the river to the Houses of Parliament.

The prospect of a Labour GLC has been greeted by the Tory press with the spectre of a Marxist London. Ken Livingstone differs with this view.



Ken Livingstone, GLC opposition spokesman for Communication and Transport.

confront the Tories?

Ken argues that a Labour GLC will use all the machinery at its disposal. It would produce a regular newspaper which would explain its policies, campaigning for the nationalisation of land, an improved housing programme, and the policy of

cutting fares.

'We would identify with every industrial struggle,' he says. 'If there is a dispute at Ford, Dagenham, Labour GLC members must be down on the picket line and local GLC facilities must be made available.'

When the Liverpool to London march for jobs arrives in the capital, Ken wants the GLC to clothe, feed and accommodate the marchers in County Hall.

The resolution from the London divisional council of the public employees' union calling on Labour councils to free their workforce to participate in a day of mass action on 29 May is exactly the approach a Labour GLC would take, according to Ken.

The proposals in the manifesto may not be

revolutionary but they still have to be financed. Where will the money come from?

The left in the London Labour Party argue that it should come from rates. Ken Livingstone agrees: 'An increase in the rates is a redistribution of wealth. Our programme will cost a £1 a week on the rates but cheaper fares will save Londoners £1.50 a week.



A Labour GLC promises to bring down London Transport fares

Marxist

'The manifesto', he says, 'has been characterised as Marxist but it's giving it a credibility on the left which is perhaps a bit unearned.'

'The Labour group, if elected, will be broadly Tribune and the manifesto is predominantly a reformist document. These policies have been put forward by the London Labour Party since the 1930s.'

What does make it different, he considers, is that the Labour left would use the GLC to campaign against the Tory government 'and aim to speed the election of a Labour government'.

He sees a danger, though, that 'the left will think everything is going to change and they will no doubt be disappointed when they see the GLC implementing a completely reformist programme.'

But there will be areas, he believes, where a Labour GLC will have to defy the Tory government, particularly in cutting the price of school meals and London Transport fares. The London Labour Party has also agreed to oppose parliament's likely decision to transfer housing estates to borough councils.

Right

One problem will be the role of the Labour right. Ken Livingstone explains: 'If we won, the Tribunes would have a narrow majority in the Labour group. In a situation where what we did was illegal and we ran the risk of surcharge, the right would vote with the opposition.'

So how would the left

The Livingstone plan for the first year of a Labour GLC

Transport: Any resistance to the fares cut from government can be overcome by a campaign directed at Tory MPs in seats with large numbers of BR commuters.

Unemployment: We must introduce a 35-hour week for all manual staff as a firm policy for job creation.

Housing: All revenue-funded improvements must be agreed in full consultation with tenants who would have a veto power over any particular scheme. Rents should be frozen.

Local projects: The GLC should take over the funding of organisations such as law centres, community relations councils, tenants and other community bodies which have their funding stopped or cut by local councils.

Civil defence: We are committed to ending the so-called civil defence programme and to campaign for unilateral disarmament.

Campaign: The GLC must become an active campaigning body which explains its policies in a sympathetic fashion which avoids jargon.

Democracy: Each constituency labour party and trade union should be invited to send an observer to the full Labour group meeting of each GLC committee. The GLC must produce a free newspaper for distribution to each London household and organise public meetings in each constituency so that members can report back.

We are in a long and bitter struggle with the government the outcome of which will be determined as much by the unforeseen miscalculations of the Tories as by our positive actions.

Rates

'If there is resistance to increase the rates to defend services we will see this on 7 May,' he adds. 'You might want to come back on 8 May and say, "Now that Labour has been devastated in the GLC elections because of our high rates policy, how do you review your position?'

The press Ken Livingstone believes will push two themes during the election campaign — the rates and the 'reds' in County Hall. But he is convinced that the election will be decided on the programme Labour is putting forward.

'We can defend higher public expenditure and higher rates. After four years of Horace Cutler, the Tory GLC leader, provisions have been dramatically cut.

'Unless we can show a measurable improvement in service rather than just another increase in the size of the bureaucracy, we could suffer a massive loss of support.'

Jobs

Londoners will go to the polls after receiving a massive increase in the rates in April. How they will react to this will be shown not just by the GLC elections. As Ken says, 'At the end of our first year the London borough elections will also be influenced by rate increases in April 1982 and by how effective our policies have been in improving the quality of life for Londoners.'

The Labour manifesto for London may not be any different from previous election platforms but at a time of savage cuts in public expenditure it

does appear to make a break from the policy of many Labour councils to implement cuts.

The creation of jobs, linked to a 35-hour week, a housing programme, cuts in the cost of school meals and fares must all be paid for. And the Tories are not going to be happy with that.

'The government,' Ken points out, 'has the power to prevent us building new housing, extending the tube, buying new buses or undertaking any works of improvement to housing or the environment.'

'The new council will have no alternative but to lead a massive and continuing campaign to mobilise public opinion and force the reversal of these policies.'

As Ken Livingstone says, the working class does not expect Labour to be anything other than the lesser of two evils, given its past record. But a Labour GLC pledged to carry out its programme by mobilising the labour movement to confront the Tory government may begin to change that.

The south bank of the Thames may not seem a likely battleground to confront the Tories. There certainly won't be a red flag flying from County Hall on 8 May. And a vote for Labour may not mean

What Londoners are promised under a Labour GLC

- 25 per cent fares cut on London Transport.
- More council

houses; opposition to the sale of council housing.

• The creation of a Greater London enterprise board to increase investment and jobs.

• Reduction in the price of school meals from 35p a day to 25p.

• A major expansion of public services in London and redistribution of expenditure to the less well-off which may involve each London household paying another £1 a week rates by 1983-4.

a vote for a rates increase but a vote to kick out a Tory GLC.

Yet such a vote, linked to support for struggles of trade unionists, tenants, women, youth and black people, has to be part of the process in kicking out the Tories on both sides of the River Thames at Westminster.



RAILWORKERS are facing a major attack on jobs. Management is threatening to shut down British Rail's collection and delivery of parcels section which involves thousands of workers.

It wants to rationalise the marshalling yards, close stations, and cut back passenger services. Productivity measures such as one-person train operators are also on the cards.

All of this will result in massive job loss, and the National Union of Railwaymen's pay claim obligingly binds wage rises to conditions and work practices.

GEOFF HENSBY, secretary of the NUR's Paddington No 1 Branch, told Brian Grogan how he sees the fightback developing in the union.

'The miners could make Thatcher turn because they took an intransigent attitude,' Geoff Hensby considers. 'They were prepared to strike for their jobs. Why doesn't our general secretary, Sidney Weighell, and the union's national executive take a lead from the miners?'

Instead, as Geoff explains, the executive has not taken a hard line against British Rail.

'It has suggested that the closure of collection and delivery (C&D) might be acceptable if certain matters which relate to pay

Defend our railways

Build the triple alliance



and conditions are fulfilled. Yet management has made it clear that the closure of C&D will mean a loss of 6,000 jobs.'

This is a conservative estimate in Geoff's opinion, because other jobs will be affected by the closure.

The NUR has a no compulsory redundancy agreement with the employers. But this isn't saving jobs, as Geoff explains: 'Workers are openly asked to take re-settlement (redundancy) or early retirement. But their jobs aren't filled. They've sold their jobs.'

'Our union leadership has been able to turn our gain of no compulsory redundancies against us.'

Weighell is full of talk about using the 'full industrial power of

the union', and the executive is meant to be opposed to the closure of C&D. 'Yet union representatives have now been given the go-ahead to discuss with management about closure' Geoff Hensby says.

The collection and delivery section is in dire financial straits because there has been no investment over the years.

Geoff is adamant that it is a political decision not to invest 'to allow the friends of the Tories - firms like Securicor - to take over this area of business. They're all hovering around like vultures.'

Weighell's attempt to relate wages to productivity only benefits management. 'We need a straight across-the-board increase for 20 per cent,' Geoff

believes. 'Management says it can only afford 6 per cent - with increased productivity. We have to say that railworkers will not pay for a wage increase by accepting the loss of jobs.'

The National Union of Railwaymen has formed an alliance with the steelworkers union and the miners - the triple alliance.

Geoff thinks this is very important, but 'Weighell, Gormley and Sirs see the alliance as a respectable forum for jointly getting on their knees in front of Thatcher.'

'They don't intend to mobilise the membership. What we need is an alliance starting at grass roots level', he adds. 'We have to effectively challenge Thatcher and her agents in British Rail. By bringing

Paddington No1 Branch NUR

Public Meeting
Defend our Railways: Build the Triple Alliance

Wednesday 8 April, 7.30pm.

At Acton Labour Party hall, Church St. (off Acton High St), Acton, London W3.

Speakers: J Cogger, NUR executive (London region); Neil Milligan (SE regional organiser, ASLEF); Speakers from NUM and ISTC invited.

people together who are facing similar problems, we can work towards joint industrial action to defend our living standards.'

The NUR Paddington No 1 branch is holding a public meeting to forge the alliance at grass roots level. Speakers from the miners and steelworkers unions have been invited, as well as from the NUR and other rail unions.

'Thatcher is trying to buy off the miners with huge redundancy payments,' Geoff Hensby explains. 'She's threatened the steelworkers into submission and now wants to get her hands on the railworkers.'

'Through our local meeting and campaign, we intend to do our bit to upset her plans.'

2,484,000 reasons to kick out the Tories

A NATIONAL mass demonstration and rally on Sunday 31 May will be the culmination of the march for jobs from Liverpool to London.

By Patrick Sikorski

As a national focus for the growing anger in the labour movement against the Tories, and a growing mood - expressed in strikes and occupations - for a fightback to kick out Thatcher, the march comes not a moment too soon.

The latest unemployment figures came out at the same time as the plans for the demonstration were announced on Tuesday.

There are now over 2,484,000 registered unemployed in Britain, a rise of 21,000 from last month's total. These are the worst March figures since the war, in a month when traditionally the figures take a steep dive.

Knees

The civil service unions and bankworkers are taking action now for a living wage. The response to the Labour Party's demonstrations against unemployment in Liverpool and Glasgow was tremendous.

The miners brought Thatcher to her knees. Now is the time to mobilise against the Tories.

However, the march organisers are more concerned with mobilising support from the clergy, community and welfare organisations, and even the employers' organisation the CBI.

The strength of the

march will be its broad base', was how Pete Carter from the West Midlands TUC and West Midlands region of the building workers' union, UCATT, put it at a TUC press conference on Tuesday.

Harking back to the dark days of defeat in the '30s, Colin Barnett, TUC North-west Regional Council secretary, said:

'Liverpool, like Jarrow, will become a symbol of the nation's rejection of policies that deliberately create unemployment and the desire of the British people for a return to full employment.'

He rightly pointed out the dangers of the growth of fascism, especially among the youth who face no future.

The solution, he said, was to win the hearts and minds of people to an intellectual and practical alternative. In every town on the route there will be official meetings putting across the TUC's alternative economic strategy.

Controls

This alternative will be the cornerstone of the TUC's week of action from 4 April, culminating in a textile workers' demonstration in Bradford on Saturday 11 April which will be calling for import controls.



Nowhere in the official leaflets for this week of action is there even a mention of shortening the working week or fighting to ban overtime - let alone a call for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay, which has been TUC policy since 1972!

A 35-hour week would effectively wipe out unemployment. The TUC's own figures show that an end to overtime would create 700,000 jobs immediately.

At the time of the Jarrow march in the '30s, the movement had suffered the defeat of the General Strike and a decade of mass unemployment.

Today the miners have shown that the situation is

very different. It was their decision for all-out industrial action that had Thatcher running scared.

That's the message that must come out of the march for jobs.

Five thousand workers struck in Liverpool on Wednesday of last week over cuts. The Scottish TUC and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions are calling for a two-hour general strike against the Tories on 8 April.

This is the direction the supporters of the march must take. Otherwise the bells that are going to be rung in the churches on the route could well be for the funeral of the movement rather than its victory, over the government.

National march and rally against unemployment

Sunday 31 May

Assemble noon at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park for march to Trafalgar Square

Sponsors include West Midlands, SE and NW regional TUCs. Irish TUC (Belfast), Manchester City Labour Party, NW Regional Council of the Labour Party, NUM, TGWU, GMWU, FBU, Engineering section of AUEW, Tobacco Workers, Sheetmetal Workers, USDAW, SLADE, Tailor & Garment Workers, NUPE and the civil service union SCPS.

Trains and coaches are being laid on country-wide.

Merseyside workers strike for jobs

By John Nolan, Birkenhead

FIVE thousand workers lobbied Liverpool City Council on Wednesday last week. The Council was discussing its annual budget and the Merseyside trade unionists showed their feelings about the massive cuts in jobs and services in the city.

Many of the contingents, which included council workers, dockers, workers from Tate and Lyle, Fords and Courtaulds, took strike action to demonstrate their anger.

The demonstration, organised by the Merseyside All Trade Union Full Time Officers Co-ordinating Committee is part of the campaign against unemployment.

Over recent months Liverpool has been in the forefront of the fight for jobs - not surprisingly when unemployment is double the national average at 15 per cent and as high as 50 per cent in some districts.

Now Merseyside workers are building up support for the Liverpool to London march for jobs. Barry Williams, President of Liverpool Trades Council, reported that £11,000 had been received so far and money was coming in at the rate of £1,500 a day.

The organisers of the march in Liverpool want a national rally in the city the day it sets off, Friday 1 May - and a big turn out when the march finally reaches London on Friday 29 May.

Despite mobilisation for the march being bogged down in bureaucracy, support is building up. Last week's successful strike and demonstration in Liverpool will strengthen that support.

Civil Servants hit Britain's defences

By Phil Dexter, CPSA, and Keith Legg, IRSF

THE civil service strike is now in its third week with no obvious end in sight. The attitude of the union membership has considerably hardened and we are now prepared for a long dispute.

This week strike action will hit at Britain's 'defence' system. Civil servants are walking out at an RAF base in Bedford, and one consequence of their action will be the grounding of the Buccaneer and Nimrod military aircraft.

Modification and design work on the Polaris nuclear submarines will also come to a halt when civil servants at another Ministry of Defence establishment, this time in Bath, join the strike action.

The Council of Civil Service Unions is also calling out members at a Department of Employment computer centre in Runcorn, Cheshire. That action will mean that there will be no unemployment figures issued next month.

The strike is over the government's suspension

of the Pay Research Unit — by which pay awards to civil servants are calculated on the basis of comparability with similar jobs in private industry — and in pursuit of a 15 per cent claim. The Thatcher government has offered 7 per cent.

Last week, 2100 were out on selective strike, with the Inland Revenue computer centres at Cumbernauld and Shipley being pulled out indefinitely.

The government has responded by engaging in dirty tricks.

Secret points for tax collection in Leeds and Edinburgh have been set up, and employers have been asked to pay tax directly to the Bank of England. The unions reacted quickly however with a picket being thrown round the Bank of England office at Bush House, London.

The Council of Civil Servants Unions is calling for more widespread action on Wednesday 1 April, which is meant to be the settlement date for civil service pay.

At the moment the exact plans for that day are

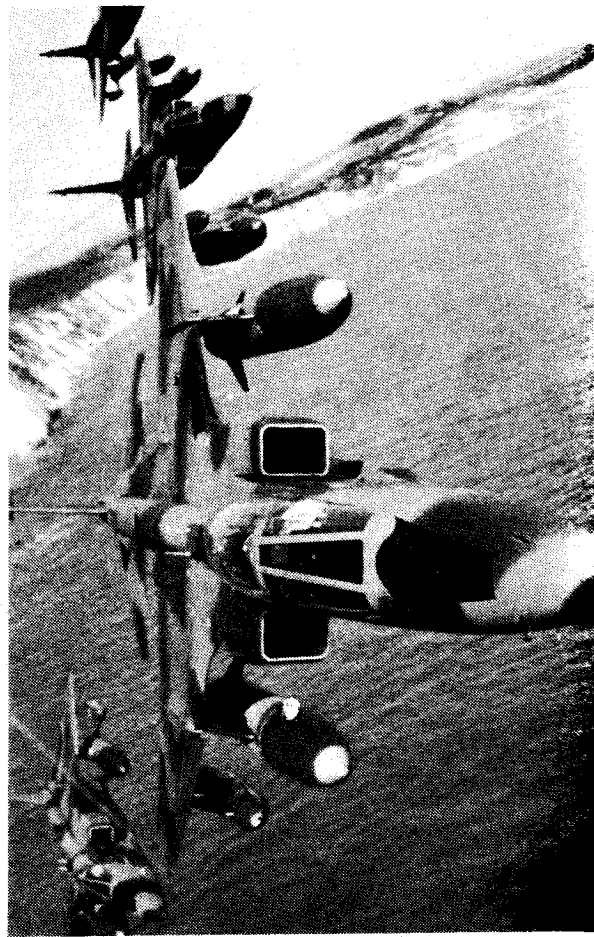
being 'kept under wraps', a CCSU spokesperson told Socialist Challenge. He added: 'There will undoubtedly be some form of action on that day if there is no settlement by then.'

In some areas, action is already being planned for 1 April. In Newcastle a half-day strike has been called and there will be a march and rally on that day. In other areas there are also signs of growing militancy.

An example was a resolution which has just been passed by the Society of Civil and Public Servants East London DHSS branch. This motion maintained that 'widespread industrial action will be necessary to win the pay campaign as quickly as possible.'

The longer the civil servants strike goes on the more it becomes a test of strength between the unions and the Thatcher government.

After the government defeat by the miners, a victory for the civil servants could mortally injure Thatcher's attempt to impose a six per cent limit in the public sector.



Newcastle strikers stay militant

IN Newcastle, 260 workers on the Department of Health and Social Security contributions computer are continuing their all-out strike as part of the civil servants action.

Annmarie Maler spoke to two of the strikers — shift worker Jeff McKiever and Kevin McHugh, chairperson of the Newcastle central office CPSA branch.

Kevin was adamant that the strike would continue until the full claim had been met:

'We are out for a 15 per cent increase and nothing less. Kate Losinka, president of the Civil and Public Servants Association, has gone on record on Granada TV saying that personally she would accept nine per cent.'

Disgust

'I think that is a disgusting attitude. She actually said this the day before the one-day strike on 9 March.'

'If she was trying to undermine the campaign she couldn't have done a better job. When I talked to the selective strikers they were disgusted at what Losinka said.'

Jeff was also critical: 'This comment angered many people and the vast majority of us on strike would reject that sort of offer. It is up to us to make sure such a compromise doesn't happen.'



Civil Service pickets outside Companies House in the heart of the City of London

Rather than searching for a compromise, the mood among most of the civil servant appears to have hardened.

On 13 March when ten clerical assistants were

threatened with suspension there was a spontaneous national walk-out involving some 200,000 workers.

If more suspensions are threatened, says Kevin,

'We are going to have to respond with immediate walk-outs and escalation of the disruptive action.'

In the event of such a stepping up of the action

both Kevin and Jeff thought that, providing such a campaign was adequately prepared and led, it would attract support.

Kevin's view was that 'if the members are kept informed by the local and national bodies, and if they are really involved in the campaign they will respond to the challenge.'

Although such action would be unlikely to be backed up by full strike pay, Jeff remained determined:

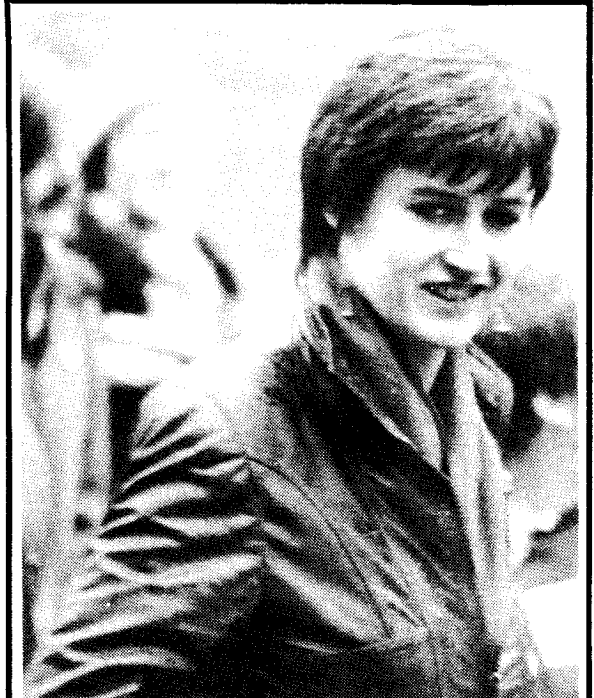
Horizon

'I think we should be prepared to go on strike for less than full strike pay. Not everybody will feel the same, but I think most would and the unions should prepare people now for when that becomes necessary.'

In the meantime, the strikers at Newcastle central office are doing all they can to explain their case and arrange support for their strike.

A strike committee has just been set up whose job, says Kevin, 'is to organise liaison with other trade unions and other civil service branches within the region. We plan to speak to branches, branch committees, and town meetings.'

All of which made very clear that as far as Kevin and Jeff were concerned, they were determined on victory. The only cloud on their horizon is their fear that their union leadership may not be feeling the same.



Ann Henderson, presidential candidate for the Socialist Students Alliance

Students need a campaigning union

By Ann Henderson, NUS national executive member and Socialist Students Alliance candidate for union president

NEXT week students from all over the country will meet in Blackpool for the NUS national conference.

Through the elections for the national executive and the debate on priorities, discussion will centre on the type of national union that students need.

One group in the NUS has a clear strategy. The Federation of Conservative Students believes that the NUS should concentrate on providing good student services and stop discussing politics.

Failing that, the Conservatives believe that student unions should disaffiliate from the NUS. Already a number of unions, particularly in Scotland, have followed the FCS's advice.

By actively destroying the NUS, the Tory students are working alongside their government in attacking students' interests. Education cuts are now reaching massive proportions in the polytechnic and further education sector; overseas students' fees have rocketed, and the Tories are proposing drastic curbs on student union independence.

Assault

This assault is political and it can only be countered by a political response from NUS. That means defending the need for a national union that is capable of organising and involving students nationally and locally.

The present NUS leadership — dominated by the so-called Left Alliance — prefers submissions to the government and discussions with Tory ministers to organising the members who have shown their willingness to fight against the cuts and fees increases, and for student union independence.

The massive involvement of students in the campaign against the Corrie anti-abortion Bill, and their growing participation in CND has shown that students are concerned about social and political issues.

But the Left Alliance's development plan puts fewer resources into the campaigns on women's liberation, gay liberation and international work.

Contest

The Socialist Students Alliance has always opposed this strategy. At the NUS conference we will link up with all the students who have been active on these issues in order to oppose the Left Alliance's plans.

In particular we want to work with Labour Party students in organising opposition to the Tories' education proposals. This follows the announcement of the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) to contest the presidential election.

The SSA will also be standing for elections to the NUS executive. Our platform will centre on the need for a national campaigning union — a union which is in alliance with the trade unions, organising against the Tories.

That union should be based on the activity of its members, and the SSA has been involved in leading the most active campaigns in the student movement — on CND, the women's campaign, student union autonomy, and raising Ireland as a student issue.

In the elections we will be transferring our votes to the Socialist Workers Student Organisation, and to the Labour Party students who are contesting some posts.

Support for the NOLS candidates is in the context of working with those who have shown themselves committed to building a campaigning union, organising opposition to the Tories.

Blacks march forward

By Horace Campbell from *Caribbean Times*

MARCH 2, 1981 marked a new turning point in the struggle for a new social order in Britain. On that rainy Monday between ten and fifteen thousand black people gave notice that their mass political activities will be part of the class and racial struggles of this society.

Black people gathered to give notice that they would not be bombed out of this society which they have helped to build with their labour and to which the sweat and blood of their forefathers have contributed.

The demonstration was a challenge to the ideas and actions of white supremacy which has been promoted since the days of slavery, and today finds its crudest expression in the political activities of the National Front, the British Movement and Column 88.

It is the combined and organised struggles of all sections of the black working poor which will drive the labour movement to transcend the rut of economism. Consider the effect of black workers closing down London Transport and key hospitals every time the racists attack black people.

Black workers should know that the attack on our youths is only the first step, for the capitalist class considers these youths to be unorganised. But while they murder 13 youths, the Special Air Service (SAS) are carrying out practice runs of how to seal off and effectively control 'ethnic communities'.

Police chiefs in Birmingham already boast of how they control Handsworth through mopping up operations and liaison work with race relations experts. So proud are the police in Birmingham that they can invite the South African Authorities to study how to control blacks.

The misleaders and community pacifiers who act as liaison with the police are the modern house slaves. They turn a blind eye while hundreds of young men are



incarcerated, and to permanently damage them placed in psychiatric hospitals when they assert their black consciousness.

This consciousness, which flowers in the form of cultural resistance, poses a direct challenge to those who want to build neutron bombs. It is this militarist ideology which leads to the arming of the British Movement, a right wing organisa-

tion which aims to shoot and terrorise blacks.

Black workers must understand that the struggles of the trade union movement are not sufficient in this present crisis. They must join the forces of change.

This process of change is clear in the cultural resistance epitomised by the cultural artists who wail 'Get up, stand up

for your rights.' It is not insignificant that the bombing attacks are taking place at the Sikh temples or black peoples parties. Today the class struggle is increasingly being fought on the cultural front as groups of young people decide that they do not want to become the mindless Zombies of 1984.

Cultural resistance, which has flowed in the black community, has served to strengthen the consciousness of the youths. But now that black people have been challenged this cultural resistance must be translated into direct political action.

There is now the need for working people, youths, women, Rastafari and the unemployed to strengthen their political resolve to defeat this Babylonian system and culture. Now the kind of politics which is needed must transcend the spontaneous response to racial attacks.

Organisation, discipline and a scientific inquiry must guide and direct political activities, for ours is a rich tradition of struggle. These principles must develop so that the spontaneous acts of struggle do not lead to further acts of repression.

For the slogan 'Come what may we are here to stay' to register our people must take the lead in internationalising the struggles to show that 13 dead in New Cross is due to the same ideas that cause 10,000 dead in El Salvador. It is this internationalism which will liberate the white workers from their slavish acceptance of the myths of the capitalists.

Through the process of self-organisation and clear political ideological development black people will play a leading role in reversing the decadence to build a new society.

Already the mass activity of black people has shown the impotence of the race relations pacifiers. The next step is to render impotent the racists who carry out the physical attacks at the behest of those who speak of black people swamping England.

From *Caribbean Times*, available from any news stand, price 20p.

Why the Tories and the cops have gone into the banning business

By Toni Gorton

AT a stroke, over eight million people have been denied the right to demonstrate on political issues.

Three major areas of the country have had month-long bans on marches imposed by William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary.

The ban in London, which runs until the end of March, followed the Black People's Day of Action when the National Front declared it would hold a march past the house in Deptford where 13 black youth died earlier this year.

Scotland Yard asked for the ban on the grounds that serious public disorder would occur if the NF march were allowed to go ahead.

In Leicestershire, where the New National Front was to hold a demo on 22 March a ban was called for by the Inter-Racial Solidarity Campaign, the Indian Workers Association, and the Labour group on Leicester council, backed by an 8,000 signature petition.

Counter

While the local Anti-Nazi league, the Inter-Racial Solidarity Campaign and the Labour Party Young Socialists called for a counter-demonstration, there is now a month-long ban on marches in Leicestershire.

In Leeds police say that they had consulted with local councillors before requesting a ban there. The NF was planning a march against manufactured im-

ports at the same time as Youth Against the Missiles and Leeds Scrap the (Immigration) Act campaign were planning events.

Bans are not the only Home Office moves against political activity. It is also preparing military-type organisation of the police.

In the opinion of the Home Office, 'events of public disorder are growing to such proportions that very few forces can deal with them using their own manpower.'

Disorder

Scotland Yard recently organised a national rehearsal to find out how quickly a mini-army of police could be rushed to trouble spots. Flying squads equipped with anti-riot gear have been set up in every police force in the country.

The prospect of 'public disorder' that the Tories fear is fuelled by increasing anger at unemployment, nuclear arms, cuts in social spending, restrictions on trade union rights, and legal racism.

As long as political and labour movement organisations hand the Tories an excuse to ban political protest, the government will



be quite happy to go along.

The bans are a serious blow to the ability of the labour movement to get rid of Tory rule.

It should be clear now that demands for right-wing demonstrations to be stopped by the authorities leads to a massive repression of democratic rights for all sections of society.

The right-wing thugs of the National Front, the

British Movement, and other groups which threaten the black community must be taken on in the streets.

It is only by mass action by blacks, Labour parties, trade unions, women's and gay organisations that we will stop the fascist gangs, and bring down the government and the society which creates the conditions in which they thrive.

Lowdown

They've got problems!

By Bob Pennington

WHEN the big one goes off most of us will only be troubled by minor concerns like how long it will take to burn to a cinder. The state has, however, far more difficult problems on its mind.

It is worried that those who do survive a nuclear holocaust might get a bit shirty that two-thirds of the population had been wiped out, and that Britain had been turned into a desert.

You know how funny people can get over even the smallest things.

As the secret 'Briefing Material for Wartime Controllers' says: 'In conditions in which death, destruction and injury were commonplace, such penalties as probation, fines, or sentences of imprisonment would no longer be effective in dealing with anti-social elements.'

And anyway since most of the nicks will be heaps of radio active rubble, there will be nowhere to put them.

So, as you can see, the state does have a problem. But where there is a will there is a way. As the 'Briefing' says, there could be penalties like 'com-

munal labour', restricted rations, and exposure to public disapproval...'

I suppose 'offenders' could be given useful and mind-improving jobs like burying the charred remains of their nearest and dearest in communal graves. It is going to be a bit harder cutting rations though.

After the bang there will be few shops left, so everyone is going to be on restricted rations. Maybe the 'offenders' should be restricted to no food at all and worked until they drop dead.

Getting the public to disapprove might be very difficult. Firstly there is going to be a shortage of the public, at least fit and live ones, and secondly the ungrateful survivors are likely to be on the side of the 'anti-social offenders'.

I suspect the state is aware of these problems so they have armed themselves with the odd extra power like summary courts with 'commissioners' to deal with what the 'Briefing' calls 'capital cases'.

How they will execute people is not made clear and I understand this is the subject of an exciting debate at Whitehall.

The more 'liberal' wing of the civil service is not so keen on the death sentence; instead they sug-

gest police officers could be sent on courses to Chile and Argentina where they would pick up some useful tips on how to deal with 'troublemakers'.

What I do find reassuring about the 'Briefing' is that the old virtues still remain. The protestant work ethic remains unshaken and will remain even after the Bomb.

As the 'Briefing' says, 'one aim would be to provide as many people as possible with some form of useful work to sustain morale'.

Shovelling away at piles of radioactive masonry in cities and towns obliterated beyond recognition is just the job for raising morale.

The nuclear holocaust will have taken place to defend democracy and capitalism, which are, of course, inseparable. That is why we need summary executions.

That is why our so-called representatives in parliament have never been told about these plans and have no say in who the commissioners and controllers will be.

And that is why after the explosion the 'creation of a new monetary system would be a national matter...'

After all there is no point in thirty to forty million people dying if capitalism doesn't survive.

Stop the missiles

By Mike Picken, Labour CND secretary (in personal capacity)

Labour & the missiles

THIS weekend's conference against the missiles will be the largest labour movement gathering against nuclear weapons for 20 years. Hundreds of activists from the trade unions and the Labour Party are meeting to discuss the next steps for the campaign.

Over the last year the anti-missiles movement has grown dramatically. Thousands of people have joined CND and hundreds of new local groups have been formed.

Nuclear weapons was a major issue at last October's Labour Party conference and just three weeks later 80,000 people demonstrated against Cruise and Trident missiles in London.

But the rapid growth of the movement will not continue unhindered. Taken by surprise by CND's initial success, the Tories and their friends have begun their counter-attack.

Margaret Thatcher has pledged her allegiance to Ronald Reagan's cold war, backed by an anti-communist ideological campaign. Within the labour movement the right wing has begun to organise to win support for multilateralist positions.

NATO

So where do we go from here? Last autumn Socialist Challenge exposed the role of the NATO-funded Committee for Transatlantic Understanding inside the labour movement. David Owen and Bill Rodgers are among the committee's supporters. They have now abandoned the labour movement altogether for the dizzy world of credit cards and computers.

But Bill Sims of the steelworkers, Terry Duffy of the engineers, and Sidney Weighell of the rail workers also feature among the committee's supporters. Roy Hattersley, leader of Labour Solidarity, is another sponsor.

These people will spearhead the fight against the Labour Party and the unions adopting unilateralist and anti-NATO positions. Instead they will argue for multilateral disarmament, to take place at the never-never time when every country will give up its nuclear weapons simultaneously through protracted 'super-power' negotiations.

Unilateral

This approach of petitions and appeals for world disarmament draws attention from the practical task of building a mass campaign against our own government's weapons and leaves disarmament up to the 'good will' of the politicians. It also ignores the fact that it is the US imperialists and their allies who have stepped up the arms race at every stage. So we have to come to grips with the cold war warriors within the labour movement.

First and foremost, we need every organisation of the labour movement — particularly the TUC and the Labour Party — to take a stand of all-out opposition to the missiles. That means we have to demand that our leaders clearly support unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Michael Foot's appointment of Brynmor John, a supporter of Cruise and a multilateralist, as shadow spokesperson on defence is a step in the opposite direction. The fight to commit the next Labour government to send back the missiles and carry out nuclear disarmament has to be more vigorously pursued than ever before.

Boycott

This will be strengthened by a boycott of work on nuclear bases — all transportation, servicing, and communications should be boycotted. We should support, too the 42 local councils who have declared their areas 'nuclear free zones'. But we need to go much further.



It's the same in London and Sheffield — thousands against the missiles

significantly to reduce spending on defence

It believes that the safety of the British people and of the people of Europe both West and East will be best secured by multilateral disarmament in the nuclear and conventional fields.

Conference calls for unilateral disarmament as that Cruise missile

especially the proposed importation from America of Cruise missiles and updated Polaris technology. Conference calls for a

commitment in the Labour Party manifesto to unilateral nuclear disarmament and for proposals to be made for producing alternatives, socially useful products using the existing skills and materials in the arms industry.

alternatives, socially useful products using the existing skills and materials in the arms industry.

Confusion at last year's Labour Party conference. Resolution 43, left, called for multilateral disarmament while motion 44, right, called for a commitment to unilateralism. Both were passed. The Labour right have always used multilateralist arguments as a cover for their support for NATO and US imperialism.

Government circulars and all work and expenditure relating to civil defence preparations should be boycotted by Labour councils and the local government unions.

We should demand that the councils open the nuclear books. The labour movement has the right to know who is to go down the nuclear bunkers and how much local money goes into civil defence. These issues should be brought to the fore in the May local elections.

Setting our sights only on Britain's shores is insufficient. CND has to continue to oppose the Thatcher/Reagan alliance and the US's belligerent foreign policy.

In Reagan's first two months he has: enormously increased the nuclear weapons' budget; despatched massive military aid and 'advisors' to the ruthless junta in El Salvador; boosted the Rapid Deployment Force; threatened to cut off all aid to Nicaragua, and asked for the ban on arms sales to the butchers who run Argentina to be lifted.

The US president's latest scheme is to undermine the left nationalist government in Angola by granting aid to the UNITA rebels. This follows his assurance to the apartheid regime in South Africa, which has now acquired nuclear weapons. If these new cold war moves go unchallenged by the labour movement, the disarmament campaign will inevitably be damaged.

The mobilisation of the labour movement against the missiles is the only basis for victory. Any idea that the methods of petitioning and arguments on their own are sufficient to achieve these tasks is humbug.

So the national demonstration called by CND for October should be built into a mighty expression of labour movement hostility to the missiles. We need to build for a joint

Labour Party/trade union/ CND demonstration of hundreds of thousands of workers and youth in October.

This weekend's conference

can be the launch-pad for a campaign in 1981 directed at the mightiest ever mobilisation of our class against Thatcher's missile madness.

Trade union nuclear policy — there's a long way to go

OUTLINED here are the policies of several major trade unions on unilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament, the stationing of Cruise and Trident missiles and, their attitude towards the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

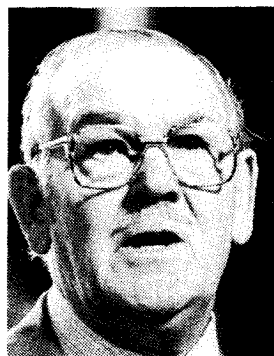
Almost without exception they show that we have a long way to go!

AUEW: The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers supports multilateral disarmament and ratification of SALT 2.

EETPU: The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union has never debated policy at its annual conference. EETPU delegation at 1980 Labour conference voted in favour of multilateralism and NATO and against unilateralism.

AUEW-TASS: The technical section of the AUEW is in favour of detente and against the arms race. Voted for unilateral disarmament at 1980 Labour conference. Supports CND.

UCATT: The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians is in favour of detente, multilateral disarmament and SALT 2. Opposed to Cruise missiles.



TGWU: The Transport and General Workers Union is affiliated to CND. Consistent support for unilateral disarmament since late '50s. National organiser Ron Todd is on CND national council and the majority of regions are affiliated to CND.

GMWU: The General and Municipal Workers Union has had no position since the '60s. National committee presenting a paper on defence to conference in May. For maintaining present capacity and looking for alternative economic projects to arms industry.

ASLEF: The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen is affiliated to CND. Against Cruise and Trident. For unilateral disarmament. Proposed to TUC establishing a new committee on peace, disarmament and transferral of workers from arms industry to alternative work.

NUM: The National Union of Miners at its 1980 conference condemned government for regenerating cold war atmosphere through its hostile attitude towards the Soviet Union. Is against Cruise missiles. Calls upon TUC and LP to pursue detente.

FTAT: The Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union is in favour of SALT 2, dismantling of all military blocs, and reduced spending on arms. Joined with French timber union FNTDBAC to condemn stationing of nuclear missiles in Europe



and called for a 'simultaneous dismantling of all military blocs throughout the world.'

POEU: The Post Office Engineering Union has no policy at present but the national executive is recommending to annual conference that the union affiliates to CND with proviso that this doesn't bind the POEU to unilateralist policies.

THE PENTAGON ON FIRST STRIKE CAPABILITY

\$3bn reactor for new nuclear warheads

IN ORDER to provide the nuclear materials needed for the new generation of weapons to be produced by the Pentagon, a \$3bn production reactor will have to be built, according to a study by an inter-agency committee of the US government.

The new reactor would be the first built for the weapons programme in more than a quarter of a century.

The committee, which was established by the Departments of Defence and Energy in late 1979, also recommended an expenditure of \$500m to upgrade existing production facilities.

At present the US has three reactors at Savannah River, South Carolina, producing weapons-grade plutonium and tritium for what the *Washington Post* described on 5 May 1980 as 'the biggest weapons building programme the country has undertaken in 20 years'.

Over the next six years the Pentagon plans to produce new warheads for the Minuteman III and Trident I missiles; a short-range Lance missile; an air-launched Cruise missile; a new tactical nuclear bomb; a new strategic nuclear bomb; the Pershing II missile; and the ground-launched Cruise missile.

Work is also proceeding on warheads for the MX missile and on a new 8-inch nuclear artillery shell.

By Will Reissner

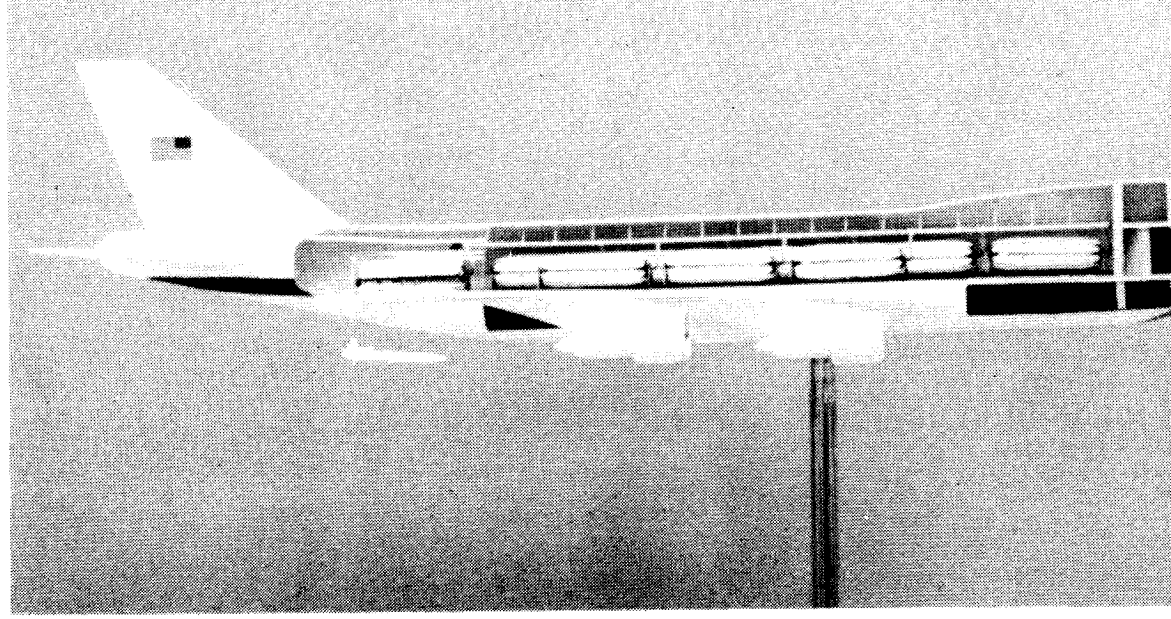
ON 5 March, the Reagan administration presented the US Congress with proposals that would increase arms spending by \$33.8bn in 1981 and 1982.

To present those proposals in the best possible light, at a time when social spending was being drastically slashed, Reagan claimed that the spending surge was needed to stand up to Soviet 'expansionism'.

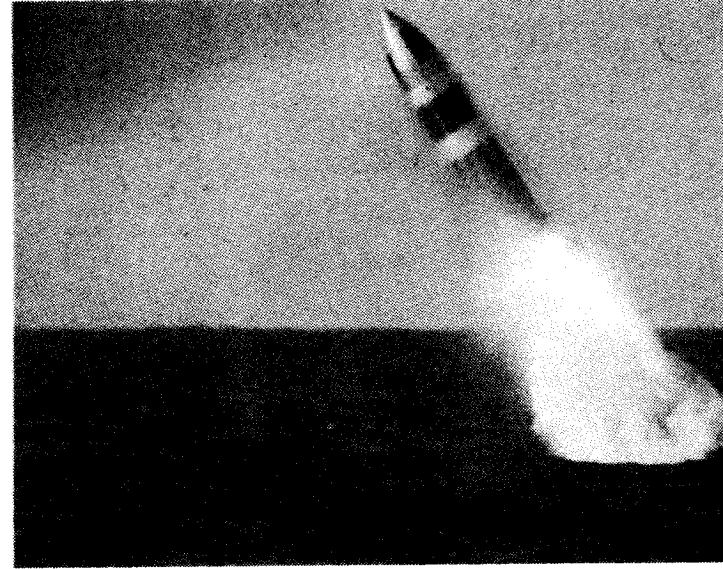
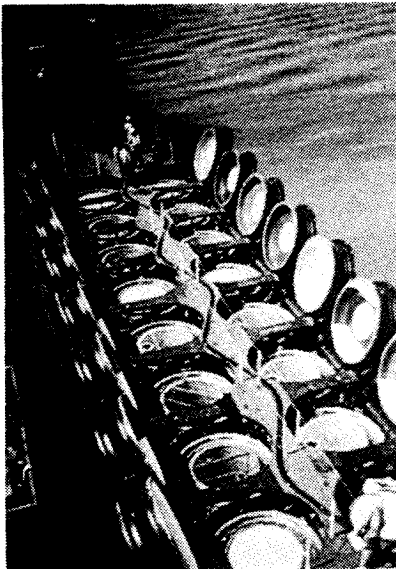
In fact, in a 3 March televised interview, Reagan went so far as to state that 'it is rather foolish to have unilaterally disarmed, you might say, as we did, by letting our defence margin of safety deteriorate'.

Far from 'unilaterally disarming', in recent years US military planners have instituted programmes intended to provide the Pentagon with the means to launch a crippling nuclear 'first strike' attack against the Soviet Union.

These measures were codified in Presidential Directive No 59, signed by Jimmy



Two of the US's new 'first strike' force. Above model of proposed launch-platform for Boeing 747 carries 72 missiles. Below, USS James Madison with all 16 missile tubes open.



Anti-missile Action Guide

WHAT'S ON against the missiles? The following events are listed by CND. If you have a film show a demonstration or a public meeting or other anti nuclear event, please send the details to us and CND.



26 March: Journalists Against Nuclear Extermination meeting at NUFTO Hall, 14 Jockeys Fields, London WC1, at 7.45pm. Speakers: Melvyn Bragg, and the two Duncan Campbells (of *New Statesman* and *Time Out*). Chairperson, Linda Rogers, NUJ national organiser (personal capacity). Further details from JANE, c/o NUJ Magazine Branch, 314 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1.

28 March: Ealing Trades Council coach to CND Labour Movement conference against the Missiles, Manchester. Phone Andy 01-574-2895 for details. £6 return.

South London coach leaves Lambeth Town Hall at 6am; Clapham Junction at 6.15am. Tel 01-582 2955 for details.

28 March: European Theatre of War's hard-hitting, humorous cabaret against the nuclear arms race. London Musician's Collective, 42 Gloucester Ave, London NW1, at 8am. Adm £1.25. Party/music afterwards. Sponsored by CND.

31 March: Islington CND public meeting. Speakers: Jo Richardson MP, Melvyn Bragg, Duncan Campbell, Cllr Margaret Pitt, Dr Berry Beaumont. 8pm, Central Library, off Holloway Rd, London N7.

11 April: Youth CND conference in Brimingham.

12 April: Trans-Pennine march starting in Leeds — through Rochdale to Manchester.

18 April: Mass demonstration called by CND and Manchester Against the Missiles to greet the Trans-Pennine March. Details tel 061-236 4905.

18 April: mass demo against Cruise and Trident called by Leamington for Nuclear Disarmament. Assemble 11am at Bulldog, Whitnash march to rally in the Pump Room Gardens. Speakers, food, music, stalls. Details: Madeleine Thompson, 9 Church Terrace, Cublington, Leamington Spa. Warks.

18 April: North-east London CND demo. Assemble 11am at Burdette Rd near Mile End Tube. March to North East Sector Control in Wanstead. Tel Lynne Harrison 01-985 1030.

20 April: Mass picket by all London region CND groups outside the military command post at High Holborn. Assemble 10am.

25 April: 'Jobs not Bombs' march in Stockton (Bill Rodgers' constituency). Speakers from L.P., CND, Trades Council; Assemble Norton Green, 12.30pm. Tel. 0642 244316.

Easter Anti-War Actions

18 April: International demonstration to NATO HQ in Brussels. For details of march and coach tickets contact your local anti-missiles group, or CND, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 (01 263 4954), or Sebastian Halliday, Laneside, Woodtop, Hebden Bridge (042-284 4537 evenings, 061-273 7121 ext 5308 day).

Regional marches

There will be marches in Plymouth (18 April), to Salisbury (14-16 April), Caerwent or Bath (18 April), Reading, Southampton, Swindon, and Oxford (all 18 April), festival and rally at Greenham Common or Aldermaston (20 April), Lewes and Chatham (11 April) to the five London sub-regional control centres (18 April), RAF Honington (20 April), from Wolverhampton, Milton Keynes and Derby to Rugby (17-19 April), festival and rally in Rugby (20 April), from Leeds to Manchester (the Trans-Pennine march, 15-18 April), Manchester (18 April).

We will have more details in later issues, but all CND groups are urged to send us advertising leaflets, posters, etc so we can have as comprehensive a guide as possible.

No Comment

'AFTER all that has happened, it will still be necessary to have possession of rifles, revolvers and shotguns. These weapons are primarily required for killing dangerous and possibly diseased packs of wild animals hunting for food.

'And sadly; these weapons will be needed to protect law-abiding communities from the unwelcome attentions of armed criminal elements or despotic groups.'

From 'Surviving Doomsday' by C Bruce Sibley, published by Shaw & Sons, price £1.25.

Mr Sibley also recommends those looking forward to a bright new future after a nuclear war to take the following items with them into their nuclear shelters:

Walkie-talkie transmitters, cylinders of compressed air, special respirators and protective suits, dosimeters (for detecting radiation), field telephones and a big reel of telephone wire, small crans: rifles, shotguns, revolvers, signal flares and ... packets of seeds!

Carter on 25 July 1980, and leaked to the US press in August of that year.

PD 59 instructs the Pentagon to develop plans and strategies for fighting and winning prolonged but 'limited'

nuclear wars. Its underlying thesis is that the Pentagon would fight such a war by launching a first strike nuclear attack against the Soviet Union, crippling the USSR's ability to retaliate.

But PD 59 is not simply words. It is based on the development of four new weapons systems that make a first strike possible. Those systems are the MX missile, the Trident II submarine-launched missile, the Cruise missile, and the Pershing II missile.

With these weapons, the Pentagon feels that it can eliminate the Soviet retaliatory threat in a crippling 'first strike'.

In line with this, PD 59 instructed the Pentagon to change the targets of US nuclear weapons from Soviet cities to Soviet military targets. This is known as moving from a 'counter-cities' to a 'counter-forces' strategy.

Although at first glance PD 59's 'counter-forces' targeting might seem to be a more 'humane' strategy because it spares civilian targets, in fact its

effect is just the opposite. A 'counter-forces' strategy makes nuclear annihilation more rather than less likely.

During the years that Reagan claims the US was becoming 'unilaterally disarmed', the Pentagon was actually perfecting a new generation of nuclear weapons capable of knocking out Soviet missile sites and command bunkers.

The Trident I submarine-launched missiles and Mk 12A warhead for the Minuteman III can now do this.

To fully implement the 'counter-forces' strategy, however, the Pentagon needed the four new weapons systems mentioned earlier.

The MX missile, the Trident II missile, the Cruise missile, and the Pershing II missile, taken together, will make it possible — or so the Pentagon hopes — for the US military to launch a massive nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union that could wipe out Soviet nuclear forces on the ground and cripple Soviet ability to retaliate.

The MX system, which the Pentagon estimates will cost \$34bn and others claim will cost up to \$106bn, is the cornerstone of PD 59. As Richard Burt of the *New York Times* explained on 11 August 1980, the MX will 'give the United States the ability, for the first time, to threaten all of the Soviet Union's land-based missiles'.

It could also knock out fortified Soviet command bunkers. On 13 August 1980 Burt acknowledged that the MX 'not only is designed to escape a first strike, it has the accuracy needed for such strikes'.

Armed with multiple warheads that can be targeted to hit different sites, the MX missile is far more accurate than any previous missile system.

With 10 warheads on each missile, and a range of over 6,000 miles, each MX warhead would land within 100 yards of its intended target, and would destroy everything within two-and-a-half miles.

This accuracy and destructive power means that it could destroy the most heavily reinforced concrete missile silo.

The required for the Trident II new guidance range of Trident small m

In the launched as 'because enough tended and II c

The deploy submarine Trident programme projected at the US Navy all to £6bn Trident

The system, be launched ground nuclear so small cannot

PUSHES FOR CAPABILITY

New South African atomic bomb test

FOR THE second time in a little more than a year, an unacknowledged nuclear test has been conducted in the Atlantic Ocean, south west of South Africa. The tell-tale flash of the explosion was secretly recorded on 15 December 1980, by US monitoring devices.

For more than two months the US government attempted to keep news of the test a secret. But some details of it finally leaked to the US press and were reported in an 18 February dispatch by syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak.

Washington had also tried to cover up the previous nuclear test which was detected by a US satellite on 22 September 1979. The official report on the sighting issued by the Carter administration tried to explain it away as a meteor striking the satellite.

However, the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), which drew up a counter report, insisted that the event in September 1979 was in actuality a low-yield nuclear weapons test. The DIA, together with the CIA, believes that the test was conducted jointly by the South African and Israeli governments. The DIA's report was never officially released.

One reason for Washington's eagerness to play down the significance of the blasts is its own complicity in the development of the South African nuclear programme. Many top South African nuclear engineers and scientists were trained in the United States, and Washington has supplied the apartheid regime with enriched uranium fuel, which can be used for weapons production.

● According to the *Daily Telegraph*, a recent visit to Washington by five South African military officers has started speculation that South Africa may have been putting out feelers for American "understanding" of nuclear tests planned by Pretoria.

The delegation, led by Brigadier General van der Westhuizen, head of military intelligence, made 'courtesy calls' on staff at the DIA and the White House National Security Council.

It was only when they got to the entrance hall of the State Department that a flap developed — apparently because the press had begun to ask awkward questions.

As part of its observance of the United Nations embargo on arms sales to South Africa the US has an 18-year-old ban on visits by senior South African military officers. The State Department claimed that the South African delegation had got their visas under false pretences — the South Africans had described themselves as 'government officials'.

But this doesn't stand up: one of the delegation, Rear Admiral WN Du Plessis, a former South African defence attaché in Washington, was expelled from the US in 1979.

And John Fisher, president of the right-wing American Security Council which invited the delegation, disclosed that he had written to the State Department to inform them of the nature of the delegation. He got no reply.

The South African government has made little secret of its optimism that Reagan, who recently lauded South Africa as an ally against 'communist expansion', will review the US's arms embargo.

Now it seems the South Africans want the US to keep quiet about its nuclear weapons tests — the US is the only country with satellites capable of detecting them.

The Cruise is also extremely cheap as missile systems go. At a cost of \$750,000 each — less than the price of a modern battle tank — current US plans call for the production of 4,000 to 5,000 of these tiny but deadly nuclear missiles.

On 12 December 1979, NATO voted to deploy 464 of the Tomahawk version of the Cruise missile in Western Europe in 1983. With a range of over 2,000 miles, the Tomahawk Cruise could hit major cities in the Soviet Union from West European launching sites.

The fourth new system, the Pershing II missile, is also scheduled for deployment in Western Europe. A highly accurate missile, carrying a cluster of individually targeted warheads, 108 Pershing II missiles are to be based in West Germany.

From there they could hit Soviet targets in as little as *four minutes* compared to the 30 or more minutes it would take a missile launched from the US to reach the Soviet Union. This obviously increases the Pentagon's ability to launch a surprise attack against the USSR.

By agreeing to the placement of a total of 572 Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe — the first European-based missiles that can hit the Soviet Union — the Pentagon's European allies are helping Washington implement its first strike strategy against the Soviet Union.

It should be noted that although these weapons will be on European soil, they will remain under the sole command of the US military, to be used when the US government decides.

In addition to the MX, Trident II, Cruise, and Pershing II systems, the Pentagon is also hard at work on other weapons to improve US first-strike capability. Plans for the Stealth bomber, for example, were revealed by Carter during his unsuccessful re-election campaign.

The Stealth bomber is being designed to be invisible to Soviet radar. Once it sneaks

No comment

'WHILE 5 psi (the pressure of the blast wave several miles from a nuclear explosion) is not enough to crush a man (sic), a wind of 180 mph would create fatal collisions between people and nearby objects.'

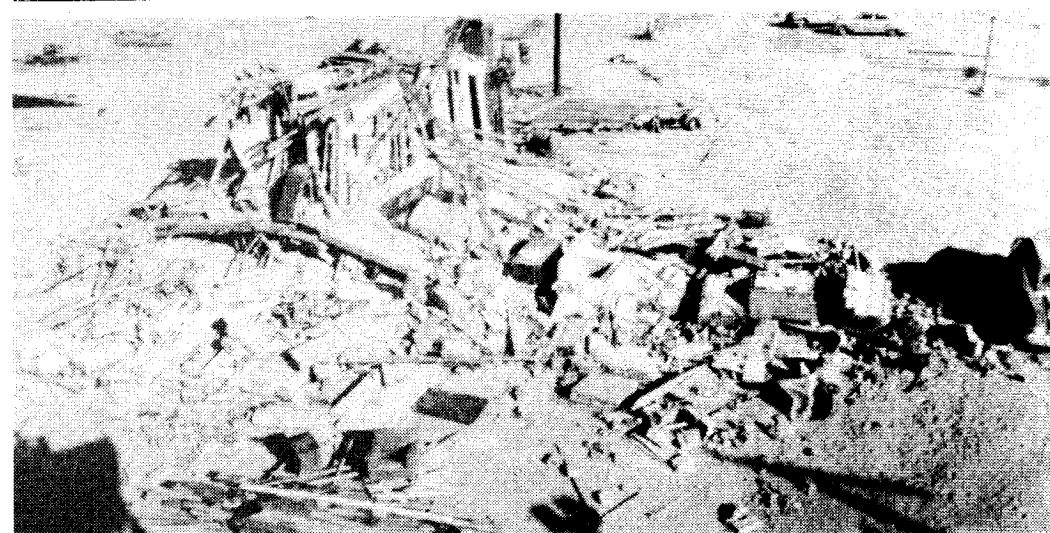
From 'The Effects of Nuclear War' by the Office of Technology Assessment of the Congress of the United States, published by Croom Helm at \$1.95.

through Soviet air defence systems, it could either drop bombs on its intended targets or launch Cruise missiles from a considerable distance away.

Right now 'military plan-



There's no point in hiding under the stairs



US government pictures of damage caused by a nuclear explosion. Similar damage would be produced 5 miles from a 5-megaton explosion!

ners believe that 75 per cent of the B-52's in an attack could get through Soviet defenses,' the 22 February *New York Times* reported. But that's not good enough for the Pentagon.

The development of the neutron bomb is also part of the new US counter-forces strategy. The neutron bomb is known as the ultimate capitalist weapon because it kills the maximum number of people while destroying the minimum amount of property. It does this by spewing out huge amounts of short-lived radiation, with relatively little blast or heat.

In line with PD59, the neutron bomb is being touted for use in a limited war in Europe.

In April 1978 following protests against the deployment of the neutron bomb, Carter was forced to cancel plans to place the weapons in Europe. But the Pentagon is still producing the neutron bomb, and Reagan's

Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger recently renewed the call for placing them in Europe.

In Weinberger's own words, the neutron bomb 'is a valuable addition to our forces, which we shall probably want to use.'

PD 59, and the new weapons system needed to implement it, are the latest in a long string of Pentagon escalations of arms systems aimed at achieving and maintaining a first strike capability.

But Reagan's ability to deploy these new weapons systems is not at all assured. There is massive opposition in Europe to the introduction of the Cruise and Pershing II missiles and the neutron bomb. European workers are not impressed by the Pentagon's desire to fight 'limited' nuclear wars that would turn Western Europe into a radioactive graveyard.

Neither are American workers particularly enthusiastic about spending billions of dollars on the MX missile

system while facing cuts in real wages and social welfare programmes.

The US rulers will find that the technical problems of designing their first-strike system will be far smaller than their political problems in actually setting it up.



NEW badge from Newcastle Socialist Challenge supporters. 20p each + 12p post and packing, or 15p each for bulk orders, payment in advance. Orders to: SCD (Newcastle badge), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques payable to 'Socialist Challenge'.

Protesting the unthinkable

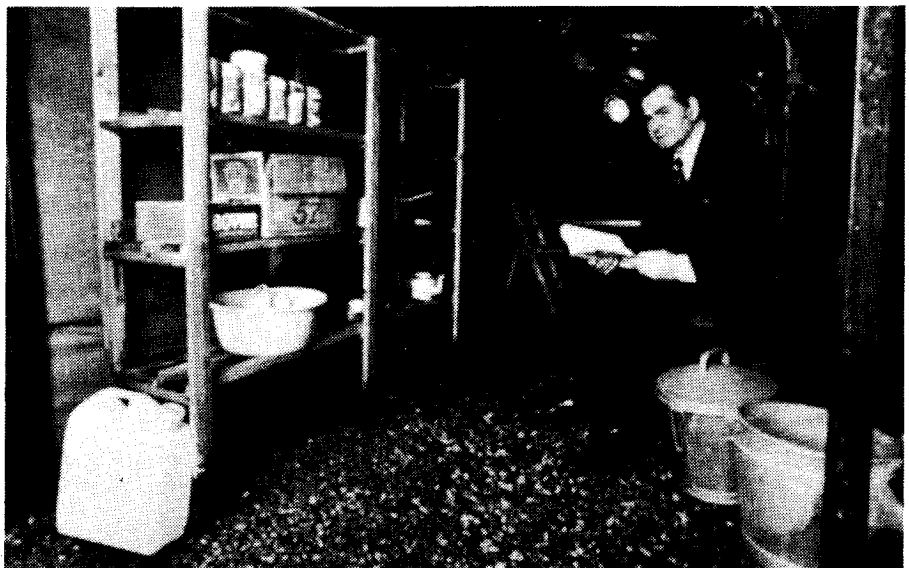
By Dave Carter

SECRET operations preparing for nuclear war took place throughout Britain last weekend.

Ten thousand volunteers under the control of the UK Warning and Monitoring Organisation — part of the Royal Ordnance Corps — spent the weekend living in 850 hardened 'mini-bunkers' throughout the country.

CND supporters in Cleveland gained access to the confidential details of the operation. We visited one of the six bunkers which ring Tesside to lay a wreath commemorating the half million Clevelanders who would die if the exercise was for real.

We were refused access across private land to the bunker, which was guarded by plain clothes police. But the wreath was later



Down a bunker in Cleveland

laid at another local bunker, which was unguarded after a decoy car had taken our Special Branch friend on a wild goose chase.

Peter Smith of the Cleveland CND said: 'About three or four of these operations are held every year, but we do not always get to hear of them. It appears they are being stepped up.

'Our protest is aimed at making the public realise that the un-

**Labour Movement Conference on Missiles
Socialist Challenge Meetings**
Lunch-time in the small assembly hall at UMIST
Speakers from Socialist Challenge, the FDR of El Salvador, Labour CND and Royal Pride
also
Immediately after the conference in the small assembly hall at UMIST
Film on El Salvador with FDR speaker

thinkable is becoming more thinkable — these are war preparations.' Asked how the campaign found out about the exer-

cise, Smith explained: 'When it comes to underground activity, Cleveland's moles are the best in the world.'



West Germany: 100,000 demonstrate at Brokdorf

DESPITE a government ban some 100,000 demonstrators gathered near the West German town of Brokdorf to protest against the construction of a 1,300 megawatt nuclear power plant on 28 February.

Fighting between police and demonstrators broke out when the authorities tried to prevent the marchers from approaching the construction site. Despite police attacks, some 40,000 protesters actually reached the site.

Work on the power plant has been virtually halted since 1976, when ongoing demonstrations led to a court order stopping construction until the question

of removal of nuclear waste could be resolved.

A decision to resume construction was made on 1 December 1980. The plant is being built jointly by the city of Hamburg and the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, the demonstrators were met by the largest police force in West German history — 10,500 gathered from all over West Germany and West Berlin....

Despite the anti-democratic court ban on the demonstration it was sponsored by more than 50 organisations. The march

received the support of the youth groups of both parties in the ruling government coalition — the Social Democrats and Free Democrats.

The left wing of the Social Democratic Party is strongly opposed to nuclear power, although Social Democratic Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is pushing the construction of nuclear plants.

The Social Democratic Party in Hamburg, Schmidt's home town, voted recently to seek a three-year moratorium on construction work at Brokdorf until the problem of nuclear wastes is solved.

Cardiff CND week of action

By Rob Johnson, Cardiff CND

CARDIFF CND's week of action from 13 to 21 March was a great success.

The main events included 3 showings of *The War Game* to over 1300 people, mass petitioning and leafletting in Cardiff City centre where 2000 signatures were collected in 3 hours; and a public meeting 'El Salvador, the war drive, who profits?' attended by 100 people.

Alan Harris for the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign and Rob Johnson analysed the war drive and its effect on semi-colonial countries such as El Salvador face with US Imperialism.

El Salvador was also taken up by EP Thompson at a meeting of nearly 1000 people where *The War Game* was again shown. To round off the week, 1000 people marched in torrential rain and sleet through the centre of Cardiff to the Welsh Office.

The demonstration called for jobs not bombs and ended with a rally addressed by local labour movement speakers, Alan Lipman, co-ordinator of Wales CND, and Dafydd Ellis Thomas, vice president of Plaid Cymru and MP for Merioneth.

With a Pat Arrow-smith poetry reading, a rock night, 2000 jobs not bombs badges sold and a 50 per cent increase in CND membership it was a highly successful week of action.

Young CND on the march in Brum

By Phil, Revolution Youth, Birmingham

ON Saturday 21 March 700 young people demonstrated against Cruise and Trident missiles through Birmingham city centre.

The demonstration was a major success for Young CND, and would have been even bigger and noisier if the weather had been better.

Most of the marchers were students and school students, together with a large contingent from the Labour Party Young Socialists. The main slogans were 'No Cruise, no Trident,' and 'Jobs not Bombs'.

At the rally after the march there were speakers from Birmingham YCND executive, West Midlands CND, the LPYS and the Anti Nazi League.

Following the large YCND contingent on the Sheffield march last week, the Birmingham YCND march shows that the missiles issue is the one which youth are organising around.

It is important that this mobilisation is given a clear and active programme of protest activities from the YCND national conference in Birmingham on 11 and 12 April.



10,000 marched last week in Sheffield against the missiles

Sheffield meeting against the war drive

By Brian Lyons

OVER 70 people attended a Socialist Challenge/Revolution Youth meeting in Sheffield following the 14 March demonstration against Cruise missiles. The meeting was held on the theme of 'Money for jobs not war — US Hands off El Salvador.' The speakers were Clive Turnbull from Socialist Challenge, Bernie Kavanagh representing Revolution Youth, and Jaime Lopez speaking on behalf of the FDR in El Salvador.

Jaime Lopez spoke about the history of his people's struggle against imperialism. 'The Salvadoran people are entering a period of historic importance,' he noted. 'For the first time in our history the people are united and determined to win their liberation in the fullest sense of the word. Historic also because they are part of a much bigger struggle for liberation by all the peoples of Latin America.'

The success of the meeting showed the militant mood that has developed within the anti-missiles movement in Sheffield. In addition to the many Latin American refugees and overseas students from Africa who attended, there were steelworkers from Rotherham, Young Socialists and many others who are active in Sheffield CND and Youth CND.

Socialist Challenge

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

If you would like to be put in touch with Socialist Challenge supporters in your area or would like more information fill in the form below

Name.....

Address.....

Age.....

Union/CLP (if any).....

Send to: Socialist Challenge PO Box 50, London N1 2XP

Poland - the bureaucratic counter-attack begins

By Davy Jones

THE Polish authorities have begun their attempt to roll back the events of the past months.

In Bydgoszcz last Thursday riot police broke up a meeting of local government officials and Solidarity activists, hospitalising two dozen people.

This new 'get-tough' policy coincides with the decision of the party apparatus to put off the planned Communist Party congress from March until July. They hope to defuse the attempts of rank and file members to democratise the party.

Their fears are justified. When the Polish Democratic Party, which has 30 seats in the Polish Parliament, held its national congress last week all but three of the members of its national praesidium were thrown out of office in a secret ballot. This is significant since this supposedly independent party is allied to the Communist Party.

The Communist Party apparatus is also rumoured to be behind a new anti-Semitic campaign. On 8 March a rally was held in Warsaw to hear speeches attacking the 'Zionist clique' said to be plotting to get into positions of power.

About 600 people attended the rally, lured by anonymous posters plastered up in the capital. Other incidents have been reported - a Star of David scrawled on Solidarity posters,

attacks on Lech Walesa and Catholic advisor Modzelewski as 'Jews to be checked out'.

This ugly campaign is reminiscent of the anti-Semitic campaign in the late '60s orchestrated by General Moczar, who is once again back in favour in the Politburo.

Among the leaders of KOR are two former students expelled from university in 1968 for being Jewish - the historian Adam Michnik and Jan Litynski, editor of *Robotnik*.

There is nothing that can be called a Jewish community left in Poland. Such has been the persecution of Jews that from a situation where 80 per cent of world Jewry was resident in Poland in the Middle Ages and where 3.5 million Jews were resident as recently as 1940 there are now only 8,000 Jews left in Poland. In large part, of course, the decline since 1940 is due to the Nazis.

But for the Polish bureaucrats any target is fair game - however weak. Since the Premier called for a 90-day 'truce', the students have won independent unions and more party officials have been purged in Radom and other major cities after strike threats by Solidarity.

At least 30,000 party members have been purged since August.

The bureaucratic counter-attack aims to undermine the gains of the workers. Support for the Polish workers from the Western labour movement is more vital than ever.



Poster for the film 'Workers '80', relating the story of last year's strike wave. The film was banned by the authorities, but after mass protests it is now being shown.

Why Rural Solidarity will not make farmers rich

By Davy Jones

'PEASANTS! Our strength lies in our unity! Let's follow the example of workers' Solidarity. Don't let us be divided! So read the appeal for the first national congress of Rural Solidarity.

Some 490 delegates packed into the old opera house at Poznan for this historic meeting on 8/9 March.

It formally united the three organisations seeking to lead the country's farmers into a single organisation, the Independent Self-ruling Trade Union for Individual Farmers, known as Rural Solidarity.

Jan Kulaj, a leader of the Rzeszow farmers' strike for union recognition, was elected the first chairperson of Rural Solidarity, which now claims the adherence of up to 1.8m of the country's 3.5m small farmers.

The government refuses to recognise Rural Solidarity as a union. Instead it calls it an 'association'.

Workers

Speaking on behalf of the national commission of workers' Solidarity, Stanislaw Wondolowski told the farmers' conference:

'We will do everything to help you. Rather it is not us who will help you



Delegates arriving for the Rural Solidarity conference.

but all of us who will help ourselves, because our interests are the same.'

The unity between the small farmers and the workers has deep roots.

When the capitalist system was overthrown in Poland immediately after the Second World War, massive rural unemployment and near starvation were eliminated along with the former landlords.

But the living standards of Polish farmers have not kept up with those of city workers. So they are fighting for a fairer share of the benefits of Poland's planned economy.

They are demanding more modern equipment and a fairer distribution of state subsidies to agriculture.

They are also asking

for a guaranteed living wage through government compensation for crop failures, with higher prices from the government for their produce. They are not demanding these benefits at the expense of the Polish workers.

When Rural Solidarity organiser Jan Kulusz was asked by a *New York Times* reporter if the farmers would hold back produce to force recogni-

tion of their union, Kulusz replied:

'The workers' and peasants' alliance could not do this. We could not have the children in the cities without milk.'

The Polish farmers are not demanding the restoration of capitalism. There are 3.5m private farmers in Poland. Their farms are not capitalist enterprises with thousands of acres and dozens of employees.

The average farm is only 12.5 acres; only one sixth are over 30 acres.

Horses

More than a third of the farms are cultivated by farmers aged over sixty. Many farmers still use plough horses, few have tractors. The working farmers are not out to accumulate property.

A rich land-owner or any aspiring one would not be demanding better medical and social benefits and a guaranteed income.

The demands of the poor farmers are similar to those of the Polish workers. They want an end to bureaucratic mismanagement of the economy and the privileges of the party bureaucrats.

They want the economy and society as a whole to be run in the interests of the workers and farmers. And they demand the right to organise themselves to fight for these demands through their union, Rural Solidarity.

Where you can buy Socialist Challenge

ABERDEEN: SC sold Saturdays outside C&As - for more info ring Colin, 574060.

BATH: SC on sale at 1985 Books, London Road, and Saturdays 2pm-3pm outside the Roman Baths. Phone 20298 for more details.

BIRMINGHAM: SC on sale at The Ramp, Fri 4.30-5.40, Sat 10-4. For more info phone 643-0669.

BRADFORD: SC available from Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate.

BRENT: SC supporters sell at Willesden Junction every Thur at 4.30pm.

BRIGHTON: SC sales regularly every Sat outside Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

BRISTOL: SC on sale 11-1. 'Hole in Ground', Haymarket. More info from Box 2, c/o Fulmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Montpellier, Bristol 6.

BURNLEY: SC on sale every Sat morning 11.30-1pm St James St.

CARDIFF: every Sat in Bute Town 10.30-12. Also available 1-0-8 Books, Salisbury Road.

CHESTERFIELD: SC supporters sell outside Boots, Marketplace, Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm.

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop. For more info about local activities phone 461138.

DUNDEE: SC available from Dundee City Square outside Boots, every Thursday 4-5.30pm, Friday 4-5.30pm, Saturday 11-4pm.

EALING: SC supporters sell every Thursday, Ealing Broadway tube, 4.30-5.30pm.

EDINBURGH: SC sales every Thursday 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square and bottom of Waverly steps 4.30-5.30. Saturday 11.30-2pm East End, Princes St. Also available from 1st May Books, or Better Books, Forrest Rd. More info on local activity from SC c/o Box 6, 1st May Bookshop, Candlemaker Row.

ENFIELD: SC available from Nelsons newsgazets, London Rd, Enfield Town.

GLASGOW: SC sales every Thur/Fri 4.30-5.30pm at Central Station. Also available at Barretts, Byres Rd; Clyde books, High St; Glasgow Bookshop collective, Cresswell Lane; Hope Street Book Centre.

HACKNEY: supporters sell SC every Saturday morning at Ridley Road market E8.

HAMILTON: SC on sale 8-11 every Sat, outside County Bar Almada Street, every Sat outside Safeway 1.30-5. For more info contact Paul, 17 Clyde View or John at 54 Eliot St, Hamilton.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: SC sales in Time Square, Saturdays 10.30-1.30pm.

HILLINGDON: SC supporters sell every Friday, 4.30-5.30 at Uxbridge tube station; every Saturday 10.30-12.00 outside Woolworths, Uxbridge shopping centre.

HUDDERSFIELD: SC supporters sell papers every Saturday 11am-1pm, The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

KILBURN: SC sales every Sat, 10am in Kilburn Square, and Thursday 8.30am at Queens Park tube.

LAMBETH: SC available from Village Books, Streatham; Tethric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk. Also sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brixton tube.

MANCHESTER: SC supporters sell 11-1pm Sat at OLDHAM outside the Yorkshire Bank, High St; at BURY in the shopping precinct and at Metro Books; at BOLTON in the town centre; and in MANCHESTER outside the central reference library in St. Peter's Square and at Grassroots and Percivals Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd. For more info ring Phil or Pete on Newcastle 737507.

NEWHAM: SC sale every Saturday, 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Market, Upton Park.

NEWPORT: SC sale every Saturday 11-12.30.

OLDHAM: SC sold every Saturday outside Yorkshire Bank, High Street. For more information about local activities, Tel: 061-682 5151.

OXFORD: SC supporters sell every Fri 12-2pm outside Kings Arms and every Sat 10.30-12.30pm in Cornmarket.

PADDINGTON: supporters sell at Portobello Rd market every Sat at 12 noon.

STOCKPORT: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8900 (evening), 236 4905 (day).

SWANSEA: SC sales outside Co-op, Oldfield St, 11am-1pm, Saturdays.

SWINDON: SC on sale 11-1 every Sat, Regent St (Brunel Centre).

TESSIDE: SC on sale Sat lunchtime in the Cleveland Centre, and at Newsfare, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, and outside Woolworths on Stockton High Street.

WEMBLEY: SC sales Fri 6.45am at North Wembley BR Station.

WOLVERHAMPTON: SC sales on Thur/Fri at Poly Students Union from noon-2pm and British Rail 4.30-6pm; an Saturday near Beatties town centre from 11am-2pm.

Is your town or city mentioned above? If not, send in details to this sales column.

What's Left

RATES for What's Left. 5p per word or £4 per col. inch. Deadline: noon Sat. prior to publication. Payment in advance.

EALING trades council coach to Labour Movement Conference Against the Missiles. Cost £6 return. Leaves Sat 28 March 6.55am Southall town hall, 7.10am Ealing Common, junction of Uxbridge Rd & Nth Circular Rd, 7.30am junction of Nth Circular and Gt North Way. Contact A Lilley phone 574-2895 evenings.

SOUTH London ANL conference. South Bank Poly, Elephant & Castle, London SE1. Sat 4 April, 1pm. Youth and student work, propaganda and the GLC elections, attacks by fascists, organising the unemployed.

WEST London TOM. Demo in Staines. Meet BR Station, Kingston Rd, Staines. Train from Waterloo March to Hump Ackings Sugary. 4 April 11am.

SINN Fein public meeting on the continuing struggle for political status in the H Blocks. Film 'The H Block Hunger Strike' and speakers. Thurs 26 March, Tavistock Hall, Tavistock Rd, London NW10.

SOCIALIST Action forum. The Way Forward for the Labour Party. Speakers include Bob Swart, Streatham CLP. Adm 20p. Wed 1 April, 8pm. Rm 7, Friends House, Euston Rd, London NW1. Info 01-769 1160.

THE European Theatre of War present a humorous cabaret against the nuclear arms race. Sat 28 March, 7.40pm at the London Musicians Collective, 42 Gloucester Ave, London NW1. Adm £1.30.

ELWAR public rallies. No Nationality Act! Smash all immigration controls! Speakers from French immigrant group; Filipino campaign; New Cross Massacre Action Ctee; East London Workers Against Racism. Tues 31 March, Friends House, Euston Rd, London NW1. Euston tube. 7.15pm. Also Wed 1 April, Parkside Hotel, Lloyd St, Moss Side 7.30pm.

FIGHT Racism! Fight Imperialism! March/April issue out onw. H Block Hunger Strike; New Cross Massacre; Communist Tradition on Ireland (Pt 3); Latin American News. 20p plus 15p p&p. RCG Publications Ltd (MS) 49 Railton Rd, London SE24.

ILEA Workers conference. Sat 28 March, 10.30-4pm. Students Common Room, Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Rd, London N7. To discuss united action against cuts. Details and credentials (£1) contact C

ROCK against Giscard!

Any readers interested in going to the LCR Fête in Paris on the weekend of 11/12 April write for details to SCD (Fête), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

International Marxist Group notices

NATIONAL LESBIAN/GAY Fraction: 2 May National centre 11 am. All cdes welcome even if not active around this question at the minute. Main item will be perspectives document which involves orientation to labour and womens movement. Pool fare. Childcare can be provided if there is advance notice, and also accommodation. Ring Jamie on 01-637 2249.

Revolution Youth notices

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Cards now available for members of Revolution Youth. All branches should place orders with national office. **REVO 16:** next issue underway. out for beginning of April. Get your branch reports in now.

S WEST & WALES: Regional aggregate on Sat 28 March in Bristol. Ring REVO national office for details.

MISSILES: national fraction Sun 5 April. All RY members involved in YCND or other anti-Cruise work. UCL Students Union, Gower St, nr Euston Station. From 11am.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION: national fraction on 25/26 April in Birmingham.

Exclusive John Lennon poster!
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Just £1. Bulk orders (over 5) are post free, otherwise, send 30p p&p.
Orders and money to: The Other Printshop, c/o Po Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Women's Rights International

By the Women's Festival Planning Group

ON 9 May, the second anniversary of the Tory government, we are celebrating with a National Festival for Women's Rights against Tory Attacks. It will be a day to rally our forces, to share experiences, to protest against these policies which erode our freedom to live as we choose.

In Patrick Jenkin, we have a social service minister who believes that 'if God had meant us to be equal he would not have created men and women'. His hatchet job on social services is robbing us of independence, with women being forced back into the home to care for other victims of the cuts — the old, the young, and the sick.

One of the organisations supporting the festival is Oxfordshire Women's Aid, which provides refuges for battered women. It says: 'We deplore the policies of the present government, which have not only obstructed our attempts to alleviate pressing and extreme social problems, but have also exacerbated those very hardships.'

'We suffer directly from cuts to housing programmes and social security — especially emergency and exceptional needs payments — and the closing down of pre-school playgrounds.'

'More insidiously, the rising cost of school meals and medical prescriptions combined with the gradual erosion of employment for women, are placing heavy burdens on all of us.'

Women's festival that won't please Thatcher

'Morale has been lowered and courage sapped at a time when women and children need all the support they can gain.'

Women are joining the ever-lengthening dole queues at twice the rate of men, while James Prior's Employment Act restricts maternity provisions and trade union rights. The government spends more money on nuclear weapons and less to protect us from battering, rape, and unwanted pregnancy.

Hemel Hempstead National Abortion Campaign says: 'We think it's important to sponsor this festival as NAC has already proved that an organised campaign of opposition can work.'

'Tim Sainsbury MP changed his mind about using his private members' bill to restrict the '67 Abortion Act, largely as a result of seeing the strength of opposition.'

'The Tory government is cutting family planning clinics, hospitals, and nurseries. Taken with rising unemployment and increasing poverty, these cutbacks make unwanted pregnancies more likely, and even more distressing for those involved.'

On 9 May, women from across the country will be coming to Starcross school, Islington, North London, to take part in workshops, hear speakers, watch videos and theatre groups, browse around stalls and exhibitions and listen

to music.

Jam Today, Tour de Force, and the Raincoats will be among the bands and the Women's Theatre group, Lottie & Ada, Bloomers and Mrs Worthington's Daughters are among the theatre groups. Films on all aspects of women's rights will be shown throughout the day.

Themes for discussion include the right to work, women and children, the welfare state, racism, violence, peace and sexuality. Children's events will be organised all day, with clowns, inflatables, face painting, and more.

At the end of the day we are having a big rally, focussing on our fightback and our strengths as women, by inviting speakers from women's struggles throughout Britain.

Come and join the many women and their organisations who are supporting the festival — NAC, the National Union of Students, branches of NALGO, ASTMS, and NUPE, the NUJ Equality Working Party, Jo Richardson MP, Rights of Women, Women in Action, Women's Fightback, Women's Voice, Spare Rib — to name but a few.

The final details of the day, including discussions on our future fights as women against Tory attacks, will be organised at a special national planning day in London on 28 March to be held at A Woman's Place, 48 William IV St, London WC2, 1-5pm. We

FESTIVAL FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS



MAY 9TH
-BANDS - FILMS - PLAYS -
MEETINGS - EXHIBITIONS ETC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT - FESTIVAL PLANNING GROUP
c/o 374 GRAY'S INN RD, LONDON WC1.

want to make sure the ideas represent as many women as possible, so please attend.

If you can get involved in the regular weekly planning meetings, come and join in on Monday evenings at 7pm at the festival's address: 374 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1. Order your posters, badges, and leaflets now!

Nurseries join Namibia battle

By Sue Gower and Dale Gash

NAMIBIAN women who are fighting to free their country from South African rule are making demands which are unusual in guerilla wars.

They want nurseries and child-care centres to free women for training and education. And they have asked for bulk consignments of sanitary towels, tampons, and contraceptives.

In the camps set up in Zambia and Angola to deal with the exodus of refugees from the white tyranny in Namibia, the emphasis is on communal life.

There are communal kitchens, where people take it in turns to cook. There is shared respon-

sibility for child-care, collective cultivation, and communally-organised health services.

All this is a far cry from life in Namibia itself. Ninety per cent of black Namibians are confined to 'home lands', which occupy a third of the country — the least economically

viable land, needless to say.

Men are sent off to work in the white-owned mines, factories and farms. This is how Nahambo Shamera describes life in the 'home lands': 'Mothers have to stay at home doing everything — looking after the children and even doing the work men used to do.'

'By being women, you have to ask yourself "Why am I left alone with my children, working on the lands alone, looking after the cattle by myself?"'

'The answer,' she adds, 'is the contract labour system. The women are really suffering while

their husbands are used as cheap labour.'

To maintain such gross injustice, 80,000 South African troops are based in Namibia, imposing bloody repression through martial law. Not least among the interests they are defending are the Western investments in southern Africa, including those of British companies.

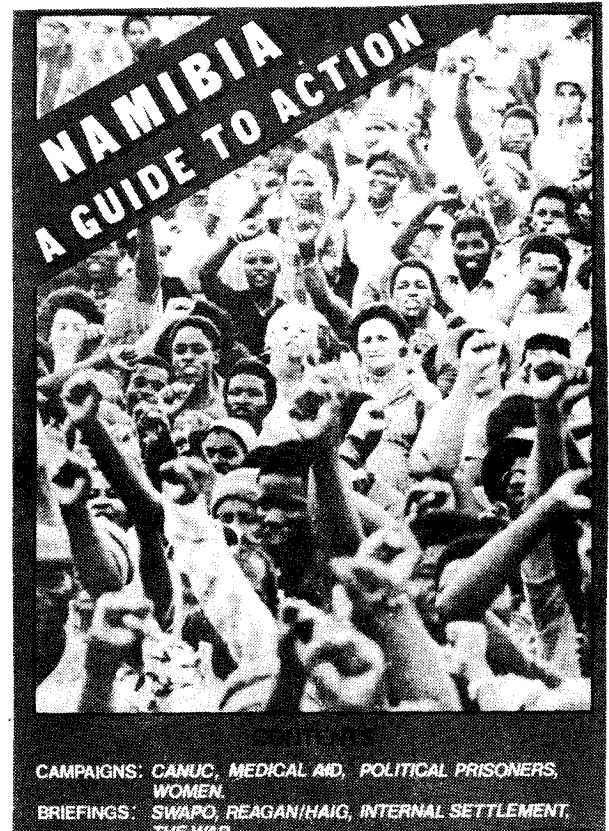
As one woman activist in the South-West African People's Organisation puts it: 'We believe that the gun is the only thing that will bring liberation to southern Africa.'

Namibian women have played a leading part in the

resistance to the occupation of their country. In 1959 they were in the forefront of protest against the forced evacuation of a black township in the capital, Windhoek.

During the national strike in 1971-2, they played a key part in implementing the boycott of services run by the apartheid regime.

Netumbo Nandi, a member of the SWAPO women's council, points to the increasing involvement of women at meetings and demonstrations during the 1970s. Sometimes, she says, women were in the majority. As a result, women



CAMPAIGNS: CANUC, MEDICAL AID, POLITICAL PRISONERS, WOMEN.
BRIEFINGS: SWAPO, REAGAN/HAIG, INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, THE WAR

Price 40p plus p&pp, from: Namibia Support Cttee, 188 North Gower St, London NW1.

begin to join men in the jails.

'Today', Netumbo explains, 'you will find women at every level of our movement's structure.'

'But whatever has been achieved so far must be seen not only as a victory against the existing social and economic structure which discriminates against women in employment and education.'

Prejudices

'It is also a victory against the prejudices among some of our male comrades.'

A delegate to the SWAPO women's council conference, held last year, said: 'Experience has shown that often after the liberation struggle, women are left out of participation in the government which they helped to bring about.'

It is by the involvement of women in SWAPO's organisation and by raising demands to counter

women's traditional role that the women activists aim to aid the liberation struggle and to shape the society which takes over from apartheid.

On visits to Britain, members of the women's council linked women's struggle here to that of Namibian women.

They point out that the government which is undermining the gains of women's struggle in Britain is reinforcing the oppression of Namibian women through its economic and political support for the South African regime.

Now is the time to support women in Namibia. Responding to their demands is the best way of helping their struggle maintain momentum and is an essential part of our own battle with imperialism.

Information and solidarity work for Namibian women from: SWAPO Women's Campaign, c/o 188 North Gower St, London NW1.



Women in the front line of the Namibian struggle

Middlesbrough sell-out



By Dave Carter

TRYING to write a football column for a socialist newspaper reminds me of watching Middlesbrough struggling to reach an FA Cup Semi-Final for the first time in history. The willingness is there, but somehow the whole idea seems highly improbable.

Now that Boro' have blown their chances in the Molyneux mud for yet another season, there is uproar on Teesside over Craig Johnston's delayed action transfer to Liverpool.

Two years ago, Liverpool pinched

our best player, Graeme Souness, whom Middlesbrough had taken out of Spurs reserves and transformed into the classiest midfield maestro in Division One. Souness is now hailed as a superstar while playing no better than he did at Middlesbrough.

Having taken Craig Johnston from the Australian outback and developed him into a worthy successor to Souness, Boro' fans are a trifle aggrieved that history is about to repeat itself.

The villain of the piece is restaurateur and former dance band leader Charles Amer, chairperson of the Middlesbrough board of directors. To

Amer and his colleagues football means becoming a civic dignitary — and a good season is one where the books balance.

Amer masterminded Craig Johnston's move to Liverpool over the head of Boro' manager John Neal, and has even admitted that he tried to sell the player to Leeds at Christmas for £1m. This fell through because Johnston didn't want to go.

Indeed throughout the whole saga Johnston has seemed reluctant to leave Middlesbrough and has insisted on staying until his contract expires in May.

Boro' fans are now asking about the futures of David Hodgson and Mark

Proctor who play alongside Johnston in the England Under-21 team. Will they also be sacrificed so that Amer can show a profit?

The next departure from Ayresome Park may be manager John Neal who is unlikely to want to manage a mediocre mid-table team indefinitely while his directors sell off Boro's young stars without his agreement.

The main concern of all football directors is money — witness the three Newcastle United directors (including League President Lord Westwood) who recently resigned because they were reluctant to stump up £16,000 apiece to stop Newcastle's slide to Division Three.

I'm sorry if Socialist Challenge's first football column has been dominated by events at Ayresome Park, but what did you expect in a left-wing newspaper — impartiality?

THE SLIMEHOUSE FOUR

I WROTE 'The Gang of Frauds' after watching the report of the Slimehouse declaration on the telly.

I look forward to the day when more people like David Owen are driven out into the open by truly socialist policies, and when the Labour Party will one day be run by the people for the people and not by a handful of careerists in Westminster.

I'm not yet a member of the International Marxist Group but I buy Socialist Challenge every week off one of the lads at the factory where I work. I find it an excellent working-class spokesman — unlike the popular daily apologists — and I have started trying to sell it.

The paper is an excellent way of drawing people's attention not only to the Tories in the Con Party and their anti-worker attitudes and actions, but to the Tories in the Labour Party, who are the real infiltrators.

PS. Enclosed is £2 for the Fighting Fund.

The Gang of Frauds

*Come look Ye at the Gang of Four,
The people's hope, the people's choice,
Press your shell-like ear to their door,
Fleet Street's dope, the bosses' voice —
Listen to the noble noise of Shirley
and the Limehouse boys.*

*There's Woy the Boy, the workers' gandy,
Shovelling down caviar and sipping brandy,
Discussing with his banker mates
The dreadful level of interest wates —
Pontificating over if and when
Woy the Boy will wule again.*

*When we sit down to our small feast
We should remember this at least,
Champagne hath charms to soothe the
savage beast.*

*There's Doc David, the black man's mate,
Tucking into his well stacked plate,
Thinking of the time when he took fair
elections to Zimbabwe,*



*Agonising over why truth can prove to
be a lie —
Wondering when his time will come
To bring democracy to every one.*

*Hark at Billy the pacifists' kid,
Dining his way through fifty quid,
Explaining to his colonel friend
The way to avoid a nuclear end —
'The answer's simple,' he says with
glee,*

*'When they disarm then so shall we' —
Talking of that longed-for date
When he'll take charge and sit and
wait.*

*Lastly there's Shirley, the feminists' friend,
Anti-abortionist to the end,
Tucking into a murdered egg,
Eating its mother's deep-fried leg,
Lecturing on Europe's role*

*In putting fishermen on the dole —
Prices watchdog wondering when she'll
watch the prices rise again.*

*The moral to this poem's plain —
They've conned us once
Never again!*

JOHN CUTTS, Stockport

International Women's Day in the doldrums

GOING on the International Women's Day march this year felt so introverted, as though the women's movement is turning inwards rather than outwards. It's about time we really celebrated the day with a mass, national march.

Reading Cathy Porter's history of the day (Socialist Challenge 5 March) made me realise how far we've moved from original content, of working class women's strikes.

Shouldn't we be going outwards to draw in more women — from trade unions, local occupations, and strikes, from women's sections in the Labour Party, and community groups, as well as the local women's groups?

Perhaps if we'd really built the event in a big way we wouldn't have had to abide by the imposed ban — although the irony of a state ban on the NF march ending up with our celebration being banned may have brought home to a lot of us the danger of calling for any form of state censorship, whether against marches or pornography.

Let's hope the National Festival for Women's Rights — and against Tory attacks — on 9 May will be a start of broadening the women's movement and that we can get started soon to build International Women's Day 1982 as a day that all women can join in, nationally.

JUDY WATSON,
London E5

International

OUT in a fortnight — the first issue of a new-look INTERNATIONAL, a journal of Marxist analysis produced by supporters of the Fourth International in Britain.

A new political situation has opened up for revolutionary marxists. Thatcher and Reagan have created a new cold war alliance. The threat of a nuclear holocaust has re-emerged, generating a mass disarmament movement. At the same time the economic recession has ushered in levels of unemployment

undreamt of for almost fifty years.

The traditional shape of British politics has been shaken by the establishment of a new centre party and the crises of the two major political parties.

These profound developments have forced the whole workers' movement to look afresh at overall political and

strategic solutions to the problems it confronts. There has been a flowering of reformist schemes and theories based on the Alternative Economic Strategy, fuelled by the successes of the Labour left in the battle for party democracy.

Revolutionaries have not been so quick to grapple with this new political situation and the theoretical and political problems it has created.

INTERNATIONAL aims to develop a revolutionary socialist pro-

gramme for Britain. It will carry theoretical and analytical articles along with polemics and discussion pieces.

The next two issues will appear in early July and September. In the autumn we hope to further expand the journal, particularly its international coverage.

The first issue contains the following articles:—

- British politics in the 1980s by John Ross
- Poland: a glimpse at political revolution by Oliver MacDonald
- Cuba today by Jean-Pierre Beauvais
- Reviews by Margaret Coulson, Michael Löwy, John Harrison, Denny Fitzpatrick and Ric Sissons.

Future issues will include

articles on:

- A new stage of Anglo-Irish relations
- Disarmament and the struggle for socialism
- The economic programme of the next Labour government
- History of Labour's youth movements
- Crisis of the Communist Party
- Pornography and censorship
- The Monarchy
- And much, much more

INTERNATIONAL costs 60p and a special rate of £3.50 for a year is available for new subscribers. Write to: INTERNATIONAL, c/o PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Make cheques out to 'INTERNATIONAL'.

Jeremy McMullen
Employment law under the Tories
Pluto Press, £1.95

This book is designed to provide trade unionists with an explanation of new laws introduced by the Tories. It covers women's rights, the closed shop, picketing, and union recognition and is essential reading for all those fighting for their rights at work.

Alex Callinicos
Southern Africa After Zimbabwe
Pluto Press, £2.95

Based on research and interviews conducted during the elections which brought Mugabe to power, the book traces the background to the new phase in the struggle to liberate southern Africa from white rule.

The Other Bookshop
328 Upper St, London N1

Labour MP KEVIN McNAMARA has launched a savage attack on the Labour Party national executive's discussion paper on Ireland.

The paper has been widely discussed in the pages of Socialist Challenge, and as part of this debate Kevin McNamara's contribution is a welcome step to establishing a socialist perspective for the north of Ireland.

Extracts from his speech, made at a meeting on Wednesday of last week, are published here.

Can I, first of all, welcome the publication of this discussion document as a sign that for the first time, rather than brush the problem of the Six Counties under the carpet and pretend that it's all the fault of the para-militaries, the NEC has been prepared to examine the problems created for the party and for these islands by the tragedy of Northern Ireland.

That, however, is as far as I can go because the paper that has been produced is a dangerous, foolish paper, a Unionist paper, some might be a little unkind to call it an Orange paper.'

It is a paper in which Enoch Powell and the Ulster Unionists must delight. It is not a socialist paper.

The whole drift of its

Labour NEC on Ireland

'Dangerous and Orange'

argument is in favour of integration of the Six Counties within the United Kingdom — a recipe for continuing death and tragedy in Northern Ireland.

The consensus view of the Northern Ireland Group of Labour MPs is that the long-term interests of the United Kingdom and Ireland lie in the eventual unification of the two parts of the island of Ireland.

The major problem in Northern Ireland is the constitutional issue. The island was partitioned in 1921, so as to take account of the wishes of a Loyalist minority in Ireland to opt out of a united Ireland and to retain links with Great

Britain.

Northern Ireland is a constituency which was deliberately drawn to give a two-to-one majority in favour of maintaining their link with the UK against an 80 per cent wish that the whole of the island of Ireland be independent.

Loyalists

The effect is, that by dint of a sectarian head count, the Loyalists have been presented with a lasting majority in the Six Counties, maintained at times by programmes of vast emigration and deliberate discrimination against the minority.

Yet the NEC paper states the argument that

Northern Ireland should return to majority rule — a return to the practices which existed before 1969, and resulted in the present bloodshed and economic disintegration.

The policy of the Labour Party government from the fall of the former power-sharing executive of May 1974 was to draw the conclusion that the only option available was Direct Rule, while concentrating on improving the economy and security.

But there was no advance on the political front — a policy which, of necessity, favoured the Loyalists. The result was that many members of the Northern Irish Social Democratic and Labour

Party were antagonised, and relations between Dublin and Westminster were not as happy as they should have been.

Chicanery

The action in conceding to Unionist demands for extra seats in the Six Counties as a prize for continuing support for the minority labour government led to complete alienation.

This was a complete reversal of previous policies, and was as cynical a piece of political chicanery to retain power as the country has ever seen, and one which the Labour Party is likely to continue to suffer for

many years to come. It was a complete sell-out to the Unionists.

There has to be a new departure. The new socialist approach I would urge would be to scrap the discussion paper.

Let us start from the concept of the island of Ireland and work out from that, rather than looking at the Six Counties as some sort of imperial relic. In the interests of all these islands, the sooner the Labour Party starts on a more constructive approach to Ireland's British problem, the better.



John La Rose, left, from the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, was one of the speakers at a meeting in London last week which pledged support to the Irish hunger strikers.

The hunger strike — organising to win

THERE are now four Irish political prisoners on hunger strike in the H Blocks of Long Kesh.

Two weeks ago, Frankie Hughes joined Bobby Sands on the protest, then, last Sunday, Patsy O'Hare and Raymond Peter McCreesh also went on hunger strike.

Socialist Challenge recently talked to FERGUS O'HARE in Belfast. As a member of the National H Block/Armagh Committee, he is one of those responsible for organising the campaign on behalf of the prisoners.

Fergus is also a member of the Irish revolutionary socialist organisation, Peoples Democracy.

Action

The National H Block/Armagh Committee regards work in the trade unions as particularly important. 'To that end,' said Fergus, 'we're organising a Day of Action on 15 April, which we hope will have as much success, or even more, than the Day of Action we called on 10 December when, certainly in Belfast, the number of people who came out on the streets was greater than any trade union day of action which has been called by the official trade union movement.'

Those workers who did come out in support of the prisoners last time were from the rank and file of the various unions, although individual union leaders expressed their support for the prisoners' demands.



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There was other official support, remembers Fergus: 'A number of trades councils passed resolutions of support, as did the two largest unions in Ireland — the ITGWU and the ATGWU.'

'But when we called for industrial action it was left to rank and file workers to organise themselves and to come out in many cases in the face of opposition from the official union leaderships.'



Fergus O'Hare

'That was why, in one sense, the positive response of workers throughout the country to the hunger strike surprised the national committee. It surprised, too, a number of trade union bureaucrats.'

The National H Block/Armagh Committee has also been encouraged by the impressive participation of young people in the campaign. H Block/Armagh youth committees were set up during the last hunger strike, and these, Fergus believes, were a real step forward:

'The youth committees were the first serious attempt since the early civil rights period to involve youth, to listen to what they have to say, to let them get out and put their ideas into action. This is a very important aspect of the whole campaign.'

Also important was the support the hunger strike received from the women's movement, particularly at an international level, and once again, says Fergus,

'the committee is looking to draw feminist support over the conditions of the women prisoners in Armagh jail.'

Unions

But Fergus's closing remarks were directed towards trade unionists in Britain:

'In view of the statements which the TUC have put out on the situation in H Block, it's worth stating the official position of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. As agreed at the 1978 conference, the policy is that prisoners should not be forced to wear prison uniforms, should not have to do prison work, and should not be penalised for refusing to do either of these.'

'When the TUC or the British Labour Party state their opposition to the demands of the Irish political prisoners, they are therefore going against the leadership of the Irish trade union movement.'

National Demonstration
Saturday 25 April,

Support Irish
prisoners — grant the
five demands

Called by H-Block/Armagh (London) Committee

Setback for women in health union

By Geoffrey Sheridan

THE health service union COHSE, in which women make up just over three-quarters of the membership, now has an all-male national executive. There were three women on the 29-strong NEC, but all of them were defeated in recent elections.

Norah Baldock, one of the women who failed to be re-elected, says: 'There are many issues on which women's views ought to be represented by both women and men, such as part-timers, cuts in community services, as well as pay and equal opportunities, because we are the ones most affected.'

But she tends to blame women themselves for their gross under-representation, rather than COHSE's structure or policies — 'We are just not active enough, so we cannot complain too loudly about not being adequately represented.'

Yet in spite of all the obstacles, women are active in the union, making up 24 per cent of branch secretaries and 25 per cent of annual conference delegates.

In the public employees' union NUPE, six seats on the national executive are reserved for women. Among the gains made by this form of affirmative action is that an additional two women have since been elected on to the NUPE executive.

Teachers accept 7½% without a fight

By Ken Jones, Socialist Teachers Alliance

AT A special conference last weekend, the teacher's union rejected a fight for its pay claim of 15 per cent. Instead delegates accepted a pitiful 7½ per cent.

In a situation where thousands of teachers are worried by the threat of unemployment, the NUT executive should have argued that higher wages did not mean fewer jobs. But there was no serious campaign over the pay claim.

Claim

The executive accepts that the deal leaves us worse off, which will certainly please the Tories.

Instead of co-ordinating the claim with that of other public sector unions, which would have laid the basis for action, the executive bleated

that we could not have achieved anything better without a strike 'and the membership wouldn't stand for that'.

Critics

Instead of defending the interests of its members, the NUT executive victimises its critics. It has suspended six officers of the Lambeth Teachers' Association because they organised support for joint trade union action against the cuts.

The six want support from all NUT branches and labour movement bodies for their campaign. Eight Labour MPs, including Tony Benn, have already given their support.

Picket the NUT executive when the appeal of the suspended NUT members is being heard: Saturday 4 April, 8.30am, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1.

Just out — Defence Committee Bulletin. Copies obtainable from: 27 Wheathill Road, London SE20.

No non-union shops!

By Pete Clifford

STRIKERS occupying the Royal Pride furniture factory were evicted by High Court order last week.

They were sitting in to highlight their claim for recognition of their union, FTAT.

During the sit-in the strikers established that their boss planned to hire cheap labour from the Youth Opportunities Programme and disabled people. The manager refused to accept union rights and sacked the strikers.

Support has flooded in with collections being taken at many factories in Manchester. At the Women's TUC, delegates from all over the country contributed to their fund.

The Salford MP Frank Allaun has stepped in to back up the strikers saying that 'they were fully justified in striking against the non-recognition of their union'.

The strike committee is calling for more support

for their fund and picket on the basis that the whole labour movement must make clear its opposition to non-union shops in the area.

Financial contributions to: FTAT strike committee, 37 Anson Rd, Manchester 14. Daily picket at Royal Pride, Greengate, Salford.

Sorry!

TWO proofreading errors crept into our pages last week. On the front page we let the Tories off the hook when we said industrial production has declined by 1½ per cent. The figure is 13½ per cent.

The quote from Bernadette McAliskey on page 12 should have read: 'Historical reality is that there will be no peace or progress in Ireland while they (the British Army) are here.'

The Linwood disaster

By Des Tierney

WORKERS at Talbot's Linwood plant last week rejected their Joint Shop Stewards' Committee (JSSC) recommendation to occupy the plant to prevent its closure. The factory will now close by the end of May with all 4,800 workers made redundant. The JSSC was instructed to seek the best redundancy conditions from the company.

It is estimated that the total redundancies caused by the closure will rise to about 10,000 — in an area where unemployment already stands at 25 per cent — as well as its demoralising effects on other Scottish workers fighting to save their jobs.

In the wake of this disaster the union leadership has been quick to blame the workforce rather than their own policies for this decision. Jimmy Milne of the Scottish TUC explained that it was 'understandable' as 'the fact that the government and a large section of the media believed there was no possibility of forcing the company to reverse its decision'.

Milne's remarks sum up the approach of the union leaders throughout the dispute. From the start they have opposed any militant action in favour of an attempt to mobilise 'Scottish public opinion' against the French-owned

company's closure plans.

Immediately after the closure announcement the shop stewards' committee leaders defeated a motion to occupy against the redundancies. Instead they decided to show how profitable and efficient the plant could be by accepting the company's plans to run the plant 'flat out' for three months.

Point

Jimmy Livingstone, the TGWU convenor, bragged openly: 'We intend to work normally. We'll show them what throughput is. No one is going to point the finger at us. No one is going to say that we are the wreckers.'

The second mass meeting showed the effects of this bankrupt strategy — over 30 per cent of the workers voted to accept the closure.

Only at the eleventh

hour did the shop stewards change their approach and call for an occupation. By then it was too late. The seeds of disaster had been sown long before. The only way to have saved the Linwood jobs was by mobilising the entire workers' movement in a struggle for nationalisation linked to a movement to kick out the Tories.

Support

When the Talbot Action Committee called a meeting to assess support from other unions the workers' mood was unmistakable. Shop stewards from Govan shipyards, Rolls Royce and elsewhere all urged Talbot workers to 'take up the cudgel', to 'go into battle'. It was repeated that Linwood was where 'the line had to be drawn'.

Leaders

The line wasn't drawn at Linwood and it won't be drawn until the leaders of the class in the factories realise that a concerted fight against redundancies, involving massive industrial action, must be linked to a movement to kick out this Tory government.

RATE RISES

1	Hackney*	55.1
2	Hammersmith & Fulham	53.6
3	Kensington & Chelsea	52.5
4	Newham	52.0
5	Greenwich*	51.7

Hackney tenants plan rent and rates strike

By Geoffrey Sheridan

TENANTS on the Nightingale estate in Hackney, East London, are organising for a rent and rates strike.

Hit by rent rises imposed by the Tory-controlled Greater London Council, which owns the seven tower blocks on the estate, and a colossal 55 per cent rates rise from Labour-controlled Hackney council, the tenants intend to withhold both increases.

The decision was taken at a meeting of some 200 tenants on 16 March, called by the Towers Tenants Action Committee. They are demanding that the GLC and the local council freeze rents and rates at their present level.

Nightingale is a typical

inner-city estate, littered with garbage, smashed window panes, and lifts that routinely breakdown. Yet the rates and rents increases bring the cost of a one-bedroom flat to £30 a week.

The action committee is now organising a petition on the estate, in preparation for the strike. The tenants have backing in the local Labour Parties.

Six Labour councillors voted against the rates rise — the highest in Britain — and the executive of Hackney North CLP has agreed to organise and support rent strikes. The Nightingale estate is in Hackney Central, where the CLPs general committee will consider a similar proposal later this month.

Such action could spell the end of the Labour left's high rates policy.

...but Lee Jeans fights on



Women at the Lee Jeans factory in Greenock are still in occupation to save their jobs.

By Des Tierney

'WE'RE disappointed that the Linwood workers didn't occupy, but it's not going to make any difference to us.'

Ina McCahill was speaking on behalf of the Lee Jeans occupation in Greenock near Glasgow.

The occupation is now in its eighth week and support continues to pour in.

Over £3,000 was pledged at a Scottish shop stewards conference in Leith last week, which gave a standing ovation to Bridie Bellingham the speaker from the Lee Jeans plant, owned by Vanity Fair.

'We intend to stick it out. We realise now that we're not just fighting the firm but the Tory government and a system that puts profit before people,' Bridie said.

The majority of workers at Lee Jeans are young and female. They are determined to fight for their jobs. 'I think everyone' has a right to work,' said Linda, when some of the women spoke to Socialist Challenge last week. Caroline agreed: 'Women have as much right to work as the men.'

Linda said: 'It's not just our jobs. If we win or Talbots had fought, it would really boost a lot of people. Somebody has to make a stand.'

The occupation needs all the support it can get. The Scottish shops stewards conference stressed the need for weekly levies from the labour movement to sustain the occupation.

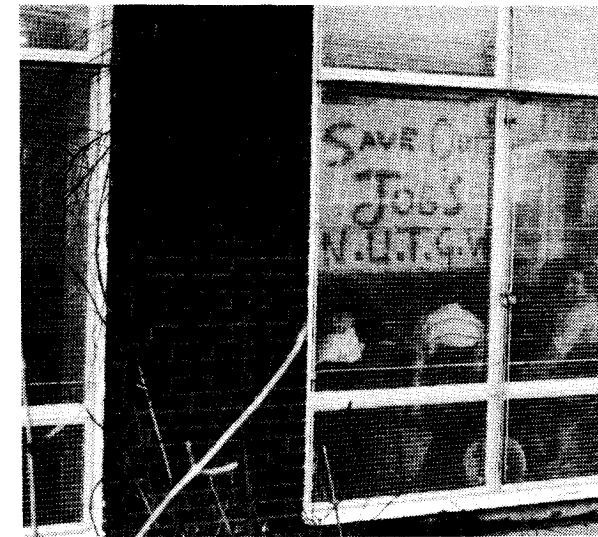
And the women themselves want to tour the country to build support.

As Caroline put it: 'We'll be in here for a long time, because there's no way we're going to give up.'

Messages of support and donations to: National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, 534 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow.

Building Worker

LATEST issue out now. Produced by and for rank and file workers in the building industry. Copies available from *Building Worker*, c/o 223B Queens Road, London SE15 2NG. Copies of Building Workers policy statement obtainable from the same address.



Socialist Challenge

CND supporters— support Socialist Challenge!

By Dick Withcombe, GMWU and Oldham West CLP

FOR a year now, Socialist Challenge

has consistently built and publicised the anti-missile movement and CND.

The paper has given a clear lead and direction for the type of mass move-

ment that we need to build — a movement that organises mass action and which is primarily based on the labour movement and youth.

This doesn't primarily reflect the journalistic

skills of the editorial staff, but the participation of hundreds of Socialist Challenge supporters and readers within and leading the anti-missile movement.

I've seen this in my own experience in Manchester.

When Manchester Against the Missiles organised a 2,000 strong march against missiles in Blackpool on the eve of the Labour Party conference, it was Socialist Challenge alone that motivated the march and local supporters in Manchester that helped organise it.

On the march and during the conference, the tireless effort of Socialist Challenge supporters accumulated wide sponsorship for a call for a labour movement conference. Motivated by Socialist Challenge supporters the proposal won the overwhelming support of CND's national conference.

Building up to the Labour Movement Conference Against the Missiles, Socialist Challenge has been the only paper to carry consistent coverage. All this has made me realise the role of the paper even more.

For me the choice is clear: do we want to build a mass movement, do we want to build mass actions, do we want to base ourselves primarily on the youth and the labour movement?

If so, then all anti-missile activists should read, sell, and help finance the paper that has argued for this approach from the start; the paper that has been unrivalled in its internationalism, its coverage and analysis of the war drive and the expanding revolution in Central America and the Caribbean.



BERNADETTE: WHY I'M STANDING

BERNADETTE McAliskey — who just a few weeks ago was on the brink of death following an attempt to assassinate her and her husband Michael — is to contest the Westminster by-election for the constituency of Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

The election will take place on 9 April, and in an exclusive interview Bernadette told Socialist Challenge why she would be a candidate:

'I'm standing because it's time the mass mobilisation was turned against Maggie Thatcher.'

'There's no living in this country, with soldiers and jails, and no money, and no jobs, and no peace, and no freedom. And there's no politician prepared to do anything about it but complain.'

'So it's time we landed the mass movement at Maggie's feet at Westminster.'

Bernadette's election campaign will focus particularly on the hunger strike in the H Blocks of Long Kesh prison. Three

Irish political prisoners have now joined Bobby Sands who started his protest at the beginning of March.

Said Bernadette: 'By polling day Bobby Sands will be 40 days on hunger strike, so the whole election will be crucial to the outcome of that strike, and the election campaign will be geared around it.'

The by-election is caused by the death of independent Republican Frank Maguire. Frank's brother, Noel, has announced his intention to contest the seat and his campaign is being backed by the Catholic Church.

Noel Maguire has played no part in the struggle to win human rights for the Irish political prisoners. His candidature is

seen very much as an attempt by the Catholic Church to stop Bernadette, whose left-wing socialism is an anathema to the bishops.

Another non-Unionist candidate could be Austin Curry of the northern Irish Social Democratic and Labour Party. The SDLP has also stated its opposition to political status for the Irish prisoners.

Crisis

Bernadette told Socialist Challenge she wasn't concerned about possible accusations that she would be splitting the non-Unionist vote:

'When the chips are down, with the political and social crisis reaching the stage it is, then it is no responsibility of mine to come to the aid of the Catholic Church and middle class Catholics and help them to find an inoffensive Catholic to send back to Westminster.'



Despite the injuries sustained in the recent attempt on her life, Bernadette is standing in the by-election for South Tyrone. She says she is standing to 'take the mass movement to Westminster.'

I'll keep on fighting for black people — Anwar Ditta

'CONGRATULATIONS, Anwar, your children can come!'

These words from MP Joel Barnett last Thursday morning ended Anwar Ditta's agonising five year struggle to bring her three children to Britain.

Amidst the frenzied activity that followed the call — Anwar was besieged with telegrams, flowers and telephone calls from all national and local newspapers — she found time for a few brief words with JENNY FLINTOFT.

ANWAR: It's proved it's worth fighting. It's proved that the Home Office were wrong to claim that black people always tell lies.

It's the Home Office

that's been lying for five years. I hope all black people will have the courage to keep on fighting, and I hope those that have been afraid to come out into the open will do so now.

But God knows what we've been through — now it's like we've been born again. I felt great when Joel Barnett told me — wonderful.

The children will be coming as soon as possible; as soon as we

can get their tickets.

What did the letter Joel Barnett brought from the Home Office actually say?

As the blood tests and tissue tests shown on the Grenada TV programme indicated that they are your children, immigration officers will be instructed to give them entry clearance.

And the Home Office hopes they will have a good life in this country.

Does this mean the campaign is over?

We still need to raise money. There are enormous debts. I'm still appealing for money. But I'd like to thank all those that have helped me. I've had support from all

over the world.

I've just had a phone call from Denmark — from close friends who've seen my children in Pakistan. It was on the news in Denmark.

My friends have been celebrating all night and I got a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, written before I heard my children could come. It said 'I sincerely hope that justice will be done.'

And what will you do now?

Well, of course, I'm concentrating on getting my children here. But I'll keep on fighting for black people.



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Socialist Challenge

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