

Socialist Challenge

Miners challenge Tories

Defend ASLEF Defeat Tory wreckers

'DEATH TO ASLEF', bayed Tory MP's in the House of Commons. They show what the real issue is. Flexible rostering is only a smoke-screen.

The Tory press has taken up Thatcher's cue with gusto. They are rampaging about 'Luddites' and 'wreckers'. If you are going to tell a lie, make it a big one.

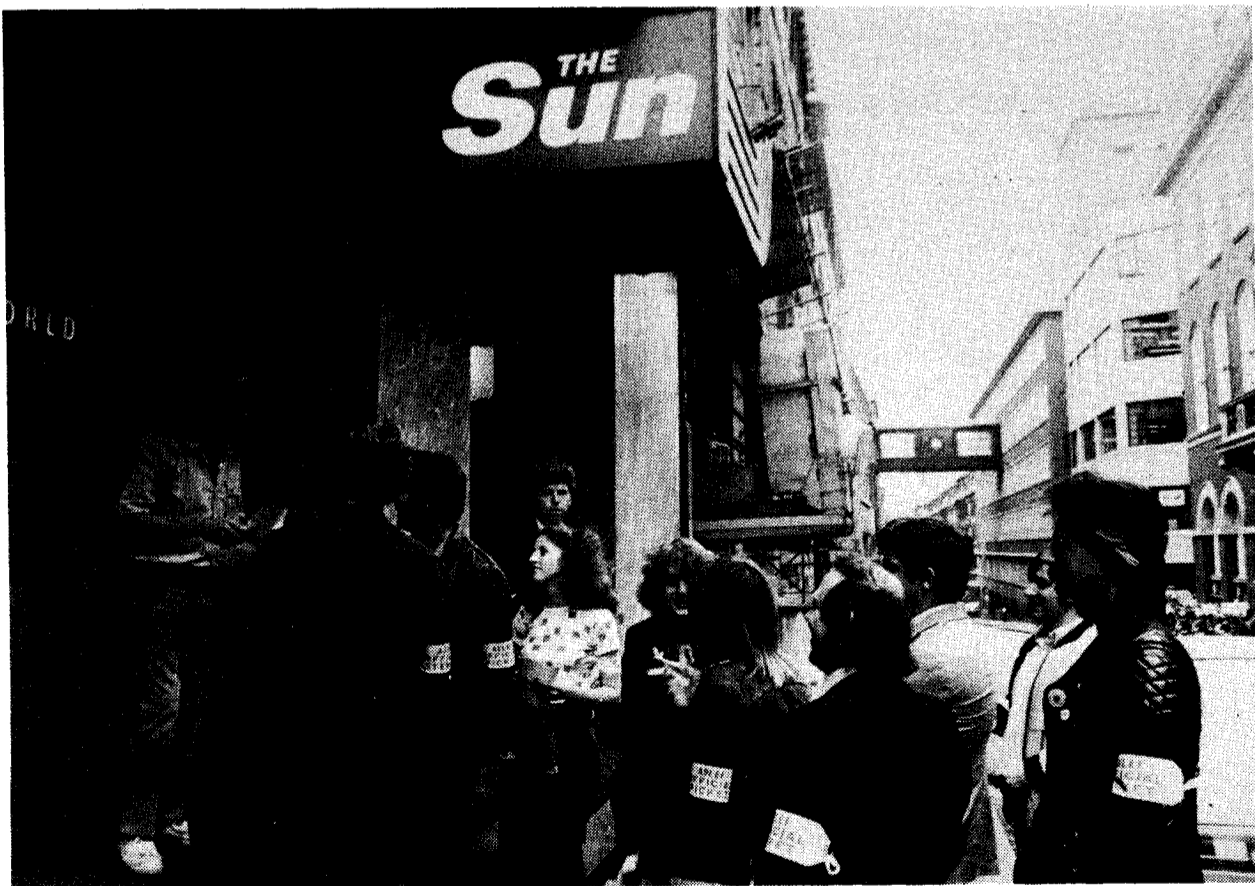
All the facts show that it is the Tories who are destroying the rail industry.

- British Rail has the lowest government subsidy in the whole of Europe. The Paris underground alone has a bigger subsidy. Tory ministers use the benchmark of the subsidy made by the last Labour government. This only proves how rotten Labour's record is.

- British Rail has one of the lowest investment programmes in Europe. It invests less than a half that of West Germany or France — and only slightly more than a half that of Italy.

- British railworkers work the longest hours for lower pay than their European colleagues. They work twenty five per cent more hours. Since 1975, railworkers have dropped from 9th to 39th in the British wages league.

- There have been dramatic increases in productivity while jobs have been massacred. There were over half a million railworkers in 1960. Today,



Kings Cross traindrivers picket the Sun

there are less than 180,000. 38,000 more job cuts have been demanded.

The Labour front bench true to its record has lined up with the Tories against ASLEF. Shadow Chancellor, Peter Shore, had the temerity to characterise ASLEF's

magnificent stand as coming from those who 'regardless of the casualties, regardless of the risks, must always say "charge".'

It is the Tories who are doing all the 'charging'. ASLEF is in the forefront of the defence of the railways and defence of

trade union rights.

Transport workers, health workers and miners by contrast have pledged their support. The TUC has done nothing to marshal these forces. If they did, we could do to the Tories 'charge', what they did to the light brigade.

ARTHUR Scargill's first speech as NUM leader to the miners' annual conference in Inverness this week threw down the gauntlet to the Tory government and to the right wing leadership of the Labour Party.

As mineworkers 'enter a new era' he called upon them to:

- resolutely resist all pit closures
- fight for a 31 per cent pay rise to bring them up from a minimum of £87.80 for surface workers to £115
- defy all provisions of the Tory union laws
- push for a thorough going socialist programme for the Labour Party
- oppose the witch-hunt in the Labour Party
- unite the international trade union federations
- support accountability of the leadership to the rank and file, and rank and file backing for the leadership
- support the health and rail workers

The policies outlined by Scargill represent a sharp break with his predecessor, Joe Gormley. Scargill promised that under his presidency there will be no 'secret diplomacy' or dealings and that conference decisions would be sacrosanct.

But he wanted at the end of the day the right to demand industrial action if the union's claims could not be won by negotiations.

The accountability and democracy moves in the NUM are being deepened by a total reorganisation of the national executive. At the moment right wing delegates come from relatively small units of the NUM.

But the key task before the miners is to fight pit closures. Industrial action will be needed to save Snowdown Colliery in Kent. Scargill said that if the NUM accepted even a partial cut back of its workforce in Snowdown it would be tantamount to giving the 'green light' to major closures.

He called on miners to reaffirm their solidarity with rail workers 'and unanimously agree total support for ASLEF who are under attack from the British Rail Board and their political bosses, the government.'

'There is a strong possibility that if the ASLEF dispute drags on, the NUM will find itself inextricably tied up with this dispute because we won't be able to work as we can't move the coal out.'

If as Scargill says the miners will be willy-nilly forced to stop work as a result of the train strike, if the miners decide to support the health workers strike on 19-21 July and if they continue to defy the Tory law on secondary picketing then the government is handling a time bomb. The miners, with the traindrivers, are lighting the fuse.

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)

SUPPORT HEALTHWORKERS 19-21 JULY

Fight the Tories not the left

THE LABOUR movement is approaching its most decisive battle with the Tories. The British Rail Board has gone for a confrontation with the drivers; healthworkers are being offered a miserable pittance. Steelworkers, whose livelihood has been dismantled to 'save the industry' have been told to shed 25,000 more jobs; new pit closures are threatened.

The government pretends not to be involved — in battles which could draw in up to six million workers! The opposite is true; for political reasons, Thatcher has decided that now is the time for a trial of strength with the unions.

This winter Lord McCarthy instructed the Rail Board not to fight the railworkers over flexible rostering: now it is out for a showdown. Last year Norman Tebbit was restraining Tory backwoodsmen who wanted more vicious clauses in his anti-union bill; now he backs the Lords in adding compulsory secret postal ballots for union leaders. Why the urge for a fight?

Part of the reason is an elemental upsurge of workers' struggles. We don't agree with the prevailing view that the labour movement is defeated and cannot resist. If anything a new spirit of unity and solidarity has been born — witnessed by the tremendous support won by health workers, and the effect of ASLEF's strike call immediately after the NUR leadership's betrayal.

Joint LP and TU action to defend jobs, services and union

But solidarity alone is not enough. The reason for this confrontation is that the Tories too have new confidence. Faced with the great organisational strength of the unions, they feel that the war and the witch-hunt have given them political grounds for a successful clash.

Unlike Heath, Thatcher realises that a policy which splits the working class is paramount. Foot and Healey have played right into her hands with their witch-hunt against Labour Party and trade union left wing activists. The battle against the witch-hunt, and with it Foot's disastrous leadership, is thus the key to the future of the working class movement in Britain.

The union right wing understand this perfectly. The day after the NUR conference suspended strike action on

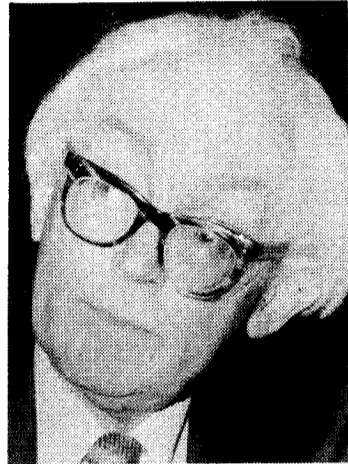
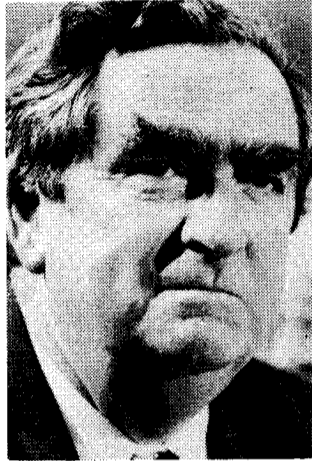


Photo: JOHN SMITH (IFL)

British Rail, and on the same day that they ended London Transport workers' action, Sid Weighell gave his full backing to the expulsion of *Militant* 'and other rag, tag and bobtail Trotskyist groups'. The Inland Revenue Staffs Federation leaders have told the Broad Left that it will be suspended by 12 July unless it abandons its 'union within a union!' The

Labour leaders' attack is, purely and simply, open sabotage of the struggle against Thatcher.

The picture is not complete without an accounting for the Malvinas war. Thatcher fully understands its importance. In a keynote speech over the weekend of 3-4 July, she called for the 'Falklands spirit' to apply to the rail strike. 'Railworkers should think of the nation's well-being', she said — that is, they should scab on their fellows. The 'Falklands factor', she said, was now a 'new major force in British politics.'

Thatcher's war was not just a war against the Argentinian people; it was also a war by British bosses against British workers. It has given the ruling class the political capital to attempt governmental and electoral manoeuvres — in short political manoeuvres — against striking workers.

A thinly veiled threat hides behind Thatcher's words. If you go ahead with this strike, she is saying, we can call an election. Reactionary 'popular' support against industrial militants did not materialise when Edward Heath tried this manoeuvre in 1974. The witch-hunt and the war now give the Tories the confidence to risk it again. Foot's abject support for Thatcher's war was thus an act of class betrayal: all those now fighting the Tories are reaping the whirlwind he has sown.

The map of the left in the labour movement has been redrawn by its response to these two acid tests: the witch-hunt and the war.

With the adoption of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee's proposal for a register, the leaders of these closet Kinnockites responded in disciplined and orderly way to the

command to register. The *Tribune* group's decision followed.

As against this Benn has coined the memorable tag of 'Unregistered Socialist', and *Tribune* has declared its own group 'dead'. Those who oppose the register have found themselves yet again to the left of the *Militant* itself; it has said it is ready to register 'if conditions are right'. *Militant's* lack of intransigence against an attack on itself goes with its political drift to the right; editorial board member Lyn Walsh now declares in *Militant International Review* that a socialist Labour government would have continued the Malvinas war 'by socialist means'!

Kick out Healey, kick out Foot

At the same time, even some of those who spoke out against the war are now unwilling to take the issue to the next Party conference where it would become an issue in the struggle against Foot.

Given these new alignments, what are the essential elements of a strategy to ensure that the fight is carried to the Tories and the SDP, and that the witch-hunt is rebuffed?

The Tories want to break up the unions' organised resistance. The Tebbit bill gives them legal powers to do so. But whether they can pull it off depends on their successes in the struggle with health and rail workers. These confrontations are for the highest stakes. For the Tories, they risk being tipped out of government; the working class faces the crippling of the unions.

A general election threat will in-

evitably hang over this struggle. The labour movement should not retreat an inch under this threat.

The lessons of the 1974 miners' strike have to be understood. Then, the industrial struggle created the conditions for a Tory defeat at the polls because it proved they could not deal with the unions. Moreover, the ruling class could not immediately impose a coalition because Wilson was forced to form a minority government and implement important election promises. He had no choice while the unions were still mobilised. Labour then won an increased vote and it was not until Wilson defeated the left in the Party and imposed the Social Contract that he was able to sabotage Labour's policies and its government.

The Labour Party should now, therefore, march hand in hand with the unions to defeat the Tories. Joint action at every level is vital to build a movement that can sweep them out of office and replace them with a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Defence of these socialist policies is equally vital. Unilateral disarmament, the thirty-five hour week, withdrawal from the EEC, and considerable measures of nationalisation, have been won by the left in the last period. Other policies are still needed: a mandate for workers' control in industry, a commitment to withdraw from NATO and from Ireland, renunciation of any British stake or presence in the South Atlantic. But the right wing want to reverse even the gains so far made.

No coalition, for a Labour victory

This is the context in which the witch-hunt has to be seen. It is an attack on the mass movement, dividing it, when the fire should be on the Tories and the SDP. It is an attack on the socialist policies that have been won in the past period — through an attack on those who support them.

It is also a bid to flatten opposition within the Labour Party to the inevitable suggestion that, if at all possible, there be an attempt to form a coalition with the SDP/Liberal Alliance to keep the Tories out. This is a policy for catastrophic defeat. It must be reversed.

The fight against the witch-hunt must be a central component of the left's strategy in the next period — not swept under the carpet as the LCC gurus would wish it to be. Such a struggle can be the occasion for a 'second wave' of the Bennite movement. The first wave of this movement, with its emphasis on accountability, met reversals at the last Labour Party conference.

But the shift to the left and the growing strength of women in the labour movement, the growth of the Labour Party Young Socialists despite *Militant's* leadership and the growing successes of left reform movements in the unions, in particular on the basis of the influence of CND, show the possibilities for the regroupment of the Bennite left and a concerted bid in the Labour Party and the unions to beat back the right: around support for mass struggle and the demands of the oppressed.

We need our own 'Malvinas spirit'; the spirit of those important minorities who spoke out against the war, joined by the youth, women, black people and those now confronting Thatcher. Their task is to become a majority; to defeat the witch-hunt and Foot's leadership of the party, to organise solidarity for the industrial struggles now going on, and to show that an alternative government is possible; a government that will fight for jobs, not bombs. This is what will encourage our own 'fainthearts' to join our own war — against Thatcher. This is what will unite the Labour movement despite its leaders' sabotage.

These conclusions combine to show a clear line of advance for the labour movement; Socialist Challenge, its readership and its supporters, have a vital role to play in fighting for it.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

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

Name

Address

Age

Union/CLP (if any)

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

Socialist Challenge is good for your health!

By Hilary Driver

ALL Socialist Challenge sellers should be preparing now for a big sales drive building up to and during the health workers strikes on 19, 20 and 21 July.

The present struggles of health and rail workers against cuts, job losses and Tory attacks on living standards are the front line of the fight back. Socialist Challenge is an absolutely vital weapon in the war against the bosses and their government. Extending the sales of our newspaper and winning new readers has to be our central goal over the coming weeks (no reference to the World Cup intended!)

Take Socialist Challenge onto the picket line ...

In the build up to the three days of action local supporters of Socialist Challenge will be winning support for the health workers action from trade unions, Labour Party branches and trades councils — getting delegations onto picket lines. Health workers should be invited to workplaces to explain their claim and how other workers can back them up. Selling the paper at workplaces and factories in the days before 19 July will be important in preparing the widest possible support.

Sales teams should be organised to cover all the major picket lines in your local area. Socialist

Challenge has sold very well already on previous days of action, we can do even better this time. The paper will include special coverage on the health dispute in the issue of 14 July. Local demonstrations and solidarity meetings should also be covered by sales teams — make sure you remember to send in details so that we can advertise them in advance.

... and take the picket line into Socialist Challenge!

Use your local sales of the paper during the health workers and the ASLEF disputes to build up a closer political relationship with trade union

militants in your area. Don't just sell the paper — discuss it with workers on the picket line. If you've never written reports for Socialist Challenge before, now's the time to start. All our sellers must also be local reporters.

Both before and after the days of action, we want you to phone in or post reports from picket lines, meetings and demonstrations in your area. Interviews with strikers about disputes are also important, as well as photos.

In the fight against the Tories and for socialist ideas, Socialist Challenge is indispensable. It's good for your health. Make sure you use it!

Healthworkers

All out on 19-21 July

By Judith Arkwright

ONE million workers can't be wrong. The action taken by the health workers and their determination to win has made the government very nervous. The solidarity action from other key sections is unprecedented in the life of this government and has pushed the trade union leaders further than they ever intended. All this at a time when the ASLEF dispute promises to push the Tories back against the wall.

The unity of the healthworkers is upsetting the well laid plans of Health Minister, Norman Fowler. He wants to drive a wedge between nurses and ancillary workers by offering the nurses a better deal. To date he has not been successful.

At the beginning of June the Royal College of Nursing, which organises 230,000 nurses, voted to reject the 6.4 per cent offer. And despite the initial acceptance of the new improved offer for nurses, the RCN is facing revolt in its ranks.

Hundreds of nurses are leaving the RCN, which cannot take strike action and is not affiliated to the TUC; switchboards are jammed with protests from members. With health service unions, NUPE and COHSE, boycotting the negotiating body, the Whitley Council, it becomes more and more difficult for the RCN to negotiate separately.

Health service workers and all those workers who have been out on the picket lines supporting them, know that what is at stake in this dispute is the very existence of the National Health Service itself. A defeat over pay now will mean the winding down of the NHS and the introduction of a two tier health system.

Already the number of private beds has risen from 23,346 in 1970 to 31,875 in 1980, while huge cuts have been made in the NHS. Laundry, catering and other ancillary services may be contracted out.

The present dispute has strengthened and united the NHS unions and their members but both sides know that the stakes are high. For the government the necessity to deal with the NHS unions becomes even more paramount as it attempts to force the public sector to keep within the

designated pay norm.

This week the Megaw inquiry on pay in the civil service will report. It will give full backing to the government's opposition to comparability for public sector workers with workers in the private sector. The Tories want to continue with pay policy that results in judges and top civil servants receiving 18 per cent increase while health workers are offered a miserable 6 per cent. It is the health workers who are in the front line, seriously challenging the government's pay norm.

The dispute in the NHS challenges the policies of the Tories at every level. They want to dismantle our welfare state, deal with the unions and make the workers pay for the crisis. It cannot be underestimated what is at stake.

That is why the support the health workers have received so far has been vital — and why it has to continue to grow. The leaders of the NHS unions have not to date called out their entire membership for the next days of action, 19-20 July, but the pressure is on them.

This dispute is a matter for workers everywhere. All trade unionists should be demanding strike action on these days at a national level which should be co-ordinated with the train drivers' action. The Labour Party members should be calling on the party both locally and nationally to show its solidarity with the health workers on the picket lines. Mass rallies led by the trade unions and Labour Party should be organised up and down the country.

The health workers are making a stand against this Tory government. Let's join them in our hundreds of thousands. Let's make 19-21 July days of all out national action against the Tories.



Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Support grows around the country

South Wales

'We say stop the war, pay the health workers more.' This was the chant which went up from the NUPE division in the South Wales march in support of the health workers' pay claim.

GLYN JONES, a NUPE convenor in the division, explained that although many workers were by no means opposed to the war, their attitude now that it's over is that if the government can afford to spend money on the war they can afford to spend it on the health workers.

One COHSE official tried to use the war issue to demobilise the health workers by saying that they could not stick to 12 per cent when the blokes in the Falklands were giving a hundred per cent. He got short shrift from an Irish nurse who claimed that no one was interested in the war in Ireland and that she was staying where she was on the picket lines.

The Falklands war is one of many issues which is debated on the picket lines as the workers throughout the dispute grow in strength and organisation. 'A lot of new younger stewards are coming forward to take the reins in this dispute,' explained Glyn. 'We're getting rid of a lot of dead wood' in our branch.

'We're gaining new members for the union — in

my hospital alone 23 former members of the RCN have joined the union because they want to fight. The Wales division of the RCN has been forced to come out against the latest offer — their switchboards were literally jammed with complaints last week.

'NUPE is organised across the hospitals which is important though it needs to be broadened out — for example we invited a NALGO delegate and delegates from the unions at the Vehicle Licensing Centre to our last meeting to discuss co-ordinated action around the 19-21 July strike.

'The DVLC, which is based in Swansea, is coming out on 19 July which will have an important impact nationally as well. But it will be the miners who will be the lynch pin in drawing together the healthworkers and the rail workers disputes. Our local pit will be stopping on 19 July.

'Three NUPE branches in Swansea have hired a minibus for two weeks to build for 19 July, visiting factories and workplaces asking for sympathy action. Other regions should do the same. We've got CPSA, SCPS, NALGO and NUPE local government and water workers supporting us already.'

Photo: PETE GRANT (Socialist Challenge)



Ealing health workers receive local support

Manchester

Sunday 10 July will see the Manchester labour movement out on the streets in support of the health workers and the rail workers.

The demonstration planned for that day was originally called for by Manchester Labour women's council, showing their solidarity with women workers in struggle in the health service. It now has the backing of the City Labour Party, the North west TUC, the North west regions of NUPE, COHSE, NALGO and UCATT. Greater Manchester printers, fire fighters, seafarers are also joining in as well as many other local branches and districts of other unions including engineers and miners.

This is exactly the type of activity that can help to build broad support for the health workers' action on 19-21 July and should be taken up in other areas.

Southampton

Southampton Docks came to a halt on the afternoon of 30 June as dockworkers and foremen struck for the afternoon in support of health workers. Dockers joined delegations from Vosper's shipyards, British Aerospace at Hamble, local government NALGO branches and the Labour Party, who supported a march and a half day strike

Pay the Health Workers

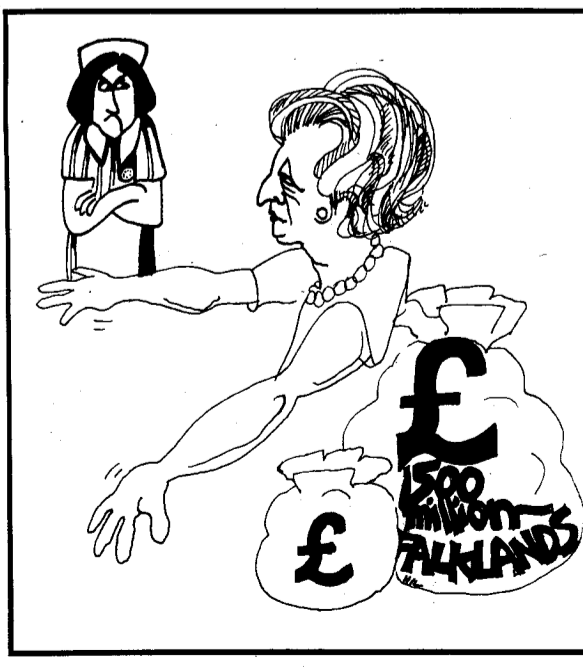
Pay the Health workers badges available at 25p each
Orders for 10 or more badges — 20p each
Orders for 100 or more — 15p each

Cheques payable to 'Cardinal Enterprises' and send to 'Badges' PO Box 50 London N1. Why not get your trade union or Labour Party branch to order some?

Londoners say...

PAY THE HOSPITAL WORKERS

NUPE London Division 11, 13 Stockwell Road, London SW9



SEEKING ASLEF

'Prepared for long fight'

By Pete Grant, ASLEF, Stonebridge Park, London

The strike has been almost 100 per cent amongst ASLEF with BR managing to run only a small fraction of local train services mainly with the aid of NUR drivers. Only a handful of ASLEF drivers scabbed.

The drivers are very angry that they should be used by the government to further its own anti-trade union ends and to attack social services. The mood of the drivers is really determined. Peter Parker will have to sack us all before there will be any trains running under flexible rostering.

We have absolute con-

tempt for Sid Weighell — as have most of the NUR membership. We feel that the NUR shouldn't have called off their strike and we should be at it together. There is a general feeling that Sid Weighell cooked up the NUR strike and got it called off in a conspiracy with the Board to smash ASLEF.

We are prepared for a

long fight. It's a make or break situation. It's obviously not simply about flexible rostering because ASLEF — whether rightly or wrongly — has bent over backwards to accommodate to the Board's demands. In fact, last week the Board were willing to try out the ASLEF's own proposals. But by Thursday they had made a complete about face — undoubtedly under government pressure. They are after obliterating our union.

We are very heartened by the support that has

been coming in from national and local trade union bodies. Special thanks to the Transport workers union who have announced 'active support' for our dispute. Lorry drivers will now be instructed not to take goods that normally go by rail.

This is a tremendous boost. The Board posted notices announcing Ford Dagenham's decision to go over to road transport. This little bit of intimidation will now bite the dust.

Arthur Scargill's statement that no coal that nor-

mally goes by rail will move, and his recognition that miners could become 'intertwined' with our dispute will, if put into practice, send cold shivers down the backs of Peter Parker and the Tories.

We are absolutely disgusted by the pathetic response of Michael Foot and Albert Booth. They are aptly called 'shadow' ministers. They should come out of the dark tunnel in which they are hiding and stand up for basic trade union rights. How else do they expect to be able to win the next election?



Photo: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

Nothing moved at Kings Cross

Press lies

THE TORY PRESS, as we all know, has great respect for the truth. This week it is trumpeting the number of trains that are running as part of its effort to break the traindrivers' strike. But how much regard is paid to the real facts was revealed last week in their reporting of the NUR strike.

'Trains are running on most lines in the East Midlands,' trumpeted the anti-trade union Nottingham Evening Post at the height of the strike of the NUR last week.

Socialist Challenge reporters found out a different reality on the picket lines at the East Midlands station.

No trains were operating out of Nottingham and the strike was solid among the membership. Pickets felt that money saved by the introduction of flexible rostering should benefit rail workers

and in view of this the 5 per cent offered by British Rail was an insult. When the decision to suspend the strike became known the pickets wanted it to continue.

They refused to return to work when the British Rail area manager asked them to resume their duties before the strike officially ended Tuesday midnight. As the secretary of the NUR Nottingham and district branch said, 'We are not selling our jobs. Each job given up now is a job lost for youth.'

What railworkers told Socialist Challenge

MIDNIGHT on Saturday support ASLEF. A stand has got to be made somewhere. It looks like if the drivers don't, then no-one will. We are with them because a lot of what the NUR has got in the way of conditions have come from the drivers sticking to their principles and going on strike.

'We should have come out with the drivers in the first place. Now that the NUR has accepted flexible rostering, we are all out of pocket. The NUR leadership accepted it, but a lot of the guards disagreed.

You ask us what the NUR should be doing now. It should be on strike with ASLEF. We should have one union for all railway workers. Weighell should resign and Buckton should take over.

Any way you look at it we could do with someone a bit more militant running the show.

But ASLEF is not really fighting the Board, it is fighting the Tory government. Thatcher's got it so that she wins both ways. Either ASLEF accepts flexible rostering. Or they blame the strike on the unions, claim they've lost work and make cuts anyway.

They are trying to drive a wedge between ASLEF and NUR. We've not got to let that happen because we are all railworkers and we all need to live. They found money for the Falklands easy enough — why can't they find it for the rail? Thatcher has made a lot of gains from the Falklands, but she's riding for a fall. It'll be like Churchill after the Second World War. He thought he'd got it all set up, then we kicked him out.

But Foot is no good. He's just a dodderer. Tony Benn should lead the Labour Party. He's the only one who opens his mouth.

If they try sacking a lot of drivers as a result of this strike, they'll have a general strike on their hands. What

we need is more stubborn Irishmen with a streak of communism running things.

PETER GUNN, chairman of the Manchester joint branches of ASLEF

I think they're using scare tactics against us. The threatened sackings and saying it is going to be a long dispute are all being built up in the press to weaken our resolve.

We've got no problems on our picket line. No one has crossed it. I think attitudes will harden as it goes on. The main problem that's going to hit us is that we have got no strike pay. So we'll be looking for support.

But right now, we're concentrating on the NUR. They are trying to use the NUR against us. We've got to stop that happening. They have tried every way to get at us. For example. They are only putting up rosters in the depots that look really good. But we know they won't stay that way. If we accept flexible rostering, they'll have the prerogative to amend them all. At Oxford Rd Station, we think they are planning to cut

the staff by a half. We want a solid, short, sharp strike.

PETE, ASLEF, Birmingham

'There is no chance of us ever accepting flexible rostering. The ludicrous wage offer which goes with it is an insult. We will stay out for as long as it takes.

'While every other major industrial nation is re-investing in rail, this disastrous Tory government seems determined to destroy our industry. It is refusing to provide the cash to replace old rolling stock and develop new high technology locomotives and track.'

GEOFF, NUR, Birmingham

'Slippery Sid Weighell is terrified of telling the passive majority of his members the real facts.

'One man trains, open stations, changes in hours, conditions (the worst in British industry) and wages that mean we have to work seven days a week to make a living, plus the loss of clean-

ing, goods delivery and cancelled jobs that have been, or will be hived off to Parker's Tory friends.

'When they really find out about the jobs situation and our negotiating strength they have lost their frustration with Weighell's sell out (who doesn't have to work for our wages and under our conditions), the membership will explode. They will decimate the traditional right wing bureaucrats who have betrayed us once too often.

'This latest decision to go back to McCarthy, can lead only to another farce and more humiliation for slippery Sid. I hope his eventual peagee makes it all worthwhile for him. Whatever he expects to gain is beyond me.

'Militants in the NUR must work to overthrow Weighell and his chums and democratise the union, at all levels.

'Our best hope is an immediate revolt on the result of McCarthy's report and the forming of a joint strike committee with ASLEF. We must bring Parker and Thatcher to their knees. We should use secondary picketing and whatever it takes.

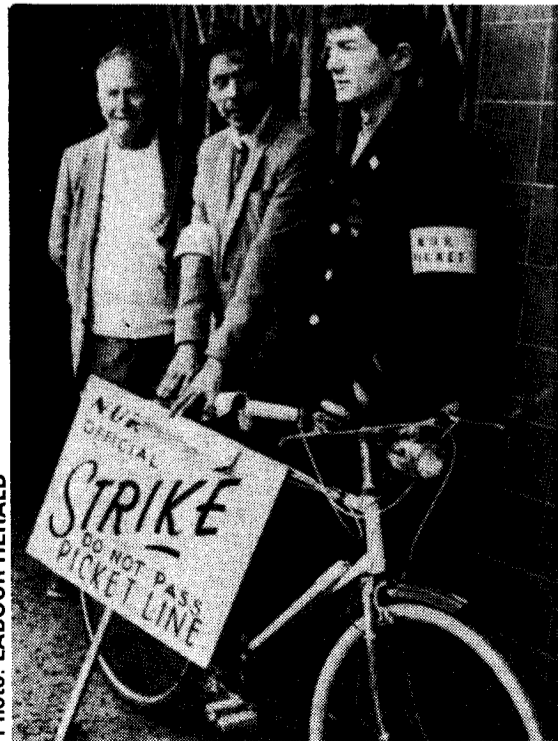


Photo: LABOUR HERALD

In their own strike, NUR pickets turned out in force. Unity is now key.

Unite to defend ASLEF and defeat the Tories

THIS IS a leaflet being put out by Socialist Challenge supporters in rail depots up and down the country. It has been written by railworker supporters of Socialist Challenge.

THE TORIES and BR are out to smash ASLEF. They are threatening to sack all drivers and only allow them back if they agree to work the new rosters and give up the guaranteed eight hour day. They have also said that the same fate awaits NUR members if they do not agree to the other five items of 'productivity' by the end of July. Now, as never before, there is a real need for united action by all railworkers to confront these threats.

In the course of one week we have seen both rail unions on strike fighting different parts of the same attack. Every grade is faced with redundancies and no section of the workforce is now being offered a wage increase this year. This suits BR down to the ground. They have always been careful to attack one grade at a time. The attack on ASLEF is another step along that road.

If the rail unions were taking united action on the basis of 12 per cent with no strings they would be a powerful voice for unity with other workers facing similar attacks, who include the other two members of the Triple Alliance, the miners and steel workers, as well as the health workers.

Despite the magnificent response from the NUR membership, the annual general meeting called their strike off. NUR members have proved that they can stop the railways and have proved their willingness to fight. The same is true of ASLEF.

Railworkers are actively seeking a united lead in their battle against the Tories. We must begin a campaign now in our respective union branches for a common rejection of all six items of 'productivity' and demand instead 12 per cent with no strings.

Why Railworkers Need Socialist Challenge

IF YOU want to find out the truth about the crisis in rail, you won't find it in the daily newspapers.

They do everything they can to spread muck about workers and toe the Thatcher line.

This is because they speak for big business and they are owned by big business. Their journalists may be trade unionists, but they have no control over what they write — and truth is the first casualty.

Socialist Challenge does the opposite. Our paper is for workers, to explain why they take action, and how disputes can be won. Unlike the other papers who print the war cries of Thatcher, Rose and Parker — we are there to put down what railworkers and other workers in dispute have to say. We are there to show that there is a socialist alternative to Toryism. So buy Socialist Challenge. Write to us. Phone in your comments and reports. Tell us if you think we're wrong!

THE national press, the telly, and the radio have started to launch their campaign in support of the Tories' attempt to smash ASLEF. Socialist Challenge is out to do the exact opposite. We are pulling out all the stops to defeat this disastrous Tory government.

Our supporters in the rail industry, in other workplaces and in the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists will be working flat out to win this fight. Week by week our paper will be giving the real facts, discussing the tactics in the fight, and we will be ready to expose any sell-out manoeuvres.

We want other workers to join us in the struggle for a workers' solution to the crisis, and help us to sell Socialist Challenge. So why don't you —

*Start now to sell our paper weekly at your local rail depot and at British Rail Social Clubs.

*Get your Labour Party or LPYS branch to pledge full support to the railworkers by:

1. Contacting local strike committees
2. Organising solidarity tours to win support from the rail unions and other industries
3. Calling public meetings with speakers from the rail unions and other industries
4. Demanding your MP gives full public support
5. Passing resolutions calling on the NEC to back the railworkers

*Get your trade union branch, shop stewards committee, Trades Council to send messages of support, circulate collection sheets, and help on the picket lines.



Photo: GM COOKSON (Socialist Challenge)

NUR pickets at Stratford in London during their two days of strike

Unity needed

By Pat Hickey

SMASH ASLEF! This is the rallying cry of the Tories and their friends in Fleet Street as train drivers take all-out industrial action. ASLEF are fighting against the British Rail Board's demands to give up the eight hour day and operate, instead, shifts from 7 to 9 hours and 45 minutes. They are intent on smashing ASLEF as a union to win this and the string of other 'productivity' measures which will result in a massacre of jobs and conditions.

The NUR climbdown after 2 days of strike action has encouraged the Tories and the Board. The demands they are making for an end to the strike are the same as those imposed on the unions after the 1926 general strike defeat.

Today ASLEF fights alone. But if the Board wins, it will turn its guns on the other rail unions.

What is needed is a powerful united voice from all railworkers — from drivers to guards, from ticket collectors to engineers — for a 12 per cent wage rise and firm opposition to all productivity strings.

Sid Weighell's policy of appeasement is a disaster for his members. The Board's response to

Weighell's 'let's be reasonable' approach is to tear up the protection of earnings agreement and lay NUR members off without pay. Refusal to fight alongside ASLEF can only be interpreted as connivance with Tory union busting plans.

Tories

And when the Tories set out to destroy a major industrial union, then the TUC must act. Len Murray must stop playing referee and start using the strength of the working class to defeat the Tories.

The health workers, the steel workers, and the miners are also coming

under attack from the Tories. The health strikes on the 19, 20, 21 July should be a focus for the widest possible action against the Tory policies of austerity and job loss.

War

Thatcher believes that 'the Falklands Factor' is a new major force in British politics. But 'the Falklands Factor' is the cowardice of the labour leadership. Their refusal to oppose the war against Argentina is mirrored in their refusal to fight against the war being waged by the Tories on the working class at home.

They must be forced to act. Throughout Britain rank and file workers are standing up to the Tory attacks. Thatcher's appeal to ASLEF members to scab and to 'put his family, his comrades and his country first' by continuing to work must be turned on its head.

For joint trade union and Labour Party action

By Hazel MacPherson, NUR

SID WEIGHHELL explained on TV last week that in his opinion the Tories won't be defeated until the left inside the NUR and inside the Labour Party is witch-hunted out.

The 85 per cent plus NUR members that responded to the strike call last week obviously disagree with him. They understood that their national strike was about taking the Tories on. Its 'suspension' has raised questions not only about the inadequacy of Weighell's leadership, but also about the urgent need for a working class alternative to the Tories.

Michael Foot has concentrated on demanding that Thatcher 'intervene'. Any railworker can immediately explain to grovelling Michael that it is precisely Thatcher's intervention into the railways, her determination to smash the railways and destroy jobs and conditions, that we are fighting.

Tony Benn and Ken Livingstone have a big opportunity to intervene into this situation to show what

a left wing alternative amounts to. An intervention from them would also be a big boost to the fight. Every train drivers knows that this battle raises the question of Thatcher's government. They are desperate to know what the alternative to Thatcher is.

If Benn and Livingstone placed themselves at the head of this battle, it would be the best way to turn back the witch-hunt. This witch-hunt is tak-

ing place not only in the wards and constituencies but also in the unions. Inside the NUR, Sid Weighell is conducting a major campaign against the left because he is mortally afraid of left wing policies based on the needs of railworkers winning acceptance. It is the unions which call the tune in the Labour Party. Benn cannot avoid joining battle there, too, if the left wing advances are to be maintained.

All Socialist Challenge supporters should be putting resolutions through their wards and GMC's calling for public Labour Party rallies in support of railworkers, making collections for ASLEF hardship funds and sponsoring official visits to the picket lines. Such joint trade union and Labour Party action can help force left wing leaders to take up the cudgels.



Pickets at Kings Cross. No drivers crossed the line

The following resolution was adopted by the Brondesbury ward, Brent East CLP;

This ward declares its full support for the coming ASLEF strike recognising that this action places both ASLEF and the health workers to the forefront of the fight against the Tories.

In declaring support we shall:

- a. organise a ward collection and send it off to the local depot immediately, ask ASLEF for official collection

sheets and organise public collections.

b. organise a public rally in Brent to all for the widest area of support for the railworkers and to build the meeting with the trade unions in the Labour Party.

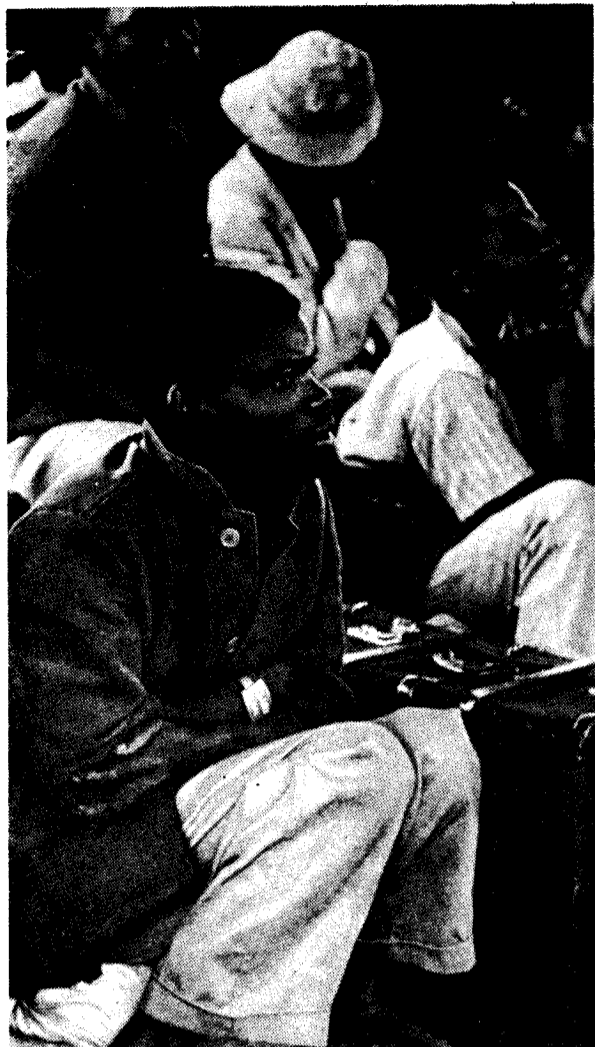
c. visit picket lines in official Labour party capacity.

d. support the TUC march and rally on 10 July in support of transport workers.

e. call on the London Regional Executive Committee of the Labour Party to organise a mass rally in London.

f. call on all wards for help.

Photo: MORNING STAR



Miner awaiting transportation to the mine. Identity tag on wrist shows shipment of labour to which he's assigned

Black miners killed by South African police

By Toni Gorton

AT LEAST eight black miners have been killed, hundreds arrested and many wounded as South African police launched a series of attacks on miners protesting against the inadequate pay increases in the Johannesburg area. Because the police have blockaded the mines and the compounds where the miners live it's impossible to get the real figures of the casualties.

The 13,500 largely unskilled black contract workers come from neighbouring states or from the black tribal homelands, and unlike white miners are not trade union members. The new pay offer by the owners would bring earnings up to about £100 a month for underground workers and £75 for surface while white miners get an average £550 a month.

The white miners themselves are about to vote on taking strike action as their union rejected a nine per cent pay offer.

Unity

Unity with the black miners is being threatened by the mineworkers' leader, Arrie Paulus who said, 'what do you think is going to happen if the mineworkers strike and the blacks hear it's about wages? Don't you think they will have a different view on the matter?' The South African police

pletely paralysed.'

A strike by white miners will undoubtedly lead to a major confrontation with the government because following the last major stoppage in 1922 anti-strike laws were brought in to protect skilled jobs for whites in the mining industry which are still in force.

Meanwhile the black miners continue their protest with over 1,000 leaving their jobs and returning home.

Britain

● In Britain, trade unionists and anti-apartheid demonstrators demanded the reinstatement of 470 African workers who were sacked when they struck at the East London (South Africa) subsidiary Wilson-Rowntree. The march in York on 3 July was backed by the three main unions in Rowntree-Mackintosh in Britain, the General and Municipal Workers Union, the Transport and General Workers Union and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers.

The campaign for reinstatement of the workers with full union recognition has been backed in South Africa by a nationwide boycott of Wilson-Rowntree products and the anti-apartheid movement national committee will be meeting Saturday to plan the next stage.

The miners' union, meeting in Inverness this week, should take the lead in calling for solidarity with the black miners. The miners' union has a long history of solidarity with the South African police

Tebbit tightens the screw

By Pat Hickey

NOT content with the attacks on trade union rights already contained in the Tebbit Bill, the Tory Lords are amending the proposals to further attack the trade unions. According to the Tories the unions have too much power. But the brutal reality of power in Tory Britain can be seen in the actions of the British Rail Board against ASLEF.

Peter Parker's threat to sack the drivers and re-employ them only on the board's conditions is a forerunner for Tebbit. He wants to do away with the protection against unfair dismissal in the Employment Protection Act and introduce selective dismissal of strikers as a

matter of course.

The BRB, however, is not waiting for the law to actually change. It can rely on Tebbit to make it legal after the event. Its promise to protect scabs if they are expelled from the union is a direct attack on the closed shop.

The need to curb the

power of the unions is all the clearer when we realise that ASLEF is using its power to defend the 8 hour day!

But all of this is not enough for the House of Lords. In the interests of democracy, their Lordships and Ladyships, who get their positions through birth, through contributions to Tory Party funds, or through scabbing on the labour movement — remember Hugh Scanlon and now our very own Lord Gormley — have introduced fresh measures.

The new proposals are to make secret ballots compulsory for strike action. This is to prevent trade unionists from making decisions based on their collective strength in mass meetings, and instead make isolated decisions as individuals facing the collective power of the bosses.

They also intend to make secret ballots for the election of union officials compulsory. This is to give the bosses' press the maximum opportunity to conduct witch-hunts against the left. The Tory pro-

posals have nothing to do with genuine trade union democracy.

Finally, their Lordships show their true-blue colours by attacking the political levy. They intend to introduce contracting in instead of contracting out, in order to weaken the Labour Party. They do not intend to stop employers giving money to the Tory Party from the profits they have sweated out of the workers. But then, increasing the profits and sweat of the workers is what the Tories, the Lords and Tebbit are all about.

London Transport — crunch postponed to August

By Patrick Siddall

THE NEW reduced timetables at the centre of the all-out strike on London's underground will now not be introduced until at least 8 August and a joint working party of management and the unions has been set up to investigate and report on 'all the problems facing the railway business'.

This follows the stab in the back from the National Union of Railwaymen's annual meeting where the right wing sabotaged the fight in British Rail and London Transport.

The only difference between this new agreement to talk and the one which the executive of the NUR rejected a few days earlier is the dropping of the insistence on implementing the new timetables.

But unless this working party puts forward solutions to London Transport's problems which reject the cash limits implicit in the Tory Law Lords' decision then it's a waste of time.

If it keeps to the budget LT management can only make small adjustments to their plans for drastic cuts in services, jobs and working conditions.

If the cuts are to be resisted then the fight will have to again mean in-

dustrial action. But after the union leadership has marched the troops up the hill and down again, union activists will find it much more difficult to argue for this.

It is vital therefore to build solidarity with the train drivers' strike. If ASLEF loses its case then the NUR, the majority union on both LT and British Rail, will be next for the chop. The fight is over the same issues.

The reduced timetables on London's buses have also been put back until the end of August due to the magnificent unofficial solidarity actions taken by nine bus garages during the tube strike. The proposed loss of jobs on the buses is seven times greater than that on the tubes.

At a recent one-day conference LT development director (buses) Derek Keeler, said, 'a commitment to 100 per cent, one-man operation could be a saving and

delegates should bear that in mind.'

Mr Keeler is at the same time blackmailing the unions by saying that the future of a viable London bus service can only be guaranteed by large-scale investment to replace the rapidly disintegrating London red buses.

This can only take place, he said, if the unions pay the price in job loss and massive productivity increases. In announcing the placing of orders with British Leyland and Birmingham based Metro Cammell Weyman for 360 double deckers, Labour GLC's transport committee chairperson, Dave Wetzel, said: 'Without it (the new investment) the survival of some bus building plants would be at risk.'

In other words, you can only save the service and the jobs of the bus builders by agreeing to cuts in your own jobs and conditions.

Ken Livingstone has again put forward a 'fares fair' option for the future of LT. This would offer a way out of the spiral of decline. It would halve fares, then freeze them for five years and create 4,000 new jobs. It would cost £650m in a single year.

This is peanuts when compared with what the Tories are going to spend on replacing the losses in the South Atlantic and on Cruise and Trident. But if Labour in County Hall is serious about putting LT's decision into reverse it must move from its blueprint and fight now to defend the service, jobs and pay against Thatcher.

It should instruct LT to withdraw all the cuts; pay all its employees the 12 per cent increase in line with inflation and in the course of a campaign of rallies in support of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, also campaign for the reintroduction of fares fair.

MARCH AND RALLY TO SAVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

SATURDAY, 10 JULY, 1982

Assemble: 11.30 am, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park

March: 12.30 pm to

Rally: Trafalgar Square, from 2 pm

Speakers from the TUC, transport unions, Parliament, Local Authorities, passenger groups, and women's and pensioner groups.

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Supported by the TUC Transport Industries Committee, the London Transport Trade Union Defence Committee and all the transport unions, and passenger and community groups.



Livingstone and Wetzel — fight needed now

Israeli troops out of Lebanon!

Excerpts from the declaration of the United Secretariat of the Fourth International

THE ZIONIST STATE has launched a new war of aggression in Lebanon to smash the Palestinian resistance. Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon (respectively Israeli prime minister and minister of defence) haven't hesitated to use the most powerful and criminal methods.

Palestinians and Lebanese, without distinction between civilians and combatants, have been savagely attacked and bombed. There are already thousands and thousands of victims and the toll is becoming greater every day. Hundreds of thousands of people have left their homes and their work, and are adding to the already enormous mass of refugees. The material destruction has reached terrible proportions, as much in the towns as in the countryside...

The Palestinian targets have been hit with an unbelievable brutality by an army which, according to the plans of Begin-Sharon, must impose a 'final solution'.

The Israeli attack has been prepared for a long time; they were only waiting for a favourable moment to attack. In 1978 Israel launched a similar invasion which in retrospect looks like a general rehearsal of the present operation.

At that time the Palestinian resistance managed to maintain their essential positions intact. As a consequence the

problem presented for the Zionists by the Palestinian resistance, which despite the concessions obtained by Israel was not politically resolved by the Camp David agreement, continued to exist on the military front as well. That was something which the Zionist establishment could not accept...

Object

The principal objective of the military offensive was to inflict on the Palestine Liberation Organisation the hardest blow in its history, and in

so doing to strike a blow at the resistance of the masses in the occupied territories.

At the same time Menachem Begin sought to weaken Syria politically as well as militarily, and to oblige its forces to withdraw from Lebanon...

However, there is a strong risk that the hope of the Zionist leaders, to open a new phase in the history of their state and their domination of that part of the world, will not materialise.

Heroic

The principal objective of the war has not been obtained: the PLO has sustained hard blows, lost positions, and suffered grievous losses, but it has not been destroyed. Their combatants have fought in an heroic manner and their centres of resistance have not been eliminated, even in the towns hardest hit by the enemy...

It is vital that the workers' movement mobilises its forces throughout the world to achieve an immediate end to the criminal aggression of the Zionist state and to guarantee its full solidarity with the Palestinian resistance.

It must insist that the Israeli army withdraws from the whole of Lebanon and that all the forces of occupation are withdrawn from the occupied territories, that the Lebanon can recover its sovereignty and that the Palestinians maintain their position, their armed forces and their organisations.

Complicit

The workers movement must denounce the complicity of the United States and the hypocrisy of the European states, which adopted economic sanctions against Argentina during the Malvinas war, but make sure that they don't take a single concrete action against the Israeli aggression.

It must insist that the workers states assure economic and military aid to the Palestinian resistance and all the Lebanese forces which fight alongside the Palestinians against the Zionists.

Stop the Zionist aggression!
Israeli troops out of Lebanon now!
Solidarity with the Palestinian resistance!

Bureau of the United Secretariat 13 June 1982



CHILE Thatcher sells arms to fascists

ON 21 JUNE in Aldershot the Ministry of Defence began its annual Exhibition of Military Equipment. Representatives from over 400 countries were invited to view and buy from the halls full of every sort of imaginable military hardware.

James Blyth, the new head of the Ministry's Defence Sales Organisation was not keen to disclose who had been invited — especially as Argentina had been on the invitation list until Thatcher found herself at war with them!

Apart from this obvious embarrassment, there were other reasons why Mr Blyth wished to remain mute. He claims that many representatives 'especially ask that their presence be not published'.

Hardly surprising when we discover that one of the most brutal military dictatorships — Chile — had six Generals present. These were: two staff from the Chilean embassy, Squadron Leader Patino and Wing Commander Aparisio; two from the of-

fice of the Military Attache in Madrid, Brigadier Jorge Quiroz and Colonel Renato Barela Correa and two from the Chilean Marine Corps, Rear Admiral Pablo Wunderlich-Tideret and Captain Guillermo.

Representatives from the Chilean arms firm SEP International Ltd, Chilean Military Factories and Dockyards and the Chilean Ministry of Defence were also present. Quite a crew!

On 11 September 1973 Allende's Popular Unity government was overthrown in one of the bloodiest military coups ever seen.

Since the coup — organised by the USA to dispel the threat that Allende presented to American corporations and assets in Chile —

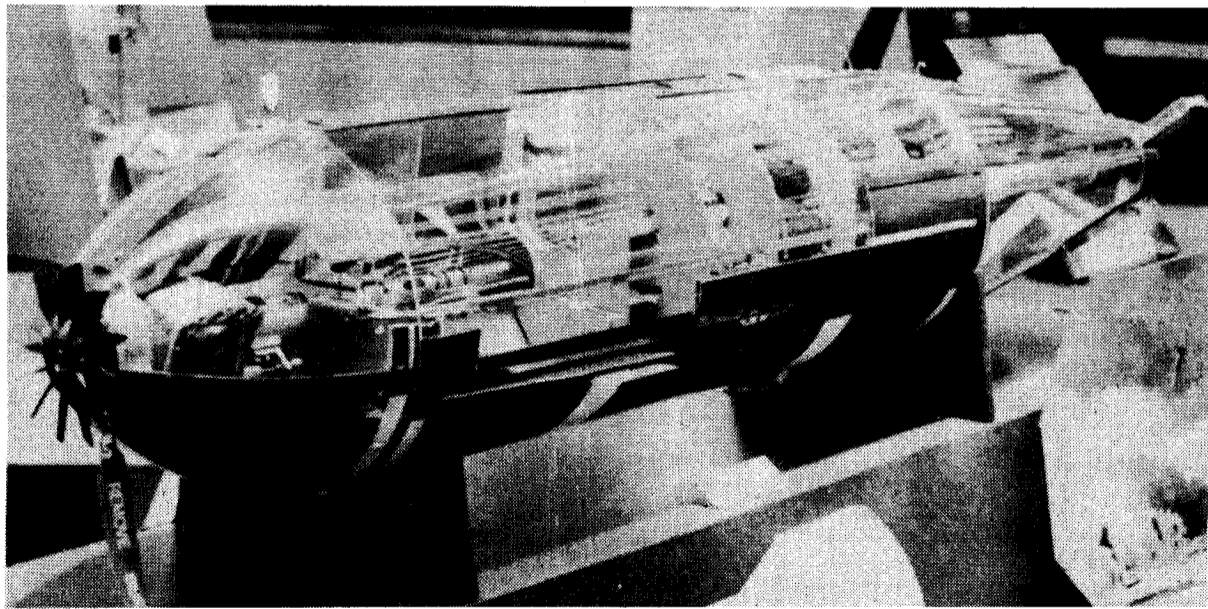
2,500 people have gone 'missing' (plus 40,000 during the actual coup) and countless brutally murdered. Massive repression and torture is everyday life for the people of Chile.

Yet Thatcher and her allies are quite content to welcome six Chilean Generals to Britain and sell them British arms.

What became of Thatcher's concern about fascism when she went to war with Argentina? Within a few weeks of the end of the 'war against fascism' she is willing to sell arms to another dictatorial state.

Thatcher's hypocrisy must be seen for what it is — she has no objection to fascism. The only time the ruling class will fight dictators is when their own imperialist interests are threatened.

Any other time they will continue to arm juntas like the Chilean and aid in their vicious repression of the workers and peasants.



BL755 Cluster bomb on sale at Britain's Army Equipment Exhibition.

MORNING STAR

For a government of national resistance!

Open letter from Lebanese Trotskyists to the Lebanese resistance organisations. broadcast over West Beirut radio and published in the Beirut press.

Comrades,

We can resist for a long time, a very long time. In patriotic Beirut, in our fortress, the strongest army will suffer sorely through trying to get in. If Tyre and Sidon and other patriotic towns of our class have resisted and continue to do it until now, contrary to what the enemy expected, and astonishing the world, it's even clearer that Beirut will be able to resist even longer than the Zionist army can imagine.

Moreover our resistance is beginning to bear fruit and the states which proclaim their solidarity with us have begun to turn their solidarity into concrete actions — even if they are at present of a minimal level.

Comrades,

The only road to preserve the sacrifices of our two peoples, and to prevent them being uselessly wasted, the only road to preserve our patriotic army and our political liberties, the only way to abort the Begin-Reagan campaign against our national cause, and the only way to disarm their offensive — this only way is represented by the following measures, which we call on you to implement in the name of the blood which has been shed by thousands of martyrs:

- 1) To continue the struggle without restrictions against the Zionist army of occupation, to prevent it having a moment's respite, and to make it pay for every minute of occupation of our land.
- 2) To refuse entry to armies which are not our allies, whether this be the treason of the state or imperialists state armies or armies of the agents of the imperialists.
- 3) To refuse any formulas concocted by the USA and Saudi Arabia, thanks to the Zionist occupation and with the complicity of the state.
- 4) To treat the institutions of the state as treacherous. To set up a government of national resistance composed of forces which have genuinely struggled against the Zionist enemy.

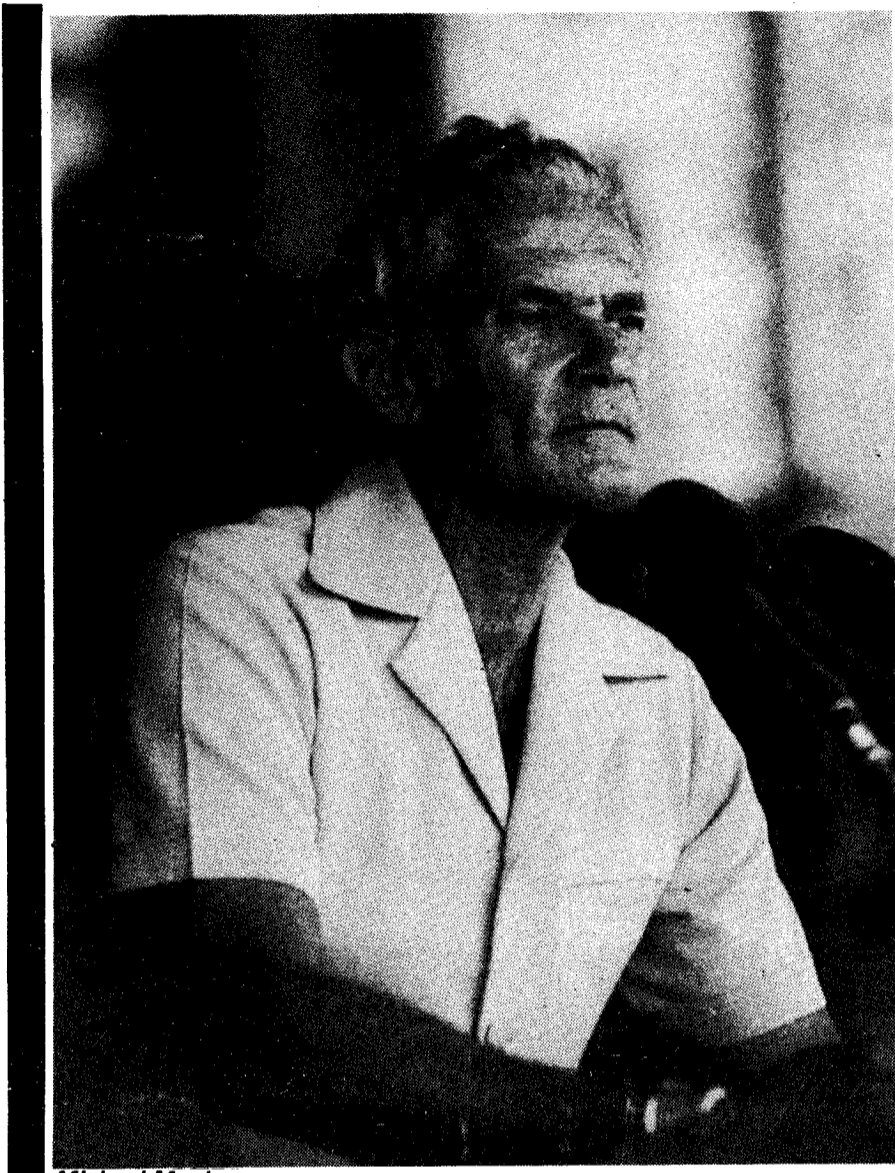
- 5) To set in motion local democratically organised councils so they can organise the resistance in Beirut.

- 6) To unite the military forces and centralise them within the framework of a National Guard, and to prevent the use of arms by certain suspect groups which have nothing to do with the national resistance.

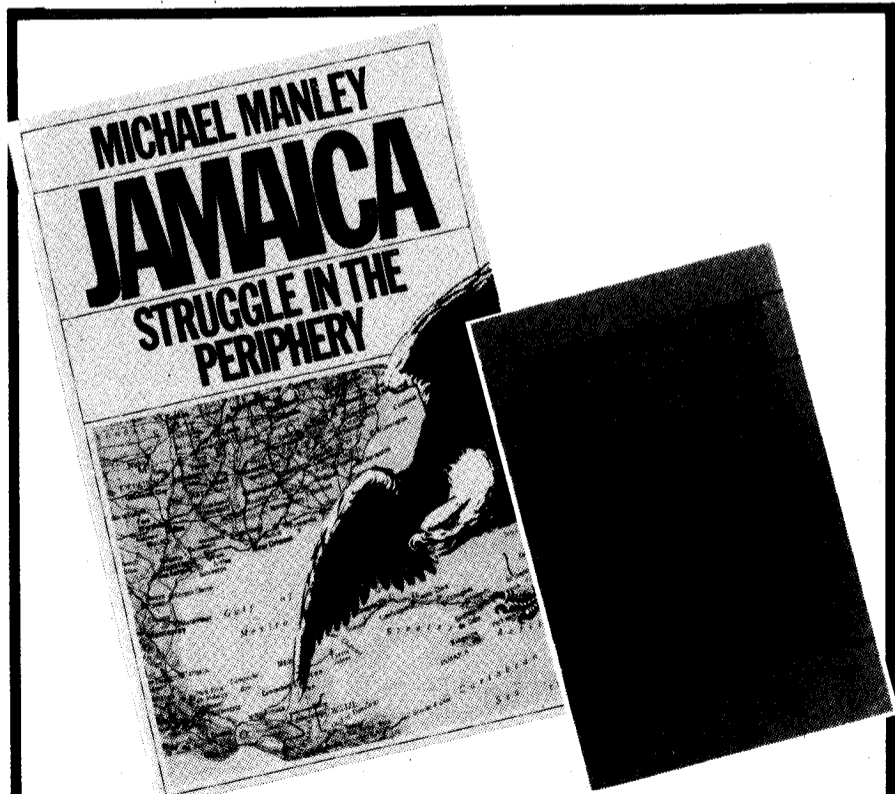
- 7) To demand of the anti-imperialist states and forces, notably the USSR and Cuba, an immediate military intervention alongside the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance until the total and unconditional retreat of the Zionist army from the whole of Lebanese territory has been achieved. This is, comrades, the only way to derail the offensive.

Michael Manley

on Jamaica, the Malvinas and Cuba



Michael Manley



'Jamaica: struggle in the periphery' readable, informative, and polemical giving real insight into the thinking of one of the most articulate and influential of Third World leaders, insight into the dilemma of those politicians who reject colonialism, embrace socialism as a philosophy but cannot in the final analysis break with capitalism and imperialism.

Michael Manley governed Jamaica from 1972 to 1980 and is a member of the Second International, to which the Labour Party belongs.

The book also gives a graphic illustration of the total unwillingness of the USA to tolerate any independence on its 'patch'. All Manley's efforts, most of which were quite modest, resulted in economic

blackmail and sabotage by the International Monetary Fund, CIA and the opposition party the mis-named Jamaica Labour Party. For example an astounding 750 people died violently in the run-up to the 1980 elections out of a population of two and a quarter million.

Jamaica: struggle in the periphery. Michael Manley. Published by Third World Media Limited, distributed by Writers and Readers. £3.95.

US intervention in Jamaica. Ernest Harsch. Published by Pathfinder Press. 50p. Both available at the Other Bookshop, 37 Upper St, London N1.

JAMAICA is famous for its beauty, its bauxite and for the violent destabilisation campaign organised by the US Central Intelligence Agency which led to the decisive electoral defeat of prime minister Michael Manley and his People's National Party in late 1980.

Michael Manley was recently in Britain promoting

his new book *Jamaica: struggle in the periphery* and TONI GORTON spoke to him about a number of issues including his view on Britain's claim to the Malvinas; what has been happening under the new pro-US prime minister Edward Seaga; and what he sees as the 'third road' for Third World countries different from colonial Puerto Rico and from revolutionary Cuba.

What is the most important message of this book

The most important thing is trying to explain some of the difficulties of trying to change a country that has come through a long colonial history — that is there very close to the United States and its power. How to change it and make it a more viable place and perhaps a more just place.

I think that many things came together to defeat us for the time being, to set us back, but I remain convinced that the way that we saw was a possible way.

It is important to see how far we can learn from the fact of our defeat, not learn from the point of view of changing what we're trying to do but from the point of view of doing it better next time.

In the long run of history I don't have the slightest doubt that the Third World is going to be compelled by the logic of its circumstances to respond to what it needs to do, to find leaders who are beginning to try to do it, political systems that are trying to do it.

You document the role of the US Central Intelligence Agency and the International Monetary Fund in the Caribbean and in your country in particular. Yet you still call for a 'third road' separate from the examples of the colony of Puerto Rico and revolutionary Cuba.

For exactly the same reason that Nicaragua and Grenada do. They're trying to pursue a third road. In our case we do so with even more reason in that objectively we are a constitutional country, that's our tradition. Our institutions have evolved that way and although it is very difficult to make serious change within that context nonetheless that is our context.

I think the question is not what we call for, because that isn't particularly relevant. The question is what is our response to the objective reality in which we find ourselves.

I would question that Nicaragua and Grenada have the same attitude to the capitalist class that you express ...

You're completely wrong. They have absolutely the same attitude. Nicaragua is trying to keep its private sector alive, Nicaragua has put millions of dollars of foreign exchange into the attempt to get its private sector to play a dynamic role in what's happening. Nicaragua has pledged itself to free plural elections in 1985.

The difference is mainly a matter of emphasis, but in the commitment to try to put together an economic mix in which the private sector has a role there really isn't a fundamental difference. In fact I've just been speaking to Grenadians who are very proud of the fact their private

sector is now beginning to respond in a very positive way and to produce.

Yes but initially in Cuba there was an attempt to keep a private sector and imperialism didn't allow that situation to continue. Imperialism wouldn't allow the revolutionary government to nationalise major parts of the private sector so as to control the economy in the interests of the workers and peasants.

So what's your conclusion?

The conclusion is that imperialism is likely to do the same thing in Nicaragua and Grenada.

Well let's wait to see whether that happens. I know that one view is that they will fail. I'm only saying that what they're attempting is strikingly similar to what we attempted. The other aspect is that we are trying to operate in a situation where we are a political party that represents an alliance of forces, we operate within a constitution.

We came to power electorally; not because a Batista left us no choice but a revolution or a Somoza left us no choice but a revolution or a Gairy left us no choice but a revolution. I'm struck that despite this they are attempting what we attempted. But perhaps you'd regard that as a criticism of them?

No, I think they have a firm commitment to go along the road that Cuba has gone along. They have a different speed and elections aren't the keynote of it.

Cuba regards the holding of elections in which anyone could oppose the revolution as a contradiction in terms. The revolution expresses the dictatorship of the proletariat in classic Marxist/Leninist terms.

That is why — and observe you're not talking to an anti-communist, Fidel is my great friend and I'm a great admirer of the Cuban experiment — but to them the revolution does not admit of the possibility of anybody entering an election to oppose them or to offer an alternative to the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is a perfectly logical thing granted the premises and that we are dealing with a revolution.

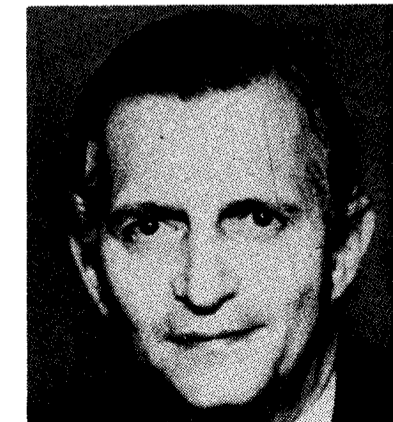
It is interesting that Nicaragua, either in truth or as an act of hypocrisy says that as soon as they have stabilised the country that they will have elections on the basis that if people want to oppose the revolution they can. That is completely different from anything that Cuba did. They may not mean it but I think they mean it and I prefer to assume that they're sincere when they say that.



On Gold Street in Kingston, hear

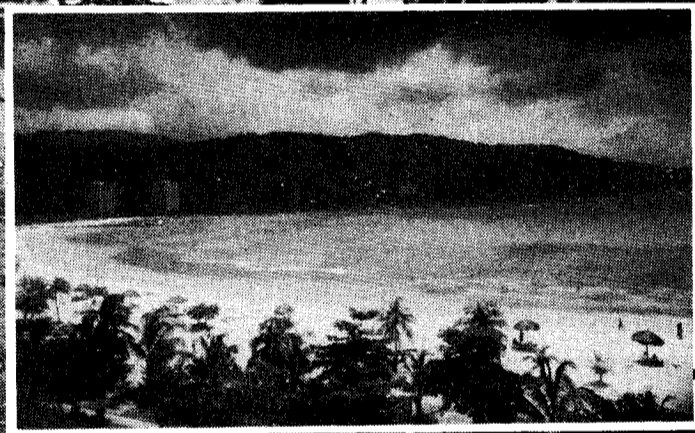
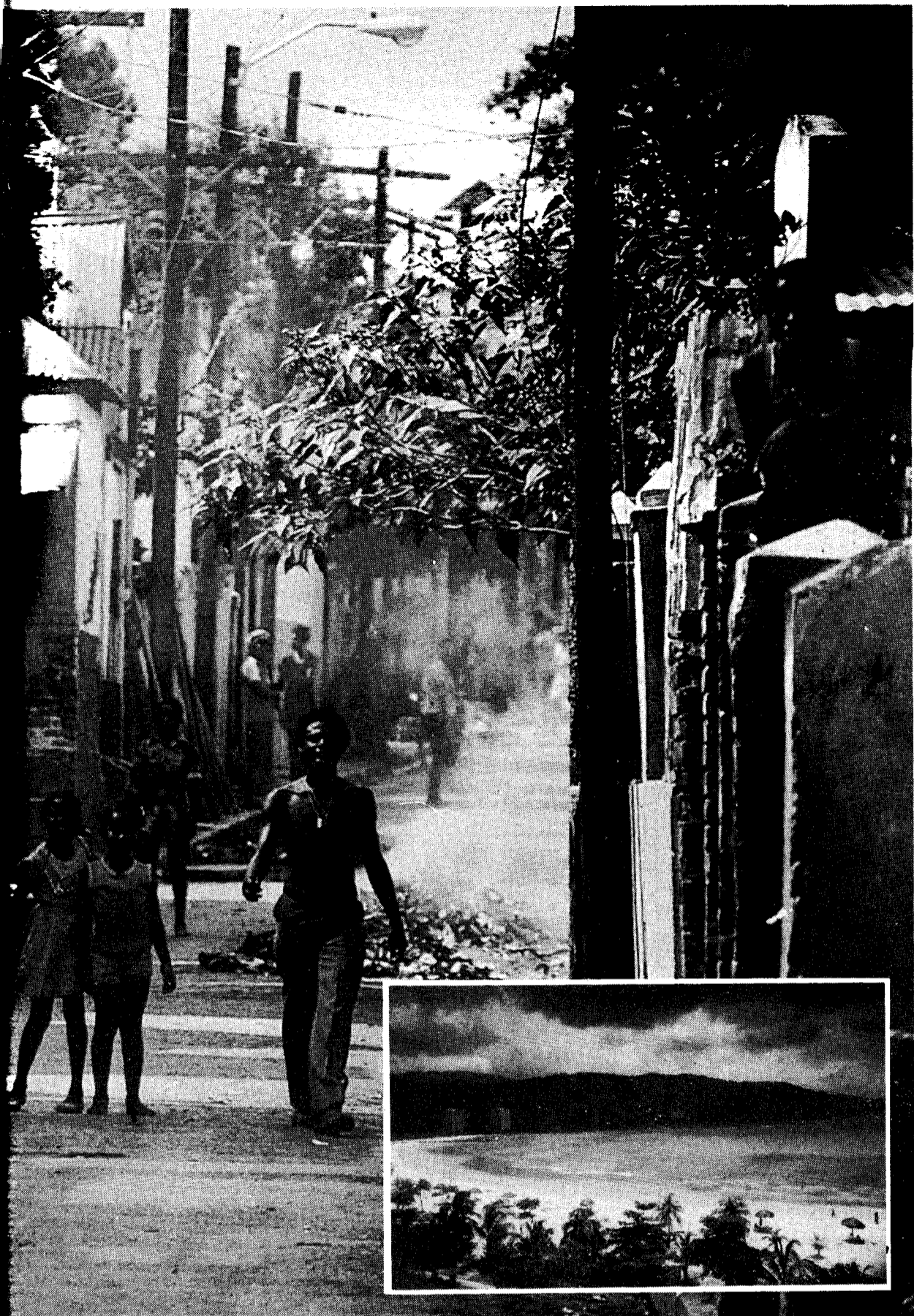
But in Cuba new forms of democracy have been instituted. Elections of the type you describe do not guarantee democratic participation.

Nobody knows that better than me. I'm very familiar with Cuban direct democracy and their local government system. I've been through it very carefully with them and I understand it. But that's not the point I'm making.



Edward Seaga

Edward Seaga, the present prime minister of Jamaica was elected on pro-US platform. What has this meant for Jamaica?



overcrowded and poverty-stricken ghetto which contrasts with the beauty spots so attractive to US tourists

His election has meant a great resurgence of neo-colonialism. In foreign policy for example Jamaica's voice has been withdrawn from that group of nations which stood up for certain principles and tried to fight for certain things.

It was withdrawn from defence of the Democratic Front in El Salvador, withdrawn from defence of Nicaragua, defence of Grenada. Jamaica no longer could even muster the commitment to principle to vote against Israel in the United Nations for the bombing of the installations in Iraq.

So in terms of foreign policy the results have been very significant. Jamaica was a country that really worked hard for South/South co-operation. That's disappeared.

The government has committed itself to a complete reversal of those policies that aimed at trying to lay a basis for increased economic self-reliance. We had established a considerable apparatus in which foreign involvement was rationed with import controls, price controls which were all aimed at creating on the one hand maximum opportunity for the development of economic activity aimed at the satisfaction of internal needs. This has been reversed.

What is happening now is that the Jamaican economy is being opened to the mass production of North America. It has already had the affect

of beginning to drive small business to the wall. Bankruptcies are occurring.

Tremendous growth in agriculture took place under our regime, partly through land reform, partly through co-operatives, just through farmers knowing that they could now feed the nation because we weren't going to flood the nation with cornflakes. All that's in retreat.

In the larger sense it's all aimed at trying to get foreign capital in to do everything. There's a programme of divestment where things that had been nationalised are de-nationalised, handed back to the private sector. As a result, quite heavy layoffs are taking place in some kinds of industry that can't compete; in the state as well as private industry. We are in the process of resuming a completely dependent capitalist path.

The things that we were trying to work with in deepening the democratic process have all been reversed. We had begun to develop in the school system for instance, student participation in decision making; the development of community councils, the programme of workers' participation in industry — all that has been brought to an end.

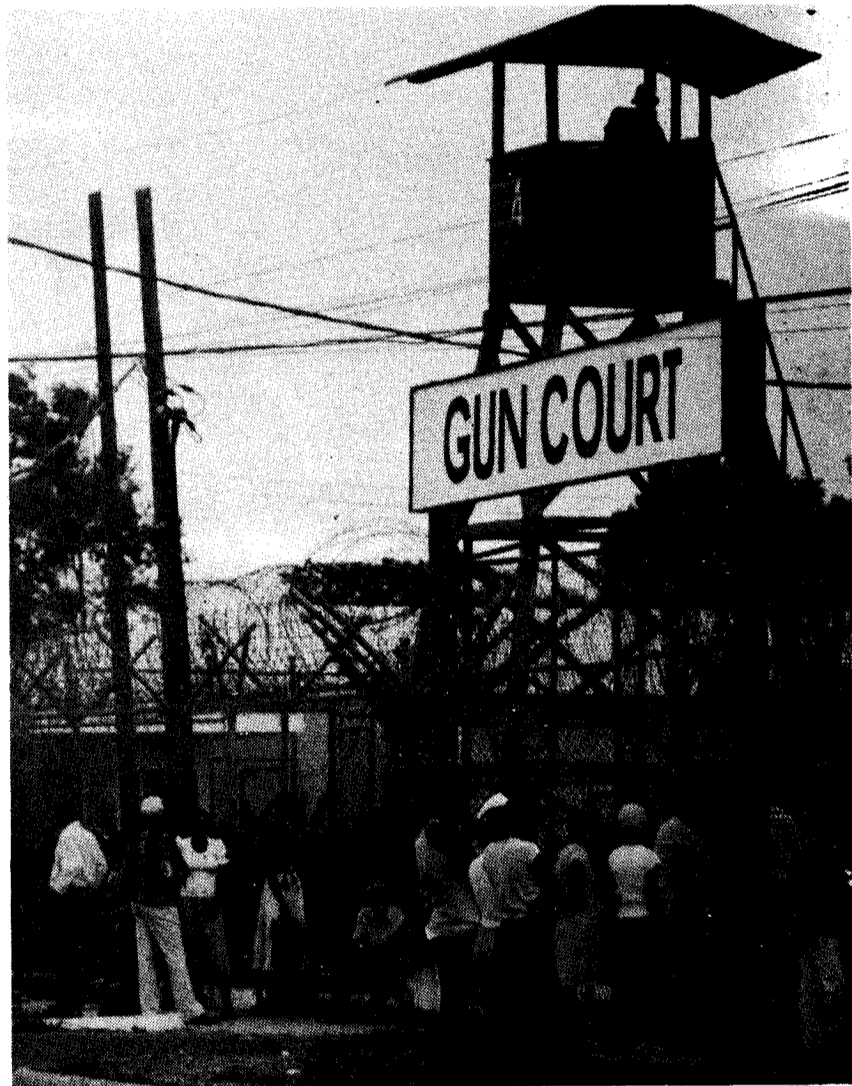
The violence has stopped. It's not part of our strategy. And they don't use it because they're in power now and don't have to.

What attitude did you and your party take on the Malvinas?

We take the view that fundamentally the Malvinas ought to be part of Latin America and that to have a colony in that hemisphere is wrong. On the other hand I must tell you that we did not agree with Argentina unilaterally sending troops to take the islands by force.

We're very concerned with another aspect of it. Venezuela has territorial claims on Guyana which are rooted in an interpretation of the explicitly political phase of imperialism; that Guatemala has a claim on Belize that is rooted in the same interpretation of history. The Malvinas are still colonial so that we see that as being one factor in trying to determine what is right.

On the other hand, Guyana and Belize are independent nations who right now are under threat. Two other countries are saying that they should not have some of the territory that they have because we claim that the British shouldn't have had Guyana, Belize and the Malvinas in the first place. They say that now that you've won your independence from Britain you shouldn't have it. We can't accept that. We stand absolutely behind the unassailable right of Guyana and Belize to defend and maintain the sovereignty and integrity of their territory. So we see it as a very complex situation.



In 1974 illegal possession of a firearm was a crime punishable by mandatory life sentence. Those charged with gun offences were treated with shock therapy.

Although the whole thing in the Malvinas was wrong we didn't see that it had to be resolved in a terrible war. Opportunity should have been given for it to be resolved through the United Nations, subject to the fact

that we are very careful that any precedent about Argentina and the Malvinas are not interpreted as validating Venezuelan and Guatemalan claims on two independent territories.

My message to black people

I DON'T think it's enough to feel accused. You have to look at the world around you and become a part of the solution instead of a part of the problem. Nobody has the right to complain who's not also impelled to act.

I look at many things in this country for example and I wonder how many people who will come to a meeting full of complaint and understandable bitterness and hurt and yet you ask them what have you done?

Have you joined an organisation? Have you looked at the political structure here and seen how you can ally your organisation of disorganised blacks with

something that looks progressive and then by moving in make sure it is progressive? Are you willing to mobilise people here? To look at Jamaica to discover who in Jamaica is really trying to help the disorganised by saying here's my contribution to what you're doing, or to look at Africa and say where can I find common cause with my brothers who are also struggling and to begin to build links of an international strength?

I will tell you frankly that I have no patience with people who complain and don't have the energy to act. I have every sympathy for an odder who's willing to act upon the basis of the complaint.

The SAS killer with the hidden past

By Paul Ryan

THE HUNT for the triple-killer Barry Prudom dominated the press last week. On Tuesday it was revealed that he had received SAS training. By Thursday, surprise, surprise, the papers relegated this point to a casual mention, emphasising that he had failed the course.

Nonetheless, before the blackout a few interesting facts had emerged. The *Daily Star* contacted a friend who went to recruitment meetings with Prudom. He was quoted as saying: 'I chickened out but Barry carried on. Then he disappeared for a while. I asked one of the recruiting blokes where he was and

he told me to shut up and forget about him.

'I saw Barry a year later and asked him where he had been. He only smiled and said "on holiday".'

Of course, Prudom might have been on holiday, but on the other hand armies of British 'client' states, such as Oman, are littered with 'retired' and

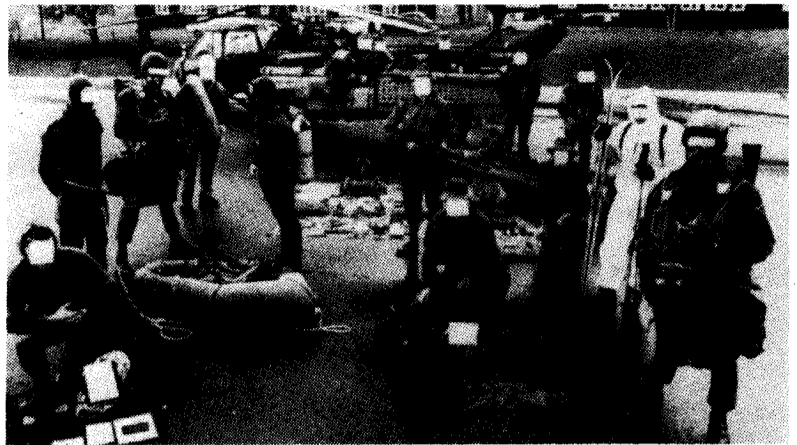
'failed' members of the British armed forces.

Which brings us to another interesting facet of the case — the fact that the police have been told to shoot first and ask questions afterwards. Now it would be by no means the first time that the police have behaved in this fashion — for instance when they gunned down an unarmed youth at the Indian embassy a few years ago — but it is the first time they have been publicly ordered to kill on sight.

Could it be that the

state preferred Prudom dead to prevent him revealing some of its more murky goings on in the dock? Trust Britain to give a new twist to the hoary old 'shot while escaping' — shot while surrendering.

It may of course be that Prudom did fail at the end of his SAS training course (although you'd have to be pretty thick to fail an *army* initiative test) but the fact remains that Prudom is a highly trained killer, and it was the SAS that trained him to kill.



You too can have the SAS in your back yard

Rearming the disarmament movement

IN A TWO PART SERIES, Brian Heron looks at the issues facing CND in the run up to its annual general meeting. With the closing date for resolutions on 19 July, a course needs to be mapped out re-affirming CND's mass action, labour movement orientation — the basis for its extraordinary success to date.

Building a nuclear bomb factory in Aldermaston — that's the latest proposal to emerge from the best and most expensively armed British government ever. It's about as sensitive as awarding Begin of Israel the Nobel Peace Prize.

Even after the 'lessons' of the war in the South Atlantic the message is clear — Thatcher intends to continue the nuclear build up. Meanwhile reports gather of radioactive contamination on beaches in the South Atlantic from the wreck of HMS Sheffield.

Mystery

To sections of the leadership of the disarmament movement Thatcher's attitude is still a mystery. Surely a rational ruling class, drawing the lessons of the need for more conventional armament, would scrap Britain's commitment to the bomb? That's why people like Bruce Kent still cling to the notion of the importance of 'peace groups' for the Tories or the SDP.

The British ruling class is one of the most warlike and bloody in the whole of human history. Its commitment to the Bomb is entirely rational — in its own class terms.

The major prop of British overseas policy is the Atlantic Alliance. Thatcher will play second fiddle to Reagan's role as the world's leading cop, including leading the build-up of the new nuclear encirclement of the USSR.

Britain's rulers need that Alliance. Some £67bn of their capital is invested overseas. To ensure its safety, the gathering momentum of the colonial revolution needs to be checked, and the USSR's support has to be warned off. No more Cubas!

As a result, not one significant section of the ruling class supports uni-

lateral nuclear disarmament. It is not open to argument. It is a fundamental class question.

The disarmament movement as a whole has prospered by taking the opposite line to peaceful persuasion of the ruling class. Its mass action orientation is the secret of its tremendous advance over the past year. Reagan's visit brought 250,000 onto the streets. More trade unions have opted for unilateralism.

Inside the movement itself there have been advances with the rejection of a multilateralist approach, a commitment in principle to seeing the movement as part of an international struggle, and the beginnings of a special orientation to the labour movement.

Underlying these advances has been an informal political perspective of success. This found its clearest expression in the election of Joan Ruddock as national chairperson of the movement. This perspective was to get a Labour government, now that the Labour Party is formally committed to unilateralism, and through mass action supported by the unions, to force it to implement its pledge.

Roots

As the Tories were tremendously unpopular, there appeared every chance to turn this scenario into the real thing.

Today that view has been shaken to the roots. One of the results of Michael Foot and the Labour leadership's support for Thatcher's war in the South Atlantic has been Labour's crushing defeats in the local elections.

Of course the present polls will not continue to register overwhelming Tory success for ever. The polls will settle again to a

point which underlines the unpopularity of this government. Even so, *guarantees* for Labour's future prospects are declining.

Foot is more intent on leading the fight against the party's left wing-guardians of Labour's commitment to unilateralism than heading an assault on the Tories.

That's the backdrop to a new mood emerging within CND for a line of march which would lead away from a mass action perspective, based on the fight to win the labour movement. The argument goes: 'We have gone as far as we can go in mass demonstrations and formal trade union commitments.'

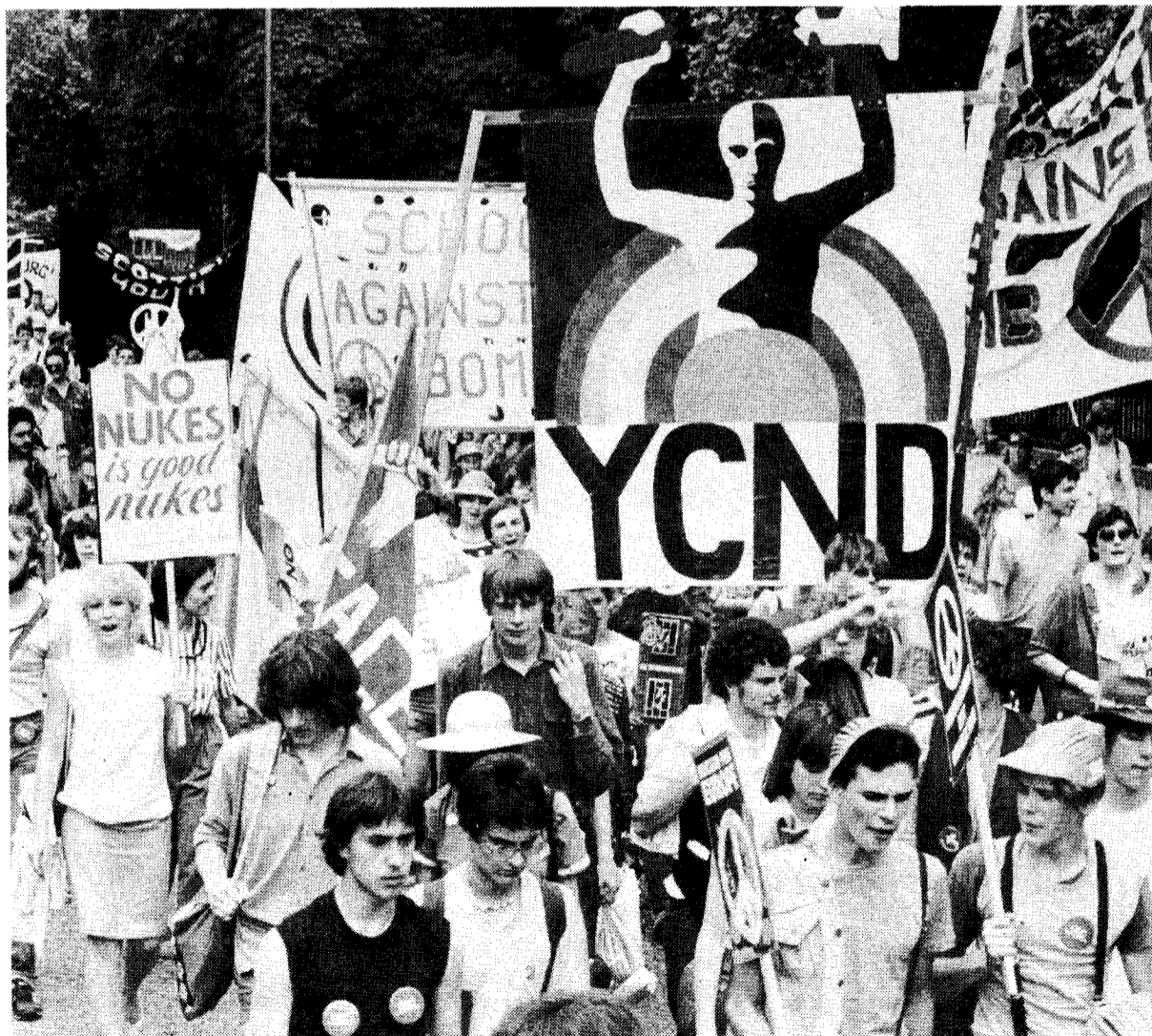
Find

The apparent unlikelihood of turning trade union support into industrial action against the missiles and the shaky prospects for a return of the Labour government, all add fuel to the fire. A new line of action is being forged by some sections of the movement out of this pessimism: that of direct action and civil disobedience.

Partly this response is a reaction to the Communist Party leaders in CND, and their line on the labour movement. The CP's line amounts to persuading arms workers to change what they produced, while CND 'experts' aid this process by drawing up plans for socially useful production.

This wet proposal has the additional disadvantage of forcing workers in the arms industries to shoulder the burden and responsibility for a labour movement response to the missiles. It's not surprising that such a perspective gets nowhere.

The next annual meeting of CND has to decide where to go from here to develop the growing support for unilateral disarmament. Immediately, we should re-affirm a mass-action, labour movement orientation. The reason is simple: no other class in society supports



us. No other class in society can win our unilateralist objectives.

As the 'Out Now' movement in the United States around the Vietnam war showed, direct action and civil disobedience only have a place in the context of mass action, where such actions are not portrayed as merely those of a tiny minority.

Secondly we need a

realistic trade union policy with specific action commitment. Some CND branches are discussing the call for a national day of trade union and industrial action led by the TUC against the missiles as a perspective for 1983. Such thinking is exactly on the right lines.

It is based on taking the trade union movement into national political ac-

tion against the missiles. It puts the responsibility where it belongs — on the leaders of the movement.

Thirdly the leading role of youth can no longer be denied. YCND needs to be self governing, and its initiatives, like the September Youth Carnival, should have the whole movement's support. The internationally co-ordinated Day of Ac-

tion for 1983 should be prepared by an international conference of the youth movements of Western Europe who support and campaign for unilateral disarmament in their own countries.

NEXT WEEK, Brian Heron looks at how the movement against the missiles should respond to the growing threat of imperialist war.

No registration!

By Alan Freeman

ONE GROUP in the Labour Party which will not be registering with the National Executive Committee is the Parliamentary Labour Party.

If it did, it would be doubtful whether it could satisfy Clause two of the constitution, which outlaws any group 'having its own programme, principles and policy for distinctive and separate propaganda'.

The PLP certainly has its own programme; its front bench is opposed to unilateral nuclear disarmament, contains a majority who opposed nationalisation under the last Labour government, and a majority who voted in favour of EEC membership in the Commons in 1975.

It has its own policy for distinctive and separate propaganda: it's called the BBC.

There is one count on which it might scrape past the NEC's checklist: it has no recognisable principles.

These facts alone are proof enough that the register is a severe violation of party democracy and an attack on the left and on the party rank and file. Nevertheless the NEC's proposal has produced deep divisions on the left about tactics.

The Labour Co-ordinating Committee — at one time a front runner for the Bennite wing of the party — has opted for registration, and called for a 'new deal' between the left and the right of the party on the basis of Labour's *Programme 82*. The Scottish LCC, however, has opposed registration, as have the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign, the Labour Committee on Ireland, *London Labour Briefing*, *Socialist Challenge* and *Socialist Organiser*.

Militant

But many on the left are discussing registration as a tactical option. This includes *Militant* itself which has announced that it will try to register, and some of CLPD's organisers who are unhappy about the CLPD decision.

True, Labour's right probably feel that the register is a good way to get round the votes against proscriptions which many unions have now recorded. Such votes now total 3,500,000 affiliated

members and include the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

By introducing the register after these conference decisions, Foot cleared the way to bypass their democracy.

Already Alex Kitson of the Transport and General Union has given the register his backing.

But the register is not a soft option.

An organisation could only go on the old proscribed list with conference approval. The new proposal would give the NEC arbitrary power to ban who it likes without even referring to conference.

PLP

As a result the PLP, the union hierarchies and the party apparatus would be able to organise for their own ends through their own 'party within a party' — the leadership — but disorganise the rank and file by singling out and smashing up any oppositional pressure group or political current.

This would tighten their grip into a stranglehold which would destroy the party itself.

In spite of this, some feel it is better to make a tactical retreat and register rather than risk expulsion. But this opens the road to a classic device which the party apparatus uses to retain control and defeat the rank and file. Once one

has registered the apparatus can single out opposition currents one at a time by persuading the others to make a 'tactical retreat'.

Only if there is collective resistance and a collective decision not to implement the register, can the witch-hunt be stopped in its tracks: by mobilising the resistance and intransigence of the Labour Party and trade union rank and file.

Unions

But there is an even more important reason for refusal to register. What is at stake in this witch-hunt? It is not simply another left-right tussle, through which a new compromise can be arrived at, so that the left can continue as a 'loyal opposition'. A new situation confronts us.

The union leaders and the front bench have been given to understand by the press, the Tories and the ruling classes that they will not be acceptable in government unless they smash up the left. Faced with such a dramatic retreat from the 'postwar consensus' there are two roads along which the party can travel.

One road is to recognise that the ruling classes are now fighting with the gloves off — and fight back. Mass extra-parliamentary action leading to resistance of general strike proportions can impose a Labour Government against ruling class and state opposition as we saw in 1974.

This is the road that the witch-hunt will block. The right wing — including Michael Foot — want to travel another road: that of capitulation. They would prefer to destroy all the gains made in the last three years within the party, to destroy the young socialists, to expel — if necessary — half the constituency organisation of the party and lose the next election catastrophically, in order to crawl into the establishment's good books again.

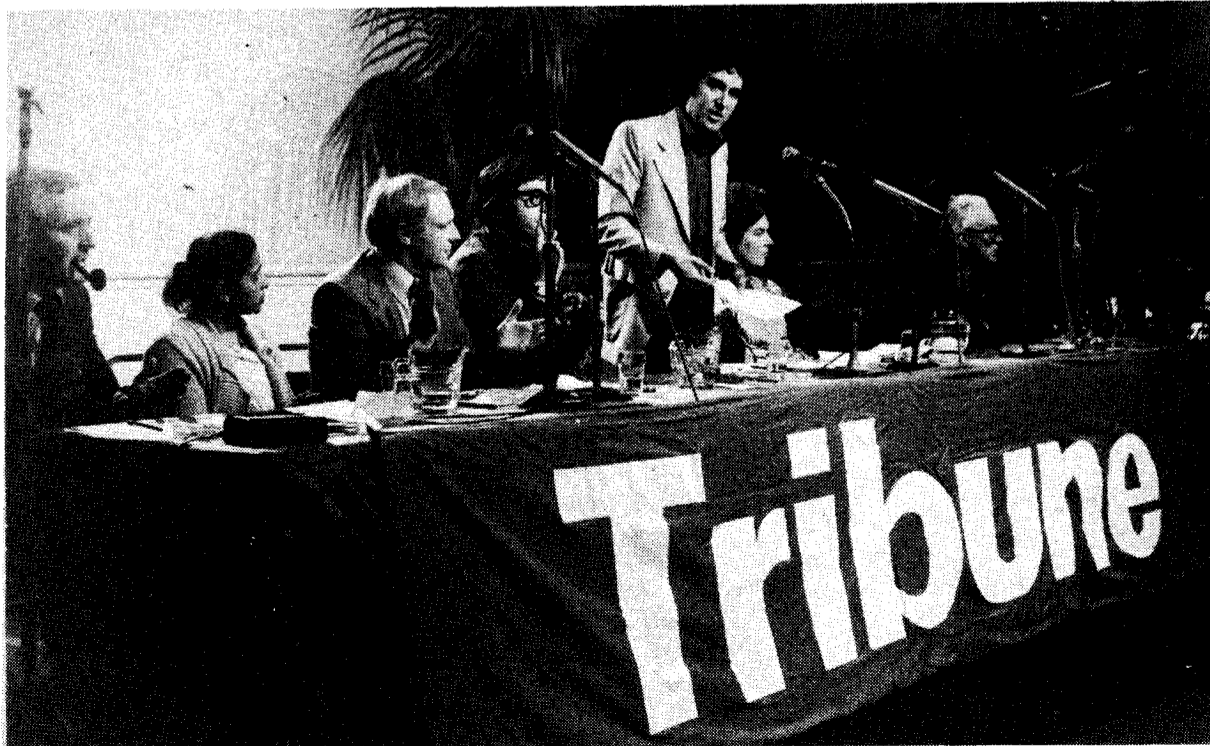
There is no middle way: these two roads diverge here and now. Either we defeat this witch-hunt now; or the Labour Party will cease to exist as a party capable of translating working class aspirations into any form of reality.

Tribune STOP THE PURGE RALLY

Tuesday 20 July 7.30pm

Camden Town Hall,
London NW1

Tony Benn Jo Richardson
Arthur Scargill Pat Wall



Tribune rally at Labour Party conference



Hackney North Labour Party opposes witch-hunts

HACKNEY NORTH Labour Party has undertaken to campaign against witch-hunts in the Labour Party.

It is organising a meeting of local Labour Parties to co-ordinate resistance to the proposals in the Labour Party National Executive Committee report on *Militant*.

The party is writing to 200 other Constituency Labour Parties urging them not to co-operate with the NEC.

Chairperson Barbara Simpkins said, 'It is clear that the motive behind the report is to placate members of the NEC and the right-wing press on the dangers of "extremist socialists".'

'The list of non-affiliated groups, held by the NEC, smacks of the

old proscribed list, a defective and time-wasting mechanism for dealing with political differences within our movement.'

'In the same week that the Party has published its excellent *Programme 1982* which demands full discussion throughout the movement before Party Conference, we should not waste another moment on this diversionary Report.' She added, 'Its recom-

mendations will receive no co-operation from this Constituency Party.'

Hackney North will refuse to expel any supporters of the *Militant* and will campaign against registration. The party believes that the Labour Party should reflect all shades of opinion in the Labour movement, and that the register will be used to exclude socialists, while leaving the right wing untouched.

Local MP Ernie Roberts said, 'I support my local party on this, and I have written to Michael Foot urging him to oppose all witch-hunts.'

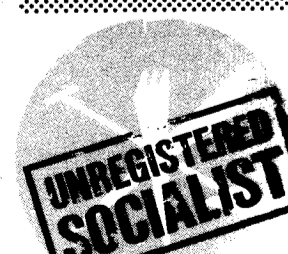
Change constitution to make *Militant* legal, says Greenwich Labour Party

GREENWICH Constituency Labour Party is proposing a constitutional amendment to Clause two of the Labour Party's constitution — the clause under which a 'party within a party' is supposed to be outlawed.

Clause two, section three outlaws organisations 'having their own programme, principles and policy for distinctive and separate propaganda'. This would be replaced by

'A political group of Labour Party members not affiliated under a national agreement with the party on 1 January 1946 shall be free to campaign within the party provided that:

- it conforms to the constitution of the Labour Party and accepts the party's objectives as defined by Clause Four of the party constitution*
- it does not engage in promotion of parliamentary or local government candidates in opposition to Labour Party candidates.'*



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BLACK YOUTH UPRISINGS: ONE YEAR ON

IT IS one year to the month since the youth uprisings in Southall, Toxteth, Birmingham, Moss Side, Brixton and many other places. For youth, particularly young blacks, the causes behind those uprisings have not gone away; if anything they have worsened. Unemployment continues to rise, inner city areas continue to decay and racism walks every street.

But the last year has seen a few victories for black people. Last month the Bradford 12 were all acquitted. Self defence is no offence has become the rallying cry of black youth. The police are certainly not getting it all their own way. Newton Rose, charged with murder, has had his appeal to have his conviction quashed upheld in the Law Lords. And Lord Denning has finally decided to retire.

It has been the strength of black people's organisations that has helped win such cases. That is why it is vital for the labour movement to throw its weight behind such campaigns and against deportation orders, police harassment and so on. Black youth are on the march



Newton Rose Victory for justice

IF OUR police force miss you one way, they certain try to get you another way. As reported on this page, two young Merseyside blacks got shot up in last year's Toxteth disturbances. Having then had the audacity to claim compensation they found themselves facing burglary charges. Now Newton Rose is getting a dose of the same treatment.

Last March, the Appeal Court upheld Newton's appeal against a life sentence for allegedly murdering Anthony Donnelly, a supporter of the National Front. The sentence was handed down by Judge Edward Clarke, who had secretly ordered the jury to reach a verdict within 20 minutes.

Judge Clarke was getting impatient with a jury

that had taken some seven hours to find Rose guilty. After all, three witnesses had testified he was somewhere else at the time of the murder, and Roxanne Walden claimed she had seen the attack on Donnelly, which she said was done by four white men. The white men had driven down the road shouting 'nigger lover' at Donnelly.

Clearly with such

By Bob Pennington

evidence, any sensible judge could only conclude that Donnelly had been murdered by the black youth, Newton Rose, and the jury were simply wasting white tax payers' money by not reaching a snappy verdict of guilty.

Even the law establishment found this one hard to swallow and the Appeal Court slung out the guilty verdict on the grounds of Judge Clarke's direction to the jury. But the prosecution is nothing if not tenacious, so it appealed to the Law Lords seeking a re-trial. Even this reactionary body could not find justifiable grounds to order a new trial and were



compelled to uphold the decision of the Appeal Court.

But the 'law and order' brigade never gives up. On the same day the Law Lords turned down the prosecution's appeal,

Newton Rose was charged at Old Street Court, along with two other men, of causing grievous bodily harm to Clive Roberts.

Clearly the law believes if at first you do not succeed, try, try, and try again.

Black people are refusing to let the white racist establishment cover up the murder of 13 young blacks in a fire that swept a party in New Cross in January 1981. On Sunday night of the 4 July over 100 people mounted an all-night candle vigil outside the Strand Law Courts on the eve of an appeal lodged by the parents to squash the open verdict registered by the previous inquest.

The demand for a new inquest is based on the fact that the Coroner conducted an illegal inquest. Ignoring Section 6 of the Coroner's Act of 1887 which demanded he take notes of the evidence during the hearing, he simply read from police statements and ignored other evidence altogether.

The parents are naturally demanding a fresh inquest which will sweep aside the racist bias of the courts and the police and bring to light the fact that these youngsters were the victims of a racist murder.



LPYS black conference

By Walid Haddad

AROUND 100 black and white youth attended the Labour Party Young Socialist black youth conference last weekend. Conference discussed various aspects of racism and debated how the LPYS could struggle for black liberation.

The calling of such a conference was a step forward on the part of the Militant dominated LPYS leadership. But the failure of that leadership to recognise black people are oppressed both as workers and as black people can only hinder the building of the LPYS among black people.

Speaker after speaker argued that the living and

working conditions faced by black people are the same as other workers or maybe slightly worse. There was therefore no reason for black people to organise themselves as black people in autonomous organisations.

Supporters of *Revolution* and Socialist Challenge argued that, on the contrary, black people had to organise auto-

mously as this both increase black people's self-confidence and puts them in a strong position to force white workers to support them.

The LPYS had to support those campaigns initiated by black people against deportations, in defence of victims of police harassment and around other aspects of racism. It was these campaigns which had to be taken into the labour movement.

Black GLC councillor, Paul Boateng, also stressed the importance of black

people organising autonomously as well as through the labour movement. He emphasised that the LPYS must support these developments as it was the only organisation which could reach out to the mass of black youth and show them that the struggle for black liberation was both a race and class one.

There was a lively debate around the issue of positive action. The majority of the conference argued that positive discrimination should not be supported as it split the

working class.

One *Revolution* supporter retorted: 'What do your abstract calls for black and white unity mean in my factory? I work in a hosiery factory in Mansfield where the black workers have all the unskilled manual jobs, while the white workers have the skilled jobs such as machine maintenance.'

'In particular the black women in the factory have the worst jobs and conditions.' She argued that positive action was needed to overcome these divisions. Only by making white workers realise that

Racist Britain (1)

LAST YEAR when Merseyside's racist police ran amok in Toxteth, David Moore was killed, Kenneth Anderson and Phil Robins were shot by the police and Paul Conroy had his back broken by a police Landrover.

Both Robins and Anderson put in claims for compensation and since then both have been the victims of police persecution and frame-up. Now Phil Robins, a former Southport FC footballer, is serving 18 months in jail. In October last year, police raided his mother's house twice searching for stolen goods but did not find anything.

At his trial for burglary, the evidence was one thumbprint which was not given to police forensics until 15 July, nine days after Phil was shot! The evidence for the second burglary charge was a visual identification by Detective Sergeant Wolfenden. Phil is well known to Wolfenden and has been a victim of his harassment and racial abuse since he was a young lad.

Furthermore many people were available to testify that Phil had spent all that evening in a pub in Speke. Liverpool's police are managing to put away those awkward people who are claiming compensation for being shot and run over.

A campaign to free Phil Robins is a way to fight back against racism and police frame-up, and to make sure that people can walk the streets of Toxteth without getting mugged by the gentlemen in uniform. If you can help contact: PO Box 52, Liverpool L69 8AT.

From rebellion to revolution a strategy for black liberation



'From rebellion to revolution: a strategy for black liberation' is published by East London Socialist Challenge c/o PO Box 36, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8. Make cheques/postal orders payable to Hackney Book Group. 20p each + 13½p postage, bulk rates available on request.

Great success at the LPYS conference. *Revolution* Youth will provide speakers on the issues raised in the pamphlet. Ring Andy 01 359 8371 for details.

Racist Britain (2)

REGGIE YATES is a black Ghanaian patriot whose wife Felicia is a UK citizen, and whose child was born in Britain. That should give him the right to live here even under Britain's racist immigration laws, or so you would think.

But that is not what the Home Office think. They say he has to get out of Britain because his presence is not 'conducive to the public good.' Nor can Felicia confer on him the right to live here — she is just a black and a woman!

For three years this persecution has been going on; Reggie has been hounded to the verge of a nervous breakdown, Felicia has suffered two miscarriages. A racist Home Office, backed by racist immigration laws is determined to drive these people out of Britain and unless the labour movement and the anti-racist movement take up their case the racists will succeed.

A broad campaign is needed to defend the rights of Reggie and Felicia. You can help by contacting the R and F Campaign at 439 Harrow Road, London W10, (01) 960-5746.

Abstract calls for unity

What is Trotskyism?



Trotsky—a Marxist revolutionary

'TROTSKYISM' has become a major subject for attack by the mass media. But what were the real politics of Trotsky? In the first two parts of a new series by JOHN ROSS we look at Trotsky's ideas and those of Marxism.

THE SUBJECT of this series of articles is the politics of Leon Trotsky. But we are going to start with a fact about his life and the way he is remembered. Strangely enough that will tell us more about the ideas and politics of Marxism, of which he was one of the greatest representatives, than would come from starting with any writing or theory of his own.

Trotsky is often remembered and presented today in a dual way. First, as a great public figure of a revolutionary. He was, with Lenin, one of the two great leaders of the Russian revolution of 1917. He developed theories, ideas, and practical struggles of the entire international working class movement.

He fought until his assassination in 1940 not only against capitalism, but also against the crimes of Stalin and the political system he created in Russia.

Secondly, in that struggle Trotsky lived a tremendous human personal life and tragedy. He was killed by an assassin of Stalin. His first wife and all four children were killed, or driven to suicide through persecution, because of his role in politics.

He was a person who never could, or wanted to, separate his own personal existence from the struggle of the world working class against every system, every person, and every thing which oppressed them.

Many who would not agree with his ideas never-

theless acknowledge him as one of the greatest symbols of human courage and struggle against the capitalist system and all those who serve it.

Lives

In that personal characteristic however Trotsky differed in no way from every great Marxist and revolutionary who ever lived. Marx, Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Karl Liebknecht, Malcolm X, Che Guevara. All, and we are naming only a few, lived lives, which were totally involved in every personal way with politics.

They are not cardboard figures as is often presented in books. By looking at the relation between politics and that personal character we plunge right into the heart of Marxism.

Revolutionary socialist, that is Marxist, politics have in their origins and purpose nothing to do with anything that is 'abstract' or 'theoretical' at all.

Marxism does not exist

in order to passively 'understand' the world. It exists in order to *alter* it. The most famous phrase of Marx, and the key to all revolutionary socialist ideas, is: 'The philosophers have only interpreted the world ... the point however is to change it.' Anything that does not start with that will not be Marxism.

But changing the world is not carried out by abstractions but through real human beings. Marxism shows that no person can change the world at will or in any way they like.

At any particular moment in time they can only change things within limits set by forces far more powerful than any individual human being — or even than whole classes of human beings. But within these limits real *people* are the forces who struggle and bring about that change.

Dead

Marxism rests totally on the assumption that real living people will fight for their interests and those of humanity. If not, the structure of society analysed by Marxism would be just as dead and without development as a mechanical clock without a spring. Those who do

not understand that, both theoretically and in their feelings, are librarians and not revolutionary socialists.

The same goes for individuals. In that fight to change society ideas are *not* enough. Anyone who does not feel anger and hatred at this society and its innumerable crimes, anyone who is not inspired and does not feel love when they see anyone fighting against their oppression cannot be a revolutionary.

Real

Only the emotions of a real human personality can give the energy and determination to fight for the colossal changes in the world which socialism demands. They alone will keep anyone going against the tremendous obstacles that will be encountered. They are the *only* source for the drive to fight against, and therefore come to understand, the capitalist system.

That is why every serious revolutionary *has* to integrate their life, politically and personally, with that of the working class movement, and its fight against the capitalist system.

Marx, as with every great revolutionary including Trotsky, expressed this not only in his

theoretical views but even in his likes and dislikes. When he was 47 he answered a then fashionable questionnaire on 'confessions'. To the question: 'What is your idea of happiness?' he gave the answer: 'To fight.'

'What is your idea of misery?' The answer: 'Submission.' 'The vice you detest most?', 'Servility.'

Marx himself fought all his life against a capitalist system he believed inhuman, degrading and vile and which he believed would get worse.

Marx was right. Politics is about deadly serious questions. 30 million people died of starvation in the 'underdeveloped' countries of the world last year. In a strike enormous hardship is suffered by those taking part. In many parts of the world people face death for engaging in political activity. A central question of world politics is nuclear war which threatens every one of us with annihilation.

In that type of struggle there is no room whatever for luxuries. The lives and struggles of Trotsky or Marx can provide inspiration. But the enormous amount of time and great effort to study and master their ideas can only be justified if it helps in practical revolutionary activity.



What is a theory?

MARXISTS are often criticised for wasting their time on 'theory'. Why not use the effort for more practical tasks? Given that mastering Marxist ideas does take a lot of effort and time that is a very reasonable question to ask.

The answer however becomes very simple once the question of how we begin to change things in the world is posed not in theoretical but in *practical* terms. Even a single country such as Britain has more than fifty million people in it. A society on the scale of the world has thousands of millions. Societies on these scale change not because of single individuals but only because of vast forces within them.

To change society you have to effect these enormous economic, social and political developments. Above all you have to know which forces are pushing in the direction you want to go and which go in the opposite direction. Therefore which forces you must oppose and try to weaken and destroy. Marxist politics is precisely the study of these questions.

Once this is understood then it becomes rather clear what Marxism's basic ideas and theories are. They are simply a method of putting into words, more precisely into ideas, the basic forces in society so that they can be understood.

Marx put it that theories are, 'nothing but the material world reflected in the mind of men' (sic). We will take an example to show more exactly what this means.

State

One of the most used of Marxist terms is 'the state'. Marxism affirms that 'every state defends the interests of a particular class. The state is not neutral. A capitalist state cannot be taken over and reformed by the working class. Such a state must be smashed.' Let us consider what this means.

A very real argument over this 'theoretical' question of the state in fact took place in Chile in 1970-73. At that time a government under Salvador Allende and his supporters knew that the army opposed their election. But they believed

that in Chile, a country with a long history of democratic governments, the armed forces could be forced to accept the vote of the people.

Opposing this view were the revolutionary Marxists. They precisely said that the state is a *class* state. The army will never accept a socialist, or in Chile even a left wing, government. This was a 'theoretical' debate about the state. Was the state neutral, or could it be pressurised to be so, as Allende believed? Or was it a class state which would defend the interests of the capitalist class against the working class?

But 'the state' was just a reflection of a reality. The state in Chile, as in every other country, was a real enormous social force. It was made up of an army with tens of thousands of soldiers, hundreds of tanks and aircraft.

In addition to the army were the police. They were backed up by a judicial system, and an enormous civil service. All these had close contact to Chilean employers and right wing politicians. The

'theoretical' argument about the state was in fact a very practical one. How would these enormously powerful military forces act in real life? Would they remain neutral and on the sidelines or not?

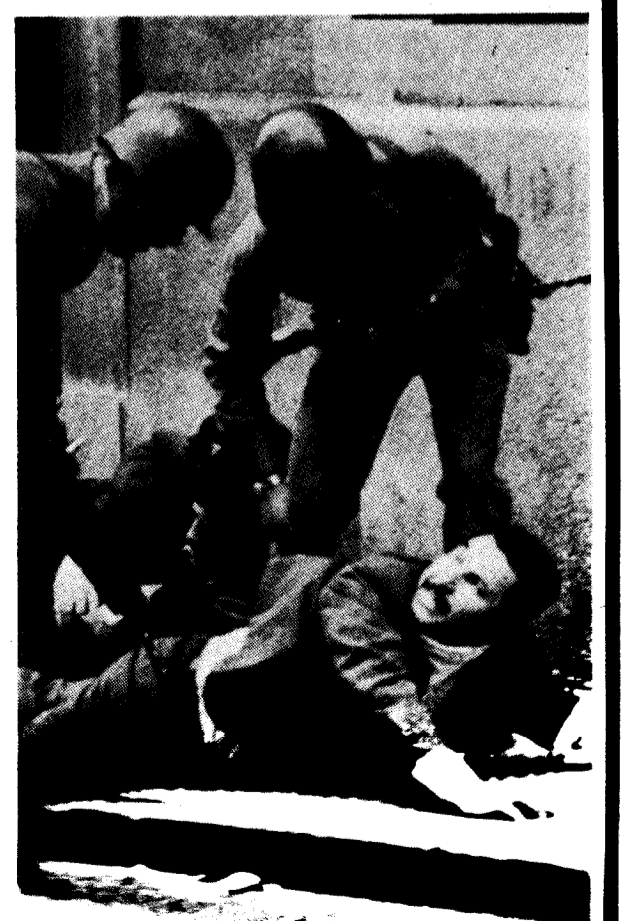
The answer of course is only too well and tragically known. In September 1973 the Chilean army overthrew the government of Allende. It slaughtered tens of thousands of workers. It banned all the organisations of the Chilean working class. It cut living standards by almost half. It installed a bloody and ruthless dictatorship which exists to this day. The argument about the state in Chile was indeed theoretical. But for that reason it was also deeply practical. It was about how enormous social forces would act. It was literally a life and death question for tens and hundreds of thousands of people. The fact the answer was wrong meant one of the greatest disasters in the history of the world working class. There are few more practical questions than this.

Once this fact that all Marxist ideas and theories

are reflections of the real material world is understood then one of Lenin's favourite stories can easily be understood. Krupskaya, his companion, recalls how they took it from a tale of Tolstoy:

'Once when walking, he spotted in the distance the figure of a man squatting on his haunches and moving his hands about in an absurd way; a madman he thought — but on drawing nearer, he saw that it was a man sharpening his knife on the paving-stone. It is the same thing with theoretical controversies. Heard from aside, they do not seem worth quarrelling about, but once the gist is grasped, it is realised that the matter is of the utmost importance.'

Arguments in Marxist theory are about how the strongest forces in the world will operate in real life. All its terms — the state, surplus value, the family, imperialism are reflections of material reality. That is precisely why they are of tremendous importance. They are not just theoretical questions, they are questions of life and death. They are questions of the understanding and mastering them.



Army of repression: part of the Chilean class state

Gay rights and the labour movement

THE LABOUR PARTY National Executive Committee last month opposed the proposal in the party's draft programme to reduce the age of consent for homosexuals from 21 to 18. Instead the NEC, which was debating gay rights for the first time, fudged the issue by calling for 18 to be the age of consent for gays, as opposed to 16 for heterosexuals. The Labour Party has done little or nothing to advocate and campaign for gay rights, although certain leading figures on the left, such as Tony Benn, Joan Lester and Ken Livingstone, have spoken out in favour of labour movement support.

But many Labour councils openly discriminate against gay people. In June 1981 Susan Shell was sacked by Barking council because she was a lesbian. Several unions have adopted gay rights policies and defended gay members who have been victimised. However, in many unions, especially the main industrial ones, the gay issue has scarcely been raised.

So it was a step forward last year, when the NEC of the Labour Party produced a discussion document, *The Rights of Gay Men and Women* as a first step to taking a position on this issue. JAMIE GOUGH discusses the issues raised by this document and argues that still more needs to be done to campaign for gay rights in the labour movement.

The most positive aspect of the document is that it recognises the extent of direct discrimination against gay people. It describes:

● **discrimination by employers.** This is particularly — though not exclusively — in areas of working with young people. Lesbians and gay men are often sacked from such jobs simply for being gay, without even being accused of any 'misconduct'. Industrial tribunals provide no protection against this, even in the cases where the worker has been employed long enough to be able to appeal to one. In the case of teacher John Saunders, the Employment Appeal Tribunal found that it is 'reasonable' for an employer to sack a gay person on the basis of commonly held prejudice even if that prejudice is completely unfounded — a bigots' charter, in fact. Many gays are forced out of their jobs by hostility and harassment from their employers or, sometimes, fellow workers. The NEC document calls for the amendment of the Employment Protection Act to make it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

● **discrimination in housing.** There is direct discrimination by landlords and councils. But, as the document points out, 'the main obstacle is that housing policies are geared towards the needs of married people; a bias which stems from assumptions about marriage and the family. Being single is viewed as being a brief stage between living at home with parents and getting married. Consequently the long term needs of unmarried and

childless people — including gays — are ignored. The document recommends that councils should be prohibited from excluding any group of people from housing waiting lists.

● **discrimination in schools.** 'Open discussion of what it means to be gay is still resisted. As a result the needs of gay students are not met and all those at school gain a distorted view of homosexuality.'

● **discrimination in the media.** The media have little that is even informative, let alone positive to say about gays, with the exception of token and compromised programmes like LWT's *Gay Life*. In 99 per cent of TV coverage of TV coverage, to be gay is to be a joke. For the press, gays are either unstable and neurotic, corrupters of youth or criminals.

● **discrimination in services.** Councils and private firms discriminate against gay organisations in the use of public buildings — thus helping to keep gay sexuality hidden. The major wholesaler and retailer of newspapers, W H Smith, exercises censorship by refusing to distribute *Gay News*.

● **discrimination by the law.** The courts nearly always refuse to allow lesbians and their children to live together in cases of divorce. Male homosexuality is illegal except under particular, restricted circumstances — two partners over 21 and in a private, locked room. This doubtful legality puts all gay organisations under the perpetual threat of

prosecution. It encourages the constant harassment by the police.

The central conclusion of the document is the need for a law outlawing discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. This should be the central focus for a campaign around gay rights in the labour movement. The experience of the Sex Discrimination Act shows that laws in themselves have little effect. But the fight for such a law, and a continuing struggle to implement it, can have a real impact on discrimination as well as helping to change people's understanding of the issue.

The major weakness of the document is that it deals only with blatant discrimination. It has nothing to say about other equally important ways in which gay people are oppressed, nor about how the gay issue is connected to other concerns, of socialists.

There is no recognition of the particular oppression of lesbians. Lesbians are oppressed because all women's sexuality is supposed to exist only for the satisfaction of men. What is more, all the economic and legal barriers to women's independence force lesbians into heterosexual relationships that they don't want. Lesbian liberation and the liberation of all women are inseparable.

The NEC document has a patronising attitude to youth and an oppressive attitude to gay youth in particular. It does call for a lowering of the male homosexual age of consent to equality with heterosexuals (16); but supports the continuation of the age of consent. It therefore denies the right of youth to choose, their right to control their own sexuality. Far from 'affording some degree of protection from exploitation by adults', as the document claims, the law reinforces the subordinate status of youth and makes them more open to exploitation.

Sexual liberation of youth is impossible within the present confines of the

Sacked for being gay

JUDITH WILLIAMS was sacked from her job as residential care assistant because she is a lesbian. The head of the agency she worked for, Care Concern in North Wales, asked Judith to resign because she was 'temperamentally unsuitable' for the job. She had worked five months in a home for adolescents, was liked by the other staff and residents and had just been recommended for promotion by her group leader. When Judith refused to resign she was sacked. Support her fight against such blatant discrimination.

- Pass resolutions in your Labour Party/trade union: 'This (Branch etc) recognises the need for the trade union movement to take up the rights of gay workers. We condemn the sacking of Judith Williams by Care Concern for being a lesbian and call for her immediate and unconditional reinstatement.'
- Send a letter of protest to Care Concern, Well St, Ruthin, Clywd.
- Circulate and return petition sheets available from Gay Rights at Work, 7 Pickwick Court, London SE9 4SA.

family. It requires material things — financial independence, access to facilities and housing, and the right to autonomous organisation.

To read the document you might think that liberation was something that progressive heterosexuals were going to bestow on gays (it talks about 'the protection of a minority group'). There is no mention of the gay movement in the document. The labour movement itself would not have moved an inch on gay rights if it had not been for the existence and the pressure of the gay movement.

Organising ourselves is essential for gays if we are to find the solidarity to fight the feelings of inferiority that society has taught us, to find the strength to come out as gay — without which there can be no real fight back.

These divisive distortions in the NEC document

will need to be taken up in the discussion of gay rights within the labour movement. The most important thing now is to get the document discussed, and get its main recommendations implemented. Activists in the Labour Party and the trade unions should be pushing for the inclusion in the Labour Party manifesto of a commitment to introduce an Anti-Discrimination Law and to reduce the age of consent from 21 to 16 for gays. But to be successful, this needs to be coupled to active support for gay people struggling for their liberation.

Copies of The Rights of Gay Men and Women obtainable from the Labour Party HQ, price 40p. Speakers available from the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, c/o 61a Bloom St, Manchester 1. The LCGR national conference: in Nottingham, 24 July. Information from: Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton, Nottingham.



Photo: JOANNE O'BRIEN

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BRISTOL: Fullmarks, 110 Cheltenham Rd, Bristol 6.
BIRMINGHAM: Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham.
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London

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CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST ECONOMISTS: Socialist Action for the Eighties annual conference, Bradford University, 16-18 July. Free creche. Details from J MacDonald, 20 Stanley Road, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 2DM.

UNWAGED FIGHTBACK against attacks on claimants. Public meeting to discuss latest changes in benefit legislation. Tue 13 July, 11am. All unwaged and unemployed welcome, creche and refreshments. Andover Community Centre (opp Medina Rd) Seven Sisters Rd, London N4. Organised by Islington Action Group on Unemployment.

TALISMAN, THE REPUBLIC. in celebration of the 3rd Anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua, at York Hall, Bethnal Green, E6. Sat 17 July, 7pm. £2.50, £1.50 unwaged.

Socialist Challenge Events

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LONDON Transport fraction: Sun 11 July 11-3, SC offices.

Heathrow workers: a victory for democracy



HEATHROW workers have won the right to picket their place of work. On 24 June the British Airways Ramp 7 who had challenged the Metropolitan Police's and the British Airport Authority's interpretation of the Heathrow bye-law on picketing were discharged. Their action has now been rendered lawful under Section 16 of the Employment Act. MIKE LE CORNU, chairperson Ramp, TGWU at Heathrow looks at the background to the dispute and the implications for the future.

HEATHROW has always been highly unionised, in spite of the difficulty in communication, yet with such a high concentration of industrial units in the area, disruption through industrial disputes, is remarkably low. In the past, disputes have normally been sharp and of short duration, often unconnected with each other.

The most spectacular dispute, occurred in the early seventies, when General Aviation Services,

a North American company, attempted to operate a comprehensive handling unit. The methods contemplated by this company was seen by the whole of the workforce at Heathrow as a threat to job security and to the future of the public sector. The workforce rose up as one in opposition to the instituting of this company by the BAA, and as a result GAS was thrown off the airport after a series of 'blackings', mass meetings of up to 20,000 and a 4-day

strike.

Since then workers have developed a closer liaison. Yet with such a broad complex of activities, workers at LHR have never been able to exercise their right to picket their place of work, within the perimeter road. The BAA who have their own bye-laws, have always claimed that these bye-laws prohibited picketing anywhere on their property, which is everything inside the perimeter road.

Two

Heathrow is split into two main areas, airside and landside. Common-user gates provide the entrance/exit points between these areas. There are also fully leased properties in the area, used only by the tenant and his employees.

The Metropolitan Police, who took up residence at LHR in the mid seventies, have extensive powers which vary between airside and landside, and they haven't been slow to use them. Each time an industrial dispute has occurred, it is the police who have determined whether to allow a 'presence' outside a fully leased building, or at the common-user gates. When permission has been granted, this has usually been on the proviso that no placards should be displayed or armbands shown and no approach to be made to anybody. The police also made it clear that if the permitted 'presence' caused or was likely to cause disruption, they would forbid the 'presence' to remain. Obviously action of this kind was totally ineffective.

This was one of the

problems faced by the recent British Airways Ramp dispute. During the whole eight weeks of that dispute, 'blacklegs' performed the ramp workers' tasks, while other workers continued to work normally.

History

For a few days at the beginning of the dispute the ramp workers maintained a 'presence' as described above, which proved to be of no avail. It was then decided to picket the public highway outside the perimeter road. This was akin to stretching a picket line around London, and consequently it had little effect.

It was because of the bitter experience of eight weeks of isolation, in what was a fully justified

dispute, that the Ramp Workers decided that this invidious position in regards to picketing should be brought to a head.

Return

On 31 March, the day before the Ramp workers were forced to return to work, seven pickets went to one of the common-user gates inside the perimeter, armed with placards and armbands. They successfully picketed for

about an hour, when the police arrived and arrested all seven and charged them under the BAA bye-laws.

Now the magistrates' judgment means airport workers will enjoy equal picketing rights at their place of work on a par with workers throughout the country.

The ramp workers who were forced to return to work, through lack of support from the rest of the trade union movement have secured for all workers at LHR, a basic democratic right.

GEC strikers victory

By Ray Duckworth, Boilermakers GEC Preston

AFTER two and a half weeks on strike over a claim for 12 per cent increase plus staff conditions, the 850 shopfloor workers at GEC Traction, Preston, voted by four to one to return to work on Monday. A victory had been won over Britain's biggest company.

As GEC announced an increased profit of £584m, its cash reserves peaked at a new level of £1,036,000. Yet for the Preston site victory is a 9½ per cent package: an across the board rise of £6.50, a lump sum cash payment, a cut in sick pay waiting time from two days to one day, and

the removal of virtually all the deskilling strings which the company originally attempted to impose.

For the strike committee the victory also strengthened the union organisation on the site. Mass picketing at Preston and secondary

picketing at the Manchester site were effective in hardening out militancy and forcing the company to run to the negotiating table.

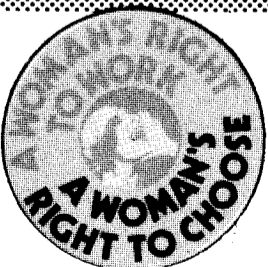
But GEC weren't the only ones doing the running. At the national conference of the union Confed in Llandudno senior GEC managers wine and dined with national officials in the spirit of true moderation. The local left CSEU officials were instructed to return to Preston to speedily complete negotiations.

GEC feared that the strike and secondary picketing would push the Manchester and Sheffield sites towards similar industrial action. As GEC tried to rationalise Traction, the company are using intersite flexibility as a means to break up union site strength.

The strike and the company's strength in other power engineering sites highlighted a weakness in union organisation. Secondary action and mass leaflet-

ting of other sites successfully challenged this during the dispute, but many stewards now see the need to organise throughout the power engineering group (one of GEC's five industrial divisions).

The national combine, which retreated into bureaucratic silence during the strike, will have to decide where it stands — with the stewards fighting GEC rationalisation or in isolation from the real world.



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Socialist Challenge

Begin tries to starve West Beirut but ... 100,000 ISRAELIS SAY 'STOP THE WAR NOW!'



By Steve Potter

A NEW AND HORRIFIC twist has been added to the Israeli genocide in Lebanon. The Israeli Army and their Christian Phalangist allies are now halting all food and medical supplies from reaching the 500,000 civilians and 6,000 PLO guerrillas in West Beirut.

But in a massive show of opposition to the policies of the Begin government 100,000 Israelis marched in Tel Aviv to demand an end to the war.

Reserve army officers, home from the front, joined the demonstration called by the Peace Now Movement. Protesters raised demands for an end to the war and the sacking of Defence Minister General Ariel Sharon. The following day fighting

broke out between West Bank Palestinians and Israeli soldiers, with two Palestinians shot dead and 12 wounded.

Despite these protests the Israeli Cabinet declared on Sunday that it would not be 'intimidated'

(sic) by the protests in Israel. Prime Minister Begin feels that he faces no serious opposition internationally to his project of 'dealing the PLO a lethal blow'.

In consequence the PLO have renewed their calls for international solidarity with the 500,000 Palestinians who are the Israeli's target in Lebanon.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, was quoted last weekend as intending to call on Soviet leaders to do 'something drastic' to end Israeli

military actions in Lebanon. He said that 'it is not enough just to denounce Israel's aggression.'

In a similar vein PLO leader Yasser Arafat criticised Colonel Qadhafi and other Arab leaders for failing to come to the aid of the Palestinians.

The PLO itself is demanding a withdrawal from Beirut by Israeli forces before considering its own withdrawal. The demand of the PLO is widely regarded as a tactic to gain time to succeed in rallying international support for Israeli with-

drawal.

The Palestinians are literally fighting for their survival as a people. The state of Israel created in 1948 enforced a dispersal of much of the original Arab population from Palestine. Today nearly two million Palestinians are registered with the United Nations as refugees, the majority of them in Lebanon.

Today, under occupation again, they are faced with genocide from the Israeli armed forces who have claimed over 10,000 lives in the war so far, or from hunger and disease in the West Beirut ghetto.

West Beirut faces total destruction from Israeli forces

In Britain the Palestine Solidarity Liaison Committee is backing the call for a national demonstration on 31 July to come to the aid of the Palestinian people. The call for the demonstration provides the opportunity to begin to educate the whole labour movement on the nature

of the Israeli state.

The fight must begin to reverse the traditional position of the Labour Party and trade union movement in supporting the racist state of Israel to backing the PLO's demands for a Palestinian homeland.

National demonstration Saturday 31 July

Assemble Hyde Park, Speakers Corner 12.30pm.
March to Trafalgar Sq for rally at 2.30.

Further information from Palestine Solidarity Liaison Committee c/o THIS, Oxford House, Derbyshire St, London E2.

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Stop Press: MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARIES WIN ONE MILLION VOTES

NEWS of the Mexican election results are coming through as we go to press. First accounts indicate that the 'Workers, Peasants and Popular Unity' slate, headed up by the Presidential candidate of the PRT (Revolutionary Workers' Party, Mexican section of the Fourth International) has secured around one million votes, or three per cent of the total vote.

This means that the PRT will be entitled to ten or more deputies in the Mexican parliament, and has achieved double its target of 1.5 per cent which it needed to retain legal status.

The PRT clearly made substantial inroads into the support for the slate headed by the Mexican Communist Party which reached 17 million votes

Socialist Challenge FUND DRIVE '82

DESPITE the type of support indicated by letters like this one, we have finished this quarter from April to June nearly £4000 down on our target for our regular fund drive. We are holding open the deadline of the fund drive for *one more week* so as to allow our readers and supporters to rally round to make the final total.

Please rush your donations in! Our thanks this week to supporters in:

Crawley	£15.00	Sheffield	10.00
Camden	30.00	Newcastle	75.00
Newport	6.00	Wandsworth	2.00
Oxford	2.50	Cardiff	4.50
Glasgow	2.50	Standing orders	92.00
Brighton	5.00	Total	£314.50
Haringey	17.00	Total so far	12669.00
Hackney	1.00	Target	16515.00
Middlesboro	1.00	Shortfall	£3846.00
Exeter	9.00		
Brent	41.00		

THE MAGNIFICENT response to our 'Week's Wages for Socialist Challenge Campaign' has started to flag. The campaign, launched because of mounting debts and the quadrupling of the rent on our offices, is no less urgent today than when we launched it eight weeks ago. We have had many IOUs and pledges to the fund, now is the time to redeem them! Totals this week area by area are:

West London	£689.00	South Wales	650.00
East London	633.00	South West	237.00
North London	465.00	Oxford	180.00
South London	530.00	Scotland	578.30
Brent	1140.00	North East	205.00
Birmingham and West Midlands	647.00	York	385.00
Manchester and North West	1247.55	Individuals	780.00
		Total	£8709.85

Dear comrades,

Can I take time out to thank Welsh Socialist Challenge supporters for the tremendous contributions they are making in the fight against the Tories.

During the last 3 years not one day has gone by without the Tories inflicting punishment on our unions, our health, education and social services. They brush aside the weak trade union and political leaderships with impunity as they implement their well-publicised pre-election plan to attack, dismember and weaken working people and their organisations.

While all this is going on, we have the right of the Party clamouring and winning a policy of witch hunting within the Labour Party (my Party) which will weaken us still further.

Thank goodness for papers of the left like Socialist Challenge who, languishing under severe financial constraints, continue to publish a fighting weekly paper which gives heart and encouragement to those many activists at grassroots level who are still involved in the fight back against the Tories.

Even though I can ill afford it, please accept £5 towards your fighting fund.

RAY DAVIES, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation
(Unregistered socialist)