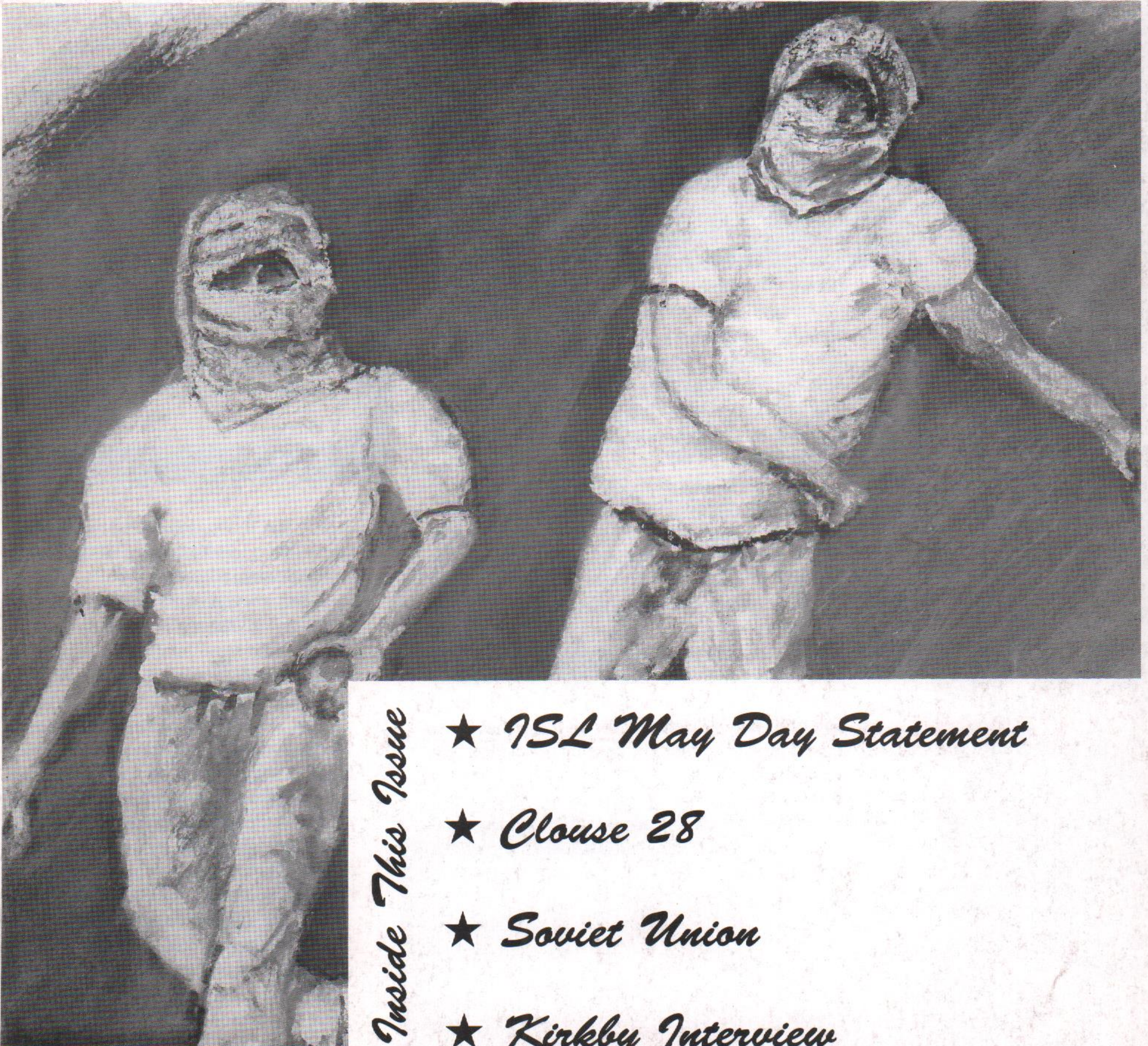


# SOCIALIST VOICE

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE  
BRITISH SECTION OF THE IWL (FI) LIT

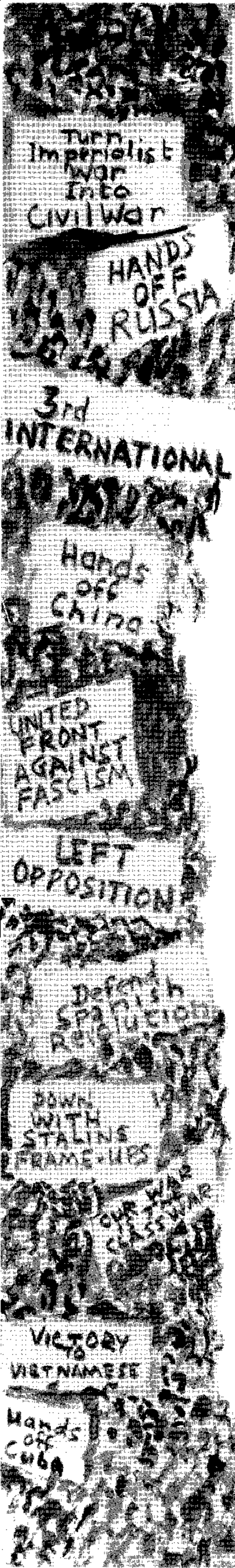
## UPRISING IN PALESTINE



*Inside This Issue*

- ★ *ISL May Day Statement*
- ★ *Clause 28*
- ★ *Soviet Union*
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8 HOUR DAY

# MAY DAY GREETINGS

The International Socialist League sends greetings to all workers and oppressed peoples throughout the World who are in struggle, confronting Imperialism and the bureaucratic leaderships of the working class.

Shoulder to shoulder with these masses wherever we have sections are the comrades of the International Workers League. We send greetings to our comrades throughout the world and especially those in the Movement Towards Socialism; the Argentine section of the IWL.

Our greatest admiration and revolutionary greetings go to those that have risen against the savage brutality of the apartheid regime in South Africa and to the Palestinians, rising against what a demonstration of 50,000 Israeli in Tel Aviv in January called: "Israel Apartheid".

This powerful wave of opposition is sweeping the globe. It is seen all over Latin America, the Indian Sub-Continent, much of East Africa and in the implacable courage of the nationalist movement in the north of Ireland.

To support this does not allow a choice, it means placing yourself on the side of the masses, it means building international campaigns and fighting for them in the labour movement.

To members of the British Labour Party and the trade unions and particularly to those developing a left movement we say :

The events in Palestine, on May Day 1988, pose the question very clearly; "which side are you on?"

Struggling youth throughout the world from Ireland to Palestine are given the same treatment. In Palestine they have their bones in their hands and feet deliberately broken by the soldiers of the occupation forces.

A military correspondent of the Jerusalem Post justified the atrocities against Palestinian youth by declaring; "they had practical benefits. A teenage rioter can only be detained for 18 days, but if his hand is broken he won't be able to throw stones for a month and a half."

Expressions of sympathy or horror by the leaders of the British Labour movement at the treatment of the Palestinians is not enough. They are hypocritical while there is no break with or struggle against the Israeli coalition government.

## THE M.A.S. AN IMPORTANT FOR EVERY

As in many other countries in the world, the workers and the mass movement are struggling against the bourgeois government attacks in Argentina.

During 1987 there were more than 700 struggles and three General Strikes. Since March 14th 500,000 teachers have been on indefinite strike demanding higher wages and better conditions for the schools. Meanwhile, health workers, Administration workers, Doctors, factory workers and even the policemen are struggling against the government policy. On April 14th there was another General Strike.

But there is something new in the Argentine situation: Most of these struggles are not lead by the Union bureaucracy, but by a new leadership that is growing in every factory, school, hospital or office. And the M.A.S. (Movement toward Socialism), the Trotskyist party in Argentina, is part of this new leadership.

The perspectives for the development of this situation are that the economic crisis deepens every day and the working class will continue fighting. The bureaucracy and the bourgeois parties

May Day this year is denied by socialists who refuse to take a stand on the side of the Palestinian fighters.

Those who continue relations with the Labour Party leaders in Israel, who allow them in the same International organisation are in fact assisting the brutality and repression in Palestine.

This we say quite soberly to the campaign group of MP's and we add: you will never develop a powerful principled left wing against Kinnock if you do not take a stand on the side of a revolutionary uprising of the oppressed.

The Labour wing of the counter revolutionary front is no where more clear than in Britain. They are consistent fighters for Imperialism, they can visit the Palestinians but are in total compliance with the Anglo-Irish agreement and have done everything possible to help destroy the legitimate revolutionary nationalist movement in Ireland. They can protest over the killing of Palestinians and applaud the killing of freedom fighters in

# CONGRESS

## ISSUE

### REVOLUTIONARY

rapidly lose their supporters, and the M.A.S., the most important left party in the working class and the fifth party in the last general elections in September last year, will grow because it is the only party in Argentina that supports all the workers struggles.

#### THE M.A.S. NATIONAL CONGRESS

It is in these conditions that the M.A.S. will hold its Third National Congress. The delegates representing thousands of Trotskyist militants must decide how to participate in the workers struggles to get mass influence and lead the working class to power.

This is the reason why this congress, the congress of the biggest Trotskyist party, is important for every revolutionary militant in the world. It is now possible that a revolutionary Trotskyist party can lead the masses into the revolution.

A success of a revolution lead by a Trotskyist party will be a victory for the world working class and for all the revolutionary parties all over the world. That is why the International Socialist League, British section of the L.I.T. (International Workers League) wishes the best success for the M.A.S. comrades.

Gibraltar.

We extend our solidarity to the Irish people, who after decades are still fighting against the British military, political and economic domination of their country.

We stand firmly with the Irish in their struggle for self determination and demand Brit Troops Out Now!

May Day is more than sending greetings. It is a day of struggle. It must be used for more than holiday speech making but to build solidarity between the working classes of all countries. This is not the idea of the "new realism" which the Labour and trade union bureaucracy has engineered in order to carry out the Tories attacks against the working class.

**The ISL thinks that the only way to fight against these attacks is to develop the independence of the working class. To break its organisations from the grip of the bureaucrats.**

We stand on the side of the British workers fighting in defence of the NHS



*The M.A.S. - Party of the Argentine Revolution*

and the Welfare State. We stand with the youth and the women, the ethnic minorities and the gay and lesbians who are currently facing the brunt of these attacks from the Tory government.

If May Day has any meaning it is to carry forward the struggle of these workers against the Imperialists and their allies Internationally and at home.

Workers of the World Unite!



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# Behind The 'Silk' Screen

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk was once the Labour MP for Knowsley North. He is now in a well paid television job as a columnist for Murdoch's "Times".

Mr. Kilroy-Silk was well thought of by the present Labour Party leaders and was expected to have a junior minister's post in any future Labour Government.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk was less well thought of among the membership of the Labour Party in his constituency which was a safe labour seat, formerly held by Mr. Harold Wilson. The constituency is mainly made up of the town of Kirkby - created as a Liverpool over-spill new town, and which is one of the poorest and most militant areas on Merseyside. In some areas of Kirkby, 90% of the population is unemployed and in the majority of households, there is one or more inhabitants on state benefit.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk lived in a large house in Buckinghamshire and Labour Party activists who had only contempt for him complained he was little seen in the constituency, had no interest in the struggles of Kirkby working people, was arrogant and was not a socialist. The constituency Labour Party voted him out as MP. Some of the consequent events were dealt with in an interview with Kirkby

Labour Party members in the last issue of Socialist Voice. There was eventually a witch-hunt, reorganisation and expulsions in Knowsley North Labour Party.

## TRUE BLUE

Mr. Kilroy-Silk decided to pursue his career outside of the Labour Party.

He has now revealed himself in his true colours - a dirty Tory blue with streaks of nauseous yellow. They are there in his Commentary in the Times, dated March 18th.

They come out in his anti-working class attack on the unemployed, afflicted by what he calls the "welfarist disease" which infects the "otherwise prudent and respectable elderly" as well as the "16-18 years old refusing to go on the YTS".

Mr. Kilroy-Silk cannot stand workers demanding their rights. Clearly, he hated the Kirkby population. When it was working, its factories were well unionised as industry was brought into the area. The big combines were not able to use it as an area of cheap labour. It saw a number of big struggles - the organisation of the big Kraft factory and the successful strike for the union with the women marching back singing "Whose sorry now?". The two occupations against redundancy at Fisher Bendix and the experience of the for-

mation of the KLM Co-operative.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk thinks workers should take off their hats, look to the ground and respectfully plead charity. He looks back to the past and thinks workers should be ashamed and think it immoral to be unemployed or poor.

## TRUE HATE

He hates the young unemployed who assert their right to benefit. But it is not only them, he hates. He attacks the; "new generation of one-parent families who vocally insist on their right for a council house, to have their rent paid and for their total income and the entire contents of the house to be provided courtesy of the Giro cheque."

These people choose to be unemployed, he says and "they should receive no help from those who are neither too fickle nor irresponsible nor lazy to take dirty, boring and repetitive jobs." This from a middle-class man who has never done a dirty or repetitive job; has never felt the whip of piece work - and he is talking about people the majority of whom actually did the boring, or dirty, or repetitive jobs, when they were there to do!

But the question that arises is: How many leaders and MPs in the Labour Party does Kilroy Silk leave behind, who agree with him?

## A Reader Writes Labour Leaders and Ireland

*Watching the television or reading the papers dealing with Ireland, there is one thing that makes me angry. That is the hypocritical and different ways the deaths of Irish republicans and British soldiers are treated.*

*I understand that many of the British soldiers go into the army because they cannot get a job and most of them come from working class homes. But they are trained to kill and to look at what appears in their sights as 'objects', and not to think about them as men, women or children.*

*When they are out on the street, doing a job of work, they are not doing it through conviction, but because of its rewards. Their skill at killing is a commodity and they are trained and conditioned by the army to be proud of it.*

*Thatcher, the press and television build up feelings about the soldiers as human beings. But they are trained to be the opposite.*

*The republican "terrorist" - man or woman - is driven by conviction; by Bloody Sunday when demonstrators were gunned down, by persecution and victimisation, and by hatred and bitterness at what is being done to humankind. Now the media is trying to whip up feelings in Britain by saying; "Look what they did to our lads".*

*We should have nothing but contempt for leaders of the Labour Movement who do nothing to counter this but, further, give it active support.*

*I have to say that the activities of the Kinnocks in this respect disgust me. Visits to Palestine and Ethiopia create an image of caring and humanity. If they meant anything like that, however, Kinnock would have been angry over the suppression in the North of Ireland, angry over Wapping, angry over the miners.*

*What causes the situation in the north of Ireland, in Ethiopia, in Palestine, is that people are fighting for control of their lives. If Kinnock really cared about this and about the conditions of the oppressed people he would use his leadership to agitate the Labour Movement to give assistance to these people.*

*Instead of that, however, these travels of the Kinnocks become mainly a P.R. job for their images in Britain and at the Labour Party conference.*

Celia Jones.

## International Socialist League

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# We Won't Wear Hats In Hulme

By Alan Scott a local tenants activist.

Proposals outlined in the Tories' Housing Bill constitute the greatest single attack on working class council housing since the war.

Without a determined fightback these attacks will be carried through, and once implemented, will lead to massive privatisation of public sector housing - both Local Authority and Housing Association housing alike.

This would lead in turn to a dramatic increase in levels of homelessness and a return to the scourge of Rachmanism for the very poorer sections of the working class, and lead to further increases in mortgage defaults and repossession for those who attempt to escape excessive rent rises and unscrupulous private landlords by exercising the 'right to buy' their own homes!

The Bill itself, which could be on the statute book by the Summer or Autumn, will give the Secretary of State for Environment, Nicholas Ridley, powers to set up Housing Action Trusts (HATs) and thereby, effectively privatise council housing in any area he sees fit.

Described as 'mini-Urban Development Corporations', HATs will similarly not be subject to local authority planning restrictions etc - and just like UDCs their intended purpose is to smash up local working class communities, provide land for Tory property developers and facilitate the building of new houses (and new leafy suburbs) for high income groups and Yuppies.

Initially the Tories are planning to set up between five to seven HATs in the first year, rising to perhaps twelve to fifteen over the next 2-3 years.

Once a HAT has been imposed all council rented properties within the HAT 'boundary' will become the responsibility of the HAT, and as the new landlord it will decide rent levels, the quality of the repairs' service and what sort of work should be carried out to properties.

**Rents will rise, evictions will follow and the repairs' service will deteriorate dramatically.**

Council employed Direct Labour, Housing Caretakers and local Housing Office staff jobs will be directly threatened.

Local Authorities and tenants will have no right to vote against a HAT takeover, nor any rights to effective representation on the ruling HAT board. In a word, HAT controlled 'districts' will be - just like UDCs - paradise areas for Tory private contractors!

Likely Hat locations so far are Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham and Newham and Southwark in London.

High on the Tories' hit list is Hulme in Manchester.

As Ridley's housing minister William Waldegrave put it last December; "Hulme must rank as

Hulme is an inner city housing estate, it has been described as "one of Europe's worst housing estates". It has an official rate of unemployment of 45.5%, more than twice the city's average of 20.5%.

It is thought of by local residents, as of Manchester as a whole - a political "no go" area for the Tories and they want to keep that way.

Despite this clear threat, Labour's Shadow Environment Protection Minister, MP Allan Roberts has urged all Labour controlled councils not to oppose the imposition of a HAT in their areas!

This is now the policy of many leading 'left wing' members of Labour controlled Manchester City Council - this even though Manchester City Labour Party has described HATs as; "the theft of local authority assets by the secretary of state"!

But tenants in Hulme, and especially those in Hulme 5 Tenants Association have no intentions of accepting the Kinnockite 'new realist' reactionary clap-trap as articulated by Allan Roberts.

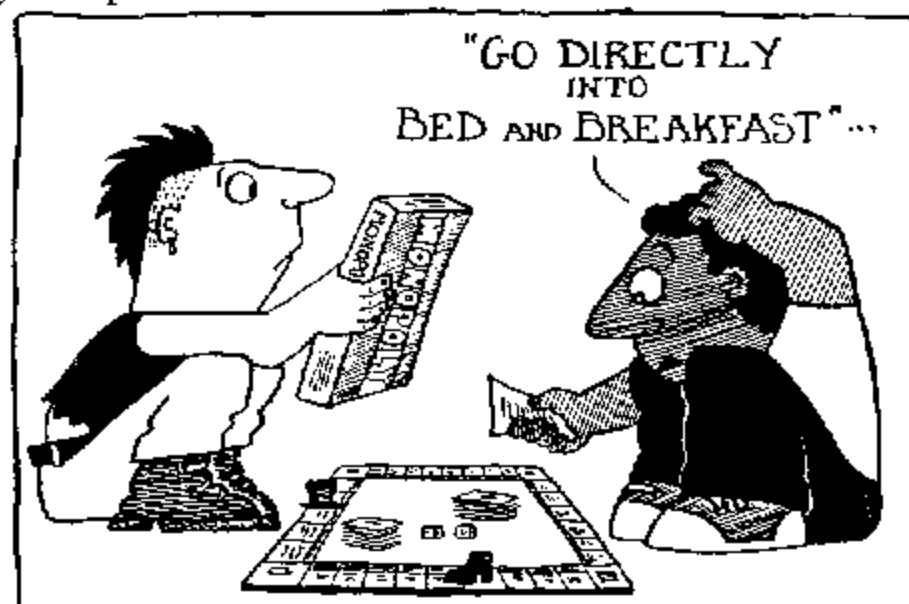
As the largest, most active, and most militant anti-Tory tenants' association in the area, members and supporters have already succeeded in committing Hulme ward Labour Party to a stance of outright opposition to HATs and called on Manchester City Council to "oppose the imposition of a HAT in Hulme, withdraw from negotiations with the Tories and give political and financial support to those tenants' associations campaigning against a HAT in Hulme".

This campaigning fightback will now be taken into the wider tenants and labour movement in Manchester and especially the local government trade unions.



## Hulme 5 Tenants Association - Tenants' Charter -

1. We do not want a Housing Action Trust (HAT) in Hulme. We want our homes to remain under the ownership of the city council, with no interference with our security of tenure.
2. We want fair rents, not market rents which we cannot afford. We want allocation of housing in Hulme to be based on need and not ability to pay. No Yuppies in Hulme! We don't want a better 'social mix' or higher income groups moving into Hulme. Homeless families and single homeless must have the right to be rehoused in Hulme. And all tenants who wish to be rehoused in Hulme should be guaranteed equivalent and acceptable accommodation.
3. Any new housing development or refurbishment in Hulme should be under the control of tenants. Plans for demolition or major renovation works to be subject to full and exhaustive discussions between the Council, tenants and council workers. Tenants and Council/Housing workers representatives should be elected at tenants and tenants' meetings and union meetings. All representatives must be accountable for their views and actions, and subject to recall and removal.
4. Refurbishment of Hulme to be carried out by Direct Works under the control of tenants and council/housing workers. Local unemployed people to be given preference in apprentice training and real jobs at union rates to help with refurbishment works etc. No cheap labour schemes!
5. No privatisation in Hulme. We want improvements in the level of council service provision, including housing, repairs, social services, shopping etc.
6. We demand serious and meaningful consultation on all aspects of policy etc concerning Hulme, with tenants having the right to veto any projects they disagree with. Councillors, council officials and council workers must be made more accessible and accountable to tenants. Tenants should also have the right of access to information kept on council files.
7. We want decent, costefficient, heating and insulation systems.
8. We want a proper disinfection programme - a cure to problems with cockroaches, insects, rats and vermin.
9. Restore cuts in Housing Benefits to enable tenants to avoid rent arrears and evictions. No Poll Tax! Tax the rich, not the poor!
10. This Charter is a statement of tenants housing needs in Hulme, therefore it is not negotiable. The Labour controlled Manchester City Council must accept our Charter and demand the government finance improvements vitally needed in Hulme.



the kind of area to which the (HAT) policy is relevant." And he added further; "...the HAT mechanism is likely to be the only way of targeting resources on an area like Hulme."

# Fifteen Months In Sanctuary

*Viraj Mendis has been forced to seek sanctuary in a church in Manchester for the past 15 months.*

*When Socialist Voice interviewed him we found a quietly spoken but determined and confident fighter.*

*The Home Office have not succeeded in breaking his spirit.*

*We support the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign as part of the struggle to repeal all immigration laws.*

*Workers, black or white, should have the right to live and seek work in the country of their choice.*



S.V. "What does the VMDC face now?"

The Home Office has applied for my appeal hearing to be expedited. Supporters of the Home Office have written articles in the Times, Police Review, Star, Express, and Manchester Evening News, calling for my forced removal from the sanctuary and deportation to Sri Lanka.

Their plan is simple; if the Appeal Court finds against me, they expect to have a strong enough political initiative and enough racist forces calling for my removal **to smash into the sanctuary with minimal losses to them.** It is inconceivable for the British legal system to grant me refugee status, when politically this would mean a victory for sanctuary and therefore a defeat for the implementation of British Immigration law.

The significance of sanctuary will sharply increase when the new immigration act comes into force in early summer. **It effectively destroys the right of appeal for people who are threatened with deportation.**

The withdrawal of appeal rights eliminates the time to develop mass support and threatens imminent expulsion. Sanctuary will give a breathing space for black people to start a campaign to defend themselves. It is in this context that the attack on me and my sanctuary must be looked at.

It is this potential of the sanctuary movement that haunts the Home office. The civil war in Sri Lanka has now spread to the South.

On 16 February, Vijaya Kumaranatunge, one of Sri Lanka's leading Sinhala film actors was shot dead. A few days previously he had attended the funeral of a communist party organiser who had himself been assassinated. Kumaranatunge's assassination was publicised even in the British media, but countless thousands are murdered in a deathly silence. An average of two government officials a day are being killed.

Those like finance minister De Mel who was hoping that the the Indian army would

bring stability are now being rapidly undermined. The fascist forces, within and without the government, are pushing forward. The repressive laws like the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) mean that a person can be arrested and held incommunicado for 18 months without charge. Even names of people who die in police custody need not be released. In just one day (24th January) 890 Tamils and 1154 Sinhalese were arrested without charge under the PTA.

At the same time in the North the Indian Army is escalating its attack on the Tamil people. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who are fighting for an independent Tamil homeland, released figures for 10th Oct. to 9th Jan; Over 2000 Tamil civilians were killed, 600 women & girls raped and 168 LTTE fighters killed in action during this period. It is into this situation that Britain is deporting Tamil refugees.

The British government says that the situation is merely "confused".

**Britain has invested heavily in Sri Lanka, militarily and economically.** 40% of Sri Lanka's export earnings are derived from Tea. 90% of packet tea is controlled from London. Trincomalee, in the North East of Sri Lanka (in Tamil Eelam), a natural deep water harbour, has become of immense strategic importance to Britain. This is another reason that Douglas Hurd ignores the evidence from Amnesty International and the World Council of Churches of the danger which opponents of the Jayewardene regime face in Sri Lanka. This is the International dimension to why he continues to assert that Sri Lanka is a democracy, and that I, and the Tamil refugees, will be safe if forced to return there."

S.V. "What is your campaign now?"

"Locally, with our weekly Friday evening marches, street meetings, and door to door work, we will be taking our message to the community. Already the local community are rallying round to support the Bonsall Street Eight, who were arrested on one of our

**SUPPORT THE 28TH MAY NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION IN MANCHESTER**

**VIRAJ MENDIS WILL STAY!  
NO TO DEATH IN SRI LANKA!  
NO TO POLICE ATTACK ON THE SANCTUARY!  
NO TO DEPORTATIONS!**

weekly marches. Four of them were arrested for objecting to the brutal arrest of a young black man, and the other four were arrested later on a peaceful picket of the police station. They face a variety of trumped up charges. We are determined that their innocence will be proved, and many people will be picketing the court on June 15 - 17 to show their support and solidarity. Neither VMDC nor the local community will tolerate police harassment and brutality.

**Our national demonstration on the 28th May in Manchester is critical to building the campaign against the Home Office.** We aim to bring together on to the streets of Manchester all the forces willing to make a principled stand against the Thatcher government. We are making common cause with all those forces fighting against brutal laws and brutal cuts, which have affected people's lives, people's quality of life, and people's fundamental human rights.

Immigration Laws underpin racism in Britain. We will mobilise every part of the black community to make a stand on the 28th of May. While the government want to deport me to my death in Sri Lanka, they want to force gay men and lesbian women into the closet using the repressive and disgusting Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill. While every week the government are deporting 50 black people, 60 nurses a week are being forced to leave the Health Service. On the 28th May we will show unity in action. The slogans Viraj Mendis will stay! No to death in Sri Lanka! No to police attack on Sanctuary! No deportations! reflect our serious intent."

# Campaign For a Democratic And Fighting Union

Thomas Hood N.U.T. Conference Delegate

The NUT's 1988 Annual Conference was a battleground on which the issue of "new realism" in the trade union movement was fought out.

The present leadership of the union has accepted the widespread worsening of teachers' working conditions, arising from last years legislation, which removed negotiating rights from the teachers' unions.

The workload for secondary teachers has been tremendously increased by the introduction of the GCSE examination, which the union has welcomed on 'educational grounds', while doing no more than make routine calls for increased resources to cope with the problems caused.

The leadership has also resumed co-operation with government pilot schemes of appraisal of teachers performance, whose objective is to pressure teachers into extra work, allocate 'merit pay' and provide the basis for disciplining and dismissing teachers who do not co-operate with the worsened conditions.

The Education Reform Bill currently going through Parliament is intended to break up uniform provision of education in the state sector and turn schools into competing enterprises. Teachers along with other workers in school will lose many of their existing employment rights.

Redundancy will become much easier to implement, **pay and conditions will to a large extent be determined by the governors of each school** and unqualified staff can be employed in schools which 'opt out' of local authority control. The crucial issue is what the NUT does to resist the worsening of teachers' conditions when the legislation is passed and what it does to honour previous commitments to oppose re-introduction of selective education, particularly by resisting the introduction of three

standard tests.

The main debate on resisting worsened conditions was on a motion on Primary Education. An attempt to amend the Executive's motion in order to establish a policy of non-compliance with worsened conditions and refusal to cover for absent teachers was defeated in a card vote by only 1,800 votes out of 190,000 cast. The extent of opposition to the turn to new realism is shown by the recent elections to the Executive of a much larger number of opponents to the current line. Though they are still a minority, they have the support of many of the unions' larger branches.

## RESTRUCTURING

To contain and silence this opposition, the present leadership has a plan to restructure the union, giving much greater power to full time officials, removing rights from local branches and reducing the frequency and size of national conference. Discussion of these plans was successfully deferred by delegates to a later special conference. The architect of them suffered a particular setback at the hands of the delegates when the Executives decision to appoint Doug McAvoy as General Secretary designate was overturned by conference.

**There is a very strong feeling among active members of the NUT throughout the country that an alternative leadership needs to be built which can focus the union on the real defence of its members' pay and conditions.**

The recently founded Campaign for a Democratic and Fighting Union held two very successful meetings at NUT conference, one attracting more than 250 delegates. It is calling for a national



General Secretary Undesignate

conference on How to Defend Union Democracy. This is to be held at 11.00am, Saturday, May 14th at the West End Neighbourhood Centre, Andrews Street, Leicester. For further details on the CDFU contact; 6, Woodland Avenue, Stonegate, Leicester. LE2 1AJ

## Sharpeville Six

Police in Cape Town fired volleys of tear-gas at schoolchildren who were campaigning for clemency for six black South Africans who are to be executed. More than 400 students, arriving for a protest meeting at Mondale high school, in a mixed-race township suburb, scattered as riot police attacked. The meeting was to call for clemency for the Sharpeville Six, who are due to hang for a murder of a black township official in 1984. Many illegal bars remained closed in support of calls for a retrial. The Sharpeville Six were convicted on evidence given by a suspected police agent and paid informer only known as "witness X", who testified on Camera rather than face his accused. No other evidence has been produced against the Six. Even the Court of Appeal has found it has no actual evidence against the Sharpeville Six.

## £500 ISL FUND

We launch this appeal as the class struggle in Britain intensifies against Thatchers Tory government. The attacks on Social Security benefits, the NHS and gay and lesbian rights are class attacks. We give full support to all the struggles against the new attacks on low paid workers and those fighting the introduction of the hated Poll Tax. We will fight to develop these struggles into an offensive of the working class against this despised government. The government is weak and in crisis but the leadership of the working class is in double crisis. New realism is aimed at holding back the discontent of the workers in struggle. Many struggles today take place in opposition to the wishes of the bureaucrats of the TUC who seek 'sweetheart' deals and no strike agreements with the bosses. The front of the Tories and the Labour and trade union bureaucracy can be smashed by a front of the workers in struggle. The ISL will fight for this policy and developing a new leadership in the working class. We appeal to all those who agree or sympathise with our struggle to please make a regular pledge or donation to help us carry out our work. Please make all cheques payable to Socialist Voice and send to; PO Box 18, Stockport, SK6 4DH.

A report by the "National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders", at the beginning of April, found that black youth are more likely to be imprisoned for a longer time than whites.

It showed that Britain has a higher proportion of juveniles in prison than any country in Western Europe. There are currently over 4,000 in custody, a disproportionate of whom are black.



# Victory To The Palestinian Revolution

On March 30th Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and Israel itself demonstrated their continued resistance to Zionist rule by forcefully commemorating "Day of the Land", a day on which, in 1976, six Palestinians were shot dead by the Israeli army whilst protesting against the expropriation of land.

From the beginning the Zionist state has used terror and force to deprive the Palestinian people of their homeland. Israeli, Ben-Porat, said in 1972; "One truth is that there is no Zionism, no Jewish state without evacuation of the Arabs and confiscation and enclosure of their land".

It is the continued policy of land expropriation and the accompanying brutal repression of the Palestinians which has led to this most recent and serious mass uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. Despite Israel's violation of all civil or human rights, and their policy of answering stones with live ammunition, they have been unable to put down the uprising which is now into its fifth month.

Fearful of a strong show of strength by the Palestinian population on "Day of the Land" Israel stepped up the repression and intimidation in the week leading up to the commemoration. Of 700 Palestinians put under Administrative Detention (home arrest without trial) in the West Bank and Gaza, 300 of these were in the week leading up to "Day of the Land".

All telephone connections with the Occupied Territories were cut off, curfews and press censorship were imposed to an even greater degree, and those people thought to be responsible for the bulletins and organisation for the uprising were rounded up. Nonetheless there were major demonstrations both in

the occupied territories, and by Palestinians within the '48 borders.

Within Israel support for the uprising is growing amongst Arab Israelis who, alongside other sympathetic Israelis, are organising food aid to the occupied territories. Although most Israelis support their government's policy in the occupied territories, a small number are sympathetic to the Palestinians, most significant of which is the support among a small number of Sephardi Jews, (Jews of Arab descent) who are traditionally the most fervent supporters of the right-wing (Likud).

## POPULAR COMMITTEES.

In the occupied territories, as in South Africa, popular committees have sprung up to organise the uprising, covering everything from the distribution of food to organising the rebellion. Attempts initiated in the West to cobble together an International Conference which does not address the central question of Palestinian self-determination have not received support amongst those in the uprising. Instead the demands which have arisen through the National Committee for the Uprising express the spirit and determination of the Palestinian people.

As in South Africa and the north of Ireland warnings have gone out to collaborators - the effect of which has been to leave the Israeli Secret Police very short of reliable information.

**Despite 4,000 arrests, over 130 dead, expulsions, beatings, and collective punishments, Prime Minister Shamir's arrogant prophesy that Israel would... "crush (Arab protestors)...like grasshoppers" could not have been proved more wrong.**

Meanwhile Israel has been rocked by a series of strikes, particularly over the health service. All of this is of grave concern to the western powers who have a strong vested interest in the outcome of the struggle:- a victory for the Palestinians would weaken the ruling-class internationally whilst strengthening the working-class capacity to fight back, just as a defeat for British Imperialism in the north of Ireland would strengthen the British working-class and shake to the roots the hated Thatcher government. In between the first and second world wars, when the imperialists were more bold in their formulations, Sir Ronald Storrs, Governor of Palestine expressed the hope that the Zionists would help the British Empire by; "forming for England a little loyal Ulster in a sea of Arabism."

## "LITTLE ULSTER"

If the working-class are to resist and eventually overthrow this parasitic ruling-class, then we must become as conscious as they are of the international nature of our struggle. Socialist Voice supports all moves in America to end the massive aid to Israel, (one of America's many 'little Ulsters'), without which Israel would probably cease to exist. 'Workers Opposition', Socialist Voice's sister paper in the U.S.A has already advanced the slogan; "End all aid to Apartheid Israel!".

In Britain the Trade Union and Labour Party leaderships have long done the dirty work for British Imperialism; tying the labour movement to support for imperialist backed regimes throughout the world. Their attempt to present a left face to Zionism flies in the face of the real, racist, nature of Zionism - both ideologically and in practise. The Labour and Trade Union leadership must be forced by their members to break all ties with Israel and end any collaboration with the Zionist state. For workers sanctions against apartheid Israel!

**The Palestinian working-class have a long history of support for other struggles. Theirs is an uprising which involves the whole of the people, all ages and sexes. It is a struggle which refuses to be put down.**

- For Workers Sanctions Against Israel
- For A Democratic And Secular State Of Palestine.

By Sue Wilson







## They Will Not Be Intimidated

It is the desperation of the Israeli state over their failure to end the uprising which has driven them to assassinate the PLO second in command Abu Jihad.

The Israeli secret police, in a well planned operation, used 30 assassins to carry out their cowardly act. In the ensuing riot Israeli troops killed over 18.

That this was an act of desperation will be clearly seen by the heightening of the struggle in the West Bank and Gaza - the exact opposite of the desired effect!

The execution of one of the chosen representatives of the Palestinians will not go unanswered - nor will it hold back the struggle.

Far from being an orchestrated uprising, this involves the self-mobilisation of the whole people and this is why the loss of any one Palestinian cannot hold back the struggle.

Louise Cerovecki.

### **Demands from the National Committee for the Uprising:-**

- 1) Ban the Dispersal of Demonstrations With Live Bullets and Cancel the Beating of the Population.
- 2) End the Policy of Expulsion and Detention.
- 3) Return the Deportees and Release All Administrative Detainees.
- 4) Immediately End Curfew and the Starvation of the Refugee Camps.
- 5) Disarm the Settlers.
- 6) End Land Expropriation and the Creation of Settlements.
- 7) Release All Prisoners and Detainees From Detention Centres; and Close the Detention Centres.
- 8) Re-open All the Educational Institutions; Trade Unions; and Popular Organisations.
- 9) Dissolve the Appointed Municipal Authorities and Hold Democratic Elections For All the Authorities and Committees in the West Bank.
- 10) Remove Sharon From the Old City. (Ex Prime Minister Sharon has provocatively bought a house in the old city. S.V.)
- 11) Respect the Holy Places of All the Religions.
- 12) Release the National Insurance Contributions Paid By Palestinian Workers in Israel (from which they receive no benefit. S.V) for the Benefit of the Palestinian Population.
- 13) Remove the Israeli Defence Forces From All Palestinian Populated Centres.
- 14) The Right to Self-Determination of the Palestinians.



# U.S.S.R. Who Shall Prevail ?

Stalinism's new face is in reality a soviet leadership being pushed by enormous economic crisis. It is forced to make these changes to preserve its life - that is the reason for the policy of "Perestroika".

## ECONOMIC DECLINE

When Gorbachev came to power in April 1985 the Stalinist leadership was confronted with a national income that had grown by only 14% in the last, eleventh, five year plan. Over the last 20 years the planned economy has been like a car whose tyre has burst - no matter how much you press the pedal the car begins to slow to a halt.

The industrial decline and agricultural stagnation means a population of over 400 million becoming more and more dependent on Imperialism which remains the dominant world system - economically and technically.

Gorbachev's reforms have nothing to do with genuine Soviet democracy. Labour productivity has steadily declined. The machinery and methods are antiquated but the trends also show that the working class and oppressed people of the USSR have growing contempt and hatred for the bureaucracy. Glasnost and Perestroika will raise their hatred to a white heat.

No amount of glasnost can hide the figures. Just two sets show the decline in national income and agricultural production;

	NATIONAL INCOME	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
1966-70	41%	21%
1971-75	28%	13%
1976-80	21%	9%
1981-85	16.5%	6%

But the situation is even worse. As the volume of production fell by 40%, the standard of living declined for 66% of the population. This crisis comes out of the accumulation of the problems of building Socialism in one country.

The "new realism" of Gorbachev and supporters among the bureaucracy means putting capitalist managers into the Soviet Union to run joint ventures. In Eastern Europe joint ventures already give capitalism more than 50% control.

**Vast areas of the means of production inside of the Soviet Union need replacing.**

Meanwhile the communications, computerisation and bio-technologies are radically altering the means of production and these have been only developed by the powerful capitalist economies. Soviet industry has only developed new technologies in a very limited way.

## MORE ATTACKS ON THE WORKING CLASS

The academic and economic circles of the bureaucracy are increasingly blaming planning for the failure of the Soviet Economy. In 1988 the steps towards decentralisation, the use of profit motives, the right of closing unprofitable firms that will see an increase of unemployment as a first estimate, of 16 million workers, substantial monetary incentives, new rights of hire and fire of workers, greater accumulation of earnings, increased income differentials - all these mean the impoverishment of

large sections of the most oppressed people.

Imperialist encroachment is seen clearly in Yugoslavia, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

The EEC is paying close attention to the crisis in Yugoslavia. The President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors informed the banking world of a possible economic disintegration with growing conflict in the different states of Yugoslavia.

All these countries are developing a growing debt to the world banks and are forcing open their economies to joint ventures that mean a greater degree of penetration by Finance Capital than ever before. The Jackals of the IMF who have given loans demand further attacks on the working class, further concessions to capitalist investment and further control of investment.

**The working class in the Soviet Union require above all a leadership based on Internationalism.** The regeneration of the Soviets can only be carried out by the working class. In the sphere of production exist two levers, as Trotsky explained, the political lever where the interested masses will participate in leadership and a financial lever with a stable money system that can test out the plans in a genuine way.

## WHO SHALL PREVAIL?

It raises the main question that is in front of the Soviet Union - who shall prevail? This is now on the agenda in front of the International working class.

"The question formulated by Lenin - Who shall prevail?" - Trotsky wrote in *Revolution Betrayed*, is a question of the correlation of forces between the Soviet Union and the world revolutionary proletariat on the one hand, and on the other international capital and the hostile forces within the Union. The economic successes of the Soviet Union make it possible for her to fortify herself, advance, arm herself, and, when necessary, retreat and wait - in a word, hold out. But in its essence the question, Who shall prevail? - not only as a military, but still more as an economic question - confronts the Soviet union on a world scale. Military intervention is a danger. The intervention of cheap goods in the baggage trains of a capitalist army would be an incomparably greater one."

The economic successes that were made even under Stalin's terror and were given impulse after the second world war have become a thing of the past. The baggage trains are loaded and waiting today - in advance of the invading army. Some have started to unload already inside the Eastern bloc.

This is the inner meaning of Perestroika. In the final analysis it is a method of surrendering to the world banks and to Imperialism.

The last word on the fate of the collectivised property will be by the working class of the Soviets and of the World.

Martin Ralph



*A Fresh Face For Stalinism*



## Australian Labour Party Loses Workers' Votes.

by Phil Sandford.

Recent elections in Australia have revealed a major swing against Labour candidates in the main working class areas in opposition to the savage cuts in living standards imposed by the state and federal Labour governments.

The bitterness in the working class against its traditional leadership was underlined by the loss of seats which had been held for decades by the Labour Party. SWING AGAINST LABOUR.

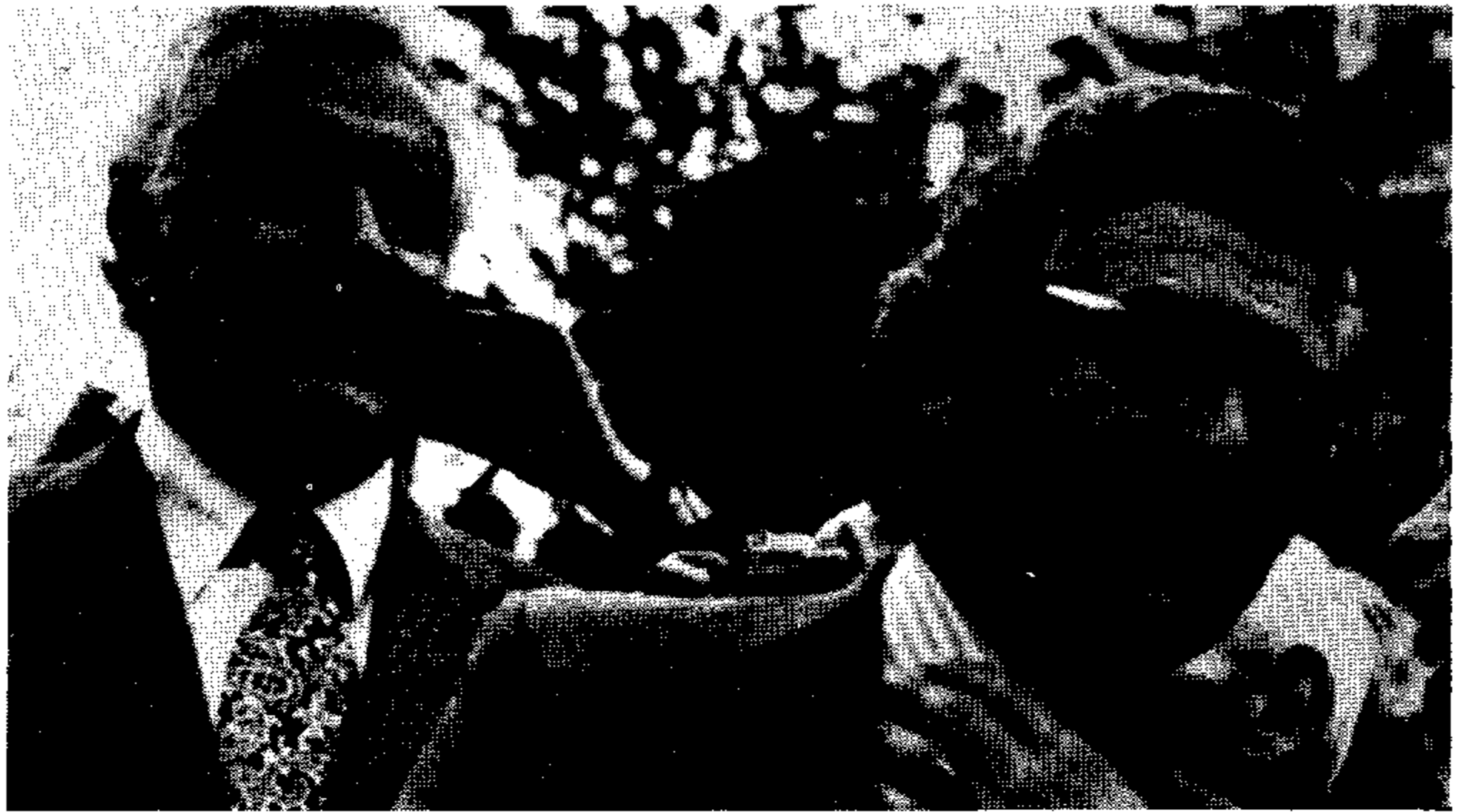
The attacks on the working class have led to the coming to power of the Liberals (Tories) in New South Wales, the biggest state, and created a major crisis for the federal Labour government led by Bob Hawke.

In by-elections in two working-class areas of Perth, Western Australia, there was an even bigger swing against the Labour Party. George Peterson, a former Labour MP who was expelled from the party last year for opposing the the New South Wales government's attacks on workers' compensation, received 16 per cent of the vote.

The election results follow directly from the anti-working class policies carried out by the Labour governments. In New South Wales the corrupt right-wing machine has been the main prop of the Hawke government and has colluded with big business to impose major cuts in health and education.

### ROOTS OF THE CRISIS

The present crisis has its most immediate roots in the early 1970s. The election of the Whitlam Labour government in 1972, which spelled the end of 23 years of Tory rule under Menzies, took place under exceptional conditions. While the rest of the world experi-



Whitlam and Hawke

enced slump and recession - in Britain the Heath government imposed the three-day week - the Australian economy enjoyed a minerals-based boom.

Workers seized the opportunity to achieve massive wage rises and the capitalist class was forced to resort to the extreme measure of sacking the Whitlam government in 1975.

But the Tory Fraser government which was put in power was never able to decisively take on the working class and Hawke came to power five years ago. His first step was to impose a wages and prices Accord through the trade union bureaucracy and this has been the major vehicle for the attacks on living standards over this period.

This was achieved only thanks to the role played by the Stalinists and the Labour lefts. Leading Communist Party member, Laurie Carmichael, was the architect of the Accord and is now the major exponent of "modernising" Australian capitalism.

### THE OFFENSIVE ON THE WORKING CLASS

There have been attacks on jobs and conditions in every industry and moves to denationalise areas such as Telecom, Australian Airways, Qantas and the Commonwealth Bank. State and Commonwealth public servants have faced a series of attacks which have been linked with the running down of the public service.

The Hawke government has already introduced major cuts in social services, such as cutting the dole in half for 16 to 18 year olds, and this has been accompanied by massive job cuts in the public service.

An important new stage in the struggle has now opened up with Hawke no longer able to hold back the movement in the working class and the faction-torn Liberals in no shape to carry out the attacks that are demanded.

The crisis for the capitalist class has been deepened by the growing nationalist consciousness of the Aboriginal people, highlighted by the 30,000-strong march through Sidney on Australia Day in support of land rights and sovereignty.

## Kentucky miners Framed-up.

Four Kentucky miners face 35-40 years on trumped up charges of shooting a scab, on the classic anti-Labour catch all charge of "conspiracy", a fifth miner was found innocent and then promptly re-indicted.

This attack came in the middle of negotiations between the UMWA (United Mine Workers of America) and the coal bosses for a new contract.

Not a single piece of hard evidence was found by the F.B.I. and the Federal Prosecutors, to prove the miners so called guilt.

The frame-up achieved its aim only because of the cowardice of the UMWA bureaucrats, who actively broke up any solidarity in support of the 4 Massey miners defence.

No evidence of spent cartridges, a single shot-gun or finger-prints to convict any of the

4 for murder was produced.

British workers should support the fight for their release.

Conspiracy charges were used to jail the "Shrewsbury 2", Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson in the 1971 building workers strike.

Des Warren was jailed for picketing and served almost three years as a class-war prisoner. He was jailed by a Tory government, and kept there by a Labour Government, after the Tory Government was defeated, for another 2 years.

In his book, "The Key to my Cell", Warren shows how the class movement to release him was stopped only by the efforts of the Communist Party and trade union leadership in alliance.

We appeal to workers of Britain, especially miners, to organize support and solidarity for the release of the UMWA local 2496 President, Donny Thornsby, his cousin David Thornsby, James.D.Smith and Arnold.R.Heightsland.

The coal and building Multi-nationals know no boundaries, as they roam the globe in search of increasing profit, and to crush any militant resistance to their rule. These international conglomerates can only be beaten or repelled by International organization of the working-class.

John Owen



# The Imperialist Troops Must Leave Latin America

The US have been attacking Central America once more. They are intending to consolidate their positions in Panama, an important country for their counter-revolutionary strategy in Central and Latin America. They are now trying to ditch their old supporter, Noriega. It is for this reason that they have seized the money of the Panama Nation (in the USA banks) and refuse to hand over the canal tolls until they have a subservient president.

The North Americans are trying to intimidate Panama with the military manoeuvres of the South Command (the largest imperialist force in Latin America) in the Canal zone. They plan a coup d'etat. At the same time they continue their provocation against Nicaragua at its Honduran border.

Britain continues its pirate activities in the Malvinas with its military manoeuvres. It

constitutes a real threat against those living in South America.

The Imperialist aggression against Panama, Nicaragua and Malvinas must be repudiated and resisted by the workers and the oppressed all over the world and by everyone who calls themselves democratic and anti-imperialist fighters.

The imperialist troops must leave Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and Malvinas and let the Latin-American masses solve their problems in the way they want to.

Like the North American people during the Vietnam war, now the British and the North American people must demand their Governments immediately remove the troops and respect the self-determination of the Central American countries and the Argentine sovereignty on Malvinas.

## STALINISM THE EXTREME RIGHT WING IN NICARAGUA

THE COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY FRONT

Since the agreements between Reagan and Gorbachev the counter-revolutionary positions of the World stalinist apparatus are more apparent.

We have many examples; like the attacks upon the racial minorities in Russia, or the calls upon the Palestinians to recognise the fascist state of Israel, or the well known positions of the British Communist Party, who for a long time have been closer to the Tories politically and working against the interests of the working-class.

But you could be forgiven for considering these as revolutionary positions if we compare them with what the Communist Party is doing in Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Communist Party attacks the Sandinist leadership because it is taking the country to a "democratic-bourgeois regime". So the CP decides to confront the Sandinist policy and to develop a socialist way forward for Nicaragua.

And, what do they propose?

An alliance with the "Coordinadora Sacasa", a counter-revolutionary organisation lead by the CIA, that works closely with the "contras".

## APPEAL FROM THE NATIONAL UNITY COMMITTEE OF COLOMBIA, BOGOTA

The National Unity Committee (CNU) founded on the 2nd April 1987 at the Congress of Unity which gathered 4,500 delegates representing around 1,500 social and political organisations from the country, is appealing for support from the international community.

The CNU involves progressive forces which propose a democratic solution to the national crisis. Today the question of the

RIGHT TO LIFE, of respect for Human Rights is critical.

The response to the wave of assassinations, disappearances, attacks on trade union and political activists, both local and national (around 1,000 are murdered each year) has been to launch the Hector Abad Gomez International Campaign against the repression.

The CNU fully supports this campaign and hopes you can circulate information on the

repression from the para-military and the government forces. We also appeal for messages of protest to be sent to the Colombian government demanding an official explanation for the systematic violation of Human Rights.

Fraternal greetings,  
International Commission of the National Unity Committee.

Correspondence to: Ap. Aerea 34925 Bogota, Colombia.

### Model Resolution

This \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to circulate to the members information on Human Rights abuses and attacks on democratic rights in Colombia. We note the alarming rise in para-military activity documented by organisations such as Amnesty International and the Colombian Committee for Human Rights.

We note also the murders of Hector Abad Gomez, Liberal Party candidate and President of the Human Rights Committee of the province of Antioquia, Jaime Pardo Leal, leader of the Party Unidad Patriotica (in opposition), and the death threats against the executive of the Trade Union Confederation the CUT and against its President Joge Carrillo Rojas.

This \_\_\_\_\_ agrees to send a message of protest to the government of President Virgilio Barco Vargas condemning the killings of trade union, peasant and political activists, calling for an explanation for disappearances and calling for dismantling by the government of the para-military forces operating with impunity.

This \_\_\_\_\_ suggests that our MP/MEP lodges a similar protest with the Government of Colombia.

Colombian Embassy: 3 Hans Crescent LONDON SW1. Affiliate: Colombian Solidarity Committee. Colombian Committee for Human Rights. Priory House 29 Islington Park St. Kingsgate place. LONDON N1. LONDON NW6.



# A Million Votes for Workers Candidate

*American  
Presidential  
Election*

The response among black and white workers in the USA to the presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson has brought before British workers a very important development among American politics. Jesse Jackson's support comes from workers who are increasingly concerned with the loss of jobs, the increasing power of the multi-nationals, declining standards of living and the retreats of unions.

His platform is demagogic, he supports the capitalist Democratic Party and is against the big development which the North American working-class must make - that of a working-class party, independent of the two bourgeois parties. But these workers turn to him as the only one speaking about issues that concern them.

This evolution in the USA is part of the world wide movement which is coming out of the imperialist crisis and which is towards the independence of the masses from the capitalist and bureaucratic leaderships.

The sister organisation of the I.S.L. in the USA - the Internationalist Workers Party - seeks to intervene in that movement, in the form that it is expressed in the USA. A recent issue of their paper - "Working Class Opposition" - puts forward a policy in the Presidential Election.

## CHALLENGE TO THE LEFT

"The 1988 Presidential Election", it declares, "presents a challenge to the left unlike any race since 1968. This year, both the Democrats and the Republicans are reeling from a series of heavy blows. First there was the failure of Reaganism to halt the escalation of revolutions in other countries; then there was the Iran/Contragate scandal; and most recently, there was the devastating plunge of the stock market and the current monetary crisis.

**"A new mass movement is fighting to emerge here in the United States - a movement that we believe will surpass the movement of twenty years ago against the war in Vietnam and for Black Liberation.** Taken together, all these factors make the 1988 Presidential race into both a great challenge for the revolutionary and socialist left, and a great opportunity.

"... We believe that the new situation places a special responsibility on the shoulders of the sector of the socialist movement which has, even in the most difficult years of Reaganism, upheld the principle of socialist and working-class political independence from the two parties of capitalism. While the majority of socialists in the United States have either joined the Democratic Party (the party that organised the war in Vietnam), or have thrown their support to it in a less open way, a significant sector of the socialist movement has stood against the rightward tide. Most important within this sector are three organisations: the Socialist Workers Party, Socialist Action, and the International Workers Party (Fourth International).

**"This sector, and particularly these three organisations, face the challenge of turning their political principles into practice, of providing the rest of the left with leadership, in this crucial election year.** This challenge is magnified a hundred fold by the growing crisis of the Rainbow Coalition and the Jesse Jackson for President campaign.

"The majority of socialists in the United States, including the most important organisations, joined the Jackson campaign in the hope that it would become the road on which the working class and the oppressed in this country would finally break away from the Democratic Party and form an independent mass third party...

## RAINBOW ALLIANCE

"As Jesse Jackson daily moves to the right, into the mainstream of imperialist Democratic Party politics, the activists of these organisations, and the broader Rainbow, are becoming increasingly troubled about the future of their movement. Surely, the revolutionary sector of the socialist movement, the sector which has stood for the political independence of the socialist movement as a matter of principle, now has the responsibility to offer these tens of thousands of activists a viable alternative for the 1988 elections."

The International Workers Party, therefore, proposes a "United Electoral Front" to every socialist organisation and individual socialist activist. They declare that they believe "without exaggeration, that by working together as we propose, the socialist movement could far exceed the nearly one million votes received by Eugene Debs in the famous 1912 Presidential elections."

Eugene Debs was the candidate of the Socialist Party in 1912.

## THE I.W.P. PROGRAMME

The International Workers Party proposes a convention of the socialist left to be held in the summer to democratically adopt a brief electoral platform and to nominate a slate of candidates for the elections.

The starting point of the platform, they declare, could be the following four simple points:

**NO RETURN TO THE GREAT DEPRESSION!**

To prevent that, they stand for a massive public works programme, thirty hour-week at forty hours pay and nationalisation without compensation of the basic industries under workers' control.

**END RACISM, SEXISM AND DISCRIMINATION!**

They declare for complete legal, social and economic equality for all.

**NO TO U.S. INTERVENTION!  
FOR A SOCIALIST AMERICA!**

Their presidential candidate -Herb Lewin- has already pledged to withdraw if such a united front is formed which chooses a candidate other than himself.

The statement in "Working Class opposition" ends by declaring:

"The opportunity for the socialist movement to become an important factor in the politics of the United States is clearly before us in the 1988 elections... The only question remaining, is whether or not the majority of the socialist left has the willpower and the vision to take on their shoulders the responsibility of providing the working class with the alternative they are seeking."





# Teachers In Argentina

The economic crisis in Argentina has meant that the government has attacked the living standards of the working class starting with pensions, the health service and education.

For the last three years, teachers and health workers have been fighting almost constantly, with out any successes because of the union bureaucracy.

That is why the teachers began last year to organise themselves in to a new democratic organisation, not controlled by the bureaucracy and composed of shop stewards and delegates from every school.

Over 500,000 Argentine teachers have been on strike since March 14th. They are striking in defiance of the bureaucracy, demanding

## Indefinite Strike Since March 14th

higher wages and a higher percent of the Budget for education.

The government has been unable to stop it for two reasons. Firstly the union bureaucracy cannot betray the teachers this time because not one teacher will scab - they strike under the direction of the school assemblies. And secondly, because the population is supporting the teachers in their struggle, from the factories, the towns, the parents commissions and many other kinds of organisations. An example of the popular support the teachers are receiving is the fact that the bus drivers do not charge teachers when they are going to a demonstration.

# GENOCIDE IN KURDISTAN

Following the blanket bombing of the Kurdish town of Halabja in mid-march by the Iraqi regime, eye witnesses likened the scenes of death and destruction to Hiroshima. As the effects of cyanide, nerve gas and mustard gas took their toll, fatalities have risen from an initial figure of 10,000 to around 20,000.

This atrocity is the worst in the latest round of counter attacks by the Iraqi regime, which has been losing ground to the Kurdish liberation forces. Chemical weapons have been used by the Iraqi regime in the war with Iran and since 1985 against the Kurds.

The Kurdish people have been forced to defend themselves on more than one front as they are denied rights and suffer frequent brutal repression from the regimes of Iraq, Iran and Turkey. The struggle for self determination of the Kurdish people spans many decades and many border changes - it cannot be crushed by this brutal attack. All socialists and class conscious workers must support this struggle and condemn the criminal actions of the Iraqi regime. **Louise Cerovecki**

# Can't Pay Won't Pay

By Peter Windeler

When we talk of imperialism what do we mean? We mean the power of the developed nations to enslave their poorer neighbours on this planet.

To be precise we mean the power of the United States, Western Europe and Japan to exploit what are known as the less developed countries or LDC's. The LDC's are in the main Latin American and African.

As well as establishing factories in the LDC's imperialism can lend money and withdraw profit in the form of interest. Today the LDC's are crippled by a huge debt crisis.

The poorer countries in Latin America and Africa owe imperialisms banks US \$1,190 billion. This figure is increasing all the time, by the end of this year the figure will be US \$1,245 billion.

These debts, in many instances, were contracted by dictatorial and illegal regimes. In many cases loans were granted to control social crises and avoid revolution in the poorer countries.

Today, no matter how much they try, the poorer countries are unable to keep up, even the interest payments. But the banks from the richer countries refuse to right-off the debts. The bankers insist that the working people of Lagos or Sao Paulo suffer in order that they may be cossetted in their limousines.

We say; "Can't Pay ; Won't Pay". The labour movement in Western Europe must join with its brothers in the poorer countries and refuse to allow the West's banks to force the impoverished nations to pay back one cent of the loan's outstanding.

The banks in the imperialist countries must be nationalised under workers control. The banks should then be used to transfer resources to the Third World to allow the poorer countries to establish healthy modern economies.

**Form a United Front of the working class in the imperialist countries with the masses in the LDC's and refuse to pay the Third World Debt!**

## *The Struggle for Internationalism inside the W.R.P.*

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The South African secret service is engaged in a campaign of murder and terrorism against ANC representatives and supporters of the African struggle against apartheid.

At the beginning of March they attempted to murder the ANC representative in Brussels. At the end of March, Dulcie September, representative of the ANC in Paris was killed by a professional gunman.

On April 7th Albie Sachs, the anti-apartheid South African lawyer, academic and author, was seriously injured in Mozambique by a bomb planted under his car.

In the case of the murder of Dulcie September the links between the imperialist terrorist forces of the World were clearly to be seen.

Two French periodicals have declared that Jean Taousson, an official in the French Ministry of the Interior, helped the South African secret services to recruit mercenaries.

The French paper, Le Mond, declared at the beginning of April, that the French secret service knew of the arrival of South African agents in France just before the murder of Dulcie September. It talked of a long history of cooperation between the Western and South African secret services.

This is the real alliance of terrorists at work.

Western capitalist countries also supply arms to assist the South African government to carry out its murderous excursions into Angola and Mozambique. A US State Department study last year identifies Israel, Italy, France, West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and Switzerland as being involved in violating the arms embargo.



# "You Can't Advise On Things You Can't Claim Say Kirkby Workers"

Welfare Rights workers at the unemployed centre in Kirkby, Liverpool, spoke to Socialist Voice about the effects of the Tories social security cuts.

**PAUL COSGROVE;** "Under the old system, say my cooker broke, I could apply for a grant and if I satisfied certain conditions then I would get a grant for a re-conditioned cooker. In other words I had a kind of basic safety net to fall back on.

Under the new system you don't get a grant. They have replaced the grants system with a thing that sounds nice called the "Social Fund". You apply for a loan. If you are successful, which in itself is most difficult, the money that you are given has got to be taken back out of your benefit.

Now, if people find that they can't get a cooker and they can't afford to have money taken out of their benefit then crime is going to soar. Also people are going to be forced to turn to loan sharks.

Housing benefits are also being cut and water rates now have to be paid by everyone. You can, as always, have your gas cut off and your electric cut off. Now, for the first time in living memory, people are going to have their water cut off. It won't be because they won't pay the bills, but because they can't pay the bills.

Under the old system of housing benefits, generally, nobody who was unemployed paid general rates. Now, everyone has got to pay 20% of the general rates. The important thing about this is that a system has been laid down and next year it could be 22%, 25% the year after and so on.

We've got to realise that this is not the end. It is part of a general Tory strategy. It is part of life becoming more miserable. Young people between 18 and 24 possibly suffer the worst of all.

These changes are not just about the unemployed. They are about attacks on young people in particular, forcing them to go onto schemes, working on the cheap. It is then an attack on the organisation of trade unionism.

The attacks are very well structured. The Tories don't have isolated policies. All their policies link together and they make one picture. Contrast that with their opposition."

Paul gave a laugh, and continued; "The Labour Party in Scotland is running around making noises about the Poll Tax in a way that basically doesn't mean anything.

We now have the leaders telling the Tories that people are going to suffer under the benefit changes. Basically the words don't

## KIRKBY SPEAKS



*Merseyside Workers*

mean anything. They are reacting to what the Tories are doing but putting up no fight to stop them."

**MIKE;** "The changes have gone through and only now do they kick up a wordy stink about them. Somebody interrupts MP's in the House of Commons or doesn't call someone "sir" and he gets thrown out. It's all a lot of nonsense, but Kinnock complains their case was ruined. He should have been organising in the last eighteen months instead of clamping down the internal discipline. The changes have gone through with barely a whimper from them.

What should we do? Well, I think the Labour Party is in very serious trouble. Kinnock's going to walk in, in the leadership elections and consolidate his power base. I think the trade unions will disgracefully help him. It is going to sap peoples moral, seeing our own representatives being almost like moderate conservatives.

I hope that people on the radical side of the trade unions will begin to oust the trade union bureaucracy who take the unions along with all this. In some unions there is a ground swell at rank and file level against all these deals that have been stitched up by their own national leaderships. I think the best way is that socialists locally must combine with that ground swell.

**PAUL;** "You see, these people stand up, backing the Tories and letting the working class down and you think; why should I bother? But there are a lot of people in the

trade union movement who are beginning to move. The nurses for example. In the local hospital, since the agitation in the NHS, the nurses have actually found out who the branch secretary is, why they haven't been meeting, who the full time officer is and formed themselves into like a basic shop stewards committee. They've only done that because they needed to.

So the thing is there, and these people in the National Union of Public Employees, will percolate through onto their district committees and start asking questions, because the General Secretary is good at telling people how dreadful the working conditions are but he's not so good at telling them how they should oppose them.

What seems to me is that the left in Britain, when unified is quite strong, but there are so many 'isms' and 'sects' that this unification process is never going to be integrated. Locally Mil' supporters always say; you should be inside the Labour Party. Then you get another group that says you should be an independent body because Trotsky says this or Trotsky says that.

People who aren't experienced in politics can't understand that.

With the changes in the social security going through, our whole welfare rights work is going to have to be reviewed. You can't give advice on things that you can't claim any more. We are going to have to become much more involved in every possible campaign - like the Poll Tax, like the nurses. We've got to be much more of a community organisation than we have been in the past."



# Fight Clause 28

## Lesbians and Gays under Attack

**The discovery of a bomb outside a nightclub in Leeds last month shows to what extent the moralist right wing and other bigots will go to attack lesbians and gay men.**

It must be for many lesbians and gay men a frightening indication of what the new Local Government Bill (including Clause 28) will mean for the homosexual community if it becomes law on the first of June.

Beatings, bombings, victimisation and discrimination will become normal and, to some extent, acceptable if Clause 28 is not defeated by the united efforts of the gay and lesbian community, alongside the working-class.

The disco was a 'Stop the Clause benefit', and the bomb was fitted with a sophisticated anti-handling device intended to detonate if picked up by anyone attending the benefit.

**No socialist or class conscious worker should ignore the implications of Clause 28 and the overall shift towards the 'moral' right in Britain.**

Socialist Voice sees this attack on the lesbian and gay community as an attack on the rights of the working class as a whole. We, unlike many of the left-wing in Britain, believe that the general attack on gays and lesbians and the panic over AIDS should be seen in its international context. Only from such a perspective can we develop a programme of action to fight back.

The United States contains rich lessons for lesbians, gays, and socialists fighting the rampant waves of homophobia sweeping Britain today.

At the turn of the decade it was quite safe to laugh at the "Moral Majority" and the Jerry Falwell bible thumping, professional, evangelical, politicians of the United States.

The rise of this brand of Christian fundamentalism was passed off as something purely and innately American. It could never happen here, many thought and argued.

These Evangelists preached the virtues of Christian morality, marriage before sex, heterosexuality and so on. They vigorously condemned homosexuality and anything that strayed from the family/work ethic.

The 1960s and '70s in particular saw the growth of strong movements for wider reaching civil rights. Accompanying this rise of militancy of the U.S working-class and the growth of demands from oppressed minorities came the greatest defeat the U.S had ever suffered - Vietnam.

The rise of Reaganism and Christian Fundamentalism were not unconnected, coincident,

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tal, or purely American by nature. Christianity became the seal of approval for the Reagan administration and its task of restoring confidence in U.S capitalism, the family and North American aggression.

Hitler and the Nazis came to power at a time of economic, social and political instability in Germany. Pre-Hitlerism had also suffered a great and humiliating defeat in the First World War.

**The Nazis frequently played on the fears of the middle classes, propagating anti-bolshevism through strengthening the family.**

One of the things held in common by the



Nazis and the Christian fundamentalists is their attack on lesbians and gay men and their hankering after "normal family" relationships, which actually means increasing exploitation of the working-class and turning lesbians and gay men into third class citizens.

In the eyes of the Tories and bigots lesbians and gay men challenge the harmony and stability of the family, the basic unit for exploitation and domination by the capitalist class.

Clause 28 is a dangerous step towards re-criminalising gay and lesbian acts. World capitalist slump and social decay is blamed not on the anarchy of capitalisms drive for profits, competition, greed, mismanagement or unplanned production but on the individual.

Too many rights and too many liberties will be the cry of the bigots, clergy, journalists,

Tories and police chiefs like Anderton, in the approaching months.

The Clause will mean workers in local authorities becoming the implementors of the bigoted laws laid down by central government. Censorship, job vetting, discrimination and sackings will be implemented by local authority workers.

The Labour Party has again shown its spinelessness; the so-called left councils who passed piecemeal reforms at one time on lesbian and gay rights are silent, the May local elections being of far higher importance.

If not for the actions of the rank and file of the National Union of Teachers, Bradford Council; a Labour council, would have been the first council to implement the Clause before it even became law, in attempting to sack a schoolteacher for admitting to pupils that he was gay.

The Labour front bench is particularly loathsome in its support for the bill in parliament, breaking its conference decision on lesbian and gay rights.

The Clause will mean the following:-

- \* No balanced sex education in schools
- \* Victimisation and sacking of public employees, like teachers
- \* No equal opportunities projects that protect of lesbians and gays
- \* Further censorship of public libraries, cinemas, and theatres
- \* Pubs and clubs catering for the gay communities coming under attack,

While the Labour Party leadership has abandoned the cause of gays and lesbians Socialist Voice says this doesn't mean the fight is over.

The best means to fight the Clause and gay and lesbian oppression is through making an alliance or front with those new forces coming into struggle, like N.H.S workers, teachers, and local government workers charged also with the implementation of the Clause.

**A programme of action can be drawn up to defeat the Tory 'moral' offensive if it is based on a strategy of class struggle to stop the implementation of the Clause and on a perspective of routing the Labour and Trade Union bureaucrats who have collaborated with Thatcher in attacking workers and lesbian and gay rights.**