

Socialist Challenge

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ONE IN THREE SAY NO TO



THATCHER'S WAR

Editorial

Thatcher's reaction to the latest Haig peace plan shows that she will fight tooth and nail any compromise with Argentina.

The Haig proposals are a scandal. They deny Argentinian sovereignty. They continue to back Britain's false claim to sovereignty.

But Thatcher is desperate for a fight. As Haig reported back to Reagan from on board his shuttle plane 'Britain wants a skirmish to save face'.

No British worker has any interest in backing Thatcher's battle to defend Britain's predator world role. It is to defend the international operations of British companies that Thatcher has launched her war against the British working class.

Despite the press hysteria, many workers sense this connection. Already the opinion polls show 32 per cent opposed to any military conflict over the islands. And this is before the first shot is fired. When we look at Labour voters the figures show 30 per cent opposed even to the sending of the fleet at all. The tide is turning.

CND CALLS FOR ACTION

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT has taken the first step in building a mass movement against Thatcher's war.

On Sunday 18 April CND's national committee handed in a petition calling on the government to

- categorically rule out the use of nuclear weapons by the task force
- stop all war preparations, withdraw the task force and suspend the maritime exclusion zone

The three-point declaration also called for the government to start negotiating on the basis of United Nations Security Council motion 502.

CND is to set up an ad-hoc committee to co-ordinate action involving everyone opposed to Thatcher's war drive.

This is a great step towards turning the tide against Thatcher's madness.

Monday night's protest meeting, initiated by Socialist Challenge, called for CND's move to be taken up with

- a picket to demand the stopping of the fleet
- a national demonstration in the event of hostilities

Socialist Challenge asks all its readers to take up these initiatives in local CNDs, YCNDs Labour Parties and unions. CND's step in creating an ad-hoc committee should be emulated locally to draw in the widest possible forces.

As a result of CND's initiative it will also be possible to link resistance to Britain's adventure to the mobilisation around Reagan's visit.

At the weekend, the CND demonstration in Manchester featured declarations against Thatcher's war drive from all platform speakers, and a Socialist Challenge banner opposing war in the South Atlantic attracted a large contingent.

Socialist Challenge calls on opponents of this war to build contingents against it in demonstrations and actions against Reagan.

There are serious problems in the CND declaration which we think can be overcome through joint action — if for example, the anti-war movement calls for settlement on the basis of UN motion 502, as CND proposes. This resolution, was the basis on which Thatcher mobilised the fleet.

If negotiations take place while the fleet is still at sea, then this could become a brake on the movement.

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Falklands Crisis

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because Thatcher will claim that she is implementing CND's demands even as she readies her ships for war. In our view, therefore, it cannot be the basis for unity if the broadest possible forces are to be mobilised. The first two points of CND's declaration should be the basis of action.

In our view the demand to stop the fleet is a principled one which squarely confronts the war efforts of our own ruling class.

But we shall also campaign to forge the only weapon that can defeat both Thatcher and Galtieri: united action by British and Argentinian workers.

This is why, in the Labour Party and unions, we shall continue to argue for opening Britain's frontiers to Latin American refugees; for abandonment of the British claim and recognition of the Argentinian claim; and for support to Argentina's working class against Galtieri on this basis.

In this respect we don't agree with the approach taken by Socialist Worker to the Labour left — although we welcome Socialist Worker's first-class stand against the war and against Thatcher. Socialist Worker merely takes labour's stand as proof that there is no need to fight in the Labour Party.

It is true that the Labour Front Bench response to the war has been disastrous.

But when MPs such as Reg Race are prepared to oppose the war effort, in any way whatsoever, we should

recognise that this *does* open the way to building a movement against Thatcher's war and welcome it with open arms: despite differences which no one hides. Furthermore *without* fighting to commit Labour's leaders to act, a labour movement response cannot be built.

But the test of the left's response is whether they will *act* to stop the war. It is this criterion alone — not their wild and wonderful schemes — which will decide whether successful anti-war action can be built.

Neither do we accept, as has been argued elsewhere, that support for the Argentinian people's claims will be an obstacle to building a mass movement.

Our view is that any real movement against Thatcher's aggression will help the Argentinian side. This is simply a fact of life, which no one can ignore. The accusation of helping the dictatorship will be levelled at *anyone* who takes a stand against the war. The *Daily Star* has already branded the labour left as traitors.

We happen to think in the present context this is a badge of honour. We refuse to treat Argentinian workers, who have fought this junta *and* the British government for six years at the cost of 30,000 lives, as enemies. They are more friends of ours than any Tory will ever be. Saying this does not give an ounce of support to the dictatorship: it is the best way to remove it, and therefore also the best way to defend the islanders. We say the Malvinas belong to the Argentinian people.

But we don't demand that others share our view of the implications of a fight to stop the fleet. It should not

be a condition for joint action. Let us discuss out these questions in a framework of common action.

Those fighting Thatcher's war should welcome the Argentinian unions' request that they and the TUC meet as workers' organisations to hammer out a peaceful solution. The CGT thinks this should be done on the basis of recognition of their people's claim to sovereignty.

Socialist Challenge thinks this is a tremendously exciting proposal. It is the sort of initiative which can help clear up the confusion between the just demands of the Argentinian people for a return of the Malvinas from Britain from the cynical use to which the present fascist junta is putting the issue.

All trades union branches, Labour Party branches and CND ad hoc committees should be bombarding the TUC to demand they agree to the meeting and insist on their being allowed into Britain. This is the way to fight the capitulation of Labour's front bench to Thatcher's war-mongering, and extend the hand of international unity to our true friends in Argentina.

But such a fight needs to be coupled with action against Thatcher.

We welcome the call of CND for a picket of the Ministry of Defence and for a national demonstration in the event of hostilities breaking out.

These proposals should be mirrored in every major city and town. Pickets should be organised against local military establishments or local Tory headquarters and full mobilisation for any national demonstration.



Hands up Britain. British troops surrender to Argentina on the Falklands. The photo the Tory press refused to publish.

Junta's victim speaks on Malvinas

Rafael Runco (speech delivered to Socialist Challenge public meeting)

The Argentine junta is trying to create heroes to make us forget our martyrs.

Last month the junta became engulfed in a massive crisis because of the deteriorating economic situation and the growing chorus of demands for a resolution of the human rights issue.

This was the background to its decision to occupy the Malvinas. Now the armed forces have put themselves up as defenders of sovereignty — the same junta which has sold the country to the multi-nationals and been responsible for 30,000 'disappeared persons'. It needed to divert attention from these policies.

Of course, the recovery of the Malvinas was supported by the whole population. Over 200,000 people demonstrated in support of the oc-

cupation of the islands in Buenos Aires. But what lies behind such actions?

We deny that they constitute support for the regime and its overall policies. Behind the demonstration was primarily the anti-imperialist feelings of the Argentinian people.

The dictatorship is the result of imperialist domination in Latin America.

We in the Argentinian exile community are very sad to hear voices trying to avoid the real meaning of the conflict. The British government is thoroughly hypocritical. Only a few weeks ago the relations between the Tories and the junta were warm and friendly. Then Chile was the naughty boy and Argentina the star.

The situation has now changed. Thatcher is now flirting with Pinochet.

The Argentinians in Britain are happy to have this kind of support. We are happy to work with you on the basis of what you have said here, that is, to oppose the policy of the British government.

But we would also invite you to take up the struggle for human and democratic rights by supporting the struggle of the Argentinian people and involving yourself in the work of our Human Rights Committee.

Internationalist gesture by Argentinian unions

By Brian Grogan

IN A FANTASTIC gesture of workers' internationalism, the Argentinian trade union federation the CGT has appealed to the TUC for a joint meeting to work out a solution to the Argentinian crisis.

Ricardo Perez, secretary of the Argentinian lorry drivers union and leader of the CGT delegation now in Europe called on the international labour movement 'to act in unison to achieve a peaceful solution'.

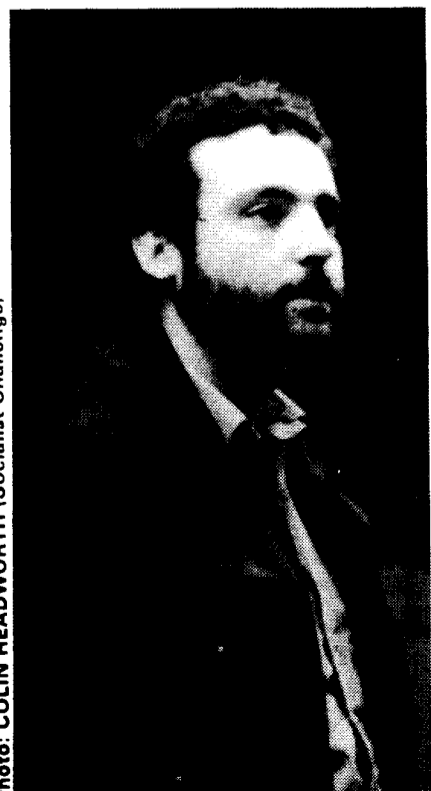
He explained that he supported Argentina's longstanding claim to the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. 'All the Argentinian people believe these islands are part

of their national territory'.

But he thought it right to be concerned that the Falkland Islanders had their democratic and human rights guaranteed. He would fight for this in the same way as his organisation was fighting to win such rights for the Argentinian people as a whole.

But he pointed out that at present the Islanders enjoyed very few rights. They were forced to work for one company — Coalite of Bolsover. Many of these workers live in tied cottages which they have to leave when they retire. They only enjoy the most primitive of services because of the years of neglect by the British government.

The CGT is not compromised with the junta of General Galtieri. In fact it was because of the general strike that the CGT recently organised and the rising opposition, that Galtieri decided to occupy the Islands in the first place. So the TUC has no justification for refusing such a meeting. It should break from Thatcher's war drive and help formulate a workers solution which in collaboration with the CGT could be a major factor in the overthrow of both Galtieri and Thatcher.



Rafael Runco who was imprisoned for five years by the junta

Falklands Crisis

London meeting demands Stop Thatcher's war drive

By Davy Jones

'THE JINGOISM of the Labour leaders over the Falklands/Malvinas Islands is a disgrace', said Tessa van Gelderen chairing a public meeting in London on Monday sponsored by Socialist Challenge opposing the war against Argentina.

Two hundred people heard Andrew Thompson, journalist on the Latin American Newsletter, explain that the Argentinian claim to the Malvinas dates back to 1833 when the British took them by force and threw out the Argentinian authorities. 'Argentina has the better claim even in international law,' he added.

Since 1976 the military junta had aimed to smash all opposition, not just the guerrillas, and to reorganise the economy on monetarist lines. 'But the masses regard the Malvinas as Argentinian, and the opposition supports the government on this issue, but not others. The Islanders must cede sovereignty to Argentina, but only to a democratically elected government.'

'The Argentinian CGT unions have approached the British TUC for discussion on the situation and asked them to recognise Argentinian sovereignty,' he explained, urging the two labour movements to cooperate.

Reg Race, MP for Wood Green, argued: 'This is not an easy issue for the labour movement. On the one hand there has been military aggression

by a fascist government, but on the other hand we should not go to war with Argentina to defend a sovereignty that is at best dubious and at worst non-existent.'

Comparing the possible escalation of the dispute to the TV series *Whoops Apocalypse* he attacked the jingoism of MPs and insisted on the need for a negotiated settlement. 'We must fight for three things: that we are not prepared to go to war over the Falklands, a halt to the task force, and for a negotiated settlement. The labour movement must speak out against the war drive. It won't be so electorally popular when the guns start shooting.'

Rafael Runco, a prisoner for five years under the junta said: 'The junta is trying to make heroes to make us forget our martyrs. The Argentinian dictatorship is the result of imperialist domination of Latin America. The 200,000 people demonstrating in Buenos Aires were not supporting the regime, but showing the anti-imperialist feelings of the Argentinian people.'

Richard Rozanski from Revolution Youth, and a member of Youth CND's national committee, moved a resolution protesting Thatcher's military adventure against Argentina, calling for the withdrawal of the fleet and an end to the 200 mile exclusion zone. It demanded that Labour stop supporting Thatcher, and called

noted that the Falklands issue had turned Reagan and Haig into international peacemakers. 'The crisis is not about oil or sovereignty — Thatcher was quite prepared to reach agreements with the Argentinians on both these points before the conflict — but the occupation has challenged Britain's imperial role, threatening the operation of British capital around the world. 'Of course Galtieri is a fascist, but does anyone really think Thatcher is going to war to get rid of fascism. The fleet has gone to defend British imperialism. It is a question in this

sales to it when last in government — the very same arms now being used against the British fleet. The junta is a creature of imperialism and only survives with its aid. A defeat for British imperialism would weaken the imperialist prop to the junta in the long term.

'The Falkland Islanders are a settler population, we cannot support their demands for the Islands to remain British. We must cede sovereignty to Argentina. Already one third of those asked in opinion polls oppose the war drive before the first shot has been fired. We must build on this, to create the biggest and broadest coalition against the war. This issue is not a diversion for the left, it's a massive test. If you back your own ruling class in war, you can never defeat it at home.'

Statements to the meeting were read out from Joan Maynard MP and Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND. A lively discussion from the floor ensued with speakers from Socialist Organiser and Workers Power.

A new point was introduced by Mike Davis, an editorial member of *New Left Review*, who drew attention to Britain's other fleet — that in the Caribbean with Reagan's war manoeuvres against the Central American and Caribbean revolutions. 'Rancher Reagan is worried over the Malvinas because the hired hands have fallen out. He wants them to make up and get back to the serious business of shooting the Indians in Central America.'



Photo: COLIN HEADWORTH (Socialist Challenge)

Richard Rozanski (speaking) and Reg Race at meeting

for support for CND's ad hoc committee against the war and national protest actions in the event of military conflict.

Brian Grogan, editor of *Socialist Challenge*,

dispute of supporting an oppressed people and nation against an imperialist nation.

'Denis Healey knows all about the Argentinian junta, he initiated arms



6 weeks

Alexander Haig — Reagan's bloodthirsty ally

RONALD REAGAN's right hand man and Secretary of State is the much-acclaimed 'Man of Peace' Alexander Haig. Labour Party leaders have fallen over themselves to praise his 'diplomatic peace shuttle' designed to whip the uppity Argentinians into line.

Peacemaker is certainly a new role for Haig. He went all the way with President Nixon and Henry Kissinger when they bypassed the US Senate and illegally invaded Cambodia in 1970, and personally ordered the Christmas 1972 bombing of the North Vietnamese capital Hanoi to show 'willingness to brutalise North Vietnam'.

In 1974 he became Supreme Commander of NATO's war machine and authorised the secret document DPC/D/74/30 which states: 'The Alliance should plan to maintain an adequate conventional defence system as long as it is necessary to negotiate an acceptable peace. If not successful in achieving its ends with conventional forces, NATO will employ nuclear weapons as necessary.'

But Haig is best known for his role in the Nixon 'Watergate' affair. He pulled every trick in the book, including threats and bribes, to defend President Nixon even when aids explained that there was proof of Nixon's taking of bribes from various corporations, his tax fiddling and other illegal dealings.

And when the Nixon empire finally crumbled, it was Haig who persuaded him to resign and negotiated his pardon with incoming President Ford. More important, Haig also managed to come out of the affair as the 'nice guy' by leaking information to the two *Washington Post* reporters, Woodward and Bernstein, who exposed the Watergate scandal.

Haig is one of the most bloodthirsty, despicable imperialist politicians around, which says volumes about those politicians like Thatcher who make him out to be a 'man of peace'. If he pulls off a deal on the Falklands/Malvinas no doubt he'll be offered the Nobel Peace Prize (just as another bloodthirsty pirate Menachem Begin, was awarded it after the 'peace' deal with Egyptian President Sadat).

Alexander Haig is just one more reason for building the biggest possible campaign of actions against Reagan's visit to Britain in early June. Make sure you support the CND march on Sunday 6 June in London, and the picket of the US Embassy on 7 June and the lobby of parliament on 8 June both organised by the Reagan Reception Committee.

Reagan Reception Committee, PO Box 51, London SW10.

Bruce Kent: no to 'military adventures'

Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, was one of the CND national council members who presented a letter to 10 Downing Street last Sunday calling for Britain to withdraw the fleet. CND also set up an ad hoc committee to co-ordinate opposition to the war moves. He told *Socialist Challenge* why.

'The purpose of our letter was to raise a voice of sanity at a time of high nationalistic emotion in this country. We are not a pacifist organisation but we are committed to the UN Security Council resolution 502 which rules out military action.

'The Ad Hoc Committee will be proposing action against the government's military adventure and to end hostilities if they should tragically begin.'

Joan Maynard MP opposes task force

Very few Labour MPs have spoken out against the war hysteria. Joan Maynard is one of them. Brian Grogan interviewed her.



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What is your attitude to the sending of the task force?

Although I don't agree with Argentina, we don't have any territorial claims. I am not in favour of sending the task force. We should find out if our people in the Falklands want to leave and then get them out.

Military conflicts won't help them a bit, they'll just get them blasted out of the ocean let alone our soldiers dying. Even if we win, we'll still need a permanent military force to stop Argentina from going back on to the Islands. I don't see how we can win. We have no territorial claims in justice. **What do you think we can do?**

We need a massive campaign like that which took place at the time of Suez. At the moment that kind of campaign doesn't look on. There is less support for the government but still jingoism, including in Labour's front bench. **Can the attitude of Labour's front bench be changed?**

This morning I signed a letter calling for a special meeting of the parliamentary party to discuss the issue to bring about a change of position. We haven't had one yet as

the thing blew up as the house was rising for recess. There is genuine disagreement on our own front bench, not just differences of emphasis. It's a big mistake because we could use it against Thatcher.

Do you see this chorus for 'national unity' joined by the front bench leading to the basis for new social contract style policies?

Well there could be some

Manchester CND marchers demand recall of Thatcher's fleet

By Dick Withecombe, executive member Greater Manchester CND

More than 5,000 noisy CNDers marched through Manchester on 17 April. A Socialist Challenge contingent marched with the local El Salvador Committee behind a giant banner calling for the recall of the British fleet, and for no war with Argentina.

Local Labour Party MP and honorary President of the Manchester El Salvador Committee Frank Allaun welcomed the march into the final rally. Along with the other main speakers, Kerry Wade from Youth CND and Councillor Mike Hynes, chairperson of the Greater Manchester Ronald Reagan Reception Committee, he called for the stopping of Thatcher's fleet.

Kerry Wade condemned the support the Labour Party leadership has offered Thatcher's war mania. She urged CND to raise the slogan 'Bring Back the Fleet', and called for renewed opposition to Thatcher's war drive.

She also took up Frank Allaun's call for a demonstration of half a million on 6 June. 'Youth hate Reagan', she said, 'and they detest Margaret Thatcher'. She urged hundreds to sign up for the mass sponsored walk on 16 May to sponsor youth and the unemployed to oppose Reagan's visit in June.

Councillor Mike Hynes ended the rally by condemning all those who have supported Thatcher's war moves against Argentina: 'Thatcher wants a war in order to save her face,' he said, adding: 'God only knows why anyone else wants to save it for her.' He finished by calling on everyone to give Ronald Reagan a very warm reception in June by joining in the activities of the Ronald Reagan Reception Committee in Manchester. **Manchester Socialist Challenge public meeting, 28 April, 7.30pm, Star and Garter, Fairfield St. 'Bring Back the Fleet! No War With Argentina.' Speaker: Pat Hickey.**

South Wales workers pledge support to Solidarnosc

By Helen Slydmovics, Cardiff North CLP, and Barry Wilkins, Cardiff Trades Council

THE FIRST South Wales labour movement tour of Solidarnosc was a tremendous success. In just one week (beginning Monday 29 March) Piotr Kozlowski, Solidarnosc convenor at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw, made a great impact upon miners, steelworkers, union officials and labour movement activists.

At Tower Colliery, Kozlowski spoke to the NUM lodge committee, explaining the origins of Solidarnosc in the previous waves of struggle in Poland. After the repression in 1976 'the time came for the working class to stand united', and workers in the Ursus factory, the shipyards, and other plants started to lay the basis for the development of an independent trade union.

'But in December 1981 Jaruzelski declared war on the Polish working class and against socialism', Piotr said. 'Jaruzelski is a traitor and murderer of the Polish people', he added, describing how at least 7 miners had been shot in Katowice last December, including one left unrecognisable after having been run over by a tank, so that nobody knew who it was. Against this repression, he argued: 'Solidarnosc is the true defender of the Polish working class — it is struggling for freedom, democracy and human rights.'

on the executive committee.

At Penrhwiweiber, lodge secretary Mike Griffin arranged for Piotr to speak to about 50 miners just before they went to work. He was warmly received, and chairperson Haydn Evans promised a full lodge meeting would discuss practical support. Piotr also visited Ty Mawr and Lewis Merthyr pits, speaking to lodge officials and also to miners in the canteens.

Any doubts the South Wales NUM leadership may have had about the attitude of Solidarity towards socialism must have been cleared up on this tour. Time and again Piotr linked the struggles against bureaucratic dictatorship in the East with the struggles against imperialist repression in the West: 'The victory of the Polish working class and Solidarnosc will be a victory for all people who are fighting for freedom and independence — for the people of Turkey, Chile, Afghanistan and El Salvador.'

'I spoke earlier about support for countries which are fighting for independence, democracy and human rights: Poland, Turkey, Afghanistan, El Salvador and Chile. Let us give honour to their fight, and let them know that they are not alone. Let us stand for a moment in silence for their victory, and to show the world, and the authorities which suppress them, that they have support.'

Piotr Kozlowski from Solidarnosc closing his speech to the Cardiff Trades Council meeting. This silent tribute was followed by an enthusiastic ovation for Piotr.

Piotr was asked whether Solidarnosc wanted a return to capitalism. He replied: 'Nobody wanted capitalism in Poland — we had that before the war and we knew what it was all about. What we wanted was socialism, not a Stalinist dictatorship, but socialism for the workers and by the workers — a democratic socialism.'

On behalf of the lodge committee, secretary Tyrone O'Sullivan presented a cheque for £20, and promised that Tower lodge would do all it could to support Solidarnosc. It was agreed to adopt some imprisoned Polish miners and to press the Jaruzelski regime for their release.

So far, the South Wales Area NUM leadership has not given decisive support for Solidarnosc. Therefore it was particularly valuable for Kozlowski to meet two executive members, Eric Davies at Brynlliw pit, and Dai Davies at Penrhwiweiber. Both promised to raise the issue for further discussion

At the invitation of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and District official John Foley, Kozlowski visited both Llanwern and Port Talbot steelworks. At Llanwern he spoke to a meeting of the trade union committee (representing all the unions in the plant).

'We call for the immediate return to civil law in Poland, the release of all political and trade union prisoners, and the restoration of Solidarity ... The introduction of martial law had nothing to do with counter-revolution. It is not the intention of the mass of working people in Poland to restore capitalism. They want to carry on the road to socialism, but led by people with credibility and not by the people who have deceived them for the last 30 years.'

Cliff True, for the Welsh Committee of the Communist Party, at Cardiff Trades Council meeting.

He was asked if Solidarnosc had approached the Thatcher government for support. He replied: 'Solidarnosc is a trade union, and as a defender and representative of the Polish working class it must not go to governments, but to trade unions and workers in



Piotr Kozlowski meets Rover Convenor Geoff Stockham

other countries for support. We do not speak to Thatcher and Reagan, but to the workers and trade unionists in Britain.'

At both steelworks it was decided to collect money in the union branches, and John Foley agreed to circulate a list of imprisoned Solidarnosc members to all ISTC branches in South Wales for their adoption.

Wales TUC general secretary George Wright, and Hubert Morgan, organiser for the Labour Party in Wales, both discussed with Kozlowski. They agreed to build support in the Welsh labour movement by circulating a letter from Solidarnosc requesting support together with a covering letter endorsing this request. And they said they would also support the further Solidarnosc tour in South Wales planned for later this year.

At Rover's car plant in Cardiff, Piotr told the shop stewards about the Fiat car factory in Warsaw where Solidarnosc was very well organised. Some 3,000 workers were sacked, and the factory was closed for three weeks to try to prevent strikes. Some of these workers are now among the estimated 25,000 prisoners in the 48 internment camps. Convenor Geoff Stockham promised to raise the issue inside the Rover plant with a view to adopting internees and collecting money.

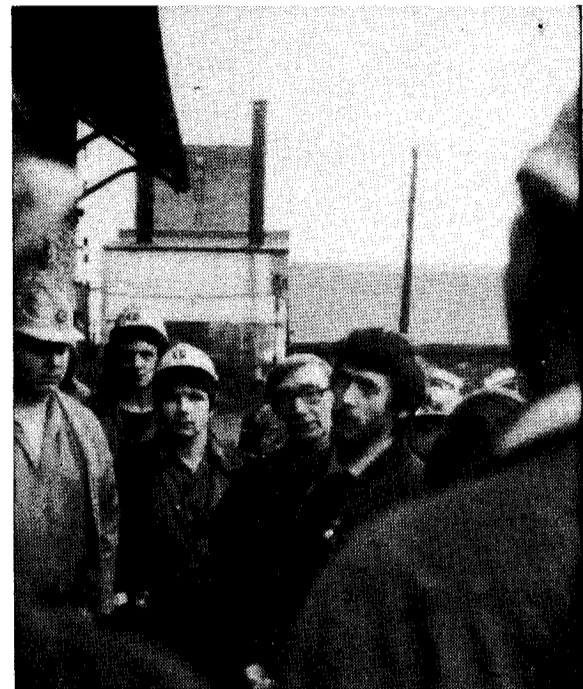
for the return tour later in the year. Bert Pearce will report on his discussions with Piotr both to the Welsh Committee of the CP and also to the CP leadership in London.

Public meetings were organised in both Cardiff and Newport by the Trades Councils. At both meetings Piotr received a standing ovation and generous collections were made.

At the Cardiff meeting Cliff True spoke on behalf of the Welsh Committee of the CP, and Piotr ended

the meeting with a moving call for support for liberation and democratic struggles all over the world.

The tour showed the massive potential support for Solidarnosc among South Wales workers. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for a return labour movement tour later this year. It is already clear that broad trade union and labour sponsorship can be won for this second tour, enabling the Solidarnosc message to reach still further into the South Wales working class.



Piotr with South Wales miners

Solidarnosc reorganises

By Davy Jones
FOUR MONTHS after martial law was imposed Poland's outlawed independent union confounded the military authorities with an eight minute 'illegal' radio broadcast calling for resistance from 'Radio Solidarnosc' on 12 April. This was followed up with a mass 'switch-off' of lights in thousands of homes in Warsaw, on the urging of Solidarnosc's underground resistance.

Such spectacular and unorthodox examples of opposition to martial law have been growing over the last month. In Swidnick near Lublin, there are reports of mass defiance in February when hundreds of people put their TV sets in the window with the screen facing outwards and went out walking to protest against media lies. The authorities responded with a 7pm curfew. Now local people all beat their rugs outdoors at exactly 7.30pm when the news comes on.

And last month over 100 protestors disrupted the Warsaw Opera when Leonard Mroz came on to sing Verdi's 'Il Trovatore' — Mroz had performed at a Polish/Soviet friendship society concert a few weeks previously. An actor, Janus Kosinski, who had expressed support for martial law on TV was booed off stage every night and forced to abandon his role.

But the most important resistance is inside the workers' movement. Solidarnosc has re-established functioning units in the factories and in the main regions such as Gdansk, Warsaw, Wroclaw, Lodz, Lublin and Krakow. Some key national figures continue to evade arrest — including Zbigniew Bujak from Warsaw, Wladyslaw Frasyniuk in Wroclaw, Bogdan Lis in Gdansk.

There are some 1700 underground bulletins being published in the country, as well as the regular Warsaw bulletin *Tygodnik Mazowski*. And resistance cells have been established in the big factories in the Warsaw region — FSO, URSUS, Huta Warszawa and the Rosa Luxemburg works. There is also the flying strike technique. Workers in one plant put down their tools long enough to ensure local security forces are called. Then as the police arrive the workers go back on the job and another factory across the town goes on 'strike'.

Throughout the country Social Resistance Circles (KOS) have been set up, each made up of five people. Every member of a KOS forms a new one of a further five people. Each KOS circulates the underground press, circulates and collects information, and organises solidarity actions.

But the repression continues too. Jan Rulewski, leader of Bydgoszcz Solidarnosc was taken from an internment camp to face a tribunal accused not of union activities, but of having caused a fatal road accident the previous year! The Stalinists' dirty tricks department had obviously been working overtime. His trial was adjourned to 21 April. Solidarnosc's vice-president, Miroslaw Krupinski, who led the strike of the Gdansk shipyards against martial law last December is to go on trial next week charged with spreading anti-state propaganda and aiding the CIA.

Building support for Solidarnosc in this country is more important than ever.

Solidarnosc Solidarity Committees

Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Gordon Morgan, 59 Durward Avenue, Glasgow G41. Ring 041-649 8958.

Edinburgh Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Edinburgh & District Trades Council, 12 Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

Greater Manchester Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Jon Silberman, 51 Montrose House, Crete St, Oldham, Lancs. Ring 061-620 2885.

Leeds Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Dave Feickert, 28 Roundhay Mount, Leeds 8, Yorkshire. Ring 0532 490927.

South Yorks Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Rab Bird, 279 Ellesmere Road, Sheffield, S4 7DP. Ring 0742 617174.

Nottingham Labour Movement Solidarity with Solidarnosc, c/o 3 Elm Close, Nottingham.

Birmingham Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Roger Murray, 28 Blackford Road, Birmingham 11. Ring 021-773 5396.

Coventry Solidarity Committee, John Fisher c/o ASTMS, 26 Queens Road, Coventry.

Oxford Labour Committee on Poland, 468 Banbury Road, Oxford. Ring 0865 58238.

Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign, 10 Park Drive, London NW1. Ring 01-458 1501.

Labour Focus on Eastern Europe, Box 23, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8.

Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group in UK, 64 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5. Ring 01-373 3492.



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Jobs not bombs: what it really means

THIS WEEK Socialist Challenge carries a discussion article on socialists and empire.

For three weeks our attention has been riveted by war hysteria. We have fought it tooth and nail, because we support those whom Thatcher represses. It is our moral duty as socialists.

But another issue is at stake. Is this military adventure the last theatrical fling of a dying colonial breed — a temporary diversion from dole queues and riots? When negotiations begin can we all go back to the 'real' class struggle at home?

We don't think so — and neither do the Tories.

Stanley Baldwin, the Tory Premier, once said, 'I don't know what internationalism means, but when I hear it I know it is a bad thing'. He understood that the nationalism, insularity and chauvinism of British socialism is our bosses' best defence. *We will never defeat them at home unless they are defeated abroad.*

British imperialism isn't a diversion from our misery — it is the cause of it. The Malvinas episode isn't a pathological knee-jerk but proof that our ruling class is now more dependent on its overseas rule than ever before.

On the one hand this offers great opportunities to British socialists. Our rulers are weaker than ever before.

If we link up with 700 million of our sisters and brothers abroad who also suffer under them, together we can make an army they cannot withstand.

But it also shows the dangers. The right wing in the Labour Party have made more ground in the last three weeks than in all of the last three years. The left's thinking has a fundamental flaw in it — its total lack of internationalism.

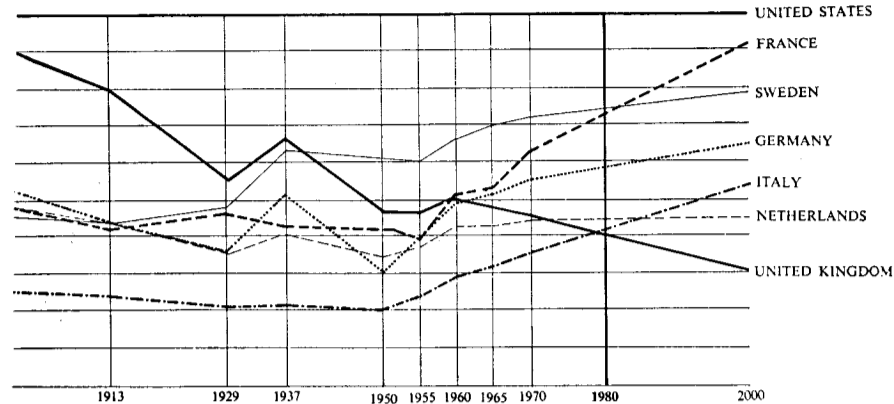
This is not just a moral weakness. *It is also the chief obstacle to socialist policies at home.* The British left — nearly all of it — treats foreign policy as a socialist afterthought: fine declarations tucked on the end of the agenda for the 'important' business of economic policy. But without a socialist foreign policy there can be no socialist policy. 'Jobs not Bombs' means *we won't get jobs until we get rid of the bombs.*

If it doesn't put the fight against Britain's world role at the centre of its preoccupations, the Labour Party can never carry out socialist policies.

In this article, by Alan Freeman and Brian Grogan we aim to expose the errors behind the Labour left's approach to imperialism.



ARGUMENTS for SOCIALISM



Per capita Gross National Product as a proportion of the United States, 1899-1980.

Fig 4

Socialists and Empire

'THATCHER wants a skirmish to save face,' reads a leaked comment from Al Haig to Ronald Reagan after his fruitless discussions with the iron lady.

But more is at stake than prestige. Britain is the world's third military power; and its might doesn't just defend the British flag. It stands behind £84bn worth of foreign investments — more than any other power except America and proportionally the highest foreign holdings in the world.

Britain's world role is Thatcher's last point of support. That is why she has staked so much on it. The Labour leadership is throwing away a historic chance to ditch Thatcher, who is now more vulnerable than ever before. Their jingoism is her last line of defence against a united assault from Britain's workers combined with the poor of the world.

Behind such measures as planning agreements and import controls (in reality a subsidy from British workers to inefficient British capitalists) there lies the view that 'our' bosses will co-operate if we get the foreigners off their backs.

This only makes the remotest sense if one believes that the main threat to change in Britain comes from outside the country.

Apart from all else this is based on a gigantic error of fact.

Resistance to change in Britain is sponsored from within. It appears external only because our own capitalists are so heavily involved in world capitalism.

Consider, for example, the 1976 social service cuts which Tony Benn sees as the product of IMF imperialism. Michael Meacher tells a truer story in *What Went Wrong: 'The IMF,'* he says, 'was largely the vehicle by

It is because they don't understand that the enemy facing both them and the rest of the world is their own capitalist class that the Labour left can't link up with their natural allies abroad, such as the Argentinian workers.

But they make another terrible mistake: they completely underestimate domestic resistance to reform because they do not see how deep a mess our bosses are in.

But why should there be a conflict between Britain's military/financial and industrial role? Last century the two went together.

Britain lent money to the world, to buy its railways, bridges and mining equipment — and sent back food and minerals to make more railways. When the world couldn't pay its debts, Palmerston sent a gunboat to collect.

The result was world war. It meant that Britain's military and financial institutions became parasitic. They rely on aggression to maintain themselves.

We now spend £8 bn every year on arms. This is bad enough when we contrast it with current spending needs. But when we think what could be done with it in terms of investment (including investment in social needs such as hospitals and schools, half of which are now over fifty years old), the true nature of this disaster becomes clear. British investment in manufacturing, for example, could be trebled.

Banking is even more outrageous... The Tories who fulminate against 'excessive state bureaucracy' never say anything about the fact that while state employment has remained at about 1.4 million since 1951, banking employment has risen from half a million to a million and a quarter over the same period.

This banking and finance sector is completely oriented to foreign investment. A comparison between the holdings of British and German banks reveals that three quarters of long-term British bank assets are abroad, while three-quarters of German assets are at home.

Furthermore industry and the multinationals receive the same orientation. Overseas direct investment is now a growing proportion of overseas investment and has indeed led to a closer link-up between the city and industry — with the aim of pumping even more money abroad!

Thatcher's military adventures are provoked by the same structural crisis as attacks at home. It is in order to maintain the operation of British-owned capital both at home and abroad that Thatcher attacks on both fronts, because there is now *no* chance for her to retreat on either.

To defend Britain in the Falklands is to defend its world role — which can now only be guaranteed by means of a simultaneous war on British working people.

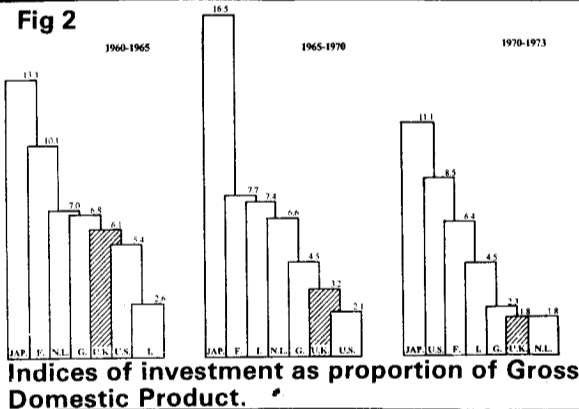


Fig 2 Indices of investment as proportion of Gross Domestic Product.

British decline is dominated by a grotesque overextension of foreign economic activity, and particularly investment, at the expense of domestic growth. Forty-two per cent of everything our bosses make is produced abroad.

And this is on the increase. Figure 1 shows how the flight overseas has mounted with the decline of the economy.

The principal contradiction facing British capitalism is this conflict between its role as a world military, financial and commercial power, and its industrial strength. It is now impossible to resolve this contradiction without courage private investors to invest at home.

The AES, which calls on the government to imitate the 'German-Japanese' model, ignores what had to be done to German and Japanese workers before their economies could be rebuilt.

Our rulers are compelled to attack with a ferocity that leaves the Labour left bewildered. They tragically misunderstand both the resistance to their own mild reforms, and the stakes behind Thatcher's present attack on British working people.

But whilst British capital went abroad, other countries built up their own economies. Figure 2 shows the relative amounts spent on investment at home by leading capitalist countries for the last couple of decades.

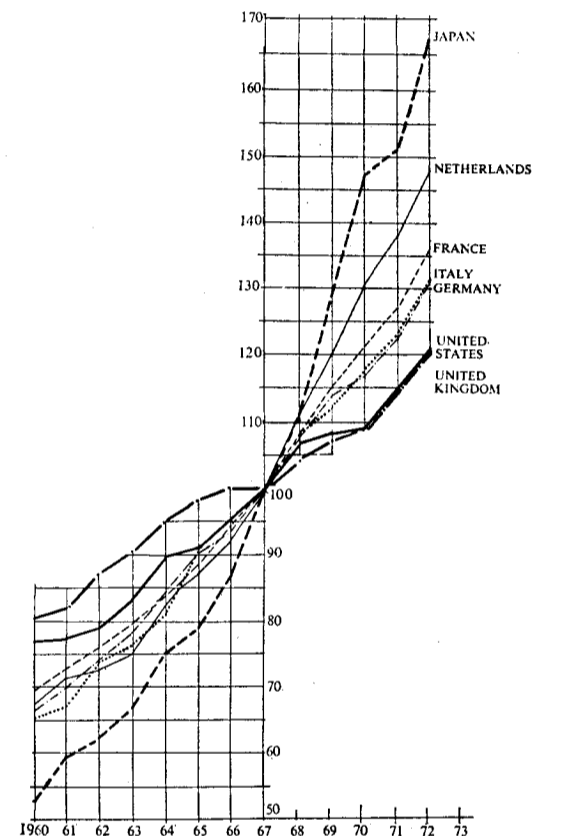
And others began to make railways cheaper than us. Figures 3 and 4 show the consequences of the investment patterns of various capitalist countries.

In a rational, socialist world this would have led to a new division of labour in which Britain built up its home economy under conditions of expanding trade.

But we live in a capitalist world. By relying on overseas investment the state worsened all the conditions that would encourage private investors to investment at home. The pound's world role made it cheaper to export capital and re-import the produce. Colonial super-profits were an easy alternative to a frontal attack on the working class.

The result was that when Britain met competition it posted 'keep out' signs on half the globe — one of which was stuck on the Falklands.

Fig 3 INDEX OF OUTPUT PER MAN HOUR (1967 = 100)
Source: MONTHLY LABOUR REVIEW NOVEMBER 1973



There is one enemy for both British workers and Argentinian workers — Margaret Thatcher and her class. She is more vulnerable to a combined

assault than ever before: and it is only the British labour movement's failure to take advantage of her weakness that keeps her in the saddle — riding towards war.

DIRECT INVESTMENTS ABROAD (IN MILLION DOLLARS)
SOURCES: O.N.I. Q.ED (1972), BALANCE OF PAYMENTS YEARBOOK, VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

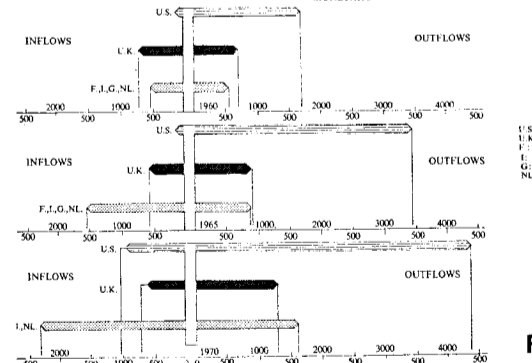


Fig 1

But this also highlights the political weaknesses of the Labour left. Behind their approach, in one form or another, lies Tony Benn's view that Britain has ceased to be an imperialist power.

This view underlies the thinking behind the Alternative Economic Strategy. It therefore relates very directly to the debate on policy in the Labour Party.

All variants of the AES share the idea that a Labour government can neutralise capitalist resistance to reforms by protecting Britain from outside influence.

which domestic groups, including the City, Bank and Treasury, could get extra power behind their elbows.

Similarly Benn presents Britain as almost the innocent slave of the world-dominating Pentagon.

But who sent the navy to the South Atlantic? Certainly not Al Haig. Ironically, the Labour left is now asking Thatcher to listen to the Pentagon.

The fact is that Britain wants to play Robin to America's Batman. It can break from US control only by scrapping its own world plans.

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'The spirit of Enoch Powell lives on'

By Steve Cohen

'WE HAVE HAD too much carping from some immigrant quarters. Let them get on with becoming as near to ordinary people as they can. These people are not Europeans and are quite different in character, religion, habits and customs from our own people.'

'They should be proud to be in England, proud to have joined one of the oldest and most civilised nations in the world.'

The spirit of Enoch Powell lives on in Parliament. These words were spoken by John Stokes Tory MP in the Commons on 1 April of this year. He was advocating even greater immigration control.

In fact immigration control has been so 'successful' that the attack has now switched to black people already living here. This has taken two forms.

First there are a series of laws depriving black people of state benefits on the grounds that they are not 'ordinarily resident' here.

Examples are the new Social Security Act; regulations in respect to education; and the new health regulations that will become law this October.

Seal

Along side is the Nationality Act which puts the formal seal on the creation of a second-class black citizenship.

Second the state has unleashed direct violence against black people through the increased militarisation of the police in the black ghettos. This has now been taken into the courts with the frame-up conspiracy trial of the Bradford Twelve.

This intensification of internal control ought not to blind us to the fact that the Immigration Act is still being vigorously enforced with people like John Stokes demanding even more vigour.

However this control is itself being met with increased resistance from within the black community and its allies. The victories with Anwar Ditta, Nasira Begum and Nasreen Achtar show that mass campaigns can be successful.

Khans

A glaring example of how the laws work against black people is the case of the Khans in Manchester where there has been a five month struggle to prevent their entire family being expelled-Shaukat and Parveen Khan and their two young children, Imran (16 months) and Irfan (6 months).

Shaukat came here from Pakistan at the age of 13 in 1972 to join his uncle. He arrived using his cousin's passport.

However he was too young to know this. In 1974 the government announced an 'amnesty' for all so-called 'illegal immigrants'.

In 1977 Shaukat discovered his situation. However, like most people, he assumed that the

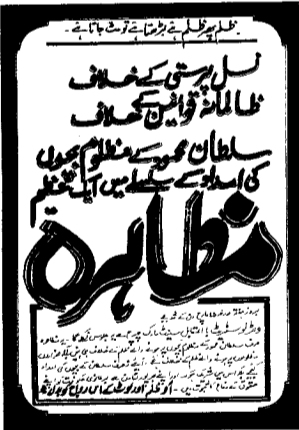
amnesty was automatic—no-one told him or anyone else that it had to be applied for.

When he discovered in 1980 that he had to make an application he did apply to the Home Office. He was then told by the Home Office that the amnesty had stopped in 1978!

Thanks

He was also told he was going to be removed from this country — thanks to the fact that he had announced his presence here.

The Home Office also said they were going to remove Parveen. She had come in 1979 and was completely ignorant of



Shaukat's immigration status. The Home Office are now claiming that she entered the country by deception — that is failing to disclose a fact of which she was totally ignorant!

Imran and Irfan were both born here. As such they are UK citizens and cannot, in theory, be expelled. But the Home Office has 'generously' offered them a one-way ticket to Pakistan.

Threat

This is another way of repatriation. Under the new Nationality Act children of 'illegal' parents will anyhow be forced to leave with their parents — as they will not be UK citizens. And under the Immigration Act anyone 'accused' of being an illegal immigrant can be removed without having the opportunity to be tried or heard.

William Whitelaw says that it is in the interest of 'good community relations' that the Khans be removed.

The Khan Family Defence Committee says

KHAN FAMILY STILL UNDER THREAT



LATEST NEWS

Mrs Khan and her two children were to be 'removed' on February 25th, but the Home Office has suspended the 'removal' for at least a few days. This doesn't mean that Mrs Khan and her children are now safe. It only means we have a little more time to fight against their 'removal'.

THE KHAN FAMILY

Mr Khan is to be 'removed' because he entered this country 'illegally' in 1972 at the age of 13. In 1974 the government granted a pardon to 'illegal immigrants' but, like many others Mr Khan didn't know that you had to apply for the pardon. Mrs Khan entered this country legally to marry Mr Khan in 1979. She is to be 'removed' for 'withholding a material fact' at the airport on her arrival. The 'fact' was her husband's 'illegal status', but Mrs Khan didn't know this 'fact' until 1981.

REPATRIATION

Imran and Irfan Khan, 16 months and 6 months, they are both British citizens and have every right to stay, if they were white their rights would have been respected, but the Home Office has offered these black British citizens a one way ticket to a country they have never seen. This is forced repatriation.

The Khan's MP, Mr Kaufman, has made two appeals to the Home Secretary Mr Whitelaw. His reply was that 'in the interests of good community relations' the Khan family should go!

We say that in the interests of good community relations the Khans should stay here in Longsight with their family and friends. Now from fear and desperation Mr Khan has disappeared. Mrs Khan and the children are now alone.

IF WE KNOW OF THESE CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE AND DO NOTHING WE ARE AS BAD AS THE PEOPLE WHO 'REPRESENT' US.
WRITE A LETTER OF PROTEST TO WILLIAM WHITELAW, THE HOME SECRETARY,
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, WHITEHALL, LONDON.

DEMONSTRATION 25 APRIL

ASSEMBLE CORNER OF DICKENSON ROAD — STOCKPORT ROAD 1pm
RALLY 3pm LONGSIGHT LIBRARY
DONATIONS TO KHAN FAMILY DEFENCE COMMITTEE c/o 593 STOCKPORT ROAD, MANCHESTER 13. RING 061 225 5111 FOR INFORMATION.

that it is in the interests of good community relations that the Khans stay and the Immigration Act be removed.

So far the committee has gained local support within the community and

is being aided by Manchester Trades Council, the North West TUC and Ardwick Labour Party.

It was thanks to this solidarity that the Home Office had to release the family from Ringway Air-

port on 25 February when a flight had been set for their departure.

Since then however, because of the strain of the situation, Shaukat has had to go into hiding.

This is by no means the only case. Sultan Mahmood has been fighting for 11 years to bring his children here from Pakistan.

Mumtaz Kiani is fighting deportation. She was given leave to stay here five years ago, but the Home Office want to retrospectively withdraw that leave because unknown to her, her husband is here illegally.

Najat Chafee is threatened with deportation because her husband, who used violence against her, was already married without her knowledge.

Reggie Yates is threatened with deporta-



Photo: ANDREW POTHECARY

'Are you going to be in Leeds for picket of Bradford 12 trial?' — Anwar Ditta

By Toni Gorton

'THE BRADFORD TWELVE are like my sons — without them my children would not be with me today', declared Anwar Ditta at the 3 April demonstration in Leeds.

'It was their support over the years of my struggle which helped me to defeat the racism and sex discrimination of the Home Office.'

'Are you going to be here, outside Leeds Town Hall on 26 April for the mass picket when the trial begins?' 'Yes,' roared back the 3,000 demonstrators, 'We'll be there!'

The twelve Asian youths face life imprisonment if the trial about to start finds them guilty of conspiracy to manufacture explosives.

They all declare their innocence. This is a political trial of black political activists and a lot is at stake.

Socialist Challenge urges its supporters to be

at the picket at Leeds Crown Court at 10.00 for the mass demonstration.

London coaches leave York Way, Kings Cross at 7am. Tickets are £4 (£2 with UB40).

Leeds national mobilising committee: Box JK, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds 2.

London mobilising committee: Unit 265, 27 Clerkenwell Close, EC1

LONDON RALLY to free the Bradford 12. Friday 23 April 7.30-11. Speakers: Anwar Ditta and from African National Congress, Newton Rose Campaign. Polytechnic of Central London, 115 New Cavendish St, W1.

tion because his wife who is a UK citizen was not born here.

Kantil Mistry is in the same situation as Reggie Yates. And Ibrahim Patel is being deported because the Home Office does not recognise him as an Iman — a priest.

Whatever the official reasons the case is clear. If you're black you're vulnerable to enforced repatriation.

from the Defence Committee to speak to your group, branch etc

● You to collect petitions from the Committee

● You to send money to the Khan Family Defence Committee at 593 Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester 13. Telephone 061 225 5111

The other campaigns can be contacted at:

Sultan Mahmood: c/o 27 Gower St, Oldham, Lancs
Mumtaz Kiani: c/o Bradford



If you're white like the Polish or the Falkland Islanders you're welcome.

A big contribution to the fight against racist British laws can be made by defending these people who are at risk of deportation.

The Khan Family Defence Committee asks:

● For you and your organisation to send letters of support to Gerald Kaufman MP, House of Commons, Westminster

● With a similar letter to your own MP and to William Whitelaw

● You to invite a speaker

CRC, 1 Marlborough Rd, Manningham, Bradford

Najat Chafee: 138 Minet Ave, London NW10

Reggie Yates: c/o MIERU, 439 Harrow Rd, London W10

Kantil Mistry: c/o Tameside CRE, 39a Manchester Rd, Denton, Manchester

Ibrahim Patel: c/o Tameside CRE, as above

Demonstration in support of the Khans and all other victims of the Immigration Act

Sunday 25 April at 1pm

Longsight in MANCHESTER, corner of Stockport Rd and Dickenson Rd.

Little justice in Terry May case

By Toni Gorton

THE TRIAL of the Thornton Heath 15 ended this week with ten black youths found guilty of ten charges of riot, five of affray and one case of the manslaughter of Terry May.

May was caught up in a battle between white and black youths arising from an attack on a local pub which was used as a base for National Front supporters to prey on the black community.

This is set against a background of about 250 racist attacks during the preceding 18 months on black people in the area; of police indifference to these at-

tacks; and of overt fascist organising.

For example one black ticket collector had been shot through the head and neck with an airgun and in another incident a pighead had been left at the local mosque.

The hypocrisy of the press has been at an all time high, playing up the death of this white youth while ignoring the assaults and deaths of black people at the hands of racists such as Michael Ferriera, Aftab Ali or Satnam Singh Gill.

One reporter for a major popular paper at the trial was overheard to say, 'Well, let's go back to the coon show'.

The sentences are

unusually hard. It's virtually unknown that five years should be imposed for a riot charge as with Gary Huggins.

Rudy Narayan, the leading defence counsel argues that the Thornton Heath defendants acted in self-defence in a 'natural and spontaneous uprising' against attacks by fascist hoodlums.

The conditions which led to the death of Terry May have not been eradicated and therefore there will be many more such uprisings with more innocent people becoming the victims of the violence while the real criminals remain untouched.

Big issues before engineering conference

THE national committee of the engineering union, the AUEW, meets this week. It comprises delegates from local branches, districts of the union, women's and youth sections.

Socialist Challenge spoke to CLIFF WILLIAMS, a delegate from the youth conference in his personal capacity, about the questions confronting engineers.

What are the key issues at this NC?

One of the most important will be nuclear disarmament. There's a whole number of resolutions which are equally split between unilateral and multi-lateralist positions. This will be the biggest fight at conference.

There is also one coming from the youth conference which includes support for the demonstration against Reagan.

But the issue of greatest concern to the fight for internal democracy in the union is that of Laurence Scotts.

There's one resolution down from Division No 3 in the Edinburgh area. This says among other things that the Scott workers are acting out of rule and condemns the strike committee for attacking the executive council.

This charge of 'acting out of rule' is an attempt to 'Chappellise' the union.

It would mean that policy of National Committee or Executive Council or even an individual national official becomes a rule of the union binding on all members.

This resolution, if adopted would restrict the democratic rights and activity of the rank and file.

It will be a decisive test for the Broad Left whether it fights this or not. Let's remember that this is the operation of the 'big lie'.

It was the Executive Council who has actually broken rules.

Will this also be a way of getting out of the provisions of Rule 14 that a new election has to be called if ten per cent of the branches demand it - as it seem they have?

No, not necessarily. It is extremely difficult for them to ignore the constitution. The real problem is that we don't have the full proof that an excess of the ten per cent of the branches have sent in such resolutions.



Cliff Williams

Would a defeat for Scott's undermine the fight to make the union take up a struggle against unemployment?

Obviously it would represent a blow. However, the NC is bound to adopt formal positions against unemployment. There is a tremendous number of resolutions on the topic.

But Scott's have already had their impact. The AUEW leadership found it necessary to give

official backing to our members in Plessey. They couldn't afford to scab here while the Scott's issue was still alive.

The most important difference is the way they see campaigning for jobs. The approach of Duffy and Boyd is to call for joint campaigns with the Confederation of British Industry - the bosses.

Do you see the decision of the AUEW at the recent TUC not to accept government money for secret ballots under the provisions of the Tebbit Bill as significant?

The important thing is that the EC was defeated on this at last year's NC. Duffy has already indicated that his idea of a campaign against Tebbit is to link up with the CBI. Postal ballots are the norm already inside the AUEW.

Terry Duffy, president of the AUEW has called for left wingers to be banned from the Labour Party - for a return of the proscribed list...

Duffy is consistent if

nothing else. His way of dealing with all opposition to his own right wing views is by smashing it with every means at his disposal.

The Laurence Scott workers represented an uncompromising fight for jobs which exposed his own sell-out policies.

So he witch-hunted them throughout the labour movement. He withdrew strike pay, slandered them and denied them all their democratic rights as AUEW members.

He cannot win his arguments in the Labour Party through democratic debate and discussion so he intends to win by bann-

ing all those who don't agree with him.

Engineering workers are going to have to take the debates in the Labour Party more seriously, and get the power of the AUEW behind the militants in the party not the bureaucrats.

Socialist Challenge FUND DRIVE '82

'I THOUGHT I was alone in a mad world until ... I bought a copy of Socialist Challenge.' So begins a letter from a first-time reader who thought she was the only person to oppose Thatcher's war drive in the Malvinas. (See page 10 for the rest of what she has to say).

She is not alone, and at least one in every three people in Britain agree with her and with us! But you wouldn't know it from the TV, radio and newspapers which reflect the views of the warmongers and the bosses.

She also understood the important of supporting the voice of reason, the voice of socialism, the voice opposing the war - she donated £6 for our fighting fund.

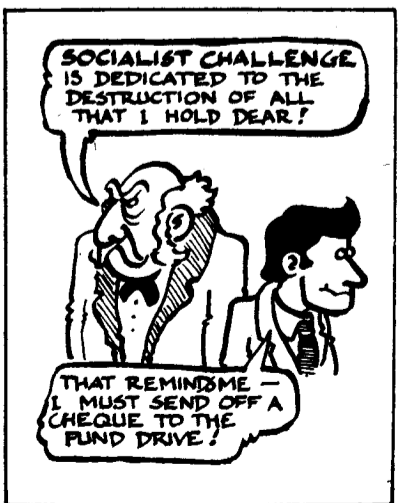
Now more than ever is the time to come forward and give money to your newspaper. We didn't make our target last quarter, we must make more this quarter. We are the only ones to call a public meeting against the military adventures in the South Atlantic.

All this needs money above and beyond the more than £1,000 a week normal running costs. Won't you help? Rush your money in NOW. Make a donation, buy a subscription and take a bundle of Socialist Challenge to sell at work and where you live.

Our thanks this week to:

Anon	£20.00
Glasgow	30.00
Ed Mahood	10.00
'Joey' Glasgow	3.00
Lewisham	32.50
F Patullo	6.00
A O'Callaghan	30.00
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Camden	30.00
Sheffield	10.00
Wandsworth	2.00
Glasgow	2.50
Brighton	5.00
Haringey	17.00
Hackney	1.00
Middlesbrough	1.00
Exeter	9.00
Coventry	36.00
Brent	1.00
AA in memory of Margaret	25.00
Miscellaneous	54.00

Total	£428.50
Target for this quarter	£15,990.00
Weekly target	£1,230.00
Shortfall so far	£ 802.50



Demonstration in Leamington Spa last week

NHS workers prepare to take on Tories

By Mark White, shop steward COHSE 211 branch

THE PAY BATTLE in the NHS is on. The call for a one hour stoppage throughout the NHS, made by the TUC health service committee met with a great response last week. In fact, several union leaders confessed to having underestimated the strength of feeling among their members.

All over the country stoppages and marches will be well supported by all grades of staff including nursing members, many of whom were not prepared to take action in 1979. Many of the areas were voting clearly in favour of nationally organised strike action.

The appallingly low pay in the NHS means that workers simply can't afford to accept another cut in their standard of living.

Their willingness to fight however has undoubtedly been strengthened by the pro-

spect of a united fight by all NHS staff.

The joint claim that has been submitted makes this a real possibility for the first time. This pressure has resulted in the two main unions, COHSE and NUPE, calling for selective action from Monday 26 April.

It is clear that the Tories will not be budged easily by selective action (remember the civil servants last year) and the action needs to be much more than token stoppages. In order to involve

the greatest number of NHS workers in the campaign we need to set up action committees across all grades of staff and all unions. This should help minimise any of the traditional divisions that exist between different sections and make the action more effective.

It also keeps up the pressure on our union leaders whose past record in such disputes leaves a lot to be desired. We should be trying to establish links and arguing for joint action with other workers in the public sector such as civil servants and teachers who face a similar situation.

The stoppages should be used to get onto the streets and hold marches, to send delegations to the factories seeking support

and to set up mass pickets of the hospitals. This is the only sort of action which would enable us to have any chance of winning. Most of these activities would be outlawed under the Tebbit Bill.

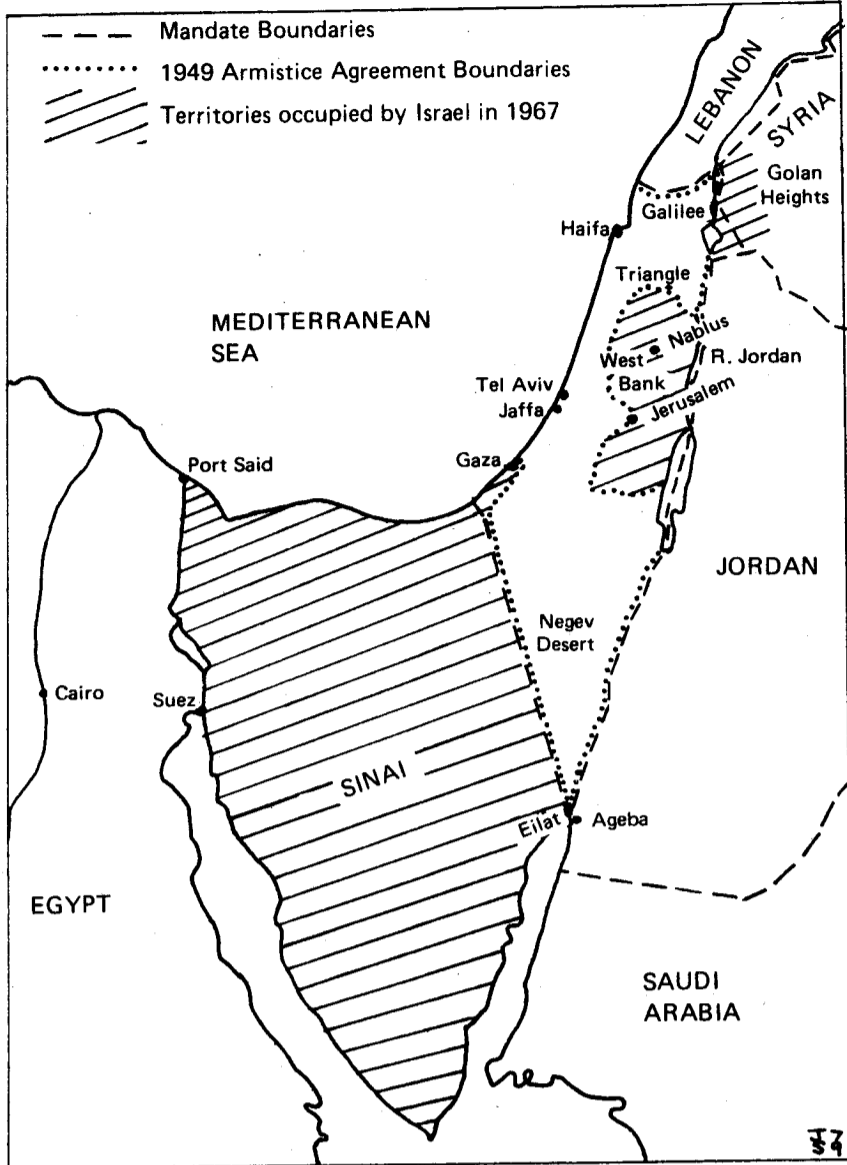
This Friday 23 April NHS unions have called for a lobby of the DHSS headquarters at the Elephant and Castle in London. Mass walkouts from London staff will show them that we mean business.

• NUPE members in Leeds called on the national executive to organise national strike action with no emergency cover.

• COHSE members in Leamington Spa on Saturday 17 April got members of the public to sign a petition supporting their demands in the city centre.

NEW RISE OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

Compiled by Ros Kaplan, Pam Singer and Phil Hearse



PALESTINE/ISRAEL: The changing borderlines

LAST TUESDAY millions of workers all over the Middle East held a one day general strike — one of the biggest in world history — in support of the growing struggle of the Palestinian people in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The current wave of struggle, in which at least 30 Arabs have been shot dead and dozens wounded, is a response to the plans of the Israeli government to integrate the West Bank and the Gaza strip into Israel.

The victory won by Israel in the 1967 war ushered in a period of political confidence and economic expansion. But today the mood is quite different. The Zionist state of Israel is in crisis. The Palestinian mass movement has grown stronger and more self-confident.

The Israelis' self-image as a haven of 'prosperity' and 'safety' for the Jews has suffered a severe jolt, one reflected in the constant governmental crises. To begin to understand why a dark mood of crisis has set in in Israel it is useful to look at the circumstances which gave rise to the unexpected election of Begin as prime minister in 1977.

The first real jolt to Israeli self-confidence was the Egyptian launched Yom Kippur war of 1973. This was far from the easy 'walk-over' that had been accomplished in 1967. At the same time Israel began to suffer an economic crisis which has become progressively more severe.

Begin's Likud was elected on the basis of a promise to end the corruption and inflation of Rabin's Labour government. A further factor in Begin's election was the support of Oriental Jews — those of non-

European origin. These Jews, second-class citizens in the Jewish state, have a deep mistrust of the Labour Party, which has a well-deserved reputation as racist.

The Labour Party leadership (in Israel the 'Labour Party is a bourgeois party with vehemently Zionist and expansionist views) is traditionally associated with the European elite, and has dominated Israeli society for three decades.

The economic crisis in Israel is in part a by-product of the world economic recession, but fundamentally a result of the terrifying overheads of maintaining a state permanently at war.

Since the 1973 war an average of 37 per cent of the government budget and around 16 per cent of total national expenditure have been devoted to the military.

The present crisis of the occupied territories arises out of the breakdown of 'peace process' begun between Israel and Egypt's Anwar Sadat in 1977, which led to the signing of the Camp David agreement. The essence of the Camp David agreement was the withdrawal of Israel from Sinai, occupied in 1967, in return for a separate peace treaty. While Sadat would be able to present himself internally as the 'liberator of Sinai', Egypt would be removed from the ranks of the Arab 'confrontation' states, further isolating the Palestinians and dividing the Arab nations.

But Camp David broke down precisely on the issue of the Palestinians. Sadat, despite himself, was faced with pressure both in Egypt and in the Arab world as a whole not to proceed with the 'Camp David process' unless there was some movement on the Palestinians, some gesture to give

the Palestinians a degree of autonomy.

Instead Begin proceeded with the policy begun under Labour of annexation of the West Bank and Gaza strip. The problem is that the proposal to give some limited 'autonomy' to the occupied territories, or even create a Palestinian mini-state, touches the heart of the contradictions of the Israeli-Zionist state.

The conquest of the West Bank, the Gaza strip and the now-annexed Golan Heights opened up new markets for Israeli goods and new sources of cheap labour — c.80,000 Arab workers from the Occupied territories work in Israel. Moreover, Israeli control of these areas creates more 'secure' frontiers. In addition to these pressures, the pressure from the settler movement and all their right wing allies to maintain control of what is allegedly 'historic' (Eretz) Israel — and in particular 'Judea and Samaria' (the West Bank) — is immense.

The contradiction of this policy is that it brings greater numbers of Palestinians into the state of Israel itself. Since 1973 the Palestinian masses have increased their confidence and combativity. The Israeli strategy is that of dividing up and weakening the Arab character of the occupied territories by utilising the settler movement.

The settlers are armed to the teeth by the Israeli state. Conflict with the

Report from the West Bank

Bernard is a Socialist Challenge supporter living on the West Bank and teaching at Bethlehem University. Pam Singer spoke to him about the situation in the West Bank.

Bethlehem University has had the reputation of being a quiet campus. Has the situation changed?

Dramatically. It now has the most radical student leadership on the West Bank. The Israeli Army must think so, as there is tear gassing virtually every day!

The campus held a very successful symposium recently with the Israeli-based Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit (a campus recently shut down by the Israelis). This was tremendously significant, as it was the first Israeli-Jewish/Palestinian meeting to occur on the West Bank.

And in Bethlehem itself? The Israelis like to use 'well-behaved' Bethlehem as a show-piece to convince tourists that problems are confined to extremists.

First of all, 32 police resigned in protest over the sacking of various elected West Bank mayors. They refuse to cooperate with Milson. But the Bethlehem Village

Leagues have been acting as vigilantes. They recently beat up the Dean of Students of Bethlehem U., and they are harassing local residents. The 'moderate' mayor, Elias Freij, has cabled Begin, demanding protection from the security forces! And of course, just outside Bethlehem is a huge new settlement built to house 100,000 Jews. They're not likely to offer protection!

We've seen violent clashes in the occupied territories since 1967. Is this round any different?

This is *not* just another round of violence — it's the biggest upsurge of Palestinian resistance since 1967. Milson himself has described it as the most important battle since 1948, a struggle to cleanse the West Bank of the PLO.

It's intrinsically linked to the annexation and repression in Golan and the planned war in South Lebanon: Israel plans to use the leeway allowed by Camp David to settle accounts with the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab regimes, and stabilise the area for imperialism.

How much opposition is there in the Israeli working class to these policies?

There is growing opposition to repression and war. The Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit and the Peace Now movement organised tens of thousands of demonstrators against occupation. These movements are still confined to the middle class — and the intelligentsia. The position of Jewish working class is more complex.

Objectively, the Jewish working class has no interest in war or the economic austerity required to keep country on a war footing. Jewish youth in particular are becoming increasingly restive, as they're the hardest hit by army service and unemployment.

We can see stirrings among the Jewish working class in, for example, the El Al Airline strike, and the diamond workers wildcat strike last fall. There is widespread disgust at the level of compensation paid to Sinai evacuees. This could help lead to a break with Zionism, as they see that the Zionist state cannot meet their needs.

If sheer courage and sheer endurance were enough to defeat imperialism, Palestinians would have won long ago. The need is for solidarity of the international labour movement. But for that, we need to break our own Labour Party from support of the Zionist state.



Palestinian prisoners captured by Zionists

How Z

'The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is one of two oppressed nationalities fighting a just struggle — unfortunately against each other. In such cases, someone has to lose.'

This is one of the main arguments that 'left' Zionists use to explain the legitimisation of the Zionist state and its war against the Arabs. This argument has had enormous impact in the labour movement in western Europe, including Britain. It poses the whole question of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a tragic, but inevitable dilemma. It has helped to confuse many people as to the exact nature of the state.

Generations of socialists have supported the Zionist state, partly because of this left Zionist propaganda, partly because of the shock and guilt in the west after the Nazi Holocaust. The support given by the USSR and the reformist parties, such as the British Labour Party to the foundation of Israel have also given credence to this notion.

To understand the true nature of the Zionist state, we must examine the beginnings of the Zionist movement in the 19th century within the context of what was then happening in Europe.

Europe in the 19th century saw an upsurge of nationalist movements. Zionism was one small group among many. It arose as a response by the Jewish petty-bourgeoisie in Eastern Europe to the worsening social and economic conditions with the development of capitalism, to the anti-semitism and pogroms and to the mass emigration of Jews to Western Europe and North America.

Capitalism developed relatively late in Eastern Europe, but quite rapidly. The ending of feudalism (Russia abolished serfdom in 1863) created masses of landless peasants in the towns and cities. There was no 'healthy' capitalism to replace the old feudal structures and utilise the newly

Further Reading

Sabri Jiryis *The Arabs in Israel*, Monthly Review Press

Abram Leon *The Jewish Question*, Pathfinder Press, £3.25

Maxime Rodinson *Israel — A Colonial Settler State*, Pathfinder Press, £1.95.

Rosemary Sayigh *Palestinians — From Peasants to Revolutionaries*, Zed Press, £3.95.

Nathan Weinstock *Zionism: False Messiah*, Ink Links, £4.95

Khamsin Journals — Nos 5-9.

Available from *The Other Bookshop* 328 Upper St, London N1.



A regular occurrence in the occupied territories — Palestinians harassed by Israeli troops



The armed struggle continues

Palestinians is thus inevitable. A new generation of Palestinian youth — many of whom were children at the time of the Palestinian defeat in September 1970 and at the time of the 1973 war — are being thrown into struggle against the occupying forces.

The increasing numbers of Palestinians within the borders of the Zionist state create ideological problems for the Israelis in posing the Palestinian threat as an 'external' one.

For the Zionist extremists this

hardly constitutes a problem. They regard the Palestinians as modern expressions of the historical enemies of the Jews — the Canaanites and Amalekites. As such they should be forced to leave or make war. Since the Israeli occupation, more and more land of the West Bank Arabs has been confiscated. Economic dispossession and impoverishment is a prime weapon of Israeli domination.

Every effort is being made to bring the Palestinian people on the West Bank under the iron heel.

Faced with a new rise of the Palestinian masses, the Zionist state has been preparing for the possibility of dealing a decisive blow to the Palestinian cause by taking out the Palestinian strongholds in Lebanon. While only a minority — just under ten per cent — of Palestinians live in the Lebanon, it is where most of the Palestinian camps are located, the centre of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the guerrillas.

The constant government crisis in Israel is the expression of a polarisa-

tion which is developing in Israeli society. The strain — economic and psychological — of living in a state constantly at war is beginning to show.

While the Zionist extremists are very strong, counter pressures are building up. When in July 1981 the Israelis bombed southern Lebanon, a significant section of public opinion was against the war. People in the three largest cities in the north, who would have suffered in such a con-

flict, left their homes en masse.

A new anti-Zionist movement is beginning to emerge. Many young Israelis are drawing the conclusion that there is no future in a permanent state of war with the Palestinians. The Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit University recently mobilised thousands behind the slogans 'We don't want another war' and 'Army out of the West Bank'. As the crisis deepens, the Zionist rulers will not have it all their own way.

Zionism robbed the Palestinians

created work force.

Jews became scapegoats for the ruling class. It was allegedly the Jews' fault there was massive poverty, misery, unemployment etc. This triggered off vicious pogroms in which whole Jewish communities were massacred. As a result in 1881 4 million Jews emigrated to Western Europe and North America.

Zionist Ideology

Zionism is based on a reactionary and racist premise — that anti-semitism is endemic to gentile society. It is the 'natural' sentiment of non-Jews. This 'fact of life' cannot be combatted, therefore Jews must be physically separated from hostile *goyish* (non-Jewish) society.

This self-fulfilling prophecy refuses to solve the problem of anti-semitism and other forms of racism by attacking the cause — capitalist society and its need for convenient scapegoats.

By the early 20th century only a very small percentage of the European Jewish population were supporters of Zionism. The vast majority of Jews were 'assimilationists'. They took the nationality of the country they lived in. Others were active in the European socialist parties or in revolutionary parties (Trotsky and Rosa Luxemburg). Others belonged to the Jewish Bund (General Jewish workers union of Lithuania, Poland and Russia) which was all-Jewish, socialist and anti-Zionist.

The Zionists rejected any link with the country they lived in and placed their hope in a future Jewish homeland. A biblical/religious mystification of the 'Promised Land', reactionary nationalism and support for Western imperialism were and are the main characteristics of Zionism. It is also worth noting that Zionism was a totally European phenomenon with no tradition among the Oriental Jews

who now make up the majority of the population in Israel.

Why Israel is a colonial state

Plans for establishing an exclusively Jewish state in Arab Palestine found little support among Jews — until British imperialism was persuaded to sponsor the project in order to justify its own continued intervention in the Arab East.

The Zionist theoretician Theodor Herzl, whose manifesto *The Jewish State* gave the impetus to the development of the Zionist movement — founded the Zionist organisation at the Congress of Basel in 1897.

The programme adopted defined the goal of Zionism as 'the creation in Palestine of a homeland for the Jewish people guaranteed by public law'.

The Zionist leaders presented their plan to the European powers as part and parcel of European expansionism and colonialism round the world. They would be the spearhead of European influence in the 'corrupt', crumbling Ottoman Empire. They would bring civilization to a barbaric Arab region — no different from what the European powers were saying about Africa or any other part of the world outside of Europe.

In 1917 Britain signed the Balfour declaration: 'his Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people....'

There had before this been small waves of immigration into Palestine by religious Jews, by Zionists who moved into land bought by the Zionist movement and individuals like Baron de Rothschild from absentee Arab landowners. Palestinian Jewish communities had existed for centuries in religious centres such as Safed and Hebron, but the numbers were very small indeed. By 1914 there were 600,000 Arabs and 80,000 Jews in

Palestine.

Mandate Palestine

After the first World War Britain and France divided up the old Ottoman Empire between them, and Palestine became a British Mandate colony from 1922-1947. This period saw the rise of Zionist immigration and the development of a semi-autonomous Jewish community called the Yishuv. The Yishuv had its assembly of Deputies who organised social activities, education, taxes and other services.

In 1922 the *Histadrut* was founded to bring together co-operatives, distribution of goods, to run a form of social security and medical plan, banks, and insurance. Its main task, however, was to promote the hiring of Jewish labour as opposed to Arab labour. It was (and still is) simultaneously a 'trade union' and capitalist entrepreneur — it is one of the largest landowners and employers in Israel.

What distinguishes Zionism from other forms of colonialism is its aim not to employ the indigenous population as cheap labour, but literally to displace the indigenous population in favour of creating a Jewish working class in a Jewish state.

The Zionist labour movement and the *Histadrut*, far from defending the rights of all workers, became the leading Zionist forces, the most ferocious in the fight against Arab labour, in setting up the kibbutz settlements and in laying the basis for the future Israeli state.

The Arab population were not mere onlookers in this process. Appeals to the British to curb Zionist immigration fell on deaf ears. The Arabs correctly saw a very real threat to their existence in Palestine. Strikes, demonstrations and outbursts of

violent confrontations culminated in the Arab Rebellion of 1936-1939 with a six month general strike. The revolt was brutally suppressed by the British and it took the Arabs years to recover from their losses, a significant factor contributing to their defeat in 1948.

The slaughter of 6 million Jews during the Second World War seemed to confirm all that the Zionists had been saying — that the only safe place for Jews was in the Jewish State. They demanded that the British not stall any longer on the question of setting up a state.

The Zionists' attention was turned away from the Arabs onto the British as the main enemy. Britain, unable to resolve the situation it had created, handed over the problem to the United Nations. The result was the 1947 UN Partition Plan — two states were to be created, one Arab and one Jewish. War broke out — with the Arabs resisting the handing over of half of Palestine and the Zionist army carrying out pre-emptive strikes and forcefully removing thousands of Arabs from the country. By the end of 1948, 750,000 Palestinians became refugees.

Many more were made refugees when in 1967 Israel occupied the West Bank, Sinai, Golan Heights and Gaza Strip as a continuation of this colonial settler policy.

Why socialists should oppose Zionism

Today Israel is the watchdog of imperialism in the Middle East. It happily sends arms to the junta in El Salvador and trains South African troops.

The Zionist state has annexed large areas of Arab territory, confiscated land, taken over water reserves, deprived Arabs of basic democratic rights in their homeland.

It is no haven for Jews: uncontrollable inflation due to the war

economy, rising unemployment, worsening social conditions are becoming major concerns. There is conspicuous racism towards Jews of non-European origin — the majority of the population!

The fact that the rate of emigration from Israel is considerably higher than immigration to Israel shows that people are fed up with leading miserable lives and losing relatives in wars for expansionist purposes. As one slogan of the Peace Now movement put it, 'The lives of our children are more important than the graves of our forefathers.'

But above all, socialists should not support Zionism because it has not achieved its primary goal. It has not sheltered Jews from anti-semitism. It has not created the basis for ridding the world of racist poison. Indeed it has done its share to keep it going.

What are Kibbutzim?

Did you know? — Kibbutzim are collectivist colonies involving only 3% of the population. They are *not* the socialist oases depicted in Zionist propaganda. They were the main agent in the colonisation process in Palestine. They drove thousands of Arabs off their lands — expropriated these lands in order to make 'the desert bloom'. This they did with the backing of millions of dollars — it was no miracle. They are highly dependent on government subsidies, the banking sector and the exploitation of *wage labour* — Arab and Oriental Jews. The Kibbutzniks have become the elite in Israel — the middle class. They also play a key role in defending the occupation of the conquered territories and along the borders of Israel in conjunction with the military.

Where you can buy Socialist Challenge

Scotland

ABERDEEN: SC available at Boomtown books, King St. For more info ring Bill 896 284.

EDINBURGH: SC sold Thur 4.15-5.15pm Bus Station, St. Andrews Square and bottom of Waverly steps 4.30-5.30; Sat 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.

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.

HAMILTON: SC sale every Sat 1-5pm outside Safeway shopping centre. For more info contact John Ford, 53 Elliot Crescent, Hamilton or Paul Youngson, 18 Forrest Crescent, Hamilton.

Wales

BANGOR: Sat 10-12 town centre.

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

NEWPORT: every Sat in town centre 11-12.30

PONTYPRIDD: SC sales every Sat outside Open Market 11-1pm.

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

England

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

BIRKENHEAD: SC on sale at Labour Club, Cleveland St, Thur nights; in precinct outside Littlewoods, Sat 11-12.

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

BOLSOVER: Cross Keys, every Fri 8-9pm, Bluebell 9-10.

BRADFORD: SC at Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Southgate.

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

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

COVENTRY: SC available from Wedge Bookshop.

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

HUDDERSFIELD: SC sold Sat 11am-1pm. The Piazza. SC also available at Peaceworks.

LEEDS: Sat 11-1 at Lands Lane Pedestrian Precinct and 10.30-12.00 at Headingly Arndale Centre. Corner Bookshop, Woodhouse Lane.

LIVERPOOL: SC on sale from News from Nowhere, Whitechapel and Progressive Books, Berry St.

MANCHESTER: SC sold 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 at Gorton and Droylesden markets 11am-12.30 Sats and at Grassroots and Percivals

Bookshops

BANGOR: Rainbows, Holyhead Road, Upper Bangor, Gwynedd.

BRADFORD: Fourth Idea Bookshop, 14 Sandgate.

BRIGHTON: The Public House, Little Preston St.

BRISTOL: Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol 6.

BIRMINGHAM: Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham.

DURHAM: Durham City Co-op Bookshop, 85a New Elvet.

ILFORD: South Essex Bookshop, 335 Ley Street.

MILTON KEYNES: Oakleaf Books, 109 Church Street, Wolverton.

OXFORD: EOA Books, 34 Cowley Rd.

LEICESTER: Blackthorn Books, 70 High St, Leicester, and V Karia, 53A London Rd, Leicester.

LIVERPOOL: News from Nowhere, 100 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1

LONDON: Central Books, 37 Grays

Order from SC, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

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. Phone 01-368 8180.

SPARE BOOKS! Any books you don't want taking up valuable space on your bookshelves? Send them to the Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP.

BADGES MADE: Glasgow SC supporters have a badge-making machine, will make badges quickly and cheaply for your campaign/union/Labour Party — and all the money goes back into the struggle for socialism! Write for details/quotes to: SC (Glasgow), PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

POSTERS: Cheap, good and fast. Order from The Other Printshop, 061-236-4905.

MAY DAY RALLY. Speakers from Iran, El Salvador, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Azania, Revolutionary Communist League, Sinn Fein and others invited. 2.30 pm Saturday, 1 May, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Followed by evening social; 8.30 pm Hargraves Hall, Hargraves Rd, N19. Organised by RCL.

SOLIDARITY WITH GRENADA: Conference Sat 8 May 10-4. Speakers, workshops, film and exhibition. The English Centre, Sutherland St, SW1. Tickets £1 from Britain-Grenada Friendship Society, 68 Grays Inn Bldgs, Rosebery Ave, London EC1R 4RR.

Bookshop. Tel: 061-236 4905 for further info.

MANSFIELD: Fri 3-4pm, Stockwell Gate, Sat 10.30-12 Westgate. Four Seasons Shopping Centre Sat 10.30-12.

NEWCASTLE: SC on sale every Sat 11-1pm outside Fenwicks. Also available at Days of Hope bookshop, Westgate Rd. Every Friday outside Newcastle University between 1-2 and outside Newcastle Polytechnic between 12-1 every Monday.

NOTTINGHAM: SC sold every Sat 12-1 pm Slab Square. For info phone 863916.

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

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

SHEFFIELD: SC on sale Thursday, Pond St, 4.30-6pm; Saturday, Fargate 10.30-12.30pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: SC on sale Sat 10am-12 noon at Above Bar Post Office (Shopping Precinct).

STAFFORD: SC on Sale Market Sq Sat lunch-time.

STOCKPORT: SC sold every Saturday, 1pm, Mersey Way. Can be delivered weekly: phone 483 8909 (evening), 236 4905 (day).

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

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

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

YORK: on sale every Thursday, dole office Clifford Street, 9.30-11; University Vanburgh College 12-2; Saturday at Coney Street 11-1.

London

BRENT: SC sold Willesden Junction Thur 4.30pm.

EALING: SC sold Thur, Ealing Broadway tube, 4.30-5.30pm

ENFIELD: SC at Nelsons newsgents, London Rd, Enfield town.

HACKNEY: SC on sale on estates throughout Hackney, at public meetings, and local factories. Contact us c/o PO Box 36, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8 2NF or phone Megan or John at 359 8288.

HILLINGDON: SC sold Fri, 4.30-5.30 at Uxbridge tube station; Sat 10.30-12.00 outside Woolworths, Uxbridge shopping centre.

ISLINGTON: Every Fri, 8.15-9am at Holloway Road tube and Highbury tube.

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

LAMBETH: SC sold Thur and Fri evenings and Thur mornings outside Brighton tube.

NEWHAM: SC sold Sat 11am to noon, Queen's Rd Mkt, Upton Park.

PADDINGTON: SC sold at Portobello Rd market Sat at noon.

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

London

Inn Rd; Colletts, Charing Cross Rd, WC2; Paperback Books, Brixton and Chiswell St; Kilburn Bookshop, Kilburn High Road, NW6; The Bookplace, Peckham High St, SE15; Books Plus, Lewisham; Balham Food Co-op; Housmans, 5 Caledonian Rd, N1; Compendium, Camden Town NW1; Owl, Kentish Town; New Beacon, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, N1; Bookmarks, Seven Sisters Rd, N4; Centerprise, 126 Kingsland High St, E8; Dillons, QMC; Page One, E15; The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, N1; Reading Matters, Wood Green next to Sainsbury's; Village Books, Streatham; Tethric Books, Clapham; Paperback Centre, Brixton; Oval tube kiosk.

NOTTINGHAM: Mushroom Books, Heathcote St, Hockley.

SOUTHAMPTON: October Books, Onslow Road.

YORK: Community Books, Walmgate.

HACKNEY: Womens Right to Work conference Sat 24 April in Clissold Park School, Clissold Rd N16. Speakers: Diana Morley, councillor; Lucy de Groot, Trades Council Low Pay Unit.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE on opposing Sizewell PWR. Sat 24 April, 10am-3pm. Town Hall Corn Hill, Ipswich. Details Anti-Nuclear Campaign PO Box 216, Sheffield S1 1BD. Tel 0742 754691.

RADICAL NURSES Conference, Park Heath Centre, Duke St, Sheffield 2. Sat 15 May 10am-2pm. All nurses welcome. More details 218 Heavygate Rd, Sheffield 10.

WOMEN in trade unions conference, Sat 8 May, 10.4-30pm. Transport House, Victoria St Bristol. Speakers include: Ivy Careon, Asst. Gen. Sec. BIFU, Jackie Traylor, AUEW Hoover, Merthy Tydfil, Women in Telecoms and NALGO typists. Workshops on: Positive action, sexual harassment at work, child care, low pay, new technology. Delegates and individuals welcome. Dels £2, 75p others.

Commemoration of Bobby Sands MP guest of honour Owen Carron MP plus other speakers. Thursday 4 May 7.30pm in the McNamara Room, the Irish Centre, Murray Street, Camden Town, NW1.

Letters letters LETTERS

Congratulations!

I WISH to congratulate Socialist Challenge on its coverage and political positions over the most pressing issue in British politics today — the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands. No other paper has come out with such an intransigent anti-imperialist line.

As a visitor to the Labour Party Young Socialist Conference in Bridlington, I can confirm your charge that *Militant's* position is an accommodation to British imperialism. It refused to unequivocally oppose British intervention. But, worse its call for blacking of Argentinian goods in reality puts it on the side of Thatcher. Indeed, at a fringe meeting called by *Militant* on Latin America, one of its speakers actually called for the 'saving back of the Falklands'!

These positions flow from *Militant's* insistence on starting from the reactionary character of the

Argentinian junta. But everyone knows that this is not the issue that Britain is going to war over. It is Britain's imperialist role which is being defended. This is why all socialists have to be unequivocal in their opposition to Thatcher's war.

The most surprising thing about the conference however was the acute confusion into which the issue threw the national left wing youth movement — a formation sponsored by the Socialist Organiser.

When the National Committee statement on the Malvinas, which reflect the *Militant's* line, was put to the vote, some of the NLYM members

supported it and some opposed it!

This is what comes of attempting to defend the claims of the British settler population — an integral part of Britain's false claim — against those of Argentina — a dependent country — as Socialist Organiser has done.

Socialists have to defend the democratic rights of the Falklanders but repudiate any efforts the Islanders might make to claim the islands for Britain. Least of all can we be taken in by the hypocritical claims of Thatcher to be defending the Falklanders 'right to self-determination', that is, to maintain British sovereignty.

JOHN BURNS
London SW2

Editor reserves the right to cut any letter over 400 words.

Write to SC letters, c/o PO Box 50, London N1



New York demo in support of Argentines

Falklands for the Falklanders

I CANNOT see much sense in saying that the Falkland Islands should belong to the Argentinian people. There is very little hope of Argentina, let alone the Falklands, belonging to the Argentinian people.

Anyway, should not the Falklands belong to the people who live there? Geographically, they are no more part of Argentina than Britain is a part of Europe. As an American schoolboy once wrote: 'Britain is a small island off the coast of France'. Should Britain belong to the French people? Hitler wanted both France and Britain to be part of a united fascist Europe, but we had other ideas.

I was astonished to read in *Socialist Challenge* that the Falklanders must 'come to terms' with living under a fascist dictatorship. Do you really mean that?

Why should the Argentinian people want the Falklands Islands? The land is bleak and inhospitable. They have no relatives there (except the invading junta forces). The real bone of contention is oil, but the people of no country benefit much from that, under capitalism and fascism.

Historically the Argentinians have no more claim than the British to the Falklands. About 150 years ago various nations played at pulling up each other's flags and planting their own there.

Since then the population, about the size of a small English village, has

been British, and they do not want a fascist dictatorship.

The Thatcher government has received a telegram from the civil servants there pleading for evacuation but the Thatcher government couldn't care less. Do you?

Governments today are concerned with frontiers, flags, national 'prestige', but you should not be. Socialists should be concerned about people.

The people will be in increasing danger with any use of force. All forces should be withdrawn and the long belated negotiations got under way.

KATHLEEN JONES
Shrewsbury

Everyone Hands Off

I PURCHASED a copy of your paper last week to discover that you have abandoned British nationalism only to take up Argentinian.

The islands no more 'belong to the Argentinian people' than they do to the British.

Britain's claim may be false but Argentina's is not much better being based on the fact that the islands are closer to Argentina. But 300 odd miles is a lot more than a spit from the shore.

Claims for all these sorts of islands depend on one thing — might. So that when you say 'the newly formed Republic of Buenos Aires ... secured Spain's rights to the islands', I must point out that Spain had no 'rights' to the islands, no more than Britain. It had 'might' and when it lost

that, it lost its 'right' too. I would have thought that Socialist Challenge of all people would have known better.

I notice also that you talk of the War of Independence against Spain. Well, yes, no doubt it was 'a good thing'. But this was a war of colonists against their home country and thus has more in common with the American War of Independence than with say the Irish, Algerian or Vietnamese.

The Argentinians (that is, Spaniards, Italians etc) while they were invaded by Britain (in 1807 when still Spanish — the Napoleonic war) and

A mad world?

I THOUGHT I was alone in a mad world until on Saturday I was attracted to the heading 'Stop Thatcher's war drive' displayed by a street seller and bought a copy of Socialist Challenge.

I found it most interesting. Regretably it does not go far enough. What is this hypocrisy behind keeping 1800-odd second rate British colonial persons who, we are told, cannot face facts?

I am an ex-Kenya settler so I know how we woke up to 'Lancaster House'. We held meetings to arrange how we would fight and so on.

I am glad to say we are intelligent people and decided the 'greatest good for the greatest number', it is not so much a question of who governs but that they govern well etc.

One could add to the points your paper made how England's insular and dog-in-the-manger attitude is en-

dangerous thousands of other British citizens living and working in Argentina.

Quite rightly you mention the evacuation of Diego Garcia. But you failed to comment on the hypocrisy in insisting on the United Nations resolutions in connection with the Falklands whilst they are being ignored in relation to Israeli occupation of Palestine.

I wonder what is behind the Tories' intransigence and warmongering. Heath was a disaster, but this Thatcher is even worse. Thatcher must be removed — and quickly before there is a world war.

FRANCES PATTULO
London W9

Print this or else

IT'S unfortunate that Simon Lockwood allows cynicism to distort his view of the Jam. We youth are strongly influenced by the music we hear. At the time of the Anti Nazi League, thousands of youth, including myself, radicalised with the help of Tom Robinson, The Clash etc. This is still happening today, with bands like The Beat, UB40 and the Jam. Paul Weller is obviously more than a 'pop star' — as well as playing for CND etc. he and a group of youth debated a Tory MP on Radio 1, attacking British imperialism and the war drive.

Songs like 'Little Boy Soldiers', which sarcastically hits out at British imperialism — 'God's on our side, and so is Washington', and 'Absolute Beginners', an anthem for radicalising, optimistic youth, show that Weller is politically committed.

He uses music as a way of 'making just a few more people aware'. Of course, you cannot make a revolution by getting to No 1, but music is important in the process of waking people up and giving them the incentive to fight.

As 'Absolute Beginners' say: In echoed steps you walk across an empty dream, But look around this world — there's millions to be seen, Come, see the tyrants panic, see their crumbling empires fall, Then tell them we won't fight for fools, 'cause Love is in our hearts!

STELLA COYLE NW London

Argentina: oppressed or oppressor?

SOCIALIST CHALLENGE called for the Argentinian junta's overturn long before Denis Healey and the Tories 'discovered' it was fascist

But we also back Argentinian's claim to the Malvinas (Falkland Islands). With our international co-thinkers we say that workers throughout the world will do best if Thatcher loses this fight.

We say Galtieri is a *stooge* of European and American business, put in to control Argentina for them. They

AT THE END of the first world war Argentina was in chains. A handful of families ran the great wheat and beef-producing ranches while most of the people worked the land in crushing poverty. The cities were a playground for a narrow business elite aping European lifestyle — by super-exploiting millions of poor immigrants in search of a new world.

Has this all changed? Argentina has joined the dozen or so 'advanced developing countries' (ADCs) like Hong Kong, Korea, Brazil and Mexico who are said to have broken with third world underdevelopment.

Per capita income is ten times India's; most people live and work in the towns. Is it now a 'normal' capitalist country, like Britain?

Economist Ricardo Parboni offers a different account in *The Dollar and Its Rivals* (Verso, £3.95). Dubbing Argentinian-style growth 'dependent development' he says it has happened at the behest of foreign capital. Britain's economy is run from the inside — by our own banks and multinationals. Argentina is run from the outside. It is industrialising because European, Japanese and American multinationals have shifted production there, faced with declining profit margins and growing instability at home.

They choose countries whose governments have decided, faced with revolutionary threats, to 'embrace industrial development in whatever form, provided that it

would consolidate a stratum opposed to communism,' says Parboni. 'When these countries abandoned non-alignment, they opted for economic subordination'. This does not end dependency — it tightens the noose. Why?

● **The price of growth is foreign debt.**

By 1978 the non-oil-producing ADCs owed \$270bn — equal to Britain's whole annual produce.



Juan Perón

The worst debtors never escape — because interest charges add up faster than repayments. The World Bank reports Argentina as the world's second largest borrower with a debt of \$12 bn in

attack him only because he has got out of hand. If the fleet drowns him tomorrow, Haig will put someone worse in his place the day after. The most important thing is to sink the gangsters behind him — with Thatcher and Reagan at their head.

But does foreign capital still enslave Argentina? **Alan Freeman** looks at modern Argentina — its economy, its people, and its government — and asks 'is it still in foreign chains?'

them, at ten weeks work.

● Both finance and machinery is supplied and owned by the advanced countries — who thereby control industry.

Argentina's mushrooming car industry is equipped and owned by Japanese, Italian and German capitalists.

Once foreign capital has a toehold it can use takeovers, control of technology, and straight corruption to dominate

many British plants — controls over 84 per cent of cigarette market. Since 1914 it has brought only \$3m. into Brazil; between 1965 and 1975 alone it took out \$80 m.

These companies virtually have the government in their pockets. On 1 January 1965 a special law effectively gave BAT an interest-free 'non-repayable loan' of \$100 m; three years later the ministers who passed the law joined the board of the

new world division of labour.

Capital goods, finance and 'know how' are shipped in; consumer goods and food are shipped out. This is one of the most dramatic indicators of dependency.

In 1978, 75 per cent of Argentinian exports to the EEC consisted of food, consumer goods or raw materials; only 15 per cent of British exports to Latin America fell into this category, and 50 per cent of exports consisted of capital goods.



Picket of Argentine Embassy: both Labour and Tory governments had warm relations with this dictatorship

1979. This is now \$32 bn. In 1979 \$2 bn went to service this debt — 85 per cent to private lenders. This was \$180 per worker. In the same year an

Argentinian workers' pay averaged 37 US cents an hour. So the tribute exacted by the parasites of Wall Street and Westminster was valued, by

the industry.

Workers even pay for their own chains. In neighbouring Brazil the British American Tobacco Company — now closing

company. The deputy who challenged this was sacked by Brazil's president!

● **Industry is set up to suit the multinationals'**

Junta

But is it true that in spite of all this Argentina is industrialising and so becoming — painfully — a 'developed country'? Are Argentinian workers simply 'taking our jobs'? Not at all — Argentinian unemployment is so high that the government won't even release figures.

Argentinian workers will get jobs only if the internal market can be developed to ensure harmonious growth.

But production is for export — and wages are at starvation level. The irony of the new enslavement is that the Argentinian people cannot enjoy the benefits of their own industry.

Starvation and slavery — this is the reality of today's Argentina — and it will not end until the Argentinian workers have lifted, not just their own dictator, but European, American and Japanese capitalists off their backs.

This is what lies behind the passion and fury with which they demand 'Malvinas Argentinas'.

Buenos Aires - What the statistics don't tell you

'A STEVEDORE'S LIFE begins at four in the morning,' says the *Forum on Human Rights* which met in 1973. 'The majority live in the "villas miserias" — shanty towns — around the city. It takes up to two hours to reach the port.

Through the stevedores' hands passes nearly half Argentina's trade: your corned beef; the machines your bosses send to put the beef in tins; and the baggage of the fine ladies and gentlemen who come to tour the sights of 'modern' Buenos Aires.

'At 6.15 the drama begins,' the report goes on. 'The foremen are protected by a high fence as if in a concentration camp, from where they choose their workers. The chosen ones are the 'privileged' who will eat tonight.

'If the worker is not called in the first shift he will have to wait for the

10.15 and 15.15 call, or the last call at 16.15: by then out of thousands who turn up, four thousand will return workless after waiting 10 hours.

'The stevedore is legally under a daily contract. If he falls ill, he is not paid. Accidents are a daily event. The loss of a finger, hand or foot are frequent. Each month two to five stevedores will lose their lives. When someone dies, a bag is drawn over him and his comrades must carry on working because 'cessation of labour' is defined as sabotage. If the accident is not fatal, the stevedore must wait hours before an ambulance is found.'

These are the kind of conditions in 'modern' Argentina which are attracting foreign investors by the score. It reeks of superexploitation under Victorian conditions.

Bare aggregate figures — a per capital national

income of over \$2000 — hide the truth.

A workers' wage is around 30p an hour when work can be found. But what counts as a 'worker' is very different from here.



Union leader José Rucci

For example, seventy-five per cent of Argentinians live in towns — but over half are concentrated in Buenos Aires alone, not because there is work but because 'agribusiness' has forced them off the land.

Millions live in shanty towns, up to 12 in a

'house': the housing shortage is estimated at 2,400,000.

Education is a legal right, but over half never even finish primary school. Amongst workers, two thirds. Infant mortality, at 63 per 1000, is five times that of the USA: but this is an average figure including the rich middle classes who can pay for expensive private health. In the rural province of Jujuy one in every eight babies dies before the age of one — one third of these without seeing a doctor.

'Drink half a litre of milk a day' says the Argentine ministry of health. Rural consumption is around one tenth of this figure, and falling. The national authorities in Buenos Aires conducted a study in 1972 to see how much of his or her wage a worker would have to pay to obtain a 'normal' diet. They concluded it was 104 per cent.

These conditions breed misery and revolt. The Argentinian working class is angry — and immensely strong. In 1946 Argentinian's General Peron broke with past military tradition and, exploiting the temporary weakness of the imperialist powers, embarked on a course of 'national development' during which he built the strongest unions in the Third World. The experiment was doomed to failure and in 1955 he was deposed by the military who invited the imperialists in. But the workers' organisations remain. They combine two things: a willingness to fight literally to the death against their exploiters; and a bitter understanding that behind the puppets that rule them, the source of their misery, stand the governments, bankers and business people of Britain, America, Europe and Japan.

British economic crisis, crash of Laker, Pötel on Solidarnosc, do men benefit from women's oppression, Reds, Mayakovsky, Turkey, Laurence Scott's.



Just 60p a copy. Subscribe for £4.50 a year (Britain and Ireland). Send cheques to: International, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

No hiving off in Wandsworth

By D Benlow, branch secretary Wandsworth District NUPE

NOT content with making swingeing cuts, Tory councils are attempting to completely dismantle local services and hand them over to local firms. Wandsworth is one such council and the issue of privatisation promises to be a crucial one in the forthcoming elections on 6 May.

As local parties are canvassing, council workers will be taking industrial action to save services and jobs.

Since 1978 Wandsworth council has destroyed 2000 jobs and is now in the process of putting council serviceworks out to contract. Street cleaning has already been handed over to Pritchards Industrial Services for a mere £700,000.

This multinational firm was able to bid below cost because it regarded the contract as a 'loss leader' allowing the company to get a foot in the door of a potentially

lucrative business. Pritchards now want to empty the bins for £2m compared to the present cost of £3m.

Private firms can undercut councils simply by paying their employees the most appalling wages and by completely ignoring all agreements and conditions that the unions have fought for over the years.

Pritchards began cleaning the streets of Wandsworth with 171 workers. After 3 years, 58 were sacked. The work-

force has been forced to accept compulsory weekend working without additional pay. Anyone who complains gets the sack. In the meantime the council's street cleaning workers have not been redeployed and their jobs are in jeopardy.

The Tories now want to put another 5 services out to tender. There has been uproar in the parks department where the parks manager himself has put in a bid. The unions are boycotting him and demanding his dismissal.

But more importantly the unions have decided to take industrial action from Monday 19 April against the privatisation of refuse collection in the borough. Last year the council forced the refuse collectors to shed 40 jobs and to completely reorganising under

threat of privatisation.

Now union members have decided enough is enough as they see that trying to do a deal with the council works only in the interests of the Tories and their friends.

Taking action now, right in the middle of an election campaign will highlight the anti-working class schemes of the Tories. Such action can only help the council workers and put this issue in front of the electorate.

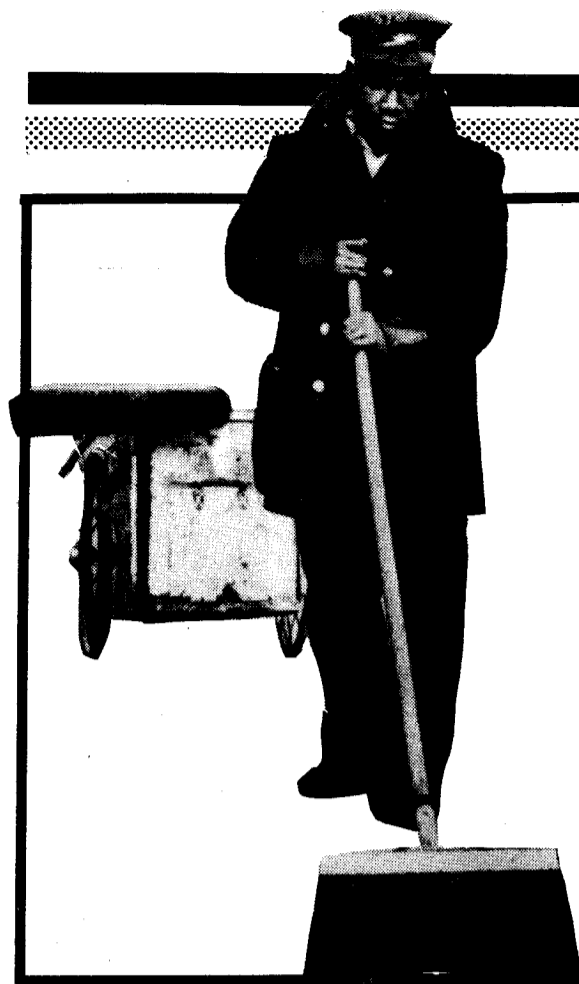
There are some in the labour movement who think that such action will harm Labour's chances. Labour, in fact will gain more votes, both by openly supporting the council employees' actions and by coming out four square against privatisation.

Wandsworth Labour group leader, Tony

Belton, has been heard to say that a future Labour council would have to seriously consider private tenders. Other Labour candidates have opposed this position.

Wandsworth council workers are united on this issue: a liaison committee has been established comprising of the manual unions, those from the white collar unions and the building workers' unions. It was a joint mass meeting organised by the liaison committee that the decision was made to take industrial action.

Now all the labour movement, and especially the Labour Party, has to make this the key issue in the local elections. A Labour council elected on such a fight can only be strengthened to take on the attacks from the Tory government.



GLC SOLUTION TO FARE INCREASES No buses, no tubes

The recent doubling of London Transport fares has horrified everyone. But far worse is to come, writes TESSA VAN GELDEREN, if recent proposals presently under discussion by the Greater London Council are implemented.

London Transport and the GLC Transport Committee have spent a great deal of time and energy preparing reports on how much capital expenditure there can be in light of the Law Lords' ruling. If implemented, London Transport would be reduced to a hollow shell.

Although the GLC could make better use of its resources by organising a massive campaign in the labour movement, the reports give a foretaste of what may be in store if the Law Lords' decision is not overturned.

BECAUSE of the uncertainty about future demand, and fare and service levels, argues the London Transport Executive, the position with regard to capital expenditure is 'still totally confused.' Doubts have been raised about the legality of all investment projects.

'As a result, the GLC has stopped approving any London Transport investment projects ... Many projects now planned would not be needed or would be extensively modified if London Transport were to plan to break even overall.'

Hence only those projects 'that are consistent with both the executive's existing plans and with a plan for a break-even future appear likely to be approved and implemented.'

The report goes on to calculate how, over the next few years, 'break even' can be achieved. It argues that the main scope for doing this is 'by halving the volume of bus services and by raising the fares by between 25 per cent and 50 per cent ... underground demand would be about three quarters of today's level.'

Having gone through this exercise, the report states that the GLC may regard such a core network 'with profound concern and inter alia would wish

to look at ways of reducing the scale of these changes.'

This year London Transport received only a 12 per cent subsidy; 88 per cent has to be financed through fare increases and huge cut-backs in services and jobs. Such facts give little optimism for the proposals in these documents being shelved.

The best way the GLC can do that is to take on the Law Lords and the Tory government to give a lead in the fight for a transport system that meets the needs of the working people of London, and not five 'vandals in ermine'.

Cuts

It would thus be possible, in the extreme, the report continues, 'to close an annual gap of £260m by a combination of massive service cuts, substantial further real fare increases, the closure of several stations and the reduction of train frequencies ...'

Having gone to all this trouble the report then states that 'such a package of changes would not be a sensible and reasonable approach to transport in London ...'

The GLC Transport Committee takes this same schizoid approach. In considering a 'core network', which is a 'truncated transport system for Greater London where costs and revenues have



At least 20 bus garages are under threat

been brought into balance', the committee argues that this is not 'adequate to meet the needs of London but is the grim prospect which must be contemplated in the present legal circumstances.'

The report goes on to argue that the best estimate at this stage of the break even situation would imply by the late 1980; ● that fares would be 50 per cent higher in real

terms than at present: ● usage would be 40 per cent lower than post 21 March 1982 levels on buses and 17 per cent lower on rail. 100m bus miles would be scheduled and 90m bus miles would operate (compared to 174m budgeted in 1981 and which was exceeded by some 1/2 million miles); ● on the underground, train miles would be reduced to 26m train miles

(compared to 30.5m in 1981). Reduction in service levels on the buses would be by:

*at least 20 out of a total of 60 bus garages to close

*reducing peak hour frequencies on main routes in line with falling demand

*thinning out and withdrawal of bus routes where parallel rail services are to be continued

*reduction of evening and Sunday services

*thinning out of the less busy routes and removal of some of the more circuitous routes.

On the underground 'the following is already clear':

*route withdrawals would be confined to branch lines and the more lightly used outer sections

*station closures would number about 25.

Demonstrate

22 April — the eve of the second reading of Jay's Private Member's Bill which aims to make 'Fares Fair' legal again.

Assemble 6pm, Temple tube, march to Covent Garden. Bring TU banners. Organised by Fares Fight.

Lobby

23 April during the second reading of Jay's Bill.

11am onwards at the House of Commons.

Neither Social nor Democratic

The Social Democratic Party is never far from the minds of Labour Party activists, especially at election time. Two new pamphlets on the SDP have just been published. **BRIAN HERON** reviews *London Labour Briefing's* version, while **TESSA VAN GELDEREN** looks at the pamphlet put out by *Labour Weekly*.

Labour Weekly has certainly dug up the dirt on the SDP. Their pamphlet, 'The Soft Centre' is full of interesting and useful information on the formation of the SDP, the role of its leaders in the Labour Party and the internal problems it faces today.

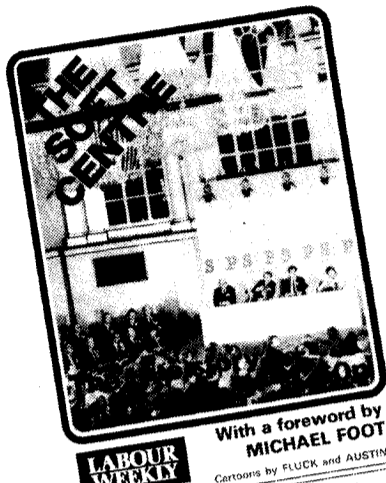
It looks at its relationship to the unions, at the media and the City and it establishes the SDP as 'party rooted in elitism and determined to stay that way.'

But nowhere does the pamphlet confront why the SDP came into existence in the first place and what this means for the Labour Party today. At times it attacks the SDP when Labour's own house is hardly in apple pie order.

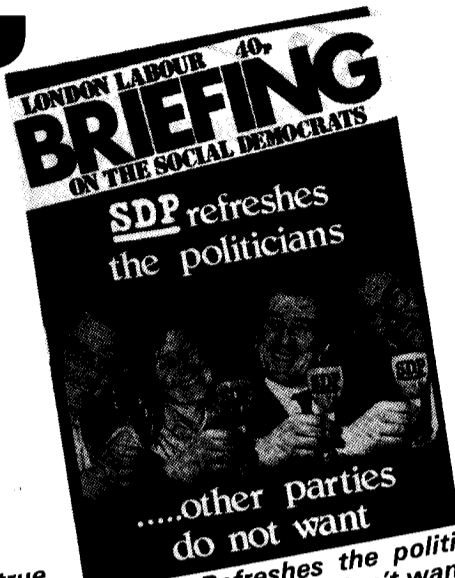
In looking at the policies of the SDP, it points out that there are some 'which divide either the parliamentary leadership or members or both'. Included in this list are 'internal party democracy ... positive discrimination for women and variations on the running of the economy.' Hardly the best weapon to attack the SDP with!

Again, the pamphlet (which consists of number of unsigned articles) criticises the SDP's method of selecting parliamentary and council candidates. An SDP member, states one article, could well find that he or she 'starts out as challenger to the officially preferred candidate.' (emphasis in the original). Pat Wall might like to know what's so different between that and the Labour Party's method of reselection.

The pamphlet all the way through tries to imply that the gang of four and their followers represented a certain wing inside the Labour Party and good riddance, that's got rid of them.



The Soft Centre - the true story of the SDP
Labour Weekly's new pamphlet available from 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17 1JT. Price 60p.



SDP ... Refreshes the politicians other parties don't want
London Labour Briefing's new pamphlet. Available from The Other Bookshop. Price 50p plus 20p p&p from 23 Leghorn Rd, London NW10.

'Shirley Williams may have been right in principle when she said a centre party would have no roots, no principles and no policies. But *this* centre party can claim all three — the inheritance of the Gaitskellites who ruled the Labour Party for more than 20 years.' It is this implicit, if not explicit, denial that the Labour Party is still fighting that inheritance that is the real inadequacy in this pamphlet.

It will not be enough, as the pamphlet calls for, 'if the Labour Party can, between now and the next election, get across the true nature of the SDP.' What is needed are socialist policies and a commitment to carry them out once in office.

Failure to deal with that question, lets the SDP off the hook, and more importantly our own Labour and trade union leaders.

London Labour Briefing have produced a useful handbook of news and views of the SDP for the Labour activist. Among the most interesting pieces are the articles on the SDP in action in Islington and Southwark.

Here is the local version of the corrupt and time serving ex-Labour politicians' desertion to the SDP whose national counterparts have been brightened up in the glare of publicity. Labour in nothing but name, these councillors find that their parties can no longer provide a safe haven for their brand of municipal 'fixit' politics. But, is the same true at a national level?

One of the cosy assumptions of some of the pieces in the pamphlet is that Labour is already the proud possessor of socialist policies, and a measure of inter-

national democracy which has forced sections of the right-wing out. But the real base of the Labour leadership and its pro-capitalist politics is, and always has been, the trade union bureaucracy.

The Roy Jenkins wing of the Party came out of Labour's link up with managerial layers in society in the alliance created around Wilson's 'white hot heat of the technological revolution' in the '60s — which in turn had been prepared by Gaitskell's assault on Clause 4 and Crossman's 'revisionism.'

In its march out of the Party the Jenkins wing took no section of the trade-union bureaucracy in its wake. It was not Jenkins, nor Owen nor Williams who led the Party in 74-79; it was Callaghan, Healey and Jack Jones of the TGWU. It is no accident that these leaders — or their modern counterparts — are still with us. And, more to the point, they are still leading the party and the unions.

Despite entertaining and useful pieces on coalitionism, the threat of proportional representation to the labour movement and an analysis of the SDP's role role by Nigel Williamson, with which we would agree, the precise character of the SDP's threat is never confronted.

The SDP has provided the right wing of the trade union bureaucracy with a new political project in the labour movement. It wants Labour to be a credible government for the ruling class again, to 'win back' the space now occupied by the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

The right wing trade union leaders have launched an offensive in the labour movement. Witch-hunts and the threat of disaffiliation are background to new discussions of incomes policy and fudging over the Common Market and unilateralism. Fighting the SDP starts from a policy against the right wing bureaucracy especially in the unions. This is what the left inside the party has to turn its attention to if it is to consolidate the gains made over the past period.

007 on the dole?



Photo: SHEILA BURNETT

From left to right: Billy Fellows, John Trammer and Annabel Mednick

GEOFF MATTHEWS reviews *Live and Get By* a musical comedy playing at the Old Red Lion Theatre Club, St John St, London N1 which is running until 1 May every night except Mondays at 8pm.

LIN, JAKE AND STEVE are members of a generation born at the wrong time. They are young, jobless, hopeless, and when they sit down and think about it, fucking bored.

It's not much to laugh and sing about, you might think, but *Live and get by* by Nick Fisher does just this and does it well.

It's a musical comedy which tells the story of how the three heroes, faced with a choice between the dole and a dead end job, take up a career in crime.

First they try shoplifting without success — a 'Tesco fiasco'. Next they bangle a smash and grab raid on a jeweller's and end up looting the delicatessen next door.

The inevitable happens. They are caught with a stash of tinned whale's blow holes in the back seat of the Morris 1000 they are using as a getaway car. Steve and Jake are sent for a short, sharp shock, while Lin escapes with probation.

The comedy is provided by the contrast between this bungling small-time and an extravagant fantasy life. Plans hatched in a haze of pernod and blackcurrant become *Missions*, for James Bond, or for astronauts from the 'Clapham Space Centre'.

It's an old trick (a sort of updated Walter Mitty) but the director, Paul Unwin of the Bristol Express Theatre Company, and the cast, Annabel Mednick, John Trammer and Billy Fellows, carry it off with style.

The pace starts fast and stays fast. Rick Lloyd's songs are powerful and the actors juggle their different roles without ever losing a sense of commitment. The production moves from

one set piece to the next without appearing glib.

Be warned, though. There is a sting in the tail. The underlying gloom — the 'writing on the wall' — that has been voiced all along by Lin, comes home to roost.

Running through an elaborate escape plan in his cell at the detention centre, the tunnel he is digging caves in on Steve. The fantasy and the reality finally collide.

Steve and Jake see their chance and take it. They club a warder and go on the run. Reunited at the end of the play, their incompetence not quite outgrown, the trio achieves a new kind of dignity as outlaws, a 'pride among the towers'.

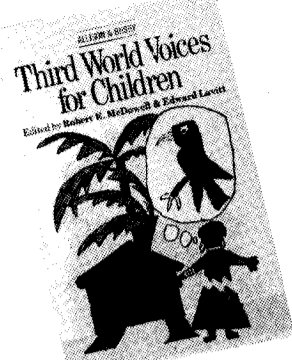
When the laughter stopped, I started to have doubts. The shift into seriousness doesn't quite come off. The warders and the careers officer speak the same language as James Bond and the astronauts, yet their power is much more real. The music hall routine with which the three meet again almost allows us to forget....

The closing song, from which the title of the play is taken, celebrates the courage of the stateless, and salutes in a moving way their refusal to cooperate. The play is socially aware but has no (worked-out) politics.

It stages the problems of the young unemployed, without analysis, as problems. They have a right to more than sympathy.

If you've just left school and can't find work, the Old Red Lion offers a good night out, but things will look pretty much the same at closing time as they did when you went in. In the words of one of the songs, there's 'no light at the end of the tunnel!'

It will be interesting to see Trevor Griffiths, a playwright with a more developed political stance, handling a similar theme in 'Oi for England'.



Third World Voices for Children

Edited by Robert E. McDowell and Edward Lavitt

pb Allison and Busby £2.50

IN this we learn about 'Wrestling in Iboland', how it is used by the people to settle an argument. And how they have wrestling competitions between villages.

Some of the stories are folk-lore, but others are true, written by the people themselves. The 30 stories, legends, poems and songs come from Africa, the West Indies, North America and the South Pacific.

These are exciting stories for children between the ages of 10 and 15. The black and white pictures are very simple. It's an enjoyable book and well worth reading.

These books show the way of life of these people, how they see their world and what they think of it. Although their life is so different from ours in many ways, in others it is much the same as ours.



Stories of Vanishing Peoples

By John Mercer

pb Allison and Busby £2.95

IN 'Why the Efe are not afraid of lightning' we are told that, although the Pygmies are the smallest people in the world, they are excellent hunters. This is a traditional tale which explains how the Pygmies learnt to live with lightning and not be afraid of it.

This is just one story which explains how the natural elements in the surroundings of many ancient tribes came to be, as told in traditional folklore. John Mercer has collected over 30 stories from all over the world.

They are exciting and often humorous. They would appeal to children from about 7 to 12. The black and white illustrations by Cuban artist, Tony Evora, are simple but attractive. It's well worth reading and I enjoyed it a lot.

By Stephen Lloyd aged 13

Women, step forward!

A recent pamphlet titled 'is freedom we making: the new democracy in Grenada' gives Grenadan women a voice about the new society they're making. Here we reprint one of the contributions which is of special interest to women in Britain.

Catherine Ventour is a 72 year old great grandmother the mother of Scotilda Noel — a founder of the National Womens Organisation — who was tragically killed in late 1979.

Before Gairy came it was peace. We didn't have much, but we had peace. Then Gairy came with violence and robbing people things. His men come and take what they want from people garden. Then the Mongoose men come and do what they want. They shoot people, you couldn't speak you mind, you couldn't walk the road. You had no kind of freedom at all.

I am with the revolution and the government

one thousand and nine per cent!

My daughter Scotilda was a very good helper of the Revolution. She go out every day, negotiating for the people, and she had to do it in secret, because if the other side know, then her life is in danger. They threaten her many times, she was a wanted one. But she was very brave, she had no fear.

She just made up her mind to stand up, come what may. She never did anything she didn't consult me. She always come and tell me, 'Mummy, look so, look so so'. I myself was a strong New Jewel Movement supporter. I always tell her, 'Go on girl, try your best

because you working for the future of your children and the future of Grenada.'

After the revolution we formed our women's groups here in Birchgrove. Progress gave me a new energy. I want to fight on for my grandchildren, because I saw it was some future.

Long before the revolution the NJM always sold their papers, they had to hide and sell them, so you had some insight of what was coming, what was going to take place.

And then when God see the time which He should release us from the devil, then He release us. Gairy was a real devil man. He have no love for the poorer class of people, he only pretending to them he have.

The revolution make me young again. I young now as if I just in me teens!

Me energy come through that happiness of the revolution. Long live the revolution! Long live Maurice Bishop and his party! And we praying for them day and night, because they not seeking for one and not for the other, they seeking for all people, from a baby to the old.

So now I trying to carry on the work of Scotilda in the NWO I like this kind of movement. I like something forward, not something backward. Women is real, real out now, you know.

Before, they had no kind of say, no privilege, no stand in Grenada. Women was the lowest. But now we pushing on, pushing on. We feel more confident, we heart is open now.

When we hear the news of the revolution that morning, it was joy come out in the morning! Joy come

out in the morning! As if I lifted up that morning! I lifted up above the sky that morning!

And is the same when I go to this Airport site. Is a joy! If you go there now and you go back there tomorrow, you don't know where you was today.

And those who don't support the revo, then you that know what this revo is for, you keep on chatting with them and telling them what and what and what and what — and they coming, yes they coming!

Because every day things is getting better, every day is more progress making, every day the light is shining brighter."

'is freedom we're making: the new democracy in Grenada, edited by Merle Hodge and Chris Searle is published by the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada. Grenada High Commission 1 Collingham Gardens, Earls Court SW5. Tel 01 373 7808.



Catherine Ventour

MISTAKES ON WAR DRIVE BUT LPYS to build CND

By Richard Rozanski

THE LABOUR PARTY Young Socialists at its Easter conference called on its branches to build the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This welcome move was however marred by a number of wrong conclusions on the nature of the war drive and how to stop it.

The discussion document starts by outlining the rise of the disarmament movement, and contrasts the huge amounts being spent on nuclear weapons to the tremendous poverty in large parts of the world.

Then follows the anti-militarist approach to capitalist war, as outlined by the great international socialist Karl Liebknecht. He resolutely opposed the carnage of the First World War, and the capitalist

system which had caused it, in its scramble for new markets in the world.

But it then asks whether such an approach needs to be modified by the 'militarism of the so-called socialist countries'.

Explaining that the countries of Eastern Europe are workers' states, where capitalism has been overthrown, but where political power is usurped by a parasitic caste of bureaucrats. It then comes out with the assertion that 'the Soviet Union is no longer weaker than imperialism. Because it has parity with the West in nuclear weapons and superiority in conventional weapons, the "military defence of the Soviet Union" as a slogan of internationalists no longer has any meaning'.

Thus 'our only amendment — to Liebknecht's formula of a workers' struggle against capitalist militarism would be to add, "and against the Stalinist bureaucracy of the East, for democratic socialist societies, East and West".'

This is a break with the Marxist traditions which the Militant, the dominant tendency in the LPYS, claims to represent. It is wrong on a number of counts.

It is wrong to claim that parity exists in the field of nuclear weapons. With its vast technological superiority, imperialism has always succeeded in keeping ahead in the nuclear arms race.

Today they are planning to introduce 'first strike' missiles, which would allow them to start a 'limited nuclear war'. The Soviet Union is years away from developing such weapons.

In the long term these weapons would be used to launch an imperialist of-

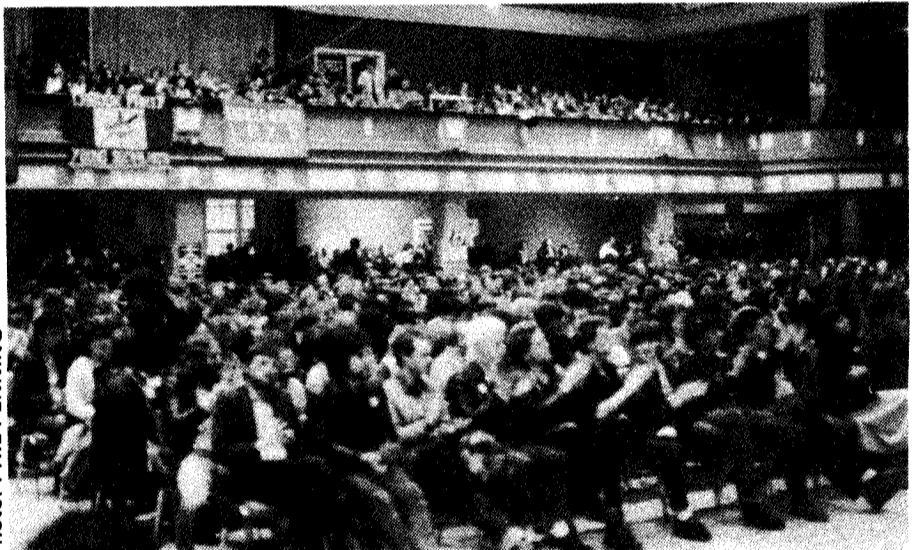


Photo: PHIL PENNING

'Every LPYS member will be on 6 June demonstration'

fensive against the workers' states in an attempt to win them back for capitalism.

The document says nothing on what our attitude should be to the fact that capitalism has been abolished in these countries.

Despite the existence of the Stalinist bureaucracies, the nationalised, planned economies of these countries represent a huge gain for the international working class. Nothing has happened recently that could possibly change that approach, not even their crushing of Solidarnosc in Poland.

The defence of the workers' states against imperialism also means defending the right to have nuclear weapons.

Militant argues that only socialism can disarm the imperialists of their nuclear weapons, and criticises the CND leadership for its apolitical stand.

While such criticisms are to a degree valid, the document doesn't tell the whole story.

A mass disarmament movement can play a decisive role in stopping imperialism from actually using these weapons, even if it won't succeed in disarming them internationally.

Further contradictions arise around NATO. While opposing this alliance, the document claims that to call for British withdrawal from NATO while leaving the armed forces in the hands of the military top brass will only spread illusions.

At the same time the cancellation of Trident and Cruise missiles, and for British unilateral nuclear disarmament is supported unconditionally. No contradictions here? No! Their argument ignores the fact that British withdrawal from NATO, at a time when Britain is effectively holding it together in Western Europe, would be a massive blow to the imperialist war drive.

Far from counterposing the building of the CND to a 'class based' movement, socialists must throw themselves into the fight for unilateral nuclear disarmament and for Britain out of NATO.

Already CND, together with the other disarmament movements in Europe has rocked NATO to its foundations. It is responsible for the rising opposition in Britain to imperialist intervention against the revolutions in Central America and the Caribbean. Such anti-imperialist consciousness

is indispensable for any real struggle for socialism in Britain.

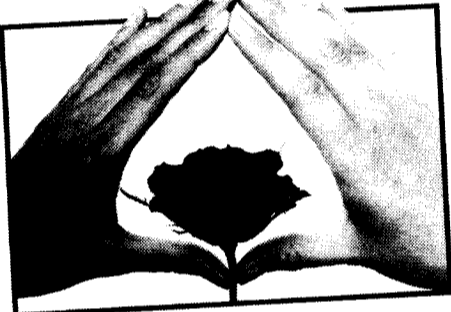
Nevertheless, the call for the YS to build CND gives YS activists the green light to involve themselves in this growing movement.

The first step is the anti-Reagan CND demo on 6 June. Revolution supporters in the LPYS will be fighting to put the words of one member of the YS National Committee into practice: 'We will do all in our power to make sure that every LPYS member is on that demonstration.'



New pamphlet just out 20p a copy plus 15p p&p available from Revolution PO Box 50 London N1 2XP.

WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

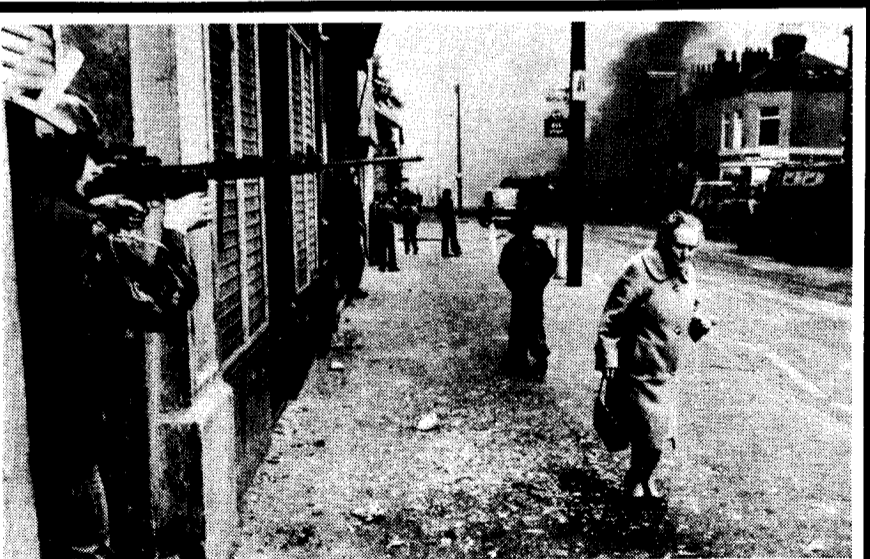


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Theatre ★ Children's Events
Refreshments ★ Creche available ★

WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO JOBS & EQUALITY



Britain out of Ireland march wins support

'I URGE ALL OF YOU to march on 8 May to demand that Britain withdraws — the door to peace will only open when the Irish people as a whole decide the future of Ireland, free from outside interference. March to show the hunger strikers are not forgotten, march to demand that Britain gets out of Ireland.'

That was the message of Owen Carron MP urging support for the 8 May demonstration, which already has the support of five MPs, Plaid

Cymru, several trades councils, and many trade union and Labour Party branches. The march was called to commemorate the death of Bobby Sands MP last year, as well as to demand Britain out of Ireland and self-determination for the Irish people.

The march will assemble at 1pm at Speaker's Corner, London and will march to a rally at County Hall. Speakers will include Owen Carron MP, Joan Maynard MP and Dafydd Ellis Thomas MP.

Cartoon: excuse to attack Scott's

THE MOST RECENT issue of the strike bulletin put out by the Laurence Scott workers in Manchester contains a cartoon which the Morning Star, daily newspaper of the Communist Party, took exception to in an April article. The strikers responded to the criticism by writing an open letter to the paper which we reproduce here.

Open letter to the Morning Star
15 April, 1982

Dear editor,
In your paper dated 7 April, 1982, you went to great lengths to describe the cartoon in the Laurence Scott's March Bulletin, the main point of which was the indignation of certain Communist Party members.

I notice you did not reproduce the cartoon in your paper to explain your case. We have no criticism of any individual Communist Party member who supported us, in fact we appreciate it sincerely and would not wish to offend any genuine trade unionists.

But it is a fact that the Communist Party and the Broad Left as a whole, who we considered to be the vanguard of the trade union movement, did not do their duty.

The feelings of the shop stewards and the strikers is that we were badly let down and felt it was our duty to express our feelings. We did not criticise the Communist Party or the Broad Left in the Bulletins, but illustrated our feelings in the cartoon, which the Joint Shop Stewards Committee considered very mild form.

It is a pity you did not show the same indignation when we were smashed on the picket line, and it would be a disgrace if other trade unionists fell into the same trap and were eventually abandoned.

One of our main criticisms of the Broad Left and the Manchester Confed including yourselves is that genuine socialists are deluding themselves in that Laurence Scott's were promised Grunwick-type support when the crunch came and they were unable or unwilling to come up with the goods.

Accepting that the Broad Left are genuinely pro working class it must be pointed out that they are sitting in ivory towers promising the earth. During the boom years they were talking of fighting when it was unnecessary but in the recession when the rank and file were looking for leadership they have not got the ability to produce it.

They are kidding themselves and the factory members. At a time when workers are being crushed all over Britain you can find time and place in your paper to express your over-sensitive criticism of a cartoon.

Well brother, the truth hurts doesn't it? Let's hope the pain stirs you into some sense of perspective. It is one thing to stand and fight in times of full employment, but when the chips are down and with over three million on the dole the time is here to stand up and be counted.

In our Rule 14 Campaign within the AUEW the Communist Party are refusing to support us.

The excuse they offer is that they do not feel that sufficient support could be mustered from the rank and file to remove the executive. You have been saying it is better not to fight, the time is not right. What a load of rubbish. If you are awaiting the green light let me say that the revolution was not official. With your attitude and that of the present union leadership, the Thatcher's and Tebbit's of this world will find no problems in crushing workers, because their position is now in 'cricketing terms' a batters' paradise.

Yours fraternally,
D J BARRY
Laurence Scott's Shop Stewards Committee

Socialist Challenge/Revolution

Public meetings

The lessons of the Laurence Scott occupation

Main speaker

Denis Barry

Works convenor

and strike committee chairperson

Thursday 6 May: Glasgow

City Halls, Candleriggs at 7.30

Tuesday 11 May: East London

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Rd, N16 at 7.30

National Organisation of Labour Students in Conference

By Chris Bertram, University College London

LABOUR STUDENTS met last week after their decisive victory in the leadership elections at the recent National Union of Students conference. Over 200 Labour Club delegates, observers and fraternal observers attended the Annual Conference of the National Organisation of Labour Students in York.

Delegates showed an increased measure of support for an anti-imperialist position on Ireland, calling for the immediate withdrawal of British troops and self-determination for the Irish people.

However all the motions put forward were defeated and NOLS was left without any policy on Ireland for the

fourth year running.

As at the NUS conference, the issue of Poland proved to be a major issue of divide. The Clause Four leadership misrepresented the real situation in Poland, by claiming that the bureaucrats' stooge student union — SZSP — was as repressed as the Independent Student Association — NZS, before delegates had a

chance to hear speakers from NZS and Solidarnosc.

Thus they managed to win support for a motion that qualified support for Solidarnosc and NZS with a cringing apology for the Polish Stalinists.

Many delegates were very annoyed at having been conned when they had heard what the Solidarnosc speaker had to say.

A very positive step was taken when conference voted to back the LPYS Youth Charter. Labour Club activists now have the chance to put this into action, and

challenge Clause Four's consistent refusal to build the LPYS.

The National Committee elections resulted in a strengthening of Clause Four's leadership of NOLS, despite a narrow margin in many of the votes.

Conference ended with an emergency debate on Britain's war with Argentina over the Malvinas (Falklands).

Socialist Challenge/Revolution supporters, together with the other forces who had earlier supported a joint alternative slate, called for the immediate

recall of the British fleet, and for the defeat of British Imperialism in the war if hostilities break out. At the end of the debate all the motions put forward were defeated.

Socialist Challenge/Revolution supporters will be fighting over the next term to unite all students in action around Reagan's visit, the Labour Party Festival on Women's Rights, and against the Tories' cuts in education and attacks on student unions.

Victory in Massey — Ferguson sit in

By Pat Hickey

THE STRIKE by Massey-Ferguson workers in Coventry has ended in victory for the work-force. For almost three weeks the workers blockaded the plant, sealing off the gates and picketed from inside.

The company demanded 170 compulsory redundancies, and union agreement to a package of strings which included a nil wage rise, flexibility of labour in the plant, and the elimination of certain grades which would have had the effect of reducing piece-work earnings.

They also wanted to end mutuality on staffing levels on the tracks. All of this has been withdrawn. By the end of the dispute there were 111 redundancies outstanding. These jobs will stay.

The other strings which the company wanted will now be 'subject to negotiation'. Masseys pulled all the Michael Edwardes style tricks in their efforts to defeat the work-force.

They began with the usual multi-national angle of trying to play workers in different countries off against each other, by threatening to transfer work to France and Brazil.

The strike committee made clear their intention to send a delegation to France to fight this. The bosses then sent a letter to all employees accusing the stewards of seeking to destroy the Coventry plant.

Then they organised a secret ballot, accompanied by a threat to close the plant completely if the

result went against them. At the same time they sought an injunction in the High Court against the occupation.

The shop stewards committee met all of these moves with complete determination.

In response to the ballot they called a mass meeting to reject participation in the company organised set-up.

'A fantastic victory. The company's decision must be reeling. The main lesson that we have learned is to keep the masses with you. Don't be afraid of them. If the leadership shows a sign of weakness, the membership will catch on. They backed us solidly throughout the dispute.'

'This fantastic victory must be used as an example for other workplaces all over the country.'

Terry Rollings, member of the strike committee and prospective Labour candidate in the May elections.



Massey Ferguson workers in occupation

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

The mood of the strikers was quite clearly to continue the fight. On the day before the mass

meeting the company conceded on all the main points.

The victory for Massey workers will be seen as a big gain by all the workers in Coventry.

Even before the strikers had circulated appeal forms more than £1300 had come in from local work-places.

Massey's hard-nosed boss had his nose rubbed in it when the strikers demanded — and got — that the company pay half the cost of a public address system they had bought.

At the mass meeting which voted to return a motion to the effect that no member of the unions at Masseys would participate in company organised ballots was passed with 13 against out of 3000.

When they return to work the unions will be submitting their annual pay claim for 15 per cent across the board.

With the kind of determination shown in the fight against redundancies we are sure they will be successful.

NUT backs unilateral nuclear disarmament

By Bernard Regan, (NUT Executive — personal capacity)

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS annual conference at Scarborough voted by 117,483 to 107,315 to 'campaign for unilateral renunciation by the British government of the use and development of all nuclear weapons'.

This decision is a momentous victory. It is a testimony to the Socialist Teachers Alliance who, along with others on the left, has been campaigning for the union to adopt a unilateralist position for the past two years.

The conference voted by the slenderest of majorities not to affiliate to the CND itself. But the adopted motion is unequivocal. It says the union 'will oppose the siting of cruise missiles or other nuclear weapons in Britain (and) the development of the Trident missiles

system'. After an unprecedented four days of debate, the motion was eventually carried against the wishes of the executive, surviving no less than three separate card votes.

Having his initial attempts to outlaw debate on the resolution defeated, union President Alf Budd still insisted, after the vote, that the adopted resolution was outside the existing objects of the union.

The decision on unilateralism was not the only victory. During the

conference there were a record number of card votes based on the 240,000 members of the union in which the left never got less than 100,000 votes in any division.

A motion expressing opposition to the despatch of the naval task force to the Falkland Islands received a substantial, though inadequate, vote.

On the very first day of conference, a proposal initiated by the Socialist Teachers Alliance to open the debate on the current wage claim won a resounding majority — but not the two thirds necessary to get it on the agenda.

Two important resolutions, among a string of others, were carried against the wishes of the

executive. One stated that 'teachers on the establishment of schools should no longer be required to cover for absent colleagues'.

The other declared its 'opposition to corporal punishment in all schools'.

An attempt by the right wing leadership to drag through a totally undemocratic set of proposals on conference procedure was referred back by a massive majority.

In other areas, the left achieved victories forcing the executive itself to back more progressive policies.

Clearly conference represents a real watershed in the history of the union. Many of the victories were directly attributable to work of the Socialist Teachers Alliance.

The STA distributed over a thousand leaflets at each of the two daily sessions to the 1800 delegates. Over 75 delegates joined the organisation which meant that at the end at least six per cent were members.

The job of the left is to put the decisions of the conference into practice. At its final meeting attended by 120 delegates, the STA called for a massive NUT presence on the 6 June anti-Reagan demonstration.

On 15 May the STA will be holding a conference at County Hall on 'Affiliation of the NUT to the Labour Party' and 'The politics of the "Alternative Economic Strategy"'. For more information contact: STA.

c/o 143a Main Park Rd, E7

Socialist Challenge

EL SALVADOR Murdered journalists storm

By Margaret Bond and David Leppard

THE Dutch government's inconclusive report into the deaths of four journalists in El Salvador last month has reinforced widespread and deeply-rooted Dutch antipathy to American policy in El Salvador.

The report was ordered by the Dutch foreign minister, Mr Van der Stoel, after he had issued a statement dismissing the official Salvadorean explanation as 'unbelievable'. The Salvadorean government claims that the TV crew was killed in 'a regular crossfire' between the army and guerrillas of the FMLN.

Although the report confirms that the journalists 'were killed by the gunfire of soldiers belonging to the regular Salvadorean army' it concludes that there was no substantial evidence that they had 'fallen into a trap deliberately set by the army patrol for them'.

The inquiry added that because the journalists were clearly under government suspicion, and that the radio facilities were available to inform the patrol of their imminent arrival at their contact point, 'a deliberate attack on the journalists cannot be ruled out.'

Mr Relustr Beek, the

vice chairman of the parliamentary committee of foreign affairs, stated that 'the report does not include all the information which the foreign minister has at his disposal'. The precise nature of this information is a closely guarded secret. What is certain, however, is that the inquiry lacks the vital eyewitness accounts of what happened in Santa Rita around 5pm on 17 March.

Mr Beek is convinced that the present evidence points to a 'brutal murder'. This feeling is almost universal in Holland. Hans van Gerven, a fellow journalist and close friend of one of the dead men, Koos Koster, believes that his colleague was killed in a deliberate attempt to intimidate the foreign press corps during the build-up to the elections on 28 March. 'Koos knew too much — he was very much involved in what was going on in El Salvador. He was deeply committed. I think

they decided to pick on him to make an example.'

Inen Abell, an official at the Dutch Labour Party headquarters, told us: 'In the minds of the Dutch people there is no doubt that they have been murdered.' A member of the Institute of Journalism added: 'The Dutch people hold the American government partly responsible for these deaths.'

When the news of the killings was first received in Holland, some 10,000 people gathered in protest outside the US consulate in Amsterdam. During the ensuing riot the consulate was subjected to a barrage of missiles and the staff had to be hastily evacuated. The consulate has been subsequently closed down.

The Americans have so far been unable to persuade the Salvadorean government to allow the Dutch authorities to interview the 24 soldiers involved in the killings, although US officials in San Salvador have already seen them. This will undoubtedly feature in discussions arising from Mr Van der Stoel's visit to Washington next week.

The Dutch foreign minister is seeking 'a dialogue between all representative political forces in El Salvador, including the Frente.' The Dutch position is backed by the Council of Ministers for the EEC.

Ironically, the report has heightened tensions in US/Dutch relations at a time when both governments are celebrating two hundred years of close friendship.



Victims of the death squads



World solidarity front established

2500 DELEGATES attended a conference in Mexico City on 26 March to establish a permanent world-wide coordination in solidarity with El Salvador.

The conference represented a wide cross-section of trade unions, religious organisations and solidarity committees from all over the world.

Political parties including the Spanish and French Communist Parties, the French Socialist Party and ten sections of the Fourth International were represented. Delegations also came from Vietnam, the Soviet Union, Cuba and Nicaragua.

After hearing greetings from Arnaldo Beron of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) the conference unanimously adopted a political resolution affirming the right of the

Salvadorean people to self-determination and asserting that the Salvadorean people had forged their own representative leadership in the struggle against imperialism — the Revolutionary Democratic Front-Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Among the actions decided on by the conference were a massive publicity campaign around the declaration drawn up by the conference, and campaign to get a minimum of 100,000 signatures in support of the FDR/FMLN in every European country. It was also decided to carry out internationally-coordinated solidarity actions on 1 May and 21 May.

A large delegation attended the conference from the United States itself, including representatives of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

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Death threats to Hugo Blanco

ON 16 MARCH the Peruvian newspaper *La Republica* received a death threat from the 'Cammando de Derecha Blanca' — the right wing death squads organisation — against the life of Hugo Blanco.

In 1978, this terrorist organisation kidnapped two far-left militants and a newspaper reporter Robert Fanjul. At the same time twenty men with machine guns attempted to kidnap Hugo Blanco but failed because of prompt action by his comrades.

Those who were kidnapped later stated that they had been tortured in a military camp. The threats against Hugo Blanco obviously come from an organisation linked to the military and the government.

Blanco has for nearly 40 years been a workers' leader in Peru and a militant of the Fourth International. Today he is also an elected deputy in the Peruvian parliament.

A few months ago he was brutally beaten up by the police while leading a peaceful demonstration and the high-ranking police officers who openly admitted their action and justified it received no sanction from the government.

Socialist Challenge appeals to all its supporters, sympathisers and friends

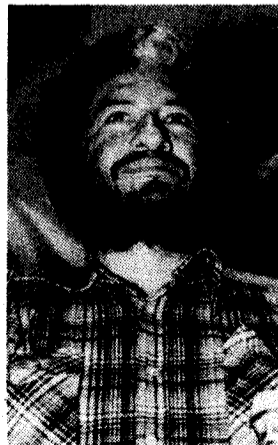


Photo: GM COOKSON

to get resolutions condemning the threats against the life of Hugo Blanco sent to: President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Lima, Peru. A future issue of Socialist Challenge will contain more information about the threats and the situation in Peru.

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