

The Week

DEBRAY'S

TRIAL

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

6^D

Volume 8 No. 8. August 24th 1967

wilson, vietnam and scarborough

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WILSON AND VIETNAM

Politically, Prime Minister Wilson is well to the right of such staunch defenders of American free enterprise as Mansfield, Fulbright and Morse. His refusal to protest against the brutal American bombing of Hanoi and the dykes is in keeping with his previous toadying policy. However, not even the threat of a third world war arising out of the American attack on targets only ten miles from China can move him. Surely, Wilson will rank, in history along with Chamberlain, as one of the great disasters of British politics.

Wilson's contemptuous treatment of the parliamentary left has many lessons: for those M.P.s who responded to American bombing it surely shows that they cannot confine their opposition to appealing to Wilson's principles. The attitude of this Government on Vietnam and welfare demonstrate that nothing whatsoever is gained by soft-pedalling. On the contrary, the more the left pulls its punches the more Wilson and Co. gallop to the right. It is very clear that the lack of response to Margaret Herbison's resignation has encouraged such right-wing creatures as Gunter to go even further in their demands that the poor in this country must pay to preserve the pound and for Wilson's East of Suez policy.

Between now and the Labour Party conference every effort must be made to ensure that conference goes on record against Wilson on every major policy question. This in itself, as writers in The Week have pointed out, means little but it gives the left a mandate for mobilising rank and file support for a fight against the Government.

FAREWELL TO A GREAT SCHOLAR AND SOCIALIST

Elsewhere in this issue there are appreciations of our good friend Isaac Deutscher. We have to add to those general appreciations a particular one. Isaac Deutscher collaborated with the team around The Week on several practical ventures: notably the International War Crimes Tribunal and NALSO educational activities. He was fierce and painstaking in his determination that this work be done in the same "careful and impeccable style" as his own scholastic activities. From this joint work we came to appreciate his fine qualities and learnt many lessons. But if he was stern in his demands for accuracy and truth he was also gentle and considerate. He combined these great human qualities with political principle and judgment. We can say with pride and honesty that on every important living political question we stood on the same side as Isaac Deutscher. His stand on Vietnam, the Negro struggle, the Middle East crisis, on the struggle for democracy in the Communist world, against Wilsonism, and other issues too numerous to mention, were both an encouragement and inspiration for us. Isaac Deutscher, the man is dead; but Isaac Deutscher the teacher, the politician and humanist lives in the work of those he inspired and educated.

"Should family allowances and housing subsidies be paid" asked Mr. Gunter last Saturday, "to those whose financial position makes them unnecessary? Or alternatively should not the available resources be concentrated on those in greatest need?" Thus Mr. Gunter argues the case for the extension of the means test. We already have the means test operated by the Supplementary Benefits Commission (national assistance board) with the indignities of constant review and the threat of imprisonment for fraud should one forget to mention a rent or rates rebate, a child starting work or any of the minor fluctuations of all incomes. Then there is the constant round of applications for special needs grant (if on assistance) for free school meals, for free welfare foods, for free school uniform, for rents rebate, for rates rebate and so on assuming of course that you know that you are entitled to all these. As recent surveys have shown the majority of people entitled to such help do not apply. Thus I can only presume that Mr. Gunter is preparing the way for the Government to introduce the means test into yet other areas of social security and it is most significant that he mentioned family allowances.

In a recent Government Report "Circumstances of Families" it was revealed that over half-million children were living in families whose income was less than the present level of supplementary benefits and that the majority, 410,000, came from families where the father was in full time work. Also contrary to popular belief $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. of these families had three children or less. This is the problem the Government is faced with and surely the only answer is a national minimum wage and adequate family allowances. There is no sign of the Government enforcing a national minimum wage and it looks as if the Government will argue that the only way of giving adequate family allowances is by a means test. This is simply not true. Already the better off family gets about 30/- per week per child in tax relief and family allowance. The Child Poverty Action Group has worked out that if income tax relief for children was abolished and everybody had higher family allowances the better off family would lose nothing and the poor family would gain an adequate family allowance at no extra cost to the government.

By this means allowances could be graded as follows; according to the age of the child:

Under 11 years	24/6
11-16 "	28/6
Over 16 (in full time education)	32/6

Also the "first child would be included but at slightly lower rates - 6/6d less for each age group. This allowance would help the one-child family, including many unsupported mothers". By this means the Government could have given help where it is needed without a means test. But it has not because the Inland Revenue opposed it and because it meant higher taxes and higher public expenditure - the two great sins - even though nobody would be worse off and many would be better off. Surely if the Government could sell a wage freeze to the country they could sell this very fair scheme. But instead the richer are still going to get their tax relief and family allowance which are to be raised by 7/- next April. This mean that they will still be getting more allowances from the Government than the poorer family and the 7/- increase will only lift some of the families out of poverty. Therefore we must oppose the extension of the means test, and its indignities and press for a minimum wage and adequate child allowances that equal out between all classes.

U THANT AND THE LEFT : A Reply by Alan Rooney

Mr. Kinchin does not see that U Thant's recent speech on Vietnam did not help the anti-imperialist cause. To support his argument he suggests that the War Crimes Tribunal did not help the anti-imperialist cause. Apparently the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front of South Vietnam think differently. They gave considerable support to the Tribunal. I recognise with Mr. Kinchin that U Thant did mention the national liberation aspect of the Vietnam war (as I said in The Week Aug. 9). But his political conclusions were reactionary. I agree with Mr. Kinchin that national liberation of Vietnam "is a prerequisite of the success of the Vietnamese revolution", but as socialists we should not fail to point out that the resistance movement is also fighting for land reform at the same time. Ideology about land reform cannot be ignored as U Thant suggests.

Katy Rintoul says that U Thant's speech was useful because of its "realism". How much realism does the Vietnamese resistance movement find in it? No doubt the "realism" appealed to the U.S. quakers that U Thant addressed. I get the impression that Katy Rintoul feels that if we can appeal to the 'good-side' of the U.S. Government which she believes "in theory, at any rate, ... is not anti-nationalist and does not want to be thought so", then we stand a better chance of ending the war. My reading of this is that it represents a misunderstanding of the policies and structure of the most aggressive imperialist Government in the world. She asks whether I believe that a third world war will bring socialism. My answer is no. That is why I want to help in the job of building up a stronger anti-imperialist movement. If anyone is likely to bring a nuclear war it is the U.S. Government. I do not believe that the U.S.S.R. policy of "peaceful co-existence" as currently practiced is sufficiently anti-imperialist. This is not to say that Kosygin should start an adventurous nuclear policy. On the contrary, it is urgent that we work for what Che Guevara calls "a true proletarian internationalism; with international proletarian armies".

Katy Rintoul says that British Leftists do not look to U Thant for leadership. I hope she is right. But let us look at cases. Tribune's front page editorial (Aug. 11) on U Thant's speech was headed "Vietnam: listen to this American voice". 'Tribune' was not referring to the Voice of the American Left movement which is aiming to mobilise over 500,000 people to march on Washington on October 21st with the key slogan: 'Support Our Boys - Bring Them Home Now'. No, 'Tribune' was referring to a 'New York Times' editorial on Vietnam. This raises the question: what movement does the 'New York Times' represent? Do we recommend that the American Left mobilises around that newspaper? Of course not. Such a recommendation would set back the U.S. Left's mobilisation effort by years.

Looking to the immediate future, are such organisations as the British Communist Party; The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; 'Tribune' and the B.C.P.V. prepared to give full support to the Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee which is currently organising a mass demonstration (in support of U.S. Left) in Trafalgar Square on Sunday October 22 around the key slogan: 'U.S. get out of Vietnam now'?

U Thant disapproves of such slogans. What is the British Left going to do about it?

In May this year the Labour Group lost control of Newcastle City Council. Most people obviously expected little change from the Tories, the elections were merely a matter of substituting new faces for the same policies. However the Tories have quickly shown that they are not short of ideas even more reactionary than they would have ever dared suggest before. Already after three months, the plans for comprehensive schools have been re-organised out of existence, bus fares have taken a sharp boost upwards, and now rent increases of up to 17s 6d (often a 40% rise) are to be clammed on Council Houses.

However, as over the past month notices of the rent increases and the accompanying rebate scheme have been handed out, a mounting campaign of resistance has sprung up. While tenants in the east end were moving disjointedly into some form of opposition, Newbiggin Hall Labour Party called for the formation of a tenants action committee. Within days its Secretary, Bob Armstrong had support from nine city estates, representing over half the city tenants. Two weeks later at the first meeting of the Newcastle Council Tenants' Action Committee after it had been formed (with Bob Armstrong at its head), 16 tenants or community associations, three local labour parties and the regional Union of Post Office Workers were represented on the Committee. Over 90% of council tenants are represented. A mass meeting has been called at the City Hall on September 4 and meetings are being held all over the city. Bob Brown MP has addressed one on the Montagu Estate, and Ted Garrett MP attended one in Longbenton. Already new tenants associations have been formed in Kenton and Cruddas Park. At Longbenton tenants had to be shut out of a packed meeting where over 700 tenants unanimously adopted a resolution deploring the rent increases as excessive and the rebate scheme as "an anti-social means test". Ted Garrett, the MP promised to bring the matter up with the Minister of Housing in October, but for many tenants looking for a positive lead this was simply not enough. Longbenton U.D.C. (although a City estate it is situated outside the City boundaries) promised full support against the rent rebate scheme, and the Local Labour Party has been urged to call a meeting to send an emergency resolution to the Party Conference, calling on the government to delete the Ministry of Housing circular advocating rebate schemes which involve means tests, and to introduce the means to provide cheap loans of 3% or less for council house building.

It is important that the present impetus of the campaign is maintained, and it is not allowed to die a glorious but unvictorious death at the City Hall meeting. This must not be the culmination of the campaign, but the rallying point of all the localised protest and the spring board for increased pressure and action. The Action Committee has great responsibility in ensuring this; it has till now been the focus of wide-spread and deep rooted working-class opposition to both the increases and the rebate scheme. Cllr Forsyth, Tory Chairman of the Housing Management Committee has pompously declared that there is no case for opposition, that the increases are necessary and inevitable. The Action Committee has the task of organising and involving the widespread militancy, ultimately the source of its power; it must not let it be hived off into an inert mass of disorganised resentment and inaction, a shallow show of strength that the Council will easily be able to bluff its way past when it comes to the crunch in October.

The response from the trade unions has been disappointing, although the campaign was partly initiated by a petition from the Post Office workers.

NEWCASTLE CAMPAIGN AGAINST RENT INCREASES

The building workers from the City library site, the most militant in the town stopped work to protest, but other similar acts have been slow to materialise. As Clr. Bob Hogg said at the meeting in Longbenton: "This is a man's fight; we must fight it through our trade unions, not in the hierarchy, but through the factory floor and branches; we must force the unions to do the job they were made to do, to protect the interests of the working-man. We must even get strike action, because if we don't win, it will be good-bye to any good living we have known". Unfortunately for the Council a copy of unpublished Council minutes has fallen into the hands of the Action Committee, which clearly states that this is to be only the first phase in a series of increases. This after a period of wage freeze and with the prospects of only minimal increases is intolerable, and trade union support and action like that of the post office and building workers is vital, as the fight will probably be long and hard.

The increases arise from the attempt of the Council to place the burden caused by high interest rates paid on building loans onto the backs of council tenants. Interest charges now annually amount to over £2m., over 80% of the income from rents, and have doubled since 1959. Interest rates have steadily risen, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % in 1946, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ % in 1954, 5% in 1955, and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ % in 1966. If the trend continues, the Council will eventually have to cease all council house building to prevent the debt and interest charges rising to such a height that the scale of rents will be such that no one will be able to afford them. The solution is for the Government to face the problem seriously and firmly oppose those financial interests that profit from the present system.

Perhaps more despicable is the proposed rent rebate scheme. The local labour movement has recognised this as the return to a pernicious means test (with or without Ray Gunter's recommendations as to its acceptability) and its whole weight must be thrown against such a return to 1930's paternalism even if it comes from a Labour Government. No-one is opposing benefits to the less fortunate members of the community, but they are opposed to a council simply declaring that those council tenants earning above an arbitrarily arrived at income should support those below it. As a Fairways leaflet states: "This way the vast majority of council house tenants are paying twice for social security; once when the boss takes your social security payments out of your pay each week, and twice when the wife pays the rent". Who says a fair rent is $\frac{1}{6}$ of your income? Does this also apply to our business-men councillors for their rates? How do we know the £300,000 they say they will pay out in rebates is an accurate assessment and not just a bluff to sell a means test as social justice? These are the questions that are being raised and the challenges being made to Newcastle City Council. It is important that council house tenants elsewhere in the country be aware that such shallow arguments are not used to sell them similar rent rebate schemes, and should investigate more closely the nature of a 'deficit' that is used as an excuse for rent increases.

There is a lesson too for socialists in what has happened here in Newcastle. The Tories were returned in Newcastle for two main reasons: Disillusionment with Labour locally as it had long ceased to be radically different in its approach to local government; and disillusionment with a Labour Government that had followed all the old Tory priorities in the main aspects of its policies. Rather than satisfy conservative forces the result was that these just moved further rightwards and came up with ideas they had never dared suggest before. If this is a foretaste of what is to come with the next Tory Government, at least our experience has cast a grave warning for the coming Labour Conference.

REPORT ON DEBRAY'S TRIAL

from Russ Stetler

The trial of Regis Debray opened last week on August 18 in a remote south-eastern village of the landlocked nation. An impressive battery of reporters and observers have appeared from Britain, France, Belgium and Italy. Worldwide support for Debray has mounted steadily. The Bolivian authorities have consistently postponed the trial, and they now seem to contemplate a protracted set of hearings extending over a period of perhaps two months. Our vigilance must not wane in this endurance test: we must use all additional time to augment the ranks of Debray's supporters.

The French press has played a leading role in creating an awareness of Regis Debray's plight. Le Monde has carried daily dispatches from Bolivia, and with the disgraceful exception of the Communist party newspaper L'Humanite other major dailies have followed suit. A week before the trial opened Le Monde exposed the fact that Debray had begun a hunger strike to protest the most recent humiliation and abuse which he had suffered. His head had been shaved, and he was forced to wear a prison uniform (number 001) in order to distinguish him in any crowd should he escape. Debray's hunger strike and the concentration camp tactics aroused concern at once; protests were voiced in a variety of places, including the Catholic journal, Presencia. In three days, Debray's civilian clothes were returned and he was permitted a press conference.

Speaking before the world press and even a few television cameras, Debray stated, 'I was tortured the first two days of my arrest and I remained unconscious for forty-eight hours in the prison of Choreti'. He declared that the physical torture had ceased since then, but moral torture continued.

Despite the attention which has focused on the trial, the Bolivian authorities have denied Debray the elementary right to counsel of his choice. A patently rigged trial is planned, but one expects that it will become increasingly difficult for the Bolivians to execute this macabre plan. An important factor is the regime's dependence on the United States. The U.S. Government cannot afford to be identified with a show-trial which is already condemned widely. In turn, the Barrientos regime cannot afford to lose favour with the United States at such a crucial moment: the success of the guerrilla movement to date demands that Barrientos look for greater U.S. military aid. (American 'advisers' are already present).

Background information on the trial will be found in the first issue of the London Bulletin of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. A full discussion, including reports from journalists just returned from Bolivia, will take place at the Foundation's second meeting on Latin America, at Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Friday August 25th.

Strike Against Pay Freeze.

Over 700 members of the T&GWU working at the B.X.L. Plastics factory in Birmingham met on Tuesday, to discuss their support for 400 production workers who walked out on Monday, August 21. They voted unanimously to continue their strike against the Government's incomes policy. The walk-out was provoked by the management when they threatened to send home 15 inspectors for working to rule. In a full report to Tuesday's meeting, factory convenor Jim Faulkner explained the background to the dispute. "For months we have been trying to negotiate a wage increase for new work carried out by inspectors and there have been weeks of frustrated discussion without results," he said. The inspectors have refused to do work performed previously by three men taken off their gang, or to do new work without extra money. Jim Faulkner added; "We don't intend that our members should do extra work or increase production without getting more money, regardless of what the management or Mr. Wilson says. Frank Cousins has made it clear that help will not be withheld from those in struggle against the prices and incomes policy - as we are."

Most of the 1,200 workers involved are members of the T&GWU and official support has been called for. Production at the factory has been halted. Pickets are manning the gates and turning many lorries away. Staff unions at the factory have been invited to join the strike and a subsidiary plant at Aycliffe (Co. Durham) has been informed of developments. A further meeting of the strikers will take place next Friday.

Militant Action on Merseyside

The unofficial dockers' strike at Liverpool, which started over an overtime issue had paralysed a large section of the docks by Tuesday, August 22. The lack of overtime on the Elder Dempster freighter, Kohima sparked off a strike of 120 dockers last Thursday and now involves 2,555 men out of a labour-force of 10,500 in spite of pleas from T&GWU officials for the men to return to work. Twenty-five ships are now idle in the port and some others are not being worked. The men demanded a basic rate of £3 a day for shifts which finish at 5pm - thus cutting out the normal two hours overtime which is worked until 7pm at double rates. The dispute has now widened to involve the whole question of decasualisation and the guaranteed weekly pay. A dockers' leader said; "We have continually warned that the men will not accept the decasualisation scheme without amendments."

Barbican Dispute Spreads

Work stopped on John Laing's £6m. Barbican redevelopment contract in the City of London last Friday when over 400 men walked out in protest over the sacking of a joiner. The company said he had refused to obey an order and had therefore been dismissed for indiscipline. The joiner said he had been told to work in stagnant water. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labour's Court of Inquiry report on labour troubles which have closed the adjacent Myton site is expected within the next few weeks.

I S A A C D E U T S C H E R

The death of Isaac Deutscher is a severe blow to all who are interested in finding the truth in international politics. His scholarship was careful and impeccable. At the same time, his opinions were those of a man whose feelings are just and right. The combination is rare. Still rarer was his determination to act upon his belief unhesitatingly. He, in whom these qualities were combined, will not easily be replaced.

Bertrand Russell
August 19, 1967

ISAAC DEUTSCHER by Ken Coates

The death of Isaac Deutscher comes as a paralysing shock. He leaves a gap in socialism which will not be mended, and a loss to letters which will not be fully appreciated for the blow it is for many years. And, to many of us, the thought that he has gone is a personal wound.

To those of us who were groping, in the early fifties, for an explanation of the brutally irrational distortions which had cramped the life of the socialist movement, the almost lone voice of Deutscher came as a blinding revelation. I remember today the excitement of that group of workers in Nottingham, when we discovered 'The Prophet Armed'. I found it in the town library, and began reading it one evening before I was due to go to the colliery on the night shift. It caught me inexorably: the more I read, the more clearly the world fell into shape around me. I read on and on, past the time to catch the pit bus, on through the night until the dawn. And then I went straight out to talk to the other comrades, to spread the word among the young communists and up at the University. The book went from hand to hand: all of us stopped what we were doing to read straight through it. It possessed us. Meeting after meeting was convoked, spontaneously, to discuss it. After that, none of us could ever be the same again. And no author ever had a clientele who so keenly awaited his next work as Isaac Deutscher, as we plagued the bookshops for the second volume, week after week, for months before it was released.

His great, clear, rational voice has stopped speaking. It is an awful fact. The 'Lenin', which would have been his masterpiece, we shall never see. In an important sense, he was entering the most fertile, most productive period of his life. His last interview, on the Israel-Arab War, in New Left Review, was a model of that utterly clearheaded, absolutely unsentimental, humane concern for which we all came to love him.

For so many of us, he was a regenerator of hope. In him we found the link between humanism and socialism which allowed us to rediscover Marx himself and our own history. It is not comforting at this time, but it remains true, that this labour of his can never die.

AMERICANS IN FRANCE - VIETNAM LEAFLET

The following is an abridged version of a leaflet distributed among American tourists in France by the Comité Vietnam National.

" We are glad that you have come from the United States to visit our country. We hope that your stay will provide an opportunity for you to get to know the French people better. A good start might be to explain to you the meaning of certain signs of hostility that you may encounter and that you might be misled to interpret as "anti-Americanism".

For instance, you are probably aware that Mr. Humphrey's trip here last April brought thousands of angry demonstrators in the streets of Paris and that an American flag was burned publicly on that occasion. Rather than explain the real significance of such gestures, the American press chose to attribute them, quite falsely, to French nationalism. When Frenchmen shout "U.S. Assassin", they are truly angry, but their anger is directed not against the American people, not against the valid ideals cherished by the American people, but against the American Government.

The American people themselves are victimized and deceived by an intensive propaganda emanating from the U.S. Government and slavishly repeated by a press whose constant boasts of how "free" it is do not make it any less servile. We heard the same arguments about "defense of the free world" used to justify French colonial wars in Indochina and Algeria. Nevertheless, there were at that time courageous people in our country who spoke out to bring a halt to the murderous actions of their government. We who felt obliged then to oppose our own government for the real good of our own people and the people of the world know that today hundreds of thousands of Americans are courageously condemning the criminal war of the Johnson Administration. This was clearly shown in the April 15 demonstrations in New York and San Francisco.

Perhaps you are one of those principled citizens who have had the courage to speak out for justice and peace. If so, we salute you warmly and offer our friendship and encouragement in your difficult task. If, however, you are still confused about the war in Vietnam, here are a few facts to consider. The enormously powerful military machine of your country is directed night and day toward the destruction of the population and the productive capacity of a country which cannot remotely be considered a threat to the security of the United States. Yet despite the overwhelming superiority of the American military machine, the Vietnamese people are resisting with ever greater determination. Optimistic appraisals by your military leaders are repeatedly denied by events and followed up by more calls for re-enforcements. How is it that this great military power is brought to a standstill in a smaller, poorer country?

Let us share our experience. Despite the military aid that your leaders accorded in the past to France, the wars she waged in Vietnam and in Algeria were lost - because it is impossible to defeat an entire people in arms, fighting for their independence on their own soil.

Americans, we believe that you would not willingly choose for your country the role of a detested and repressive global policeman, allied with destruction, famine and disease against the aspirations of peoples for independence and progress. Your government is leading you and the world on a disastrous course. We who have opposed our own government's policy know that your task is difficult, but we know that your responsibility and opportunity is great to serve the future of all humanity by forcing an end to the atrocious war in Vietnam. In that task, you can count on our whole-hearted support and solidarity."

SCARBOROUGH AND VIETNAM

by Pat Jordan

Vietnam continues to be the most important problem on a world scale. There are rumours afoot that the N.E.C. of the Labour Party, via the conference arrangements' committee and utilising the three-year rule, is going to attempt to stop a discussion on Vietnam at the Labour Party Annual Conference. Any attempt to impose such a "head-in-the-sand" policy would not only be scandalous, it would be completely opposed to the feelings which exist in the Labour Party on Vietnam. There are less resolutions on Vietnam on this year's agenda than last but every one is critical of American policy and British support for that policy.

The first to appear on the agenda is under general resolutions on the Labour Government. From Esher C.L.P. it lists a series of points which conference should instruct the Parliamentary Labour Party to follow. Its third point class for support for the N.L.F., medical aid to the liberated areas of South Vietnam and support for all anti-colonialist freedom movements. This very admirable resolution suffers from the curious lack of mention of North Vietnam. Under the Vietnam section, there is another resolution which takes a solidarity position: from Bute and North Ayrshire C.L.P., this too fails to mention North Vietnam but calls for "full support ... the victory of the Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front", clearly implying support for the North.

The rest of the resolutions vary from Edinburgh West C.L.P., which merely reiterates U Thant's (now abandoned) three points, to Brentford and Chiswick C.L.P., which calls for dissociation from American policy, self-determination for the Vietnamese, the ending of the attacks on the North and South, and the withdrawal of all foreign troops. The resolutions from South Ayrshire C.L.P., High Peak C.L.P., Bolsover C.L.P., and Derby Borough L.P. all show there is still considerable confusion about the question of United Nations intervention and peace talks. It is to be hoped that the compositing will result in the Chiswick resolution being the main opposition resolution on the agenda with the Bute and North Ayrshire one retained as the one around which an educational discussion can be organised.

OCTOBER 22nd INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM DEMONSTRATION

The third meeting of the October 22nd Vietnam ad hoc Committee took place on Tuesday evening, and showed that some important steps have already been taken in preparing for this important event. Among the organisations that have given their support to the mobilisation are the C.N.D. and the U.C.P.A. (Universal coloured Peoples Association). The three colour posters will be ready for distribution at the next meeting of the committee on September 5th which will be held at Caxton Hall starting at 8.00 p.m. Besides getting down to the practicalities of organising work parties there will also be the attraction of a film from Vietnam: 'Defending Haiphong'. A number of preliminary leaflets advertising both the demonstration on October 22nd, and the Folk-song concert that is to take place the night before, are available from the Headquarters at 49, Rivington Street, E.C.2. These leaflets were distributed to several hundred participants in the demonstration that was called by the B.C.P.V. to protest against the recent escalation of the war.

The reaction to the machine-gunning of the US Embassy is more revealing than the episode itself. The epithets of "Shocking" and "Outrage", and alarm at the danger of innocent people getting hurt, come precisely from those who are silent in the face of American atrocities the world over.

The identity, or even the nationality, of the three men who carried out the shooting remain unknown, though newspapers have not been slow to put forward their own theories. The significance in these theories lies in their wide variety. The search for people whose fury has been aroused by US actions does not point to any one country or continent, and, if the Embassy were to be blown up overnight, there would surely be no mystery about the motivation which inspired it. Violence breeds violence, and the perpetrators of mass terror, cold-bloodedly and scientifically unleashed from the world's most horrific arsenal of weapons, can hardly be shocked by an answering knock of bullets on their own front door.

To understand the machine-gunning, in the terms of its motivation, is not to condone it; still less to encourage a repetition. There are better, even more militant, means of expression than the anonymous firing of shots - however appropriate such actions might be at other times, in other places.

The prime responsibility, of course, lies with the United States Government itself, but there is a secondary responsibility which lies with the Labour Government of this country. To the extent that Wilson and Brown are prepared to go along with American actions: to that same extent must they be inviting action in this country against policies which any Government with a pretence to socialism would have denounced years ago.

Those who have denounced their Government's actions were amongst the first suspects of the heavy-handed, flat-footed officers of the Special Branch. Pat Jordan, the Secretary of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, was one of those visited, but he was apparently able to conceal the machine-gun on his person. At any rate, according to the newspapers, it is still at large.

1 9 6 7 C A T A L O G U E O F S O C I A L I S T P U B L I C A T I O N S

The new 1967 Catalogue, issued by the Pioneer Book Service, contains an impressive list of Books, Pamphlets and Periodicals of interest to socialists - including many unobtainable, or difficult to obtain, from other sources.

The twenty page catalogue is well produced and classified according to subject. Over five hundred titles are listed, under such headings as Cuba, China, Afro-American History, The Colonial Revolution, Latin America, The Labour Movement, Civil Liberties in the USA, and Vietnam.

The Catalogue is obtainable, from:

PIONEER BOOK SERVICE,

8, Toynbee Street,

L O N D O N, _ _ E . 1 .

A MESSAGE TO THE TRADE UNION AND LABOUR MOVEMENT

THE CENTRE FOR SOCIALIST EDUCATION in cooperation with 'Voice of the Unions'
'Labour's Voice', 'Humber-side Voice' the May Day Manifesto and 'The Week':-

AN IMPORTANT MEETING ON THE EVE OF THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE (Sunday Oct 1)

A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME f o r THE LABOUR MOVEMENT

the meeting will include the following sections:-

1 Labour and the new capitalism:-

The power of capitalist monopolies; U.S. penetration of U.K. and Common market; Labour Party and private industry; parliamentary socialism; the colonial revolution; Vietnam.

Speakers include:- MICHAEL BARRATT-BROWN, KEN COATES & a report from North Vietnam by the Derbyshire Miners' delegation.

2 Trade Unions, the Freeze, Unemployment and Workers' control:-

The corporate state and the unions; shop stewards and the Freeze; issues of public ownership and Workers' control in steel, aircraft, buses and cars.

Speakers include:- VIC ALLEN, TONY TOPHAM, IAN MIKARDO MP., JOHN PALMER, DAVE SHENTON (TGWU), LAWRENCE DALY (NUM), PHIL HIGGS (Bristol Siddeley Engines convenor).

3 Inequality, Poverty, Health Service, Housing and Education:-

Speakers include:- ROBIN BLACKBURN, a representative from the SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, FRANK ALLAUN MP., N.A.L.S.O.

4 A socialist programme: What is to be done?

A practical discussion on future lines of activity.

ADMISSION 2/6d.

Sunday October 1st 1967 5.00 pm. - midnight

at the Olympia Ballroom, SCARBOROUGH all welcome.....come early send delegates..... excellent literature stall.....book a coach..... bar extension applied for.

For all enquiries and further copies of this leaflet:- C.S.E., 88, Park St. HULL.