

# Socialist Challenge

**MEET  
YOU  
IN  
BRICK  
LANE**

**Sunday  
20  
August**

**Exclusive  
INSIDE**

**Leyland  
We  
break  
silence  
on the  
slush  
fund**

**How  
the  
cover  
up  
worked**

**The  
names  
they  
tried  
to  
hide**

A story of bribery, corruption, and its cover-up. A story of capitalism in our time.

Only in Socialist Challenge can you read the full, uncensored story of the Leyland slush fund and the frantic attempts of this country's commercial and political leaders to construct a wall of silence around it.

See  
four page  
supplement

## What TUC leaders said to the Asians

TWO SURPRISE visitors joined the Asians and anti-racists who picketed Brick Lane against the National Front last Sunday. TUC leaders Len Murray and Bill Keys had come to the present frontier of the fight against the fascists on a fact-finding mission.

The next day, Murray, the TUC's general secretary, and Keys, chairperson of its race relations committee, attended a private meeting to hear the views of 30 representatives of the Asian community and labour movement in Tower Hamlets and Hackney — and express some of their own.

DAVE LAWRENCE, a member of Bethnal Green and Stepney Trades Council, was there.

The last time any of us saw a TUC leader on a picket line was at Grunwick, so when Murray and Keys joined us in the Lane on Sunday we were very much in two minds about it.

Of course, we want the leaders of the trade union movement to be with us in the front line against the Nazis — in fact we demand that they're there — but everyone knows how they led the Grunwick mass picket round the mulberry bush.

On Monday night we told Murray and Keys about the plans for Sunday 20 August,



Len Murray (centre) and Bill Keys (on his left) in Brick Lane last Sunday.

which Asian leaders and the Anti Nazi League have made a national day of solidarity.

This was news to the TUC leaders. 'Don't assume automatic support', Len Murray warned. We didn't.

And when an Asian said mass picketing had been important at Grunwick, Bill Keys replied:

'I hope we don't talk about mass picketing at this stage. The question is law and order. The Public Order Act can be used to

remove the NF from Brick Lane.'

Never mind that this Act has so far been used to stop all demonstrations.

Never mind that the 'law and order' comes in the shape of

attacks on blacks and anti-racists by the police and the courts.

When I had raised the issue of support for black self-defence with Keys at an earlier meeting, he said: 'The idea is absolutely abhorrent. I don't want vigilante groups on either side. Both are as bad as each other.'

When I raised the issue again on Monday, neither of the TUC leaders would comment.

It was an off the cuff comment by Len Murray which really gave the game away. 'I don't want to be crude', he said, replying to our demands, 'but, if you forgive me, the tail doesn't wag the dog.'

We knew what 'dog' he was talking about. The one that's been helping the Government to hold down wages, so that thousands of workers look to the Front for a solution.

Still, we're glad they came. Maybe we'll see them in the Lane next Sunday and on the big day on the 20th.

What's vital is that we see YOU then. Knocking the Nazis out of their haunt in the Lane can inflict the kind of defeat that will put millions of trades unionists on our side.

\*20 August. National day of solidarity. Assemble 9am at the junction of Brick Lane and Bethnal Green Road. Nearest tubes Whitechapel/Liverpool Street.

**No Phase 4 — 35-hour week now**

**LOBBY TUC 6 SEPTEMBER**

# EDITORIAL

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## Long knives in Palestine

IT WOULD be a brave person who confidently claimed to understand what is going on within the Palestinian movement. Or [more likely] a foolish one.

The sight of would-be supporters of the Palestinian cause gunning each other down worldwide has had a disastrous effect on the Palestinians' prestige and bewildered their followers.

Whatever the differences, violence is not an acceptable way of resolving differences among the movements of the oppressed. Neither is the convenient 'moderate-radical' label used by the press much help in disentangling the present situation.

It was 'radical' Iraq, remember, which recently handed out death sentences to a number of Communist Party members. It has become notorious for its attempts to buy its way into radical Arab circles.

Iraq is only the most recent bourgeois regime to use a faction within the Palestine Liberation Organisation for its own ends. Syria has tried a similar operation with far bloodier results, but this didn't worry Syria's imperialist backers because the trouble didn't spill over onto the streets of the Western capitals.

But the PLO leadership — that is, primarily the dominant faction in Fatah — has been only too ready to preach reliance on the 'radical' Arab regimes when it suits its own purposes.

The root of the present problem is the PLO's failure to advance a strategy of independent mobilisation and alliances with the oppressed of the entire Arab world. This leaves the way open for someone like Abu Nidal, the leader of a dissident faction of Fatah, to project a strategy which ultimately has no more chance of success and to enlist the support of the Iraqi secret police to do it.

Having made all these criticisms, we must still be on our guard in defence of the Palestinian movement. The main beneficiaries of the present struggle are bound to be the Zionists. It is therefore especially important to step up our solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, to ensure that our support is not predicated upon the adoption of any particular strategy by the Palestinian organisations.

But we must still point out that social and political struggles are won by classes and movements of the mass of the population. It does the Palestinian cause a great disservice to reduce them to the gun warfare of cliques and secret police.

## Baying for Thorpe

HYPOCRISY is the name of the game when bourgeois politicians are the players. And that applies even when murder is one of the rules.

Jeremy Thorpe was hounded by the press because of an alleged gay relationship. The same Fleet Street hacks will bay with delight if Thorpe is found guilty on the charge of conspiracy to murder, yet the alleged target is the source of the story about the gay relationship. Clearly, you can't win either way.

But, more to the point, the papers will gratefully accept this windfall in their campaign to bring the Tories back in October. They may even come up with more choice and strategically timed revelations.

Thorpe's arrest throws up many things into question — it even poses the possibility of a renewed Lib-Lab pact and a spring election. Even if the Liberal Party manages to distance itself from Thorpe's plight its electoral prospects have been dealt a serious blow.

No party can be happy going into an election with their former leader facing a charge of conspiracy to murder. In this particular instance, the blow to the Liberals' fortunes happens to coincide with the Tories' election strategy. Not confident that they can snatch votes from Labour in the urban strongholds, the Tories are out to smash the Liberals and overturn the narrow parliamentary margin that way.

Murder is a serious crime. If there was a conspiracy to shut Norman Scott up permanently those responsible deserve all that's coming to them. But a conspiracy to murder one person is nothing compared with the methods used by bourgeois governments — even democratic ones — to stay in power.

Ask Kenneth Lennan what he thinks about political murder. He won't say much, because he was an Irish police informer who ended up in a ditch with a bullet in the brain. Or ask the politicians who have found themselves on a CIA target list.

Or the countless numbers who have actually died at the hands of the 'democratic' security services — either in a military coup or just the midnight knock and a lead headache.

This is the less public side of how the state maintains its power. Of course the politicians themselves try to keep their own hands relatively clean — or else they are masters of the cover-up.

Innocent or guilty Jeremy Thorpe is a fall guy, a sort of unwilling atonement for the crimes of bourgeois politicians in both their public and private lives.

# IRELAND

## Archbishop shocked by H Block

LAST WEEK the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Tomas O Fiaich, issued a statement condemning conditions in the H Block of Long Kesh prison.

The Northern Ireland Office replied in its usual pompous fashion. The Archbishop was referred to throughout as 'Archbishop O'Fee'. GEOFF BELL reports.

A better example of the colonial mentality of the British administration in the North of Ireland is difficult to imagine. The Northern Ireland Office deliberately spelt O Fiaich's name in its English form, as if to say the damn rebel had no right to use this foreign Irish language.

The British anger is explained by both the tone and

content of O Fiaich's remarks. He said:

'Having spent the whole of Sunday in the prison I was shocked by the inhuman conditions prevailing in H-Blocks 3, 4 and 5, where over 300 prisoners are incarcerated. One would hardly allow an animal to remain in such conditions, let alone a human being.'

'The nearest to it I have seen

was the spectacle of hundreds of homeless people living in sewer pipes in the slums of Calcutta.

'The stench and filth in some of the cells, with the remains of rotten food and human excreta scattered around the walls, was almost unbearable. In two of them I was unable to speak for fear of vomiting.'

O Fiaich went on to explain that it was not just the conditions in the cells which attracted his 'grave concern':

'Several prisoners complained to me of beatings, of verbal abuse, of additional punishments, and of degrading searches carried out on the most intimate part of their naked bodies.'

The only point of any

substance made by the Northern Ireland Office in reply was that it was 'the prisoners themselves who have made conditions what they are'.

Formally the statement is correct; it is the prisoners with their 'no wash' tactics who are responsible for some of the disgusting conditions in Long Kesh.

But that is a rather facile argument. The prisoners are protesting against the removal of political status, which was originally granted in 1972.

It is the British Labour Government's removal of that status which has caused the protests.

Or, to carry the argument to its logical conclusion, if Britain had never been in Ireland in the first place there wouldn't be a Long Kesh, an H Block, or political prisoners who have been jailed for their activities fighting against that British presence.

# HOME NEWS

## Police Chief urges

# 'Make what we do now legal'

A FURORE broke out last week with the publication of Metropolitan Police Commissioner David McNee's proposals to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure.

PAUL CRANE of Release explains that McNee is mainly asking for approval of the worst aspects of what is already happening now.

People are already held in solitary confinement for three days and more; held without access to lawyers and friends, which makes a mockery of the so-called right of silence; stopped, searched and questioned in the streets regardless of whether the police are actually entitled to do this.

McNee justifies many formal changes in the law by the need to stamp out 'football hooligans', robbers and murderers. In practice his suggestions may have the biggest impact on political activists.

For example, instead of having to arrest and charge demonstrators, pickets, or leafleters with specific offences, the police would be authorised to stop, search and hold them in a station just

because by being 'at a particular location an officer believes that such search may assist in the prevention of serious crime or danger to the public' — a phrase open to very elastic interpretation.

The police would also be entitled to demand anyone's name and address, ask questions to find out if the reply was true, and if you refused or the police didn't believe you, take you away to the station.

All this would be possible simply using the legal excuse that they believed you could 'assist an officer in his enquiries in connection with an offence which...may have or might be committed' either by you or somebody else, no matter how trivial.

McNee proposes that, once at a police station, any adult



Commissioner McNee: wants police powers extended

could be legally held on suspicion, interrogated in solitary confinement for up to three days and then taken to a magistrate to rubber stamp detention for three more days.

During all this time, the police would keep their present right to veto visits or phone calls by lawyers, friends etc.

If you managed to keep quiet (or gave evasive answers) and were later prosecuted, McNee suggests that any court should be told to assume that

subsequent explanations were lies unless you could come up with a good excuse.

The Commission to whom these and many other recommendations were sent will not report on how to reform police powers and prosecutions until 1979 or 1980.

Nevertheless, McNee's opinions are likely to set the terms of the debate and provide important fuel for the powerful law and order lobby.

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

\* I am interested in more information about activities in my area.

\* I would like additional literature and enclose 50p to cover costs.

(Delete if not applicable)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send to Socialist Challenge, 328/9 Upper St, London N1.

# OUR POLICIES

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

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

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

\* To begin to fight for the creation of a unified and democratic revolutionary socialist organisation which can, through an application of united front tactics, begin to be seen as an alternative by thousands of workers engaged in struggles. Such an organisation should be based on the understanding that:

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

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

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

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

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

# Lobby the TUC!

THOUSANDS of militants will be making their way to the Trades Union Congress in Brighton. Most of them will be outside the conference hall. But their demands will echo through the whole trade union movement.

The big day will now be Wednesday 6 September — the debate on incomes policy and the economy. The Civil and Public Services Association has circularised all its branches to mobilise for that day.

The first national union to make a call for the lobby, the CPSA will be calling for an end to incomes policy.

Lobbies are also being organised throughout the conference by the Right to Work Campaign and the Campaign against Youth Unemployment. The Right to Work Campaign are currently building their London to Brighton march with Rock Against Racism.

Their slogan? 'Anger on the Road' — expressing the mood of the hundreds of youth they

hope to involve.

CAYU also hopes for a big attendance at 'The Other TUC', a forum for youth which will run alongside the proceedings of their more sedate namesake.

The two big demands of all those lobbying will be 'No to Phase 4 — No to the 12 month rule' and 'For the 35-hour week, without loss of pay and with no productivity strings'.

If every union was to fight and win the 35-hour week it could produce up to a million new jobs. But this also means a fight to increase basic wages, so that the amount of overtime worked does not take up the cut in working hours.

These demands can unify the whole working class. That's why young angry unemployed

will be standing shoulder to shoulder with workers from Rover Solihull, who have also backed the lobby.

## BACON

The TUC leaders will be trying to save Callaghan's bacon for the next election by giving back door support for Phase 4 and the 5 per cent limit.

They will try to pull last year's trick again by supporting the 12 month rule, thus making sure that Phase 3 will carry on for many workers until next summer, as well as stopping a united fight against Phase 4.

But even if the main objective was the re-election of the Labour Government, and not things like defending their members' interests and abiding by their conference decisions against wage restraint and for the 35-hour week, the trade union leaders are still wrong.

If the Government goes into the election on the basis of Phase 4 type policies, this will

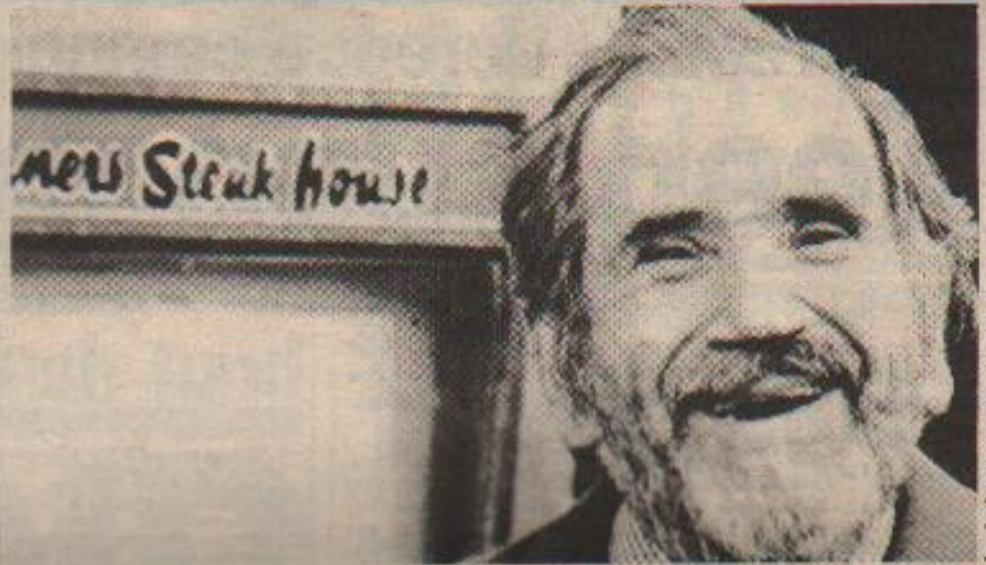


Photo: ANDREW WHARF (Report)

GARNERS boss Cyril Margolis, pictured above, has admitted to the Catering Times that custom is declining and there are financial problems as a result of the six-month dispute over union recognition. Pickets claim that the firm is now losing up to 80 per cent of its business as vast numbers of tourists are turned away. A meeting of all trades council secretaries and chairpersons in the Greater London area was being held on Tuesday to discuss extending support, and a benefit is being held on Saturday at the Hope and Anchor pub, Upper Street, Islington.

## Garner's boss digs in

lay the best conditions for a Tory victory. Traditional Labour voters will refuse in their thousands to vote for a party which embraces Tory policies so wholeheartedly.

If the trade union leaders seriously wanted Labour to win the election they would fight for policies to counter the ever-rising dole queues, and plummeting living standards.

And they could do a lot worse than listen to those policies being raised on 6 September. No Phase 4! Immediate action for the 35-hour week!

# The right to leisure

THE POST Office engineers' fight for the 35-hour week is a life or death struggle to defend jobs in their industry. But that was not the only reason given by delegates at the POEU conference in June which stepped up their campaign.

High on the list was the need to harness new technology in the interests of the workers; to provide increased time for education, culture and politics.

STEVE POTTER continues our series on the 35-hour week.

During the three day week in the winter crisis of 1973/74 many workers discovered something totally new.

It was not just the impact of the oil crisis, nor yet the revelation that workers could change governments through direct action — but what it could mean to have four full days of leisure in a working week.

Despite reduced wage packets this came as a revelation to many. New interests were developed and friendships made. The great events going on could be discussed fully and not merely for five minutes around the television news.

Few workers actually enjoy their work process. It is either actively disliked or at best tolerated.

This is not because people are inherently lazy. The fact that many employ their leisure time in gardening, making music, improving their homes — which under other circumstances are people's jobs — goes some way to showing this.

It is not work which is alien, but the circumstances under which the mass of people are obliged to work. What is produced and how it is produced is determined by the bosses' drive for profits.

needs — food, clothing, shelter, and leisure. 'Living starts after work stops.'

So the demand for the shortened working week without loss of pay can be more than a defensive tactic to save jobs. It can be part of a struggle for greater control over how life is lived — challenging the dominance which capital exercises over both work and leisure.

But this is not the only benefit. Much work is being done to counter the effect on workers' health and safety of modern industrial conditions.

If combined with a campaign to raise basic wages to curb overtime, the beneficial effect of the shortened working week on health and safety can be more than proportional to the cut in hours.

In the early days of the workers movement the demand for the shortened working week was never moved purely from economic considerations. The object was as much that the working class could start to develop themselves as an active cultural and political force in society.

More time off from work means time to develop the abilities and use the senses which work stifles and frustrates; time for more of us to organise for a saner society where the right to enjoy ourselves is guaranteed

# PO engineers' claim turned down Battling on

THE BATTLE for the 35-hour week has taken a new turn with the findings of the McCarthy report on the Post Office engineers' claim. The report, which has Government backing, turns down the claim.

While the leadership of the Post Office Engineering Union vacillate, the action of their members is beginning to bite hard. STEVE POTTER explains why the report's findings have to be rejected, and why the fight has to go on.

The Department of Employment has refused to release details of the document to date. But its main lines are clear.

The claim for 35 hours is rejected and instead 37½ hours conceded, but this will be in two stages. The settlement has to be within the terms of the Government's new pay policy, so no cost to the Post Office must be involved and the deal must be financed through productivity agreements and more flexible working practices.

The most scandalous aspect of the package is a 'clawback' agreement. If the proposed deal does cost the Post Office money (they made profits of

£367m in 1977), this will be recovered from existing productivity deals — that is, from POEU members' pay packets.

The Government and Post Office are delighted by the report — both backed it immediately. The Government has been concerned from the beginning that any success for the engineers would drive a coach and horses through Phase 4.

For the Post Office, a settlement on McCarthy's terms would mean a green light to carry out revisions of work practices that would soften up the union for the planned redundancies.

The reaction of the union leadership has been disgraceful. Deputy General Secretary Ted Webb said that the report had promising parts, and Brian Stanley, the General Secretary, has put forward the cop-out of accepting the 37½ hour week now and asking for a definite date for the 35-hour week.

Webb went on to say that he wanted the industrial action ended as soon as possible. This at a time when the campaign is just starting to bite!

On the International exchanges alone the Post Office are being hit to the tune of £55-60,000 per day. The City are screaming that exchange and currency dealings will be decimated.

For every worker sent home for carrying out union policy, thousands have come out on strike, and have instituted work-to-rules. Some have carried on with the overtime ban which was ended by the union leadership last week as part of the attempt to run down the action.

The way forward is to keep the screws on and appeal for support from the rest of the trade union movement in the campaign for the 35-hour week.

Every branch should follow the example of Sheffield POEU, who have produced a leaflet for trade unionists explaining why their action should be supported as part of a class-wide fight for the 35-hour week without loss of pay or productivity deal strings.

The lobby of the TUC on 6 September can be a platform for POEU members to explain their case to the rest of the trade unions.

## Huddersfield firm

POST Office management thought they had picked on a weak link in the union when they tried to send home two men at random in the Huddersfield area, writes MELVYN HOLDSWORTH (Huddersfield POEU).

But we decided to step up the action of blacking and overtime ban with lightning selective stoppages to cause maximum disruption as well as refusing to do the two men's work and instituting the work-to-rule.

In addition a one day stoppage was supported throughout the whole Bradford area.



# ANTI-RACIST NEWS

## Anti-racist's defence campaign says

# Keep support coming in!

THE SUPPORT campaign for Dave Stevens and the others arrested during the anti-racist demonstration in Wolverhampton on 11 March has got off to a tremendous start, reports CHRIS ROSEBLADE.

The Anti Nazi League is sponsoring the campaign nationally. The Indian Workers Association has done the same, as well as organising leaflets in Punjabi, and raising the issue in meetings with Merlyn Rees and William Whitelaw.

Dave Stevens is a member of the Labour Party and many local members support his cause. Six Wolverhampton councillors have already sponsored the campaign. Most of the town's leading trade unionists are behind it.

Stevens was taken round Parliament last week by Tom Litterick to gain further support. Four MPs signed at once.

Dave Stevens figured as 'Degenerate of the Month' in the July issue of the NF's paper *Spearhead*, which included his photograph.

Since then all the windows of his house have been smashed; a brick was hurled at him as he was phoning from a call-box; and two days later, on 29 July, a member of the IWA received a threatening phone call while

Stevens was visiting.

Following these incidents, the police were asked to provide protection. But as far as they were concerned, there was 'nothing sinister'. They said they had no reason to believe it was the Front.

As Dave Stevens says: 'The cops aren't really prepared to do anything. They don't take things like this seriously when it happens to blacks or known anti-racists.'

The defence campaign hasn't just been about collecting respectable names. It has also involved winning support in the heart of the oppressed communities.

One such evening was spent in a pub in Wolverhampton where over a hundred Asians attended a social. We were the only whites. After a performance by a magnificently-dressed Punjabi singer, N.S. Noor got up and sang.

We were amazed when it was translated for us. It was about a girl who says to her father: 'Don't go into debt with the moneylender to pay my dowry. Give me bombs, not money, and I will fight them all.'



Police take away Dave Stevens on 11 March

Later Noor, president of the IWA, made a speech about the defence campaign. It was followed by tremendous applause. Leaflets in Punjabi were handed out.

We have been campaigning flat out. Ten thousand petitions and leaflets will shortly be available, together with a pamphlet. A national speaking

tour is planned, with speakers from the IWA, Afro-Caribbean organisations, and the ANL.

Funds are still desperately needed to finance the work. Please reach for your cheque book now.

Defence Campaign, c/o Student Union, Wolverhampton Poly, Wolverhampton.

### Wolverhampton Defence Campaign Sponsors

Rev IAN FORSTER, Vicar, St Chads, Wolverhampton; SURGIT SINGH KHALSA, Welfare and Education Secretary, IWA W'ton; GURMEJ SINGH SIDHU, President, Guru Nanak Sikh Temple, W'ton; G. NJATA, W'ton Harambes Assoc.; VIPASSI BHIKKU, Buddha Vihari Trust, W'ton; A.K. General Secretary, Guru Navdass Sabha W'ton; H. SHEERA, Pres, Adi Dharam Brotherhood, W'ton; SOHAN SINGH, General Secretary, Sikh Temple.

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# Black Liberation and Socialism

IN OUR series on the policies of socialists within the anti-racist and anti-fascist movements, COLIN TALBOT this week looks at the views of the Socialist Workers Party.

Only the most rabid sectarians, blinded by their own impotence, could deny the SWP due credit for the stunning successes of the Anti-Nazi League.

We have made many criticisms of the ANL, and will continue to do so, just as we will continue to give it our fullest support. But credit must be given where credit is due — the SWP deserve top marks for the way they built the ANL.

One criticism often made of the SWP is the way they alienate large sections of the anti-fascist movement with boastful claims such as 'we organised Lewisham'.

### DEEPER

These differences over tactics in the ANL and style of intervention might seem minor problems. But in fact they are merely the surface expression of much deeper problems about the whole way the SWP approaches anti-racist and anti-fascist activity.

The publication of three new SWP pamphlets provides a good opportunity to take a look at these differences. The pamphlets, *The Case Against Immigration Controls*, *The Fight Against Fascism and For Socialism*, and *Fascism and the National Front*, give a good indication of the organisational strengths of the SWP, but also highlight some of their political weaknesses.

It is important that revolutionaries 'say what is', especially when dealing with growing reactionary forces. It is all too easy to 'cry wolf'. Unfortunately this is exactly

what Colin Sparks does in *Fascism and the NF*.

'So far', writes Sparks, 'they (the NF) have only made a small start. But then Hitler looked pretty small beer in 1923. Ten years later however...'

### EXPLICIT

This suggestive statement is made more explicit: 'It is possible for them to build a mass Nazi party in Britain in the next few years.'

However, he doesn't go on to explain that fascism, as the 'party of counter-revolutionary despair', has only become a mass movement when the working class has tried and failed to fulfil its 'revolutionary hope'.

As Trotsky put it: 'Italian fascism was the immediate outgrowth of the betrayal by the reformists of the uprising of the Italian proletariat.'

This is because a fascist movement needs both a mass of shaken and despairing middle class and lumpen troops and financial backing from a badly capitalised and worried section of capitalists in order to develop.

### DISTORTED

Today the SWP have become so absorbed with the fight against the NF that everything becomes distorted: 'Only a short distance, then, separates Thatcher from repatriation — the policy of the Nazi Front...'

'The politics of repatriation are the politics of Auschwitz and Dachau... The first step on the road to a British Dachau was taken when immigration



Lewisham last August — SWP claim 'we organised it'

controls were first imposed in 1962' (*The Case Against Immigration Controls*).

Thus even the fight against state racism, which today is the main attack on black people's rights, has to be posed in terms of fascism and the NF, not to mention being somewhat melodramatic.

The SWP manages to adopt both a sectarian attitude to the anti-fascist movement and an opportunist approach. These mistakes are compounded by a theoretical confusion and thorough mis-estimation of the role of fascism in Britain today.

While they are happy to adopt some of the most important aspects of Trotsky's analysis of fascism, their failure to understand Trotsky's united front policies and his insistence on socialist democracy weakens and flaws their

theory and practice.

It is because of their combination of opportunism and sectarian party building that the SWP's black organisations, Flame and Chingari, have had so many troubles. The latter has disappeared completely after its strong showing in the Asian youth radicalisation in the summer of 1976.

A heated debate around Flame has resulted in it becoming 'organisationally autonomous' but in 'political solidarity' with the SWP. However both this resolution at SWP conference and another on 'Asian work' failed even to mention the questions of black self-organisation and black liberation.

Such an approach can only deepen the hostility of the many Asian and Afro-Caribbean youth who sympathise with revolutionary socialism but are suspicious of the 'white left'.

# 'Pull the plugs on the thugs'

PLANS TO hit any party political broadcast for the National Front at the next election are underway nationally. This follows a meeting between the ANL and the Campaign Against Racism in the Media.

Three barriers confront anti-racists opposing the broadcasts. The first is the legal position — it had been thought that the Representation of the People Act gave automatic TV time to parties fielding a certain number of candidates.

But it now emerges that this 'law' is really only a 'quasi-legal agreement' between the BBC and the main parties. The ANL and CARM will be publicising this information.

The second main problem is that the BBC and IBA regard the NF as a 'normal' political party. The internal NF bulletin published in *Socialist Challenge* two weeks ago revealed that the NF is putting up candidates simply to get media coverage.

This is expected to anger

many media workers, and CARM members hope to use this sentiment to start a 'Don't be used by the Front' campaign.

A third, related problem is the issue of free speech. The ANL and CARM will be campaigning to change the prevailing view that giving the NF a broadcast is somehow 'democratic', when the NF itself is violent, racist and anti-democratic.

The ANL/CARM programme of activity starts with a meeting of programme makers at the Edinburgh TV festival in late August. This will be followed by a big London meeting on 12 September, and a national Day of Action two days later.

The climax is expected to be a series of pickets at regional TV stations by ANL groups, leading to a mass picket of BBC Broadcasting House on the evening of 14 September.

The main slogan, 'Pull the plugs on the thugs', will be produced on badges and posters.

## IN BRIEF

### Immigration Laws

TOGETHER with the local campaigns in Bradford and Cardiff which have been launched around the detection of 'illegal immigrants', a London-based campaign has been set up.

About 30 people attended a recent meeting to establish the Campaign Against Immigration Laws (CAIL). This intends to fight the 1971 Immigration Act and the proposed changes to the law on nationalities.

The first action which the campaign is trying to organise is joint pickets of jails in London, Cardiff, and Bradford on 23 September. They are appealing for activists in other areas to follow the example that Bradford and Cardiff have already set.

### Socialist papers sponsor anti-racist school

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE and *Socialist Voice*, the paper of the International Socialists Alliance, have agreed to organise jointly a two-day anti-racist school on 2/3 September. Big Flame are also being invited to sponsor it.

The aim of the school is to begin a very necessary discussion on anti-racism, black liberation and socialism.

The sponsors have agreed that there is a crying need for much more discussion on anti-racism; in the past, the far left has often concentrated too much simply on anti-fascism.

Fuller details will be available next week.

Photo: ANDREW WILARD (report)

Photo: PETER MARLOW

# Eurocommunism

WE NEED rather more than the same old timeless truths offered us by Alex Callinicos (20 July) if we are to take advantage of the development of 'Eurocommunism' to win militants from the Communist parties towards the politics of revolutionary Marxism.

Callinicos implies that Eurocommunism is a totally right-wing development. He does not understand the nature of the contradictions that arise from it.

The Western CPs' critique of Moscow, coupled with the inability of the Eurocommunist leaders to extend the democratic reforms which they demand of the USSR to their own parties whilst they remain in the confines of the bourgeois state, has inevitably produced such left currents as those around Louis Althusser in France, which have hesitantly begun to question the lack of democracy in the party.

Santiago Carrillo is incapable of drawing the 'logical conclusion' of his rejection of the theory of 'socialism in one country' for quite objective, material political reasons.

But this logical conclusion — a development towards the positions of revolutionary Marxism — is one which can and must be drawn by Communist workers and militants.

Mandel hails Carrillo's rejection of 'socialism in one country' as 'a formidable historical vindication of Trotsky and Trotskyism' because of the dynamic this unleashes into the class struggle, not because he is being

soft on Eurocommunism.

Callinicos's other major criticism concerns Mandel's remark that a democratically elected assembly could exist in a socialist democracy alongside a congress of workers councils. He sees this as another concession to left Eurocommunism.

Callinicos here confuses Mandel's hypothetical notion of an assembly elected by universal suffrage in socialist society with the traditional parliamentary institutions of bourgeois democracy.

Such an assembly is not a bourgeois parliament, as it offers democratic freedoms quite beyond the province of bourgeois democracy — notably the recall of elected officials at the will of the voters — and would play a relatively minor role compared to the workers councils and other institutions of workers democracy.

Mandel's position is thus a million miles from Austro-Marxism's attempt to combine soviets with bourgeois-democratic institutions. To suggest that an assembly elected by universal suffrage 'threatens to build an unstable class equilibrium into the very structure of the workers state' is ludicrous.

In fact, what will seriously hamper the intervention of revolutionary Marxists into the crisis of the CPs is Callinicos's ultra-leftism — his lack of a line of winning the masses from the influence of social-democracy and the Communist parties.

STEVE SMITH, JOHN MUNSON (Hull)

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Class Analysis and Political Strategy — Robin Blackburn.

Scottish Nationalism — Tom Nairn, Neil Williamson.

The Party and the Women's Movement — Sheila Rowbotham, CP, SWP, and IMG speakers invited.

Eurocommunism — Round Table discussion on Ernest Mandel's book 'From Stalinism to Eurocommunism'.



Venue: London, Goldsmiths College. Creche provided.

Cost: £4 for all three days if you pay before 1 September.

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# SWP and the election

THE DECISION of the Socialist Workers Party conference was, I understand, to stand only around 15 candidates in the general election and retreat on the possibility of standing a large national slate — possibly in alliance with Socialist Unity.

The political logic behind this shift was of the most narrow factional kind — the SWP had discovered that it couldn't dominate the far left on the electoral terrain, so it simply retreated. As Bob Pennington pointed out in *Socialist Challenge* (20 July), this decision means that there will be no television time, no big political campaign by the far left; worse, the Workers Revolutionary Party with 60 candidates can claim to be the left alternative in British politics.

However, reports from various parts of the country suggest that a whole number of SWP branches, even in large centres like Birmingham, are deciding not to stand candidates at all. Instead they will concentrate during the election period on activity around the Anti Nazi League.

Now of course anti-fascist work during the elections is valuable and entirely commendable. However, for a party which claims to be revolutionary, to concentrate its activity during this election on

anti-Nazism and nothing else is entirely inadequate.

During this election all the central questions which divide society politically will be posed. Centrally, for revolutionaries, this means a fight to expose the betrayals of the Labour bureaucrats and present the revolutionary programme to solve the crisis.

For the SWP, however, things are much simpler. Since there is a developing radicalisation around the ANL and they can make some recruits, they will do ANL work. It is absolutely typical of the SWP's lack of strategic grasp and narrow party-building instincts (which haven't been at all diminished by their turn to the ANL) that they are progressively adopting this orientation.

Socialist Unity activists will of course be present in the ANL campaign around the election, not least on the carnival which has been proposed for 24 September in London. But these same activists need to be developing a political fight now, to explain that during the election anti-Nazism is not enough, to win ANL supporters to the fight for a socialist alternative.

PHIL HEARSE (Birmingham)

# ANL Conference

I WAS amazed to read your report of the ANL Conference (13 July). The most exciting and some of the most important aspects of the conference were totally ignored in your report by Colin Talbot.

Not once was Women Against the Nazis mentioned, even though the women who spoke provided heartening and spirited contributions. Not once was School Kids Against the Nazis mentioned. Nor was Gays Against the Nazis.

Surely a socialist newspaper such as yourselves must realise the importance of anti-Nazi organising in these areas, when the Nazis themselves are aware that the isolation of women on the housing estates increases their vulnerability to racist propaganda enormously.

So too in the schools. Hitler's strongest area of support for the future of fascism was the Hitler Youth. We have to get to these people, to answer their frustrations before the Nazis.

There is a beginning here in the ANL, and I think it is irresponsible of Colin to ignore them in this way when their example can provide support and stimulus for people trying to organise who were not at the conference.

Lastly I would like to say that I am saddened that a paper which claims to support the fight for women's liberation can so callously carve out the reports of their activities and the stories and experiences they have to draw on, which do in many ways provide a much fresher and more

immediate impact than trade union leaders, who have sometimes grown stale with the many years of speaking at such events.

MARY ANN STUART (London E.2)

# Magic dung

A SHORT reply to Jacqueline Kaye's letter (27 July).

She says: 'The Prisoners Aid Committee is not interested in a campaign of stunts aimed at getting publicity in the imperialist papers.'

I spent the last week of July in West Belfast. I talked to a lot of people. Many of them mentioned the dung-throwing incident.

'Magic', they said, 'fucking magic. People got a real lift out of that. And it was something the press couldn't ignore.'

Self-determination for the Irish people?

F. MAGIC (Bristol)

# Lenin Federation

AS THERE is no other paper of the revolutionary left providing a forum for the positions of small revolutionary groups, it is fitting that we make our first appearance in print in *Socialist Challenge*.

Southport is hardly a hive of

revolutionary activity, yet a few of us here have formed a group around our unique interpretation of Leninism, calling ourselves the Lenin Federation. Our membership is composed of ex-CP, ex-SWP, and ex-WRP members, plus one Asian comrade whose previous alignment lay with the Naxalites.

We are all agreed upon the true function of Leninism as being the direction of the party towards the active destruction of capitalism in all its forms. We have not yet formulated our revolutionary programme, hence its absence here — but wait. We yet wish to work with other revolutionaries and will henceforward support all demonstrations, under our own banner, of course.

We are generally in sympathy with the aims of Socialist Unity — especially the ex-SWP members — but there is a large minority tendency dubious about the long-term prospect of working with organisations in which we have become disillusioned — Dave Widgey, please note. Nevertheless, it is likely we will support Socialist Unity activity in the next election campaign, whether we join or not.

Finally, through *Socialist Challenge*, we send fraternal greetings to our revolutionary comrades everywhere.

B.D. McKANN (Secretary, Lenin Federation, Southport)

Our temporary reduction to 12 pages means that there may be a delay of several weeks before some letters appear. Please note that the length of letters printed will normally be kept down to 400 words in order to encourage as wide a range of contributions as possible. All letters may be cut at the Editor's discretion.

# SOCIALIST CHALLENGE EVENTS

**NORTH WEST**

**WARRINGTON Socialist Challenge** group meets regularly. Ring Manchester Socialist Challenge offices for details. 051-236 2352.

**GREATER MANCHESTER Socialist Challenge** School students who support the paper and would like to get involved in anti-fascist activity, please contact Chris (273 5047, day) or Steve (226 4267, evening), or write to Manchester SC Centre, 14 Piccadilly.

**PRESTON Socialist Challenge** public meeting: No Phase 4, for 30 hours now — speaker Pat Hickey (British Leyland, Rover Solihull). Thursday 31 August, 7.45pm at Windset Castle pub.

**PRESTON Socialist Challenge** supporters can be contacted by ringing Preston 54618.

**LIVERPOOL Speke Socialist Challenge** Group meets every Wednesday at Nosh's Ark pub, Speke, 8pm.

**SOUTH MANCHESTER Socialist Challenge** group meets every other Thursday at the Albert Inn, off Walslow Rd. Help sell Socialist Challenge between 11.30am and 1pm at Moss Side shopping centre, or Longsight Market, Dickinson Rd.

**SALFORD Socialist Challenge** sup-

porters can be contacted at the Manchester Socialist Challenge offices. Tel 051-236 2352 or, by writing to Manchester Socialist Challenge Centre, c/o 14 Piccadilly, Manchester with a view to forming a Salford Socialist Challenge group.

**LEIGH Socialist Challenge** group will be holding regular meetings shortly. For details ring Roy on Atherton 88 2830.

**NORTH EAST**

**NEWCASTLE Socialist Challenge** local supporters are advised if you want to join them, phone Pete on (0632) 26057.

**DURHAM Socialist Challenge** Supporters Group. For details contact: Dave Brown, 2 Pioneer Cottages, Low Pitlington, Durham.

**DARLINGTON Socialist Challenge** sales on Saturdays outside Northern Road on High Row, 11am-1pm.

**MIDDLESBROUGH Socialist Challenge** sales on Saturdays outside Boots at Cleveland Centre, 11am-1pm. Socialist Challenge is also available from Hammons (newsagent) in Linthorpe Street.

**LONDON**

**HARROW Socialist Challenge** sup-

porters meet regularly, details from Box 50, London N1 2XP.

**TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Challenge** and IMG supporters meet at the top of Brick Lane (behind Green Road) at 8am primarily every Sunday. Attendance essential.

**HACKNEY Socialist Challenge** supporters sell the paper regularly at Dalston Junction, Fridays (4.30-6pm) and Saturdays, Stamford Hill (11am).

**SOUTH WEST LONDON Socialist Challenge** supporters group meets alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Anne's Community Centre, Vain St (Clapham Common tube). 18 August: 'Czechoslovakia — 19 years on', with Oliver Macdonald.

**GREENWICH/LEWISHAM Socialist Challenge** supporters meet regularly — details from Ray, 699 1187.

**Socialist Challenge** can be bought on the community groups stall in Deptford market.

**NEWHAM Socialist Challenge** Forums occur regularly. Details from PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

**WALTHAM FOREST** paper sales every Saturday, 11am-noon outside the post office, Hoe St, Walthamstow, London E17.

**LONDON CPSA Socialist Challenge** readers. We are establishing a CPSA supporters group to work in the union

and Broad Left. If you are sympathetic to Socialist Challenge's ideas, write to London SC organiser, c/o PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

**HOUNSLOW Socialist Challenge** Socialist, Sat. 12th Aug, 8.00pm. At 25/27 Grove Rd, 570 4700. £1.00 entry secures a meal and drink — European and Arabic cuisine, real ale and wine, music etc. Piccadilly line to Hounslow Centre.

**CAMDEN Socialist Challenge** supporters sell papers every Saturday at Invicta St market in Camden Town from 11am-3pm. Join us every Saturday 12.3 on the Gamers picket at the Oxford Circus branch.

**HELP SOCIALIST CHALLENGE.** Greenwich and Lewisham supporters are organising a jumble sale. If you have any jumble to be collected ring Jo on 359 6371 or drop it into the paper's offices at 328/9 Upper St.

**YORKSHIRE**

**HULL Socialist Challenge** supporters need lots of jumble for a sale soon. We can arrange collection. Offers of jumble to Annette 443243. Have a clear-out and help build the paper!

**HUDDERSFIELD Socialist Challenge** sales regularly Saturdays 11am-1pm in the Piazza.

**YORK Socialist Challenge** is on sale at the York Community Bookshop, 73 Walmgate, or from sellers on Thursdays (12.30-1.45) at York University, Vanbrugh College, Saturdays (11.30-1.30) at Condy Street.

**YORK Socialist Challenge** group produces a regular local news bulletin. Any enquiries about the group or the bulletin to SC, c/o 43, Grosvenor Terrace, York.

**MIDLANDS**

For details of activities of local supporters throughout the Midlands contact the Socialist Challenge Centre, 78b Digbeth High Street, Birmingham: (021) 643 9209.

**SOUTH WEST**

**SOUTHAMPTON Socialist Challenge** sales every Saturday from 13am-1pm above bar, Post Office, Bargate.

**PORTSMOUTH Socialist Challenge** sales Saturdays, 11.30am-1pm, Commercial Road Precinct.

**SOUTH EAST**

**COLCHESTER Socialist Challenge** supporters meet regularly. For details phone Steve on Wherhoe 2949.

**BRIGHTON Socialist Challenge** sales regularly on Saturdays at the Open Market, London Road, from 11am-1pm.

**SCOTLAND**

For information about the paper or its supporters' activities throughout Scotland please contact Socialist Challenge Books, 64 Queen St, Glasgow. Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Phone for alternative arrangements (021) 74811.

Wide range of Fourth International publications.

**EDINBURGH Socialist Challenge** supporters group meets regularly. Phone George at 031-346 0486 for details.

**DUNDEE** Information about Socialist Challenge activities from 64 Queen St, Glasgow. Join in SC sales outside Boots (corner of Reform St) each Saturday, 11am-2pm.

**WALES**

**CARDIFF Socialist Challenge** Forum: Workers control and workers participation, Friday 11 August, 7.30pm, at the Four Elms pub, Clifton St (off Newport Road).

# How the dirty deed was done

A FORMER leader of the Mexican Communist Party has written a book detailing that party's role in the assassination of Trotsky. RICHARD CARVER reports.

My Testimony by Valentin Campa is hardly the first book to present the well-known facts of the Stalinist murder of Trotsky, nor is it the most comprehensive.

But it is the first account by a CP leader involved in the events and it includes an acknowledgement that David Siquieros, the Mexican painter and CP member, led the first assassination attempt on Trotsky.

One of the book's most interesting features is Campa's self-portrait. As in most autobiographies the hero is meant to be the book's most engaging character, but Campa emerges as a spineless creature.

When the Communist International approached the Mexican party to carry out the assassination, Campa and Laborde, another leader, were opposed — after long consideration — simply because of the bad light this might cast on the party and the Soviet Union. And anyway Trotsky was politically finished, so why bother?

## WRONG

Not the slightest hint that there could be something wrong in principle with bumping off your political opponents — particularly when this one happened to be the most important living leader of the Russian Revolution.

Into Campa's startlingly honest account are laced familiar old Stalinist slanders about the supposed links of Trotsky and Mexican painter Diego Rivera (incorrectly identified as a leader of the Fourth International) with right-wing political forces in the United States.

Campa's refusal to sanction the murder — hardly a great moral gesture on the evidence of this book — led to his

expulsion from the party on the grounds of... Trotskyism.

Campa says he waited nearly forty years before revealing these details because of the threat of war against the Soviet Union and the danger of undermining the Soviet leadership.

## TEST

It is no coincidence that such revelations should surface now, even if the rest of the world has known the facts for decades.

First, Eurocommunism is spreading throughout the Western CPs. The French CP daily *L'Humanité*, for example, reprinted the relevant extracts from Campa's book.

It is the easiest thing in the world these days to take your distance from Moscow. The crucial test — which Campa fails — is whether there is a full political balance sheet of Stalinism and Trotsky and a political rehabilitation of the latter.

The second factor is the changing relation of forces between the Communist and Trotskyist parties. In Mexico there have been joint actions between the CP and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), the section of the Fourth International.

## PREMATURE

When a PRT leader was recently murdered the CP took a leading place in the funeral cortege. In other words Trotskyism can no longer be ignored as a current alien to the workers movement.

Valentin Campa's dismissal of Trotsky as a spent political force has proved a little premature. And, ironically, the appearance of his rather pathetic book is further indication of the growing strength of Trotskyism.

# Our message to Muzorewa

# QUIT NOW!



Patriotic Front guerrilla

BISHOP Abel Muzorewa has returned to Rhodesia 'committed to the immediate, and I mean immediate, removal of racial discrimination.'

This is unfortunate, because the Bishop is a member of a government which says that 'racial discrimination will be retained where it is in the national interest'.

'National' in this case means in the interests of the white population of 20,000 (and falling fast).

But Muzorewa's statement was important because it showed that he sees little future in the 'internal settlement' with the Smith regime.

The Government's military position has taken a sharp turn for the worse recently.

Possibly the bulk of the country is now under the control of Patriotic Front guerrillas and there has even been fighting in the major cities of Bulawayo and Salisbury. The white section of the army is now 50 per cent mercenary and flights out of the country are booked up for months ahead.

## PATHETIC

Muzorewa has tolerated the most pathetic capitulation to the white minority. The internal settlement guarantees white property rights, the police and judiciary, and the army.

And there is a built-in quota of one third whites in Parliament, even though they are only 4 per cent of the population.

And now Muzorewa has the nerve to go gunning for 'Uncle Toms'? Obviously armed struggle has had a bit of an impact on him.

## RHETORIC

Muzorewa had just returned from a tour of Britain and the United States, where he had no doubt been told of imperialist displeasure at the dismal fate of the internal settlement.

Perhaps he had even been primed by the British, with the temptation that there might be something in it for him if he dusted off some of his radical rhetoric.

Unfortunately he is too much of an opportunist even for that.

Sensing that Zimbabwe may become an election issue in Britain, he came out with an attack on 'dismally subjective' Labour MPs and has discovered a 'progressive element' inside the Tory party (that is, those who support the internal settlement — more usually referred to as the right wing).

Our advice to the good Bishop is to give up now. The musses are closing in on him from all sides and the regime's days are numbered.

Besides, we hear there's a good job going in Rome.

# Defending women's rights in Mexico

IN COMMON with the rest of Latin America you can't get an abortion for love nor money in Mexico. Well, money might get you somewhere, but that's a different story.

A militant from the Mexican abortion campaign talked to Socialist Challenge when she was over here recently in preparation for forthcoming international action on abortion.

“Abortion in Mexico is forbidden by law. It's only allowed for women who have been raped. But even in that case they have to go through so many bureaucratic procedures that they often have to wait more than nine months.

There are more than a million back street abortions every year, because the situation for working class people and the poorest part of the population is very hard. More than 50,000 women die every year because of these abortions being badly done.

Most of the women who have abortions are married and 85 per cent of them are Catholic. If they have an abortion it's

because they can't afford one more in the family.

The state is trying to control the population which grows 3.8 per cent every year. They put out a lot of propaganda for having a small family.

You can also get contraceptives here and there — free in some centres. But they won't allow abortion because of the strength and influence of the church.

There is a centralised campaign which groups a number of small women's groups. We went to the Chamber of Deputies to demand free abortion but they told us that unless we had two deputies who supported our demand they wouldn't discuss

it. So we've tried to organise conferences and propaganda on this and to help women by things like finding sympathetic doctors.

The problem is that the movement is only just beginning so it's more a time for propaganda than concrete actions. We campaign for free abortion on demand, for more sex education and for education on contraception — including male contraception.

We are also against the state's birth control programme. It is very common in underdeveloped countries that the state tries to control the population, saying if we're poor that's just because there are too many of us and we'd be alright if we were just a little bit smaller.

A certain amount of sterilisation takes place — most of it with Indian women.”

## Intercontinental Press Inprecor

combined with

'ANGOLA Three Years After Independence' is the major feature in the latest issue of Intercontinental Press/Inprecor [Vol. 16, No. 31]. The author, José Mala, pinpoints the ruthless crushing of all dissent by the MPLA bureaucracy and the maintenance of a strong economic sector linked to imperialism, and concludes that 'the essential foundations have been laid for the emergence of a bureaucratic bourgeoisie based on the state capitalist sector'. Other articles in this issue include Hugo Blanco's speech on his return to Peru; an

interview with Michael Farrell of People's Democracy in Ireland; a report on the West German TUC conference; and a review by George Novack of a book on the Praxis group of philosophers in Yugoslavia. Single copies are 30p plus 10p p&p, but it saves money to subscribe: £9 for one year [48 issues], £5 for six months [24 issues], or £2.50 for an introductory offer of 10 issues.

Write now to Intercontinental Press/Inprecor, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cheques/POs should be made out to Intercontinental Press.

# WHAT'S LEFT

5p per word. Display £2 per column inch. Deadline: 3pm Saturday before publication. Payment in advance.

SOCIALIST PERSON wanted to share 3-roomed flat. Own room. £6 pw plus share of bills. E14 area. Tel: 01-515 0598.

WHO OWNS women's bodies? Meeting to plan International Day of Action on a woman's right to contraception and abortion, no forced sterilisation. Mon 14 Aug at 7.30pm. Museum Tavern, 49 Gt. Russell St, London WC1.

LONDON ACCOMMODATION wanted for couple of Latin American ones. Permanent wanted - but temporary considered. Contact Len, PO Box 50, London N1. Or ring Dave Kelloway 01-229 1250.

WELSH SOCIALIST FEMINIST Forum 'General Election' 11.30 - 5.00, 12 August. St Phillips Community Centre, Bathurst St, Swansea. Crèche. Details: Swansea 463096.

PICKET GARNERS: Main pickets every day, noon to 3pm and 5.30 to 11 pm at 359 Oxford St., London W1 (opp. Selfridges); 243 Oxford St. (Oxford Circus); 40-41 Haymarket; 56 Whitechapel St. (Leicester Sq.). Mass picket every Saturday at noon, 389 Oxford St. Donations urgently needed as strike pay is only £5. All donations to Gamers Strike Fund, c/o TOWJ, Rm. 8A, 12-13 Henrietta St., London WC2. 01-240 1255.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION badges, red on white available from J. Wilson, 80 Bages, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP. Cost: 15p each plus 7p p&p, or 11p each for orders of 10 or more.

HELP Socialist Challenge, Greenwich (Lewisham supporters are organising a jumble sale) if you have any jumble to be collected ring Jo on 369 8371 or drop it into the paper's offices at 325/9 Upper St.

MALE/FEMALE non-smoker for short, let. Own room in mixed household. Ring 01-444 5714 evenings.

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Unity is holding a 'media' jumble sale (books, tapes, records, posters, etc.) in the autumn. Bring anything suitable to The Other Bookshop, 325 Upper Street, N1, or phone 247 2717 for arrangement to collect.

NATIONAL March and Rally to mark International Anti-Apartheid Year, Assembly 1.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, London, Sat 21 Oct. Information and publicity from Anti-Apartheid Movement, 88 Chesham St., London W1. Tel: 01-580 5311.

**AFRICAN STUDY GROUP**  
VOL 1 NO 1

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The African Study Group is a Marxist-Leninist collective undertaking serious study of the nature and dynamics of African societies. Further discussion will doubtless arise from the analyses presented in the product of one session of collective study, which is available from ASG, Box 24, 182 Upper St, London N1 at 40p plus 12p postage per issue. Send postal orders.

COMRADE needs room, preferably Lambeth/Clapham area but anything considered. Contact Mike, 907 2609 (evenings/weekends).

ISLINGTON Socialist Centre next meeting: British film 'Saurana' (Our Revolution) plus speaker, Sunday 13 August, 7.30pm at the Hemingford Arms, Offroad Road, N1.

LONDON ACCOMMODATION wanted for quiet Latin American couple. 01 468 8500.

# INTERNATIONAL

## 20 August - March for Czechoslovakia

TEN years after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, Russian troops have still not been withdrawn.

The Kremlin's capitulation terms to the Dubcekite leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in August 1968 stated that the troops would leave when the political situation in the country had been brought under control.

The Soviet leadership evidently considers that the Husak regime imposed on Czechoslovakia after the invasion is still not strong enough to do without a Soviet military backbone.

On Sunday 20 August the left in Western Europe will be organising demonstrations protesting against the continued occupation of Czechoslovakia and against the brutal repression being carried out in that country today.

Demonstrations will be held

in Brussels, Vienna, Geneva, Stockholm and Paris, as well as in London.

The London demonstration will begin with a rally at Speaker's Corner at 2pm, and there will then be a march to the Soviet and Czechoslovak Embassies in Notting Hill Gate.

### PROTEST

The initiative for the demonstration came from the Committee to Defend Czechoslovak Socialists, supported by the Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign. The protest is also officially supported by the Labour Party as well as by various left groups.

On Saturday 19 August the Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign is organising an evening meeting at which Jiri Pelikan, a leader of the Czechoslovak CP in 1968 and now spokesperson for the

Czechoslovak Socialist Opposition abroad, will speak.

There will be film of the 1968 events, followed by discussion. The meeting will be at the Conway Hall at 7.30.

On the actual anniversary of the invasion — Monday 21 August — a delegation of Labour MPs will hand in a protest against Soviet policy in Czechoslovakia at the Soviet embassy.

The National Association for Freedom and the Tory leadership are attempting to cash in on the Czechoslovak resistance movement and the Prague Spring for propaganda purposes.

Lord Home, Chamberlain's lieutenant at Munich when Hitler and the British arranged for the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia 40 years ago this September, has opened an exhibition in memory of 'Czechoslovak Freedom'.

And NAFF luminaries are channelling large sums into the organisation of a demonstration at Trafalgar Square through which they hope to steal the headlines for the Tory election drive against the left.

### COMBINE

The organisers of the labour movement demonstration are hoping that socialists in London will combine support for the Anti-Nazi League demonstration in Brick Lane on Sunday morning with a big turn-out against Stalinism in Prague on the Sunday afternoon.

### CONTACT

For more information about activities on the anniversary weekend, contact: Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign, 10 Park Drive, London NW11.



NEW ON ITV, The Red Tsar — a five-part weekly series on Stalin, produced by Paul Neuburg of London Weekend Television, writes PAT-RICK CAMILLER.

Part one on Sunday 13 August at 12.30pm contains much interesting documentary material on the period until Lenin's death in 1924, bringing out very clearly the contradiction between Stalin's minor role and later myth-making reconstructions.

However, while they are perceptive enough in outlining the material reasons for the downfall of Tsarism, the film-

makers remain bewildered by the October revolution itself.

Ignoring the mass mobilisation against the military and social policies of the Provisional Government, their account can detect nothing but Bolshevik 'conspiracy', 'manipulation', and 'powerlust' at work.

They mention in passing Lenin's struggle against bureaucracy in the young workers state. But in the end they fall back on the old, threadbare version according to which the Stalin dictatorship grew out of the original Bolshevik project.

## UNDER REVIEW

# The Two Ronnies A belly-laughful of breasts

CRITICISING humour is a dangerous business. You run the risk of being accused of lacking an all important sense of it and, at a more intellectual level, of being sucked into one of those minefield arguments about whether there should be any limits imposed on artistic freedom.

Skirting that minefield, I am simply appalled by what passes for humour on British television and, in particular, by the crude sexist basis of so many of the programmes, writes ROGER PROTZ.

Too idle to switch channels one Monday evening, I watched with growing horror and amazement a show in The Two Ronnies series, which I am horrified to say has just ended on BBC 2.

Backed by a rising cacophony of screeching laughter, Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker let loose a stream of jokes that, with the addition of suitable expletives, would have had them rolling in the aisles in the sergeants' mess on a boozy Saturday night.

Pride of place, if pride is the right word, went to the 'joke' that managed to be both sexist and racist at the same time: the 'queer' missionary who was turned into fairy cakes by cannibals.

This type of leering rubbish does have an awful, even

awful, fascination and I switched on the following Monday, complete with cassette recorder, for a further 45 minutes' worth.

The most depressing aspect of the show is the grotesque insensitivity of the 'stars' towards minority groups; the frenzied desire to get a good belly-laugh at someone else's expense.

Almost as sad is the realisation that the strides taken by women in many areas to loosen outdated and reactionary male attitudes have had no impact where most male comedians and comedy writers are concerned.

Women, for them, remain simple sex objects, either as the unseen butt of a nudge-nudge joke or as something to be sniggered over in a sketch.

Corbett — 'And now a sketch about topless go-go dancers in suburbia, in which I knock around with a couple of rockers...' Barker — 'And I rock around (pause) with a couple of nice people from Croydon'.

### COYNESS

This mock coyness is a staple diet of the programme. Later, the word 'ligger' is clearly meant to rhyme with a carefully avoided 'bugger' and 'smoke' is left, so to speak, hanging in the air as they dodge saying 'poke'.

Coyness is a close relation of innuendo. A girl is described as 'having lovely big Ginger Rogers', a quite meaningless expression but one that is not lost on the hee-hawing audience.

And having exhausted — for one merciful week, at least — the female form, they turn inevitably to the male 'private parts'. Corbett, telling a long, convoluted and boringly unfunny story about an encounter with a woman, describes them reaching her house:

'She walked in like this' (his hands indicate a 'female' walk). 'I didn't walk like that. I walked quite normally... as normally as the excitement would allow.'

Dressed grotesquely as two women sailors, they sing a series of revamped nautical

ditties, including 'What shall we do with the shrunken sailor, early in the morning?' At the end of the sketch, their Union Jack knickers, with a terrible predictability, descend to their ankles.

That was almost the end of the show. What, no anti-gay joke tonight, fellers? They didn't disappoint me.

### SPARED

Corbett says he went to watch some wrestling and discovered Larry Grayson and John Inman — two 'camp' actors — fighting for a purse. He pauses, then slips into a 'queer' voice: 'That big one, all covered in sequins.'

At least we are spared this week a 'Did you hear about the Irishman...'

### POPULAR

The Two Ronnies is one of the most popular series on television. It is a sad thought that millions of people watch it and tacitly accept its attitudes to sex and minorities.

Crude humour helps legitimise a lumpen ideology that reduces women to the level of life-size dolls with inflated breasts, portrays gay people as limp-wristed pansies, the Irish as a nation of drunken buffoons and trade unionists as inarticulate idlers.

### DEBASED

This type of humour is not confined to The Two Ronnies. Overt sexism, sexual innuendo and the gying of minorities are dominant themes in the programmes of many other comedy entertainers.

In their mouths, humour is debased by a cheap and rancid vulgarity. Forty-five minutes of Corbett and Barker gave me as much pleasure as plunging my arm into a blocked lavatory.

In a society where out-dated sexual taboos are still strong, they help to reinforce those taboos. Sex is not a joy but something tawdry and smutty, a quick grope to be sniggered over with your mates the following morning.

Humour, at its best, when it strips bare the absurdities and pretensions of society, can be a powerful liberating force. In the hands of such practitioners as Corbett and Barker, humour has all the liberating force of a straitjacket.

# Public order Mauritius-style



EIGHT opposition MPs in Mauritius have been jailed for three months under the Public Order Act, along with six other militants from their party — the Mauritius Militant Movement — including the mayor of the country's capital, Port Louis.

The charge arose out of a demonstration in March against any rise in transport fares. There is a massive transport crisis in Mauritius to which the government's only answer has been to raise fares by 100 per cent.

A united front called Front Komin Transport organised a rush hour protest against the proposed increase. Ten organisations took part, but only MMM members were prosecuted.

The MMM is the only one of the ten represented in Parliament — it has 32 out of 70 seats, making it the largest single party, and constitutes the sole parliamentary opposition to the Labour-Social Democrat government.

The charges against the MMM members were nothing more than obstruction. As their lawyer said in court: 'Their sole crime is that they differ from

the government.'

The Public Order Act was introduced in 1970 at a time of social unrest and when the MMM had just won its first parliamentary seat in a by-election. It was introduced as an explicitly political piece of legislation, and so it has remained.

The MMM urgently needs solidarity. Strike actions are planned in Mauritius and these could be effectively backed by messages of support from abroad.

Telegrams of protest to Prime Minister Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Government House, Port Louis, Mauritius.

\* As we go to press we hear that the fourteen MPs and trade unionists have been released under pressure from solidarity action, including from France.

One MP still remains in jail: Amedee Darga, also of the MMM. Darga was convicted of sedition for describing the members of the secret police, the State Special Service, as 'scorpions who must be crushed'.



THE Two Ronnies in a sketch called 'Ball and Socket'

# Socialist Challenge

## A thousand jobs to go, and...

# Union leaders comply with attack by Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT has generously handed Lucas Aerospace £8m to sack over a thousand workers in Liverpool, Bradford, and Shipley.

And the union leaderships — supposedly negotiating alternative work for the plants facing closure — are obligingly complying with the company's plans.

GEOFFREY SHERIDAN reports.

When Industry Ministers Varley and Kaufman announced in Parliament earlier this year that Lucas Aerospace was to receive £8m of State funds, the Government didn't even pretend that this would save jobs.

Lucas wants to sack 2,000 of the 12,000 workers in its aerospace division by the early 1980s. The plant closures already scheduled — in Liverpool, Bradford, and Shipley — are just the start.

The company, with the Government's backing, plans to open two new plants in these towns. But in Liverpool alone — one of the highest areas of unemployment — that will add another 950 workers to the dole line.

Lucas Aerospace employs 1,450 mainly highly-skilled workers in Liverpool. The proposed new factory will provide jobs for only 500.

### NO SURPRISE

None of this will come as much surprise to supporters of the Callaghan administration. The technologically streamlined economy — with

machinery and productivity deals replacing workers — is part of the Labour Government's contract with the bosses.

### ANGRY

And when the union leaders show every sign of complying with these developments — behind closed doors — their members can rightly feel very angry indeed. That's now the situation in Lucas Aerospace.

Eric Varley and Gerald Kaufman have answered a total of 56 questions raised by Labour MPs in the Commons about the corporate plan drawn up by Lucas workers through their combine shop stewards committee.

Each time, the Industry Ministers said they welcomed the plan — which puts forward a wide range of technologically advanced products designed to meet people's needs — and that the combine committee should pursue the plan through the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

As far as the combine committee was concerned, the Confed was union bureaucracy

writ large. But with the announced closures, the Government and union leaders insisted that the Confed had to be the channel for negotiations.

With the agreement of the Government and Lucas management, working parties drawn from the shopfloor at Lucas Aerospace have been set up by the Confed, ostensibly to produce alternative proposals for the threatened plants.

In charge is Roy Grantham, general secretary of the white-collar union APEX, fresh from his enthusiastic support for the Grunwick strikers.

The combine committee's policy against the closures has been to impose a total halt on any movement of equipment or personnel from the Liverpool, Bradford and Shipley plants.

With the setting up of the working parties, and with the Government's £8m in its coffers, Lucas nominally agreed with this. It said it would maintain the status quo, and take no steps to go ahead with its 'rationalisation' programme while discussions on the future structure of the company took place.

### SILENCE

At the end of last month, however, Lucas informed the Shipley workers that if they didn't stop preventing the movement of equipment and know-how from the plant, they would all be locked out. This announcement has been met

with silence from Grantham and the other Confed leaders.

The 13 July issue of *The Engineer* reported a Lucas spokesperson as saying that the establishment of the working parties was a mere formality.

'He claimed that Lucas's plans to close the factories had not been affected,' the magazine reported, 'and the working party just represented the next step in the negotiating procedure.'

The article added: 'This was confirmed by the Department of Industry.' Still not a murmur from Grantham & Co.

But Roy Grantham has not been entirely inactive. On 12 July he was sent a letter by Alan Whitney, personnel director at Lucas Aerospace, objecting to the presence of two shopfloor militants on the working parties — Mike Cooley and Phil Asquith.

Grantham duly obliged. A week later he informed Whitney that the two would go, in spite of the fact that Cooley — a former president of AUEW/TASS — is already facing dismissal because of his work on the corporate plan.

The combine committee has reacted with fury. Its secretary, Ernie Scarbrow, has told Alex Ferry, general secretary of the Confed:

'In the midst of all this the Confed has allowed itself to facilitate the Lucas management in their plot to carry out this outrage (to sack Cooley) by meekly acquiescing in their

ridiculous complaint.

'The sole basis for this complaint is that Cooley and Asquith are TASS members who are associated with the combine.'

The combine is now demanding the immediate recall of the Confed representatives so that they can discuss 'this whole sorry business' with the Confed officials.

Meanwhile the leadership of TASS, which is dominated by the Communist Party, is 'still considering' its response to an appeal by Lucas management to stop Mike Cooley spending time on the corporate plan.

Among those enraged by this docility is Danny Conroy, treasurer of the combine committee, and a Broad Left member of the Engineering Union's national committee.

He told *Socialist Challenge*: 'If Lucas attempts anything with Mike Cooley, they'll have to fight me. It will be a war of attrition. There's many of us who worked on the corporate plan, and I think my hours off work must have exceeded Mike's.'

'We're appalled at the attitude of some Government departments, and we're shattered that a company can complain about the membership of the working parties and a Confed official immediately falls in line.'

'The TASS leadership is supposed to be militant. It's a mystery to me why they aren't defending Mike Cooley.'

## British Army raid Belfast socialist HQ

From People's Democracy and the Movement for a Socialist Republic (Irish section, Fourth International)

ON THE evening of 2 August the British Army raided the Connolly Bookshop, Andersonstown, Belfast. Its purpose was said to be to see if there was any connection between the bookshop and a cache of arms allegedly found in some waste-ground behind it.

John McAulity (a member of PD) and John McGeown (a member of the MSR) were taken to Fort Monagh Army barracks and held for four hours while everything inside the shop was removed.

The real purpose of the raid was harassment of the PD/MSR and its newspaper. All the British Army questioned McGeown and McAulity about what they thought of Marxism.

They soon realised they had gone too far. McAulity and McGeown were released late on Wednesday night, and most of the material from the bookshop was returned in a very badly damaged condition on Thursday afternoon.

But it does however appear that PD's internal documents, correspondence, and the mailing list for Socialist Republic have not been returned.

## OUR FUND DRIVE

WHEN I took over Socialist Challenge's finances — because the regular treasurer was on holiday — everybody warned me: It's always bad in August, what with holidays and all that, writes BOB PENNINGTON.

Well, they were wrong. The first letter I opened read: 'The enclosed is to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Fourth International — £1 for each year of its existence.'

'May I suggest that all members of the IMG who can afford it give £1 for each year of their membership to commemorate this historic event. With revolutionary greetings, Charlie van Gelderen.'

That's an excellent example to every member and supporter of the FI — we do have something to really celebrate.

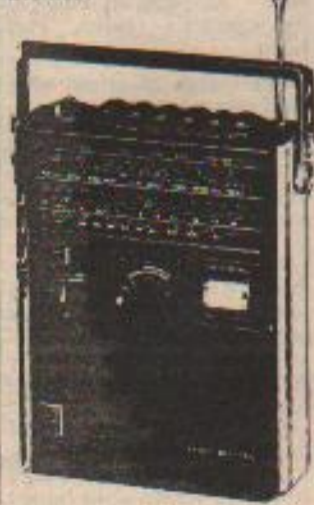
Despite persecution by the Stalinists, who murdered the FI's founder and executed and imprisoned thousands of its militants, together with the Gestapo's execution of many of its early leaders, the banner of revolutionary Marxism is still carried by the sections of the FI.

After 40 years of struggle we are just as confident today as Charlie was when he helped to launch the International in 1938.

This week dig into your pockets and show your confidence in those inspiring ideals. After all, what is a few

quid compared to the need to build a world movement that can unite revolutionary socialists in the most important struggle of all — the fight to overthrow capitalism?

Thanks also to Hackney £20; Manchester £20; MB £15; stamps £10; sale of Lenin bust £5; Cardiff £12.05; Peter MacRae £2; Haringey reader £10. Total for last week — £134.05.



Take a chance on the Summer Lottery

TO BOOST the Socialist Challenge summer funds, we

are raffling something no revolutionary can do without — a top quality transistor radio. The model is a Yacht Boy (sic) 1100 made by Grundig.

Besides reception on four wave-bands, the radio has a special timer in case you forget

to turn it off: a mains unit you can use on the continent; and a combined tuning/battery condition meter.

If you've already got a radio, the winner can decide to choose an optional first prize: a £50 book token from The Other Bookshop. So order your tickets now at 10p each or three

for 25p.

And why not help out the paper by taking some to sell at work, in the pub, or to your neighbours? The draw will be on 18 September in the Socialist Challenge offices. The winning ticket will be announced in the following issue of the paper.

Just send a postal order and

self-stamped, addressed envelope to: Socialist Challenge Lottery, PO Box 50, London N1 and we'll send you your tickets by return post. Also on sale at The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper Street, Islington, N1. Organised by D Weppler, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XQ.

## Summer sub - £2

ON 31 AUGUST, Socialist Challenge returns to 16 pages after our 12-page summer issues. So there is still time to

catch our bargain basement summer subscription offer.

If you live in Britain or Ireland you can obtain your favourite socialist newspaper for three months through the post — for the ridiculously low

price of £2.

If you calculate that this offer won't make us rich, you'd be right (although it helps with our cash flow). The offer ends on 31 August. So rush off the form now!

Domestic: 6 months, £5. 12 months, £10  
Abroad: Per annum -- Airmail, £16.50. Surface, £10  
Domestic special offer: Three months, £2

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