

workers' fight

3p

No. 53 — 4th May to 11th May 1974

MAY DAY IN LISBON article p2



WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...

EITHER you think the Industrial Relations Act is right, or you think it is wrong. The Government think it is wrong. They said so when they were in opposition, often enough, and now they have started the process of repealing the Act.

Meanwhile, the courts and the bailiffs are carrying on. On Friday 3rd May the National Industrial Relations Court is scheduled to sequester the entire assets of the Amalgamated Union of Engineers & Workers because of that union's refusal to appear in the Court on charges of supporting a strike.

firm Con-Mech.

With the will to do so, the Government could have stopped this sequestration. For a start, they could have introduced the Bill to repeal the Industrial Relations Act almost two months ago. And if the Tories can come up with the "Official Solicitor", this government surely has the wit to think of some similar device to freeze the operations of the Court immediately.

But what have the Government done? They have simply pleaded with the AUEW to abandon its principled stand of defying the Industrial Relations

BY MARTIN THOMAS

Wilson and Foot have not dared to "tamper with" the Tory law. Even when they restored the £10 million tax concessions to the unions (and why shouldn't they do the same with the NIRC fines?) they felt compelled to justify it by saying that they were only carrying out what the Tories had intended! It was all right, they said, because the Tories hadn't really meant the unions to lose those tax concessions.

It is just the same with the six building workers jailed at Shrewsbury. The Labour

work of the capitalist state, because it fears an outcry from Tories and Liberals about Labour not respecting the "rule of law"

And not just that. They themselves regard the capitalist state as sacred and think its laws must never be broken. When Mick McGahey called on troops not to strikebreak, Labour leaders cried out in horror. For the troops to side with the bosses — that was normal. That was the rule of law. For the troops to side with the working class — that would be an outrage!

A small group of men

force of the state, threaten to seize assets laboriously acquired by the subscriptions of millions of union members. To us, that is robbery. That it is justified by the Industrial Relations Act makes it no better. That Act is simply a means of trying to keep down the working class and boost profits.

Wilson and Foot must decide where they stand. Do they stand with the "justice" of the bosses, the Tories, and the Industrial Relations Act, or with the justice of the working class? That is a question of principle. And if

principles of capitalism for the sake of not annoying the Tories and Liberals — or because they agree with those principles anyway! — then taht Labour government is fundamentally no better at all than the Tories.

Meanwhile, we cannot afford to wait and hope that the government will eventually find some legal means to make restitution to the AUEW. We must so frighten the bosses' courts that never again will they dare lay hands on union assets. Seizure of the AUEW's assets

MAY 5th.

2pm

Speakers
Corner



ALL OUT FOR CHILE!

by Bas Hardy

FAILING TO defeat the British working class, the Tory government drew some comfort from the way Chile's ruling class 'dealt with' its workers. After the coup last September, the Tories were prominent amongst those western governments who came to the aid of the murderous military regime in Chile.

The last two months of Tory rule saw their final act of solidarity with the junta, an act which has up to now gone unreported in the British millionaire press.

In January and February, two consignments of Hawker Hunter military jets were smuggled out of Britain behind the backs of the Merseyside dockers, who were boycotting arms deliveries to Chile. The Tories had "invited" six Chilean pilots to fly the jets to Santiago. The first delivery was on January 26th and was marked by the presence of Gustavo Leigh, son of Gustavo Leigh Guzman (a member of the four-man junta) who flew one of the jets out personally, which is an indication of their importance for the junta. In fact, since their deployment in last September's coup, when they bombed Allende and his supporters in the Monada Palace, Hawker Hunters have been priority weapons needed for the bolstering of the arsenal of repression in Chile.

Today, the Labour government continues this Tory policy of supplying arms to the junta. Rank and file members of the Labour movement have expressed strong opposition to this

policy, which aids the junta's plans to keep the Chilean workers under the jackboot for many years to come.

The repression which has claimed the lives of over 30,000 trade unionists and socialists in Chile has not ended. Every day, 'terrorists' are shot, suspected leftists 'disappear', trade union leaders are imprisoned for 'crimes against national reconstruction', and officials suspected of sympathy with the Popular Unity coalition of Allende suddenly die of 'heart failure'.

Attacks on the working class aren't confined to arrests, torture and murder. The living standards of the working masses in Chile have been savaged, too.

Wages have been reduced to 50% of last year's level. The junta itself admits to a 38% fall in real wages, although they don't give a base line for this calculation.

Wages in Chile have been frozen and in some cases cut since the coup. But it is inflation which is really eating into the workers' wage packets. The price of such basic commodities as milk, bread and cigarettes have gone by anything from 30% to 250%. The extent of inflation was shown recently by a special offer in a Santiago steak house: 'Eat now and pay 30 days later!'

Unemployment has also increased massively. It stands at 20% since the generals' takeover, with Allende supporters being 'first out, last in'.

Continued inside

A MAN OF SMILES AND BLOOD



THE COUP in Portugal last week led by dissatisfied Army officers opens up tremendous possibilities for a country which has been in the grip of a dictatorship since 1928.

It is still too early to say exactly what effect the dismantling of the Caetano regime will have internally (and even on neighbouring Spain); but in Portugal's African colonies — Angola, Mozambique and Guiné-Bissau — the effect is quite clear. It is a big victory for the Liberation forces there, opening up the possibility of kicking the Portuguese armies out once and for all.

The Army officers' dissatisfaction stems entirely from the African wars. 160,000 Portuguese troops (mainly conscripts) are presently tied down there. And they are losing the wars. Guiné-Bissau is already two thirds liberated and recognised as a nation state by the United Nations; in Mozambique the guerilla army of FRELIMO is pushing steadily southwards towards the strategic port of Beira (which is the "sanctions busting" port for Rhodesia); while the Angolan forces, having fought longest (for 13 years in all) have control of large stretches of their country.

Reactionary

The morale of the Portuguese soldiers (as reported in last week's WF) is extremely low. 1,500 are killed or injured every year.

It must be made very clear that the head of the new Junta, General Spínola, is no revolutionary. He is not even a 'liberal' associated with the moderate opposition groups. Rather, he has been described as a 'High Tory' — honest, polite and a **thorough reactionary**. So how is it that Spínola, a man who fought on the side of Franco during the Spanish Civil War and whose father was a financial adviser to the late dictator Salazar, can lead such a coup — a coup which in one fell swoop deposes a 46-year old dictatorship, allows freedom of the press, assembly and association, frees political prisoners and courts the exiled Socialist leader Soares with the tempting prospect of a high post in the provisional government?

Certainly it is true that his

book, *Portugal and the Future*, was the spark which started the fire. After spending years fighting the liberation movements, including a 13 year spell as Governor of Guinea, he has been made very aware that a military solution — the ruthlessly pursued objective of the old regime — is now impossible. For putting forward this conclusion, and the idea that the African colonies should be federated to Portugal (but still economically exploited by it) he was sacked as Deputy Chief of Staff only last month. Even this 'neo-colonialist' solution was unacceptable to the then Prime Minister Caetano, who was a captive of the extreme Right. But the Army lost patience with Caetano and the old ruling

From the African Liberation movements, however, his ideas have received short shrift. They are entirely **unacceptable**. A representative of liberated Guiné-Bissau said in a BBC interview the day after the coup that Spínola's policy was one of 'smiles and blood'. Smiles for the Western press and the Portuguese people who are impressed by his liberalism, but blood when it comes to hunting out the guerillas. (Indeed the first orders the Army in Africa received were to carry out a "holding operation" while political institutions are created for 'nationalist-minded but non violent Africans'.) The representative totally rejected the federal proposal calling it "neo-colonialism by another name". He stated that all three

Lisbon chasing the hated secret police, the DGS, or welcoming the released political prisoners and returning exiles. Political life in Portugal is suddenly moving at a very rapid rate and the indications are that the Army junta — at the moment still very popular — could well feel that it is losing control and react by attempting to clamp down the lid again. Warnings have already been made against 'leftist troublemakers' who want to 'smash capitalism'. If the Left does become a powerful force, the Army heads will not hesitate to attempt to repress them. They want a safe parliamentary regime made up of the moderate oppositionists, largely Christian Democrats with a few obliging Social Democrats thrown in for good

groups. For the conscript army jubilation of the time so much in respect for the ousting the work enemies, the Caetano. What is likely to tussle between present popular and for his unpopular Africa the organisation working class for of the rank and soldiers.

Independence

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Therefore it is working class de maximum organisations an independence fro bourgeois an liberals. The pa the working clas Provisional whose major conc discipline and h working class stru the troops in chec major disaster. Th Communist Party As the Morning on Monday "Portugal's Com yesterday calle creation of a government rep democratic and li forces in the Communists represented in an government."

Instead of jo government, whi set up and st Spínola's junta, ti the working class develop its own struggle, wher involving soldiers they cannot rely



Left: General Antonio de Spínola.

Can the workers win Spínola's soldiers?

clique. After a 'dummy run' last month, they pulled off a coup which in 24 hours changed the face of Portugal.

Now Spínola has the chance to put his ideas into practice. It will be interesting to see how acceptable his policies are to Portugal's paymasters the United States and the NATO allies. Both have given the coup a guarded welcome, largely it seems because they think a 'democratic' imperial Portugal will be more acceptable to world opinion.

countries wanted **complete independence** and that includes economic independence from their colonial master.

Any attempt by Spínola to impose his views will be resisted by force. The liberation forces support the coup because it weakens the Portuguese presence. And in this respect the more political flux and movement to the left in Portugal in the next few months, the better.

It is a stirring sight to see pictures of demonstrators in

measure. And they hope that the popularity of the coup will by them the time in which to accomplish this.

For the mobilisation of the Portuguese masses continues and increases every day. The street demonstrations, the open air meetings, the discussions, all heighten the political tempo. It is only a matter of time before the Army tries to change from shows of strength to shows of force.

What is crucial is the response of the left wing

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MAY 7th
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CENTRAL HALL, Liverpool, on April 27th, saw the 5th National Delegate Conference of the Building Workers' Charter, the movement of militants in the building industry grouped around the paper CHARTER.

Charter is not only one of the most influential rank and file groupings in any industry; it is also one which exists in an industry which, more obviously than some others, is in need of strong, clearly directed rank and file organisation.

Trade union membership has fallen drastically since the sell-out at the end of the last (Summer 1972) strike; the conference was told that out of one and a half million building workers, only 300,000 are organised — 100,000 are unemployed, a number likely to increase sharply in the coming months.

LUMP

Building workers are now 14th in the wages table, their threshold agreement has been stopped by the Pay Board and on 26th April

Employment Minister Michael Foot turned down a 1% flexibility clause for local authority construction workers, even though the local authorities were prepared to pay it. The other side of the coin of low wages and falling trade union membership is an increase in the use of 'lump' labour.

The conference decided that a wages campaign is central — to keep ahead of prices, to unite the rank and file, to beat the

CHARTER CONFERENCE DUCKS ISSUE OF SHREWSBURY JAILINGS

high earnings which many lumpers are on. So Charter is now aiming for a Spring 1975 wages offensive, going for £1.50 an hour, a 35 hour week and 4 weeks' holiday.

Against the lump there was support for direct action as well as moves by the Government — still very necessary despite the voluntary register of firms supposedly against the Lump. The good example of Sunderland was cited: there the council is refusing to sell land for development unless non lump labour is to be used on it. And it was decided to hold a 'national day of action' in the summer against the lump.

A call also went out to the unions to end blacklisting and oppose form-filling, and the pernicious employers' practice of getting those applying for jobs to fill in detailed, probing forms designed to eliminate militants.

All this was fine — except that it did not involve making decisions on two key issues: the Shrewsbury victims and the question of picketing; and how, concretely, to build Charter and rank and file strength.

Conference chairman Alan Abraham stated at the beginning that the Shrewsbury issue was an "emotional one", and therefore should be discussed at the end, with a grand total of 40 minutes for statements and discussion, so that it would not take up all the

time! Yet many of us had, rightly, come to the conference largely because of the importance of the Shrewsbury issue, and hoping to discuss the possibility of industrial action to get the 6 released.

But instead of adopting a policy for action which the delegates could go away and fight for on their sites, the conference did not discuss the issue, no decision was taken for action on the six in jail, and in fact, with the statement of John Carpenter (one of the 24) that we should now press for early parole for the 6, the conference appeared to accept defeat.

MAY DAY

It was the wives of Ricky Tomlinson (jailed for 2 years) and Des Warren (who got three years) who finally appealed to Charter not to forget their husbands and to take concrete steps to, at least, get the two men removed from Stafford to an open prison. Elsa Warren said that her husband had lost over 2 stone in weight, and was allowed only half an hour's exercise every 24 hours. She emphasised that trade union officials are still sitting on the fence. The need for mass action was not over.

She urged workers to come out on May Day on the picketing issue, to contact their MPs and the Home Secretary, and to take further action. 'Do

not let these events deter you from further action. Take on the employers again this year'. And she ended: "I wish I could receive as much publicity as the Cowley wives".

For CHARTER itself to be able to act on the Shrewsbury 24, on the wage fight, or on the basic task of building the union, what is needed is a commitment to **build Charter**. There were good ideas at the conference about how to build rank and file strength in the industry, and pleas were made to rebuild the action committees and to form shop stewards committees in all areas, which could link up into a national stewards' organisation. But no decisions were made. What's more, rank and file involvement in Charter itself is not in practice encouraged — as, for example, by not discussing, or even reading out, all the resolutions received on time for the conference.

Above all, the question of a regular, fighting paper is crucial. Despite previous decisions to have a monthly paper, Charter in the last 2 years has come out on average every 3 months — and this has been a period of a major strik-

and the Shrewsbury trials! This has contributed to the declining support for the movement: there were just 300 at the conference, as opposed to 900 two years ago.

Those responsible for running Charter realised that they had to give some explanation for the non appearance of the paper. Lou Lewis told the conference that they had been 'busy', especially with the Shrewsbury campaign, that there had been 'no concerted drive for articles' and that members had failed to write for the paper.

LAME

Militants cannot accept such lame excuses for the failure of Charter to appear and lead (not to mention the hardly believable excuse of 'difficulties of getting the paper printed'). It failed, for instance, to appear immediately after the first jailings in December, a crucial time for building the Shrewsbury campaign.

What Lou Lewis, not surprisingly, failed to mention was that the Communist Party (the dominant political tendency in Charter) has a policy of snuggling up to the Union officials, trying to get

lefts elected, and subordinating rank and file action to this. This is the policy which has resulted in the Shrewsbury campaign heading up the blind alley of putting pressure on the TUC and the Government, without attempting to keep up rank and file action. It is the policy which allows UCATT to print a scurrilous attack on the Shrewsbury defendants (in February's 'Viewpoint') without Charter responding immediately — the world paper shortage notwithstanding...

All the same, militants in Charter can act now to build Charter and the union: by holding regular meetings of local groups and writing for the paper (and demanding its regular appearance); by recognising the increased need to criticise the officials if they act against the rank and file in a situation of economic crisis and TUC collaboration with the government; by building up towards the wage fight and the day of action on the lump; and by acting on the Shrewsbury Defence Committee's call to lobby the UCATT conference in June for action to release the six.

Ian Hayes
Cynthia Baldry

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urgently the lesson of Chile: the
need for independent workers'
militias, based on factories and
workers' districts and armed to
defend the working class and its
militants against any attempt at
repression. What the army has
given it must be prevented from
being able to take away again.

The left must demand
immediate elections, with full
rights for all parties to
participate; people's election
committees can be formed right
away in each area to support
the workers' parties.

The DGS should be brought
to account before people's
tribunals: their 'arrest' by the
Army is in most cases merely
for their own protection, and
gives no guarantee against the
DGS being re-formed.

Factory committees should
be set up to further the demand
for full freedom for trade union
activity as well as improved pay
and conditions. The left must
also take a lead in championing
the demands of the peasantry.
And they must also demand
immediate independence for Angola,
Mozambique and Guiné Bissau
and the total withdrawal and
demobilisation of Portugal's
colonial army.

Councils

Throughout, they must fight
for the perspective of a
government based on
democratic workers councils
and workers' militias, which
will be entirely independent
from and opposed to the
bourgeois state and the officer
caste of the army.

These demands are both
necessary and realistic. With
the iron grip of the 46-year old
dictatorship broken, days can
concentrate the developments
of decades. If the struggle stops
short at the 'democratic' stage,
if its explosive escalation is
halted and stifled, it will be at
best a tragic missed
opportunity; not improbably, it
could lead to a return to a
modified right wing
authoritarian regime.

CLIVE BANE

CHILE LEFTS' ILLUSIONS WILL DISARM RESISTANCE



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the grim warnings from the
military Minister of Finance that
"the first step for Chileans is to
learn the new rules of the game...
those who won't obey we will have
to deal with 'in the military way'",
the workers of Chile have gone on
strike in protest against low wages,
lay-offs and the arrest of their
leaders. Prominent amongst those
striking are coal and copper miners,
construction workers and dockers.

Strikers have been driven back to
work at the point of a bayonet, and
some arrested or shot. But the junta
cannot go on repressing the entire
working class in this gross and
blatant way if it is to hope for a
greater degree of stability in order
to encourage fresh foreign
investment. (Although it is also true
that the international financiers
have been incredibly generous to
the Chilean butchers.)

And there are other pressures on
the junta.

In a secret letter to the junta, two
top leaders of the Christian
Democrats (a party 'in recess', as
distinct from outlawed, since it
supported the coup) express the
fear that "the absolute inactivity of
the democratic sectors is helping
the underground efforts of the
Marxist parties. Without guidance
from their leaders, our rank and file
members and sympathisers are at
the mercy of rumour, trickery and
infiltration."

DECLARATION

But on what political basis are
these so-called Marxist Parties
trying to win the Christian
Democracy's rank and file?

Judging by the 'Declaration of
the United Chilean Left, published
in Paris on 12th February, it will
not be a working class political
basis — that is, one which
challenges illusions in the
"democratic institutions and
traditions" of Chile which the CD
leadership and the military
willingly disregarded last
September. The document instead
reinforces these illusions.

The rosy picture it paints is that
the coup "has created immense
opportunities within the Chilean
people for drawing together large
sectors even of people and groups
who did not give their allegiance to
the Popular Unity government." (Is
the coup, then, to be welcomed for
achieving the much sought after
'rallying of the middle classes to the
Popular Unity?')

The declaration also continues
the old illusions in the 'basically
democratic nature of the armed
forces' as a justification for the
Popular Unity's trust in the army
before the coup. "Within the
Armed Forces themselves, there are
private soldiers, non-
commissioned and even
commissioned officers who are
becoming increasingly aware of the
brutal, criminal role in which
fascism is casting them."

The exact nature of the resistance
movement as set out in the
Declaration is one of a "broad anti-
fascist front" which will contain
"men and groups whose
humanitarian conscience leads
them to oppose the dictatorship."

ASSERTION

Exactly what this "broad anti-
fascist front" will do is a matter for
conjecture. Carlos Altamirano, the
leader of the Chilean Socialist
Party, has ruled out armed struggle
for the moment, because, he says, it
will "only serve to justify the
military junta in unleashing new
crimes and repression..."
Meanwhile, the militants are to be
left at the mercy of the repressive
regime.

The Declaration has vague calls
for an "ideological confrontation
with fascism" (how does one argue
with a tank?), an "assertion of
lawful rights in order to avoid the
devastating effects of brutal
repression", and "the gradual
recovery of previous social and
political gains."

The "United Left" Declaration
doesn't use the word socialism
once. Its aims, in line with a general
orientation to drawing as many
Christian Democrats into the
alliance as possible but not on the
basis of a working class political
stand, will mean that the resistance
depends on the restoration of
democratic rights primarily
through the agency of the Christian
Democracy.

All of the group to sign the
declaration, with the exception of
the MIR, were members of the
Popular Unity coalition. That the
MIR did sign it is a further
indication of the degeneration of
their politics, and a flagrant
contradiction of their past political
stand. (In January, the National
Secretariat of the MIR published a
letter which outlined their
supported attitude toward future
resistance. The most important
point in their statement was that
"The various forms of illegal and
armed struggle are becoming of

enormous importance in the
present conditions of Chile. They
will play a crucial role in the re-
stimulation and growth of the
struggle of the mass movement.
What is fundamental is to develop
the capacity for a class alliance —
led by the working class.")

Then why did the MIR sign the
United Left Declaration? If this
action simply corresponded "to the
'necessities' of work outside Chile"
then it was an extremely
opportunistic one indeed. However,
the signing has much more
fundamental reasons behind it than
that.

The MIR once again falls into
the trap it set itself before the coup
in its attitude towards the Allende
government. Then, it sought to
moderate its criticisms and militant
actions in order to 'gain the ear' of
the Popular Unity leaders. Today,
it has foregone any 'polemic' within
the resistance movement for similar
reasons. It aims to win over the
broad layers of the resistance
purely in the hopes that they will
'admire' MIR's abilities to survive
the repression together with its
military capabilities.

Unfortunately, this means that
once again the MIR abandons the
workers to the politics of
reformism. MIR may "stand for a
revolutionary road" but silence will
not map out that road for the
working class — they will follow
the well-lit and familiar road of
reformism instead.

NECESSARY

But whatever our criticisms
of the political organisations
which comprise the Chilean
resistance — and making these
criticisms is a necessary task in
our solidarity work — we have
a definite job of practical
solidarity to carry out in
Britain. The campaign within
the British working class to
break off all links with the
Chilean junta must continue:
that is the responsibility of
socialists in this country. The
working class as a whole must
be shown the need for solidarity
with their Chilean brothers and
sisters, and the Labour
Government must be made to
realise that any dealings with
the Chilean regime will not be
allowed to continue.

A first act in solidarity with
the Chilean resistance must be
the May 5th mobilisation.

By 7th: DEMAND RELEASE OF GRIGORENKO

1974 has been designated
"Year of the Appeal" in a joint appeal endorsed by
the Soviet Initiative Group
Rights, Ken Coates and Chris
Farley for the Bertrand Russell
Peace Foundation, and Jiri
Pelikan for LISTY, the journal
of the Czechoslovak Socialist
Opposition. **WORKERS
FIGHT fully endorses this
appeal. We publish below an
account of Grigorenko's fight
against the Soviet bureaucracy
and his subsequent
persecution, written by Tamara
Deutcher and sent to us by the
organisers of this appeal.**

□ □

**PYOTR Grigorenko is one of
the most outstanding figures
among the dissidents in the
Soviet Union. This 67 year old
veteran of the Second World
War (during which his bravery
earned him six military
decorations including the
Order of Lenin) a Candidate
Master of Military Sciences
and a former senior lecturer at
the Frunze Military Academy,
has been confined since 1969 to
a psychiatric institution,
maltreated and subjected to
many indignities.**

By now we are familiar
enough with Soviet methods of
dispensing 'justice' not to ask
what was the medical diagnosis
on the basis of which
Grigorenko was sent to a
lunatic asylum, but rather what
was the political offence for
which he is so perversely
punished.

Grigorenko fell foul of the
authorities over ten years ago.
At the end of 1963 he founded
the Union of Struggle for the
Revival of Leninism, the aim of
which was to "conduct an
explanation of Leninist tenets
among the people and to spread

Leninist principles." The group
produced and distributed some
leaflets, typewritten or
duplicated, and protested
against some bureaucratic
bungling of the Khrushchev
administration. Obviously, it
would have been much too
embarrassing to conduct a
political trial against a man
who called for a return to
"Leninist norms", and so the
medical profession promptly
obliged by declaring
Grigorenko mentally ill and
shutting him up in a psychiatric
clinic.

Yes, indeed, to have
"reformist ideas" and to see the
need to "reorganise the State
apparatus" must have seemed
to the doctors of the notorious
Serbski Institute a clear
indication of mental illness.

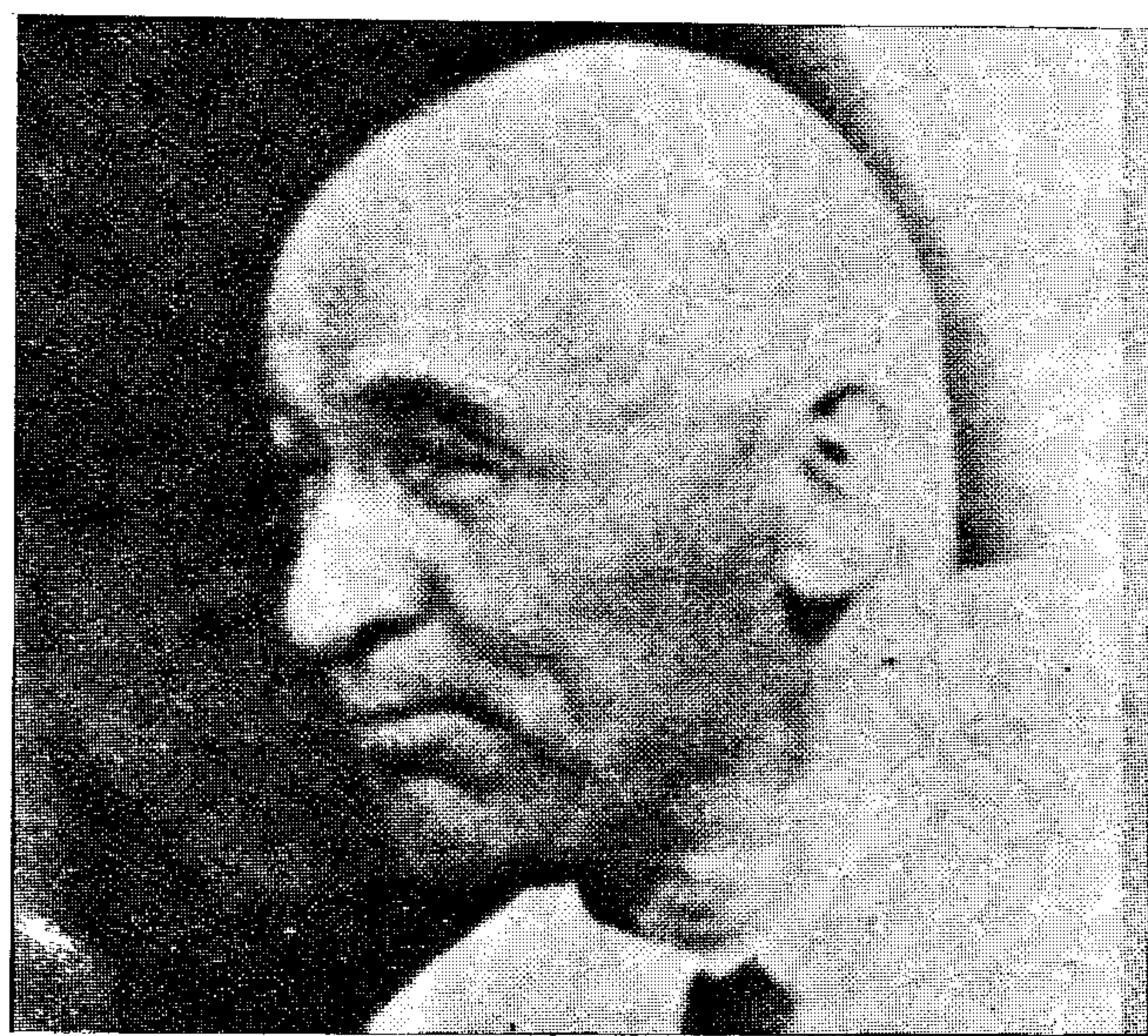
Grigorenko was released in
May 1965. For a time he
refrained from oppositional
activity, or rather he changed
his methods: instead of reacting
by "illegal" leaflets to
immediate abuses of the
bureaucracy, he embarked on a
scholarly work, analysing the
reasons for the disastrous
errors which occurred in the
initial phase of the war.

Grigorenko could not
remain aloof for long from the
growing ferment and dissent. In
1966 he came under the
influence of Alexei Kosterin,
who had survived 17 years of
Stalin's concentration camps
and, released in 1955, remained
to the end of his life as
stubbornly Marxist-Leninist as
he was when he had joined the
Bolshevik Party in 1916.
Around Grigorenko and
Kosterin gathered a whole
group of young dissidents eager
to learn the true history of the
revolution and to fight for
revolutionary legality.

Grigorenko and Kosterin

were especially active in
demanding that the Crimean
Tatars, the Chechen and the
Ingush people as well as the
Volga Germans be allowed to
return home from the
deportation to which Stalin
had condemned them during
the war.

In July 1968, when the
Czechs and Slovaks still
hopefully celebrated the
Prague Spring, Kosterin
together with Grigorenko and
three other Communists signed
a statement of solidarity with
the "working people and all
socialist forces" of



Pyotr Grigorenko before his last arrest.

Czechoslovakia. Grigorenko
and Yakhimovich personally
delivered this message of
solidarity and good will to the
Czechoslovak Embassy in
Moscow. When, a month later,
the tanks of the Warsaw Pact
countries rolled into
Czechoslovakia, a small group
of Grigorenko's young friends
demonstrated against the

invasion in Red Square in
Moscow.

By that time the security
forces were on the alert. Five of
the demonstrators were tried
and sentenced in October 1968.
Again it was Kosterin and
Grigorenko who, among
others, issued most energetic
protests.

Kosterin died in November
1968. With a courage bordering
on recklessness, defying all the
police prohibitions,
Grigorenko organised the
funeral of his friend. Over 400
people gathered at the
Novodevichy cemetery to pay

tribute to the continued
memory of his friend. The
crowd was dense; and it remains a
source of pride to Grigorenko
that the mourners succeeded in
enforcing their will and did not
disperse until all the planned
valedictions were over. Thus
the burial of one of the most
unyielding Bolsheviks became
a political demonstration, the
first of its kind for over four
decades.

Grigorenko once said that it
was Kosterin who turned him
"from a rebel into a fighter",
and so after his friend's death
Grigorenko went on with his
fight against bureaucratic
arbitrariness. In December
1968 he addressed a formal
protest to the USSR Attorney
General A.R. Rudenko against
the police provocation in an
Uzbek town where the security
forces attacked a group of
Crimean Tatars peacefully
celebrating no more
"subversive" a date than the
anniversary of Lenin's birth; he
protested also against the
search of his own flat where the
KGB confiscated, apart from
his military writings, the texts
of funeral speeches in memory
of Kosterin.

Although by that time the
authorities showed an
increased determination to
stamp out all dissent,
Grigorenko did not give up his
struggle. He could not keep
silent when the news of the
tragic death of Jan Palach
percolated through to the
Soviet Union. "This protest
which took such a frightful
form (Palach's self-
immolation) was intended
above all for us, Soviet citizens"
wrote Grigorenko jointly with
Yakhimovich in a stirring
appeal on Czechoslovakia.
"We all share part of the guilt,
... by approving the venture of
our troops, justifying it, or
simply keeping silent, we

contribute to the continued
burning of human torches in
the squares of Prague and other
cities. The Czechs and Slovaks
always considered us their
brothers. Will we let the word
'Soviet' become synonymous
with the word 'foe'?"
Grigorenko called upon his
co-citizens that they should "by all
legal methods ... bring about
the withdrawal of Soviet troops
from Czechoslovakia."

This appeal to the truly
international spirit of the
Soviet people was too
dangerous to the ruling caste.
Grigorenko was arrested.
In August 1969 one
psychiatric commission
declared him sane. But the ill-
famed Serbski Institute
reversed the decision. His trial
was held in February 1970, but
he was "too ill" to attend. The
Doctors pronounced him "too
ill" to receive a visit from his
wife or to contact his defence
lawyer. He was transported to
the special psychiatric prison
hospital at Chernyakovsk.
Since 1973 he has been in a
"normal" mental hospital in
Moscow.

Every six months his case,
like all the similar ones, is
apparently reviewed by a
special medical board.
Grigorenko stubbornly refuses
to change his opinions, views
and principles. His health is
declining rapidly. He has had
two heart attacks; he is losing
his sight and cataracts threaten
him with complete blindness.
No medical treatment is
provided.
It is late, but not too late,
to demand his release: "We all
share part of the guilt ... by
simply keeping silent we
contribute" to his continued
suffering at the hands of
doctors — loyal servants of the
State.

Still no action on Teesside redundancies

THE official labour movement on Teesside continues to behave as if the issue of 1,000 redundancies in the steel industry were not of any concern.

The only initiative has come from steelmen round the rank-and-file paper **Real Steel News**, who are launching a campaign to galvanise the local labour movement into opposing the British Steel Corporation's plans. A meeting has been called for Friday May 3rd.

BISAKTA, the main steel union, led on Teesside by a member of the International Socialists National Committee, Arthur Affleck, is copletely passive. No mass

meeting of steelworkers has been called. Overtime, which is worked on a massive scale,

has not been banned. Affleck confines himself to promising to ban it when the first man is

made redundant! The ball is at the feet of the rank and file, and the

leadership of the rank and file can come from only one source — the militants

grouped round **Real Steel News**. Every militant should support the meeting.

DEMAND A WORKERS' INQUIRY!

A "Government Inquiry" was the demand of Middlesbrough Trades Council.

But what are the lessons of previous struggles against redundancies?

Take the shutdown of the Newport Tube Works, for instance. No sooner had the British Steel Corporation announced the closure than the workers demanded an inquiry.

They got their inquiry. The inquiry told them they would have to shut down.

So they campaigned for another inquiry — and they got it. That too told them they had to shut down.

The works no longer exists, but the last men to be working there were still demanding an inquiry: this time it was to be a "Labour Party" one, rather than a government one. Now, however, the Labour Party is the government.

At Ebbw Vale, local MP Michael Foot supported demands for an inquiry. There has been no announcement of a reprieve.

At Shotton, local Labour MP Barry Jones and local Tory MP Anthony Meyer both supported demands for an inquiry.

At Stanton the popular demand for an inquiry was supported by both Labour and Tory MPs. And the same goes for Hartlepool. And the same goes for East Moors. And Irlam...

Any inquiry that is not a workers' inquiry judges the issue on the merits of profit and expense as seen from the point of view of the capitalists and their government. "Government"

inquiry, "independent" inquiry, "all-party" inquiry — it's all the same thing.

At the recent "Rank and File" conference in Birmingham, a Workers Fight supporter, a delegate from Stanton steelworks, argued for "the abolition of business secrecy, giving workers the right to investigate and expose publicly the operations of the capitalists, not just in one branch of industry or firm, but in all their financial and state connections. To the demand for parliamentary, employers', or 'independent' inquiries into proposals for factory closures, we counterpose the demand for a workers' inquiry."

REAL STEEL NEWS

Meeting to discuss the fight against the redundancies.

Speaker Tony Duffy
Princess Alice pub, Newport Rd, Middlesbrough. 8pm, Friday 3rd May.

South Teesside Works must learn these lessons. It cannot afford to let the same people that have been making the mess make the inquiry.

Jack Price

500 MARCH IN SUPPORT OF HUNGER STRIKERS



Hugh Feeney's mother, with Gerard Kelly's young wife, before the start of last Sunday's march, which demanded of Jenkins that the forcible feeding of the hunger strikers be ended and that they be transferred to jails in Northern Ireland. There were simultaneous marches in Ireland

'TROOPS OUT' CAMPAIGN FORMED ON TEESSIDE

ON Monday April 29th about 20 people launched a campaign in Teesside to force the British government to withdraw its Army from Northern Ireland.

Tony Duffy, AUEW steward and editor of the rank-and-file steelworkers' paper **Real Steel News** was the main speaker at the meeting. Duffy was formerly an aircraft technician in REME attached to the Army Air Corps which serves the notorious Special Air Services. With nine years in the Army, he saw service in places like Cyprus and Kenya.

Making plain his own political position in favour of Ireland's right to self-determination, and support for those in the north of Ireland now fighting to drive the British army out, he proposed the creation of a broad campaign for **Troops Out Now!**

A bigger meeting is planned for three weeks' time with prominent speakers from the labour movement. It is planned to start picketing recruiting offices.

Already the campaign has caused a stir. The local paper, the **Gazette**, has carried two reports, objective if not friendly. (Two years ago it launched a rabid witchunt against a Workers Fight meeting on Ireland). Plain clothes police immediately started a very obvious surveillance of the house from which the campaign leaflets were published. The authorities know very well that Teesside is one of the most sensitive areas in Britain on this question. It is certainly a fact that if the single-issue Troops Out campaign has any prospect of becoming big enough to be a material factor in affecting British policies, then Teesside is one area where the conditions favouring its growth exist.

WITCHUNT CONTINUES AT COWLEY

THE situation still hangs in the balance at Cowley, where British Leyland are trying to victimise shop steward Alan Thornett.

Although Thornett has been democratically elected by the 150 drivers at the plant to represent them, British Leyland have said they refuse to recognise him.

On Monday 29th April, Thornett recommended to a meeting of the drivers that they should end their strike, which started over a dispute on lay-off pay, pending the dispute being made official. The T&G regional official had so far refused to recommend making the stoppage official, and militants had not pressed the point hard, because if the strike were made official, the 12,000 men laid off as a result would not be able to claim

unemployment benefit. But lack of official recognition was leading to some wavering among a minority of drivers, who feared isolation and victimisation.

Mathers, the T&G regional official, stated that he would recommend official support only if approved by a special meeting of the whole Cowley T&G branch. On Monday night, the regular monthly T&G branch meeting, attended by more than 300 workers, voted to accept and commend Thornett's handling of the dispute; but a special meeting was called for Tuesday at the Town Hall.

The special meeting, to be addressed by Mathers and by national T&G official Moss Evans, was called off when 1500 workers turned up and there was

no room. It was postponed to 7.30 the following morning, on the Sports Field. But Evans then called this off and announced that Thornett was stepping down as deputy T&G convenor. Evans stated he was now seriously considering recommending the union National Executive to make the strike official, as the sole question now was whether Thornett, elected by and with continuing support from the 150 drivers, should be allowed to continue as their shop steward.

For now, the matter is in the hands of the union bureaucrats. The 150 drivers are back at work, the plant is producing, and Thornett is still not recognised as

shop steward.

But the witchunt conducted against Thornett by Mrs Carol Miller and her supporters received a heavy setback on Tuesday (April 30th). Mrs Miller called a meeting to set up a Housewives' Association, but her supporters were heavily outnumbered at the meeting by women workers from Cowley, and a motion in support of Thornett was carried.

The Trades Council, also, almost unanimously voted support on 26th April, and decided to open its Provident Fund and to start a district strike levy.

Bob Sugden

TEACHER VICTIMISED FOR PUPILS' STRIKE

PUPILS, parents, and teachers will be demonstrating on 4th May against the suspension of a teacher at Garibaldi comprehensive school, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

The suspension arises from action by pupils in the week of 11th to 15th February. The 5th form boycotted lessons and stayed in their 5th form block. One pupil said: "We want more say in school matters concerning us. We have a school council on which representatives sit; however, it seems that if our suggestions do not meet with their approval they are never voiced in the council. We have waited a long time for things to improve but they have

not done so, so we decided not to do our lessons."

The pupils were asking for three things: 1. The right to choose their own type of dress — in the case of the girls, the wearing of trousers. 2. To have a fifth form committee of elected representatives. More frequent school council meetings. 3. More relevant and interesting course.

During the week of the strike one teacher, Manuel Moreno, was accused by the headmaster of not only instigating the strike and inciting the school to riot, but also of sabotaging the discipline in the school since he had been there. Then at a governors' meeting on 20th March Mr Moreno was suspended pending an inquiry by the Educational Sub-Committee (on 9th May).

In fact Mr Moreno did not "instigate" or "incite" the strike at all, and in the headmaster's written report no mention whatsoever was made of the 5th form protest. The headmaster's allegations are all of a trivial nature — his complaints about discipline are made to look foolish by the fact that some, if not all, of Mr Moreno's classes have been left unattended in a corner of a library since his suspension.

Petitions to support Mr Moreno have been signed by 800 out of the 900 pupils at the school, and by 350 parents.

Defence Committee: c/o Mrs I Bentley, 37 Laurel Ave, Forest Town, Mansfield.

Keith Bennett

DOROTHY McCOLGAN

DOROTHY McCOLGAN, the victimised London teacher, has at last got a job. She starts the Summer Term as an assigned teacher at William Tyndale School, which is in her previous area of London. Thus two out of three of her final demands have been met.

The fly in the ointment is that both her union, the National Union of Teachers, and her employers, the Inner London Education Authority, are still silent as the grave about the question of back pay. As we have previously reported, Dorothy has had absolutely no official financial support from the NUT or ILEA since the campaign to reinstate her began last September. So far this campaign has cost her £1120.

In the face of opposition from her local branch treasurer, who refused to pay out after a motion was passed pledging regular financial aid, Dorothy and the rest of the Action Committee produced collection forms calling on NUT members to make regular monthly donations. She obviously still needs our support. A record of all donations is being kept, and in the event of her getting her back pay, they will be refunded. Collection forms are available from Dorothy McCOLGAN at 163 Green Lanes, London N16.

FUND: £151.32 That's the magnificent sum we received last month for our £100 a month Fighting Fund. Keep it up! Donations NOW for May to 98 Gifford Street, London N1

Strachans men try for wider support

THE men at Strachans, in Eastleigh, Hampshire, are all the more in need of support since the ending of their occupation by a 50-strong police force on 19 April. The men are still picketing

round the clock outside the factory.

They have appealed for blacking of the vans previously produced by Strachans (a series of vans for Fords), and they have asked the TUC for an inquiry into the role of the Special Branch at Strachans.

The men have received some support from rank and file trade unionists, particularly in the Southampton area, and now that they are travelling to get support, from the Sheffield and Tyneside areas. But the significance of what has happened at Strachans, with the involvement of the Special Branch, and the police eviction, has not yet been generally realised in the labour movement.

Send donations for Strachans to P Hann, T&GWU, Transport House, 67-71 London Rd, Southampton.

Cynthia Baldry.

NURSES' PAY: 'STRIKE OR STARVE'

THE first shot in a new war of the low paid health workers against government and employer wage restraint began on Tuesday 30th April outside the Elephant and Castle headquarters of Barbara Castle, minister for Health and Social Security.

2000 nurses from all over the country demanded pay rises up to 55% for some grades, shorter and more flexible working hours, better holidays, cheaper food and facilities. The National Health Service is short of 46,000 full-time and 28,000 part-time nurses, which is not surprising if you look at the figures. A recent pay settlement gave nurses a 15% rise, taking the lowest grade up by an extra £2.25 a week to about £990 per year basic!

For many nurses, and other workers in the health service the position is stark: Strike or Starve!

Tom Ramsey

MEETINGS

RALLY AGAINST RACIALISM. Organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists. Assemble 1.30pm, May 18th, Lumb Lane/Westgate recreation ground, Bradford. Coach leaves from Paneras Rd, near Kings Cross, 8am.

TROOPS OUT Movement conference, 10.15 to 6pm, Saturday 11th May, Collegiate Theatre, 25 Gordon St, London W1. Speakers will include David Bellamy,...

Scottish area NUM, and Mike Cooley, ex-president of TASS. Credentials 50p from T.O.M., 28 Lamas Park Rd, Ealing, London W5.

MANCHESTER conference against racism and fascism. Renold Theatre, 10am to 6pm, May 18th. Details from Manchester Anti-Fascist Committee, 27 Thatch Leach, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancashire.

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London teachers to vote on strike

THE teachers' London Allowance has remained static at £118 for three and a half years now — despite the fact that the government agreed in principle two years ago on a substantial increase.

Unless there is an increase before 31st May, closing date for teachers' resignations this year, staff shortages, chaos, and part-time education (which this year has affected over 100 schools in London) are bound to get worse. But once again, on Monday April 29th, the Government refused. Michael Foot told a deputation of NUT leaders that teachers are subject to Phase 3 and will have to wait until the Pay Board report in June.

Behind that deputation there had been 15,000 teachers demonstrating. This week London teachers are voting on strike action: one-day and/or two weeks' strike and/or indefinite action. By now, patience is wearing thin, and many teachers realise that one-day actions at this stage are useless. The only way forward is for all-out strike action to break Phase 3, linked with other sections demanding increased London Weighting, like NALGO, NUR, and CPSA.