STAND

SHAFRICA

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 1994

NO. 395

PRICE 30p

Lenin on the ballot paper! TROISIS

A PARTY has been registered [for the coming national elections] which declares its aim as the overthrow of capitalism', reported South African television.

Our comrades of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International in South Africa had just announced their intention to stand in the elections, as reported in Workers Press last week.

They hope to put up candidates in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Durban. It's the first time that South Africa's black majority - including the majority of the workers who produce its wealth — have won the right to

But our comrades know that real power, enabling working people to lay their hands on that wealth, and shape their own future, will

not come through the ballot

Under the electoral rules, each registered party is required to submit a photograph of its leader. The Workers International handed in a picture of V.I. Lenin, leader of the Bolsheviks and the October Revolution!

Repression

There's more than symbolsm involved here. The Workers International comrades are no lightweight coffee-bar 'communists'. They have experience in workers' struggles, in resisting repression within the African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla camps, and in operating clandestinely in the townships under right-wing

These comrades don't only

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

work under the most difficult conditions. They put their lives on the line.

They are making their stand because no one else will speak for the working class, in this election or after.

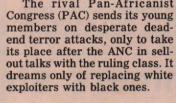
The middle-class ANC and its Stalinist allies in the South African Communist Party have made their peace with F.W. de Klerk and imperialism, promising their backing to corrupt tribalists and stooges, and pledging their protection to big business and the mine owners.

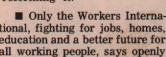
After decades of struggle, workers and young people have nothing but broken promises and betrayal to look forward to

The rival Pan-Africanist

Truth

- Only the Workers International will tell the truth in this election, and fight to unite working people. Only the Workers International stands for demolishing the racist state, not 'reforming' it.
- Only the Workers International, fighting for jobs, homes, education and a better future for all working people, says openly and honestly that this means expropriating the big banks, mines and capitalist industries.





Urgent: Support the election appeal Truth doesn't come cheap

from South African and foreign capitalists, elements in the racist state and great-power intelligence services.

Some of the powers who claim they oppose apartheid are trying to impose it on Bosnia!

All of them want to make sure that whoever wins these elections, capitalism does not lose. Whether by old methods or new, they want the black working class kept yoked.

The reactionary Inkatha party has its rich Tory backers and right-wing American friends, as well as funding from the state. The ANC enjoys support from well-heeled white liberals, church leaders, and some business interests, as well as what remains of the international Stalinist network.

It can raise funds with fullpage adverts in the capitalist and trade union movement conducted with the backing of the bureaucracy.

The working class and the Workers International can turn only to its own, to working people and socialists — to all those who genuinely want to fight capitalism, imperialism and oppression.

Urge

Why should our money go to the politically corrupt ANC, as the union leaders, Labourites, Stalinists and revisionist hangers-on urge? Now there is a working-class alternative.

The truth does not come cheap.

Our comrades have taken on one of the richest capitalist classes in the world, which has links to Britain, Europe and the United States. These comrades

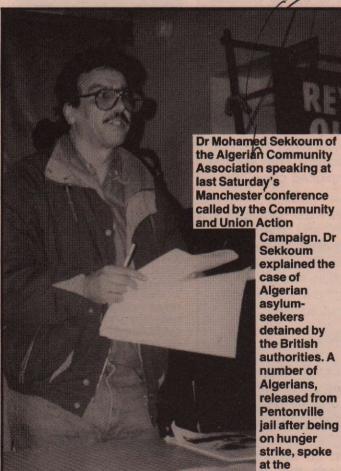
EACH of the main contestants press in Britain and the United desperately need basic facilities the coming South African States, as well as through - an office, telephones, transtions has big money backing appeals to the official Labour port - which the labour movement elsewhere takes for granted.

They have taken on a huge job. Only the Workers International is raising the red flag of socialism, unsullied, in the South African elections. Let's give them our full support.

■ The election campaign needs money - now, today. So far we have raised £1,080, for which we thank everybody who has donated. On learning that Lenin was to be on the ballot paper, two London readers sent in £500 for the election fund!

But our comrades are still in urgent need of money. Please rush your donations to:

Workers International, PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB. Make cheques payable to Workers International. Please fax us on 071-582 8834 and tell us what to expect.



Campaign. Dr released from ail after being

conference.

page 2; full

report, page

See editorial,

has staged the biggest workingclass gathering in the country. Resources

Save the

Durham

gala!

THE Durham miners' gala is

under threat. The National

Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

has announced that it can no

longer afford to stage the gala -

which for more than a century

Last week David Hopper, on behalf of the NUM's North-East area, said that the miners were appealing to the rest of the labour movement to find the resources to keep the event going. They would see what response the appeal met with and take a

decision in four weeks' time. The gala must be kept in being! It must be transformed into a powerful show of workingclass solidarity.

If you or your organisation want to save the 'Big Meeting', please send messages to David Hopper, National Union of Mineworkers, PO Box 6, Redhill DH1 4BD.

A PLEA FROM TUZLA

WORKERS AID for Bosnia and the Workers International have received a direct and urgent request for us to send comrades to Tuzla now.

Help

The comrades in Tuzla have asked specifically for political help in rallying the working-class, socialist forces in Tuzla, in a situation where starvation and the pressure

of nationalism are now causing grave

We cannot and will not refuse. Dot Gibson and Andy MacFarlane are already in Zagreb, Croatia, and Cliff Slaughter is leaving to join them; they will then proceed to Tuzla.

We are making an urgent appeal to all our readers for help to fully finance this immediate work and all the openings it will undoub-

Inside: Bangladesh and Russia, p2; Workers International second congress report, p4&5; Crisis in ex-USSR, p7

Workers Press

The unity of the working class

THE 'Unite the Struggles' conference held by the Community and Union Action Campaign in Manchester last Saturday was a step forward for all those engaged in the fight to unite the working class against its enemies: the employers and the Tory government.

It re-established a simple but decisive point: that all the struggles in which the working class is engaged — whether against unemployment, welfare cuts, racism, etc. — have a common root: the crisis of capitalism.

That is why, if the struggles are really to be united, in practice and not just in words, the working class cannot simply react to the attacks made on this or that of its sections.

The capitalist class always forces various sections of workers to organise themselves in one defensive fight after another. To leave matters there, to accept the existing consciousness of the working class, is to accept a consciousness imposed on the working class by the capitalist class.

DO WE envisage a permanent state of affairs where the working class tries to defend itself and what is more with organisations — trades unions, the Labour Party — whose leaders have gone over openly to the other side?

This is, in fact, what many who constantly shout 'The working class united will never be defeated' actually do envisage.

Such people, typified above all by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), simply move from one struggle to another, mindlessly chanting this same slogan on every occasion, and hoping to pick up a few recruits on the way. When one struggle ends it is quickly forgotten and they move on to 'next

They have no conception of the working class actually being able to organise itself to defeat the capitalist class, to destroy the capitalist state and in so doing lay the basis for socialism. They see the working class as simply an exploited class, not a revolutionary class.

However difficult the road, we must fight against the sort of view held by the SWP and others. If this ruling class manages to hang on to power it will destroy us all, destroy the planet even. Its own parasitism, decadence, corruption and perversion - seen in Britain and throughout the world threatens to engulf the whole of society.

WE DO NOT believe that this will happen. We are convinced that the working class will reconstruct itself internationally. It is already doing so, above all through the initiatives of Workers Aid for Bosnia.

But clearly this task cannot be accomplished under the existing organisations that presently dominate the working class: in Britain the reformist trades unions and the Labour Party.

Nor will this reconstruction be achieved automatically. This is why we have raised, as a matter of urgent discussion, the need for a working-class party that can unite the working class by starting from the source of all the struggles in which it is engaged and from the real needs that it faces.

Above all, this means its need to turn what remains a series of defensive struggles into a united, offensive struggle by the whole of the working class against the capitalist class. A steering committee was elected at last Saturday's Manchester conference; it was asked to consider the organisation of a further conference later in the year which could discuss this matter in greater

We very much hope that the steering committee takes this proposal on board, for we are dealing with an issue that gets more urgent every day.

Letter

Today's reality in slavia. ex-Yugoslavia

PANOS (Letters, 5 February) believes that to describe the overthrow of Stalinism in Yugoslavia in 1989-91 as a revolution is to hold a position 'opposed to that of Trotsky'. He forgets that Trotsky was murdered in 1940, and consequently had no position on Communist Yugoslavia, which was born in

the revolution of 1941-45. Unlike the Russian revolution this was not a socialist revolution. It enacted a partial settlement of the national question, and created conditions for the rapid industrialisation and social modernisation of Yugo-

The Serbian Stalinists have overturned the Partisans' settlement of the national question, and largely destroyed the economy and society of Bosnia. It is in this sense that I wrote of a 'Milosevic counter-revolution' (The 'International' No. 13, Au-

If Panos really believes the overthrow of Yugoslav Stalinism was a 'counter-revolution', will he please explain when this 'counter-revolution' began?

After all, the Yugoslav Communists abandoned the collectivisation of agriculture in 1953 in favour of re-privatisation. The market was steadily reintroduced to Yugoslavia from the 1950s onwards. In the late 1980s it was the Yugoslav Communist government which was pushing for free-market reforms.

One could thus argue that the last 40 years of Yugoslav history amount to one long 'counter-revolution', a retreat from the 'pure deformed workers' state' which existed under Stalin's brotherly protection in 1945-48.

But such an approach does not really deserve to be taken seriously. Panos should understand that today Trotsky's writings can complement, but not replace, an analysis of reality. The Bolshevik invasion of

Georgia in 1921 was the lesser evil - it sacrificed Georgian

self-determination to defend the Russian workers' revolution. Today no such paradox exists self-determination for the republics of the former Yugoslavia and former Soviet Union is not conflicting with any workers' revolution.

WE WELCOME LETTERS

SEND THEM TO: WORKERS PRESS. PO BOX 735, LONDON SW8 1YB

- OR PHONE 071-582 8882

With Zhirinovsky calling for the restoration of Russia's rule over its former empire, and defending the Russian 'deformed workers' state' from 'capitalist aggression', and with the Entente powers backing Milosevic's aggression against Bosnia, I suspect Trotsky today would be defending both Bosnia and the Ukraine, bourgeois or otherwise.

Attila Hoare Cambridge

Bangladesh garment workers launch struggle

BY A CORRESPONDENT IN DHAKA

BANGLADESH's National Garment Workers' Federation has launched a nation-wide 'Festival-bonus realising struggle', after workers at Flint Garments in the capital, Dhaka, won a six-day strike for pay and bonus arrears.

Under the law, all workers and employees were supposed to receive a bonus, equivalent to one month's pay each Eid (the Muslim New Year festival). But 100,000 garment workers have not been receiving this.

The garment workers' federation says the government, its labour inspection department, and law enforcement agencies have turned a blind eye to this violation of workers' rights, because they are all either sympathetic to, or manipulated by, the employers.

oriented Flint Garments, 230 of them women, went on strike after strong-arm men hired by management had, on 27 December, attacked workers demanding outstanding pay and overtime bonuses. Ten workers were injured in the attack. One of them, 19-year-old Khadija Khatun, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College hospital.

Complaint

Workers went to local Motijheel police station in a crowd, and filed a complaint. Under pressure, the police went to the factory and arrested two of the management's thugs.

On 28 December, the workers began a sit-in strike and picket, demanding outstanding pay, and protesting at the employers' use of violence. They sent written complaints to the labour ministry and other authorities, and the following day

Flint management went to the police, but workers filed a counter-complaint, and no action was taken. Meanwhile, tripartite talks - between the employer, workers and the government — had been set up, but were getting nowhere. On 30 December, workers marched through the city and held a factory-gate rally.

On 2 January, responding to a call from management, police came to the factory, attempting to bring out clothing that the company wanted to ship on time. Women laid down in the road and blocked the gates. After two hours, the police went away empty-handed

Later the same day, the employers backed down, and agreed to pay outstanding salaries and overtime pay, and to compensate workers injured by the firm's strong-arm men. The agreement was signed by man-

agement and government r resentatives, and by Amirul Haque, of the National Garment Workers' Federation, and Lily and Shahida Begum for the workers.

The National Garment Workers' Federation launched last Saturday a national campaign to secure the workers' rightful festival bonus. The campaign has begun with a charter of workers' demands, which has been sent to factory owners, the employers' body, the labour ministry, and the labour inspection department.

The Federation intends to turn to other unions, youth and students, women's groups, civil rights organisations, journalists and teachers.

■ The Federation is appealing for support and donations to step up the workers' struggle. Information from: Amirul Haque Amin, general secretary, National Garment Workers' Federation, GPO Box 148, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Russian miners strike over back pay

BY SIMON PIRANI

RUSSIAN miners are staging an underground strike in protest broken government promises.

The strike was started by tunnelling teams developing new mine workings at the Zapolyarnaya, Severnaya and Ayach-Yaga collieries, and the new Vorkuta No. 33 mine.

On 9 February, 164 men started an underground sit-down protest. 'The strikers demand the remittance of back pay which has been withheld, guarantees of being paid on time in future and a financial audit of the Rusugol

[Russian coal] company', reported ITAR-TASS. They also wanted 'fulfilment

of the protocol signed by [former economics minister] Yegor Gaidar on 27 November last year in Vorkuta, on measures for resolving the problems of miners and all northerners, including those of financing the tunnelling and shaft-building work necessary to maintain and develop the Pechora coalfield.'

On the same day, 22 miners at Prokopievsk, southern Siberia, started a hunger strike, to press for the payment of wages owed. They said they would continue their protest until 12 February, when a miners' conference would start in the town

Rallies were called in Komsomolsk-na-Amure on 9 February. Ship, aircraft and building workers were to attend.

'Repeated appeals to the government and president have failed to change anything', reported ITAR-TASS.

Closed

'Defence enterprises are not paid for the products manufactured under state order. Many civilian enterprises are closed.

There are also disputes by media workers and teachers. who say soaring fuel prices are causing the closure of schools and colleges.

■ Independent miners' union

setting up self-defence units, said a news agency report from Kiev. Miners' leaders in Makeyevka and Khartsysk in Donetsk, Pavlograd and Pervomaysk had been beaten up at the instigation of management, said the union. Another report said that independent miners' union activists in Pervomaysk had joined the extreme-right Ukrainian People's Self Defence organisation.

■ Miners are leaving Krasnodon and Sverdlovsk in Ukraine to work in Russia. They are willing to work for lower wages, reported Trud newspaper. But Russian miners' unions have banned managers from employing them.

Workers Press £3,000 Monthly Fighting Fund

In so far: £1,163.27

OUR party, the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International, is standing in the South African elections, as reported in last Monday's 'Guardian' AND on the front page of THIS PAPER. WORK-ERS PRESS is a VITAL part of our South African comrades' fight for the principle of independent working-class international solidarity and permanent revolution against the African National Congress and South African Communist Party, which seek to subordinate workers to the bourgeoisle and petty-bourgeois forces. So when you give to the South Africa fund make it an EXTRA contribution and sacrifice and not in place of any money you can give to the Workers Press.

We are falling behind after last week's good start to the month. On the special contributions front I can report our FIRST donation from Poland. The £10 donated was a real effort; let's try and match that level of sacrifice. So here I am on my knees again saying please, please, pretty please, send us some money. Get out and rebuild the workers' movement with our paper. Help us to help you. Mike Cooke Cheques, etc., to Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB.

CORRECTION

CHARLIE POTTINS writes: In my 'Inside Left' column last week, referring to a remark in 'Socialist Organiser' that Labour MP George Galloway 'stood within smelling distance of the Iraqi dictator', I intended to compare it with the Tory tabloid 'Daily Star' (e.g. its front-page lead: 'Where's Your Nose Been Gallo-

way? . . . stuck up Saddam's junta, that's where').

Unfortunately, my mention of "the "Star" was misinterpreted, and appeared in print, as 'the "Morning Star", which for once was innocent! Apologies to readers who may have wondered what point I was making. I promise to be more careful to avoid confusion in future.

Coming soon

tingham United against Racism and Fascism demonstration. Meet at Forest Recreation Ground (Mansfield Road entrance), 10.30am for 11am departure. March to Market Square for 12 noon rally. Music incl. Kelly's Heroes & Helen McDonald plus speakers.

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY: 'Council for Academic Standards and Academic Freedom' meeting, 1pm-3pm, Mary Fisher Room,

Byng Place, London WC1. Nearest tubes are at Euston and Goodge

TUESDAY 8 MARCH: 'The Challenge of Creationism'. Start of South Place Ethical Society course by Mike Howgate MSc., 6.30pm-8.30pm (and each Tuesday following in March). At the Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, London WC1. Admission is £1 and the nearest tube is Holborn.

Bristol Marxist Forum conference **Towards revolution:** Socialist politics now

Saturday-Sunday 5-6 March The Bristol Settlement, Ducie Road, Barton Hill, Bristol 5

Saturday — 1.30pm-5.30pm; Sunday — 10am-2pm

Details from: J. Clark, 23 Monmouth Road, Bristol BS7 8LF. (0272 423435)

Unite the struggles!

'To unite people it is necessary to solve the problem of working-class leadership.'

Last Saturday's conference in Manchester called by the Community and Union Action Campaign was a big success. It was attended by around 100 delegates and visitors, of whom about 30 people spoke. A steering committee, which included some new people, was formed to develop CUAC's work. MIKE COOKE reports

WEST INDIAN Community Centre manager BERRY ED-WARDS welcomed the Community and Union Action Campaign conference to the centre in Manchester, and described the centre's struggle against racism from the late 1950s.

LIZ LEICESTER, delegate from the local government workers' Camden UNISON and secretary of CUAC, opened the meeting as chair with a review of developments in the workingclass movement, in Britain and internationally, since CUAC's founding conference in Febru-

DAVE TEMPLE from North East National Union of Mineworkers drew some lessons for the working class from last year's struggle to defend miners' jobs. He talked of the way that mining and other communities were under threat.

We need to develop workingclass organisations that will keep together and preserve all our communities', he said.

I think we can do that. We need to develop a real unemployed movement independent of the trade union bureaucracy that fights for the unemployed and brings them together with people still in work.

Temple said there was a need for a political solution. 'To unite people it is necessary to solve the problem of leadership of the working class.

'We need a new party. If Bryan Gould can't stand it in the Labour Party, what about the rest of us.

CAITLIN WRIGHT of Parkside Women's Pit Camp said she didn't want to discuss a 'new party'. She said that she thought there should have been strike action at the time of the electricity privatisations and that workers should set their own agenda and not be pushed into action at the wrong time.

Revell and George striker RON SENCHAK described the way that his own union, the print workers' GPMU, was an obstacle in the building of solidarity



Ron Senchak

because of its determination to

keep within the anti-union laws.
'Disputes will be long and hard unless we break these laws,' he said. 'We should break them all!

He called for support for a picket of Salford Crown Court, where strikers were to be put on

PATRICIA JUNO of the Campaign against the Child Support Act said that the CSA showed that 'the government is quite happy to let children starve'. She defended women's

rights to benefit, independent of

earn. Leicester National Union of Teachers member POLLY HENDERSON reported on the campaign against the government's tests. She appealed to parents to withdraw their children and promoted the information pack giving details of how to do this.

any money coming from former

partners. She described the way

that women do unpaid work on

top of any wages they might

Manchester City College student PETER GARRATT described how students in his college were joining with lecturers to fight the privatisation of higher education.

Transport and General Workers' Union executive member PETER GIBSON pointed to the international nature of the



Dave Temple

fight against public transport privatisation, which means lower pay for workers and dangerous longer driving hours.

Gibson said that links were being made with transport workers from Paris, Warsaw, Canada, Malawi, South Africa, Madrid, Rome, Japan and

CELIA RALPH, a UNISON member working in a residential home for the severely disabled, described how lies by the management and councillors had resulted in many residents being intimidated into going to private nursing homes and many staff being redeployed. However, 20 staff were sticking together and nine residents remained in the home.

Striker TREVOR JARVIS, a printworker at Arrowsmith in Bristol, spoke of the 'most vicious, premeditated deceit' of management in their attack on workers' wages and conditions.

Eight ALGERIAN ASY-LUM-SEEKERS came to the front of the conference with campaigner MOHAMED SEK-KOUM to tell of their struggle for political asylum and about conditions in Algeria. Three of the eight, who had just been released from Pentonville jail, spoke (see 'From one hell to another, this page).

RAOUF FATAH spoke of his

campaign in defence of Kurdish political asylum-seekers from Iran in Turkey. There they are the target of Iranian death squads and threats of deportation back to Iran where they face death.

Fatah referred to the story on his campaign in Workers Press (29 January) and the support his campaign got from Tower Hamlets trade council.

From one hell to another

'ASYLUM-seekers fleeing from one hell, land in another when they come to Britain', MOHAMED SEKKOUM told last Saturday's Community and Union Action Campaign conference in Manchester.

He spoke with eight Algerian asylum-seekers who had just been released the day before from Pentonville jail standing behind him.

They were released only after they had spent 12 days on hunger strike with asylum-seekers from Zaire and after people from the Algerian community had mounted a picket outside the prison.

The Algerians were concerned that the Zaireans had not been released.

He said that in trying to unite

the workers' movement we

have to recognise a problem: Stalinism. 'The Stalinists are

worse than the capitalists and

her relentless campaign to find

out the truth about her son's

death after he was treated for a

nervous breakdown. Her fight to

gain access to the coroner's re-

port had resulted in her being

put on three years' probation.

mother fighting to know the

truth about the death of her son,

in Broadmoor jail, extended her

solidarity to the Algerian asy-

'We're here today to unite in the fight against this rotten,

stinking system,' Buckley said.
She described how the capitalist

system was destroying hospit-als, mines and working-class

people. She warned that unless

we were fearless in our fight for

unity 'we are going to mourn the

loss of our young generation'.

GEORGE FULLER, from the London region of the build-

ing workers' union UCATT and

part of Building Industry Link-

up, described how in his cam-

paign building workers were

coming together with the home-

less to fight for the building of

houses and infrastructure

rather than empty offices.
CLIFF SLAUGHTER,

speaking on behalf of the Work-

ers International to Rebuild the

Fourth International, said that

the Workers Aid for Bosnia

campaign in sending convoys

and organising political support

had provided more leadership

than the TUC, and that the

Labour Party was so bad that it

wasn't worth complaining

to discuss the need for the for-

mation of a party that could

unite the struggles of the work-

cil secretary PHIL EDWARDS

reported on a week of fascist

attacks in the east London

Tower Hamlets trades coun-

be a conference later in t

Slaughter said there should

about.

ing class.

lum-seekers.

CLARA BUCKLEY, another

SHEILA HENRY spoke of

fascists,' he maintained.

Sekkoum appealed to the conference for help in telling how asylum-seekers were being kept in detention centres and jail with their human rights denied. Most solicitors do not take up these cases because they don't get paid. He also said that the government's Asylum Act was 'harmful to asylum-seekers'.

One of the asylum-seekers told of how he'd escaped from Algeria without a passport and of his ordeal with immigration

ence for help since he was sure that he would be tortured if the immigration authorities got their wish and he was sent

> moving on to office workers and teachers, he said. 'The only way you can fight is by breaking the

scribed conditions in his coun-

try. 'It's worse than Bosnia,' he

said. He had seen his sister

being raped by the authorities.

I would prefer to be shot than

to see my sister raped,' he said.

that prison officers had deliber-

ately insulted him by bringing

him pork when they knew that

he was not allowed to eat it as

was a former prison officer

thanked Workers Press for its

story about the Algerians'

that immigration officials put

plight in last week's paper.

up to granting asylum.

Finally an Algerian who

He described the barriers

First they wanted a pass-

a Muslim.

He also described the way

MICHELLE BURRELL, of the King's Cross Homelessness Project, emphasised the implications of the extension of the Asylum Act restrictions of housing rights.

Burrell called for a vigorous campaign against VAT on fuel with non-payment, invasions of electricity showrooms, etc.

'Heat, light and warmth are human rights,' she declared.

MARK JONES, of the Welsh Socialist Party, Cymru Goch, said the VAT non-payment movement should be built now. Jones maintained that elec-

tricity should be the focus since it was the service that everyone used, unlike gas and coal. He challenged English so-

cialists to break with 'Britain'. Britishness is the cement of reaction,' he said.

He thought that his party should not be part of CUAC but that they should be 'equal partners'

TONY PRICE, from the Hackney Community Defence Campaign, reported on how as a result of their campaign 40



Michelle Burrell

police officers were being investigated for corruption and their activities against people in Hackney.

Price thought that the issues raised by the conference were interconnected and that a solidarity fighting fund should be set up on which those in struggle could draw. This he thought

port, which is often impossible for political opponents of a government to get. When he produced his birth certificate they said: 'It's not enough, we need more - a photo with your name

He said that what the authorities in Britain were doing was against international law in the form of the Geneva Convention and he read out the relevant sections to back up what he said.

When he was in prison the authorities tried to recruit him as a 'translator'. He was sure that this was an invitation to become a spy on other inmates since the Home Office had plenty of translators and didn't need him.

would help to cohere the struc-

ture of the campaign. Building worker and Construction Safety Campaign secretary TONY O'BRIEN was confident that 'people will fight

against reaction'. 'And racism is reaction,' he

O'Brien warned that the health and safety review by the



Tony Price

government was not aimed at 'cutting red-tape', it was an attack on the lives of workers. He said there was to be a

lobby of parliament on International Workers Day (28 April). We must remember the dead,' he said, 'but further than

that we must fight for the Editorial board member of CUAC's paper, 'Unite!', BRONWEN HANDYSIDE, told

of how it had been 'well

received'. 'It's the paper of a whole movement of struggle that's been developing over the past decades,' she said.

Handyside reported the response of one of the Middlebrook Mushrooms strikers that unlike 'left' papers, such as 'Socialist Worker' and 'Militant', it didn't preach.

The striker normally only glanced at the other papers but she could not put 'Unite!' down when she'd received it.

Handyside appealed for contributions to the paper, particularly on the questions of how to unite the working class and how to fight the rotten labour leaders.

WORKERS PRESS IS THE PAPER OF THE **WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

Please send me information about the WRP

Name	date
Address	
Trade union (if any)	Age (if under 21)

Send to: PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB



Sheila Henry

borough and the preparations for the TUC's anti-fascist demonstration on 19 March.

He appealed to the confer-Edwards described the trades council's fight with the TUC to have a working-class demonstration against the fascists on 19 March. 'We told them we don't want any Tories or

rally,' he said. When MARTIN RALPH of CUAC took over the chair he

Liberals on the platform at the

Liz Leicester and Clara Buckley

denounced the degeneration of capitalism symbolised by the killing of 'dispensibles' in Colombia and the trade of 'body parts' in Moscow.

Anti-Child Support Act campaigner IAN LOWSBY called on people at the conference to 'stop bleating and do something'. He called for people to write letters to MPs, Tories, bishops, etc.

This received a hostile response from some at the conference and Lowsby left soon after. DAVE CHAPPLE, a postal worker from Bridgewater, later criticised this 'politically correct' response and said we needed to be patient and enter into a dialogue with 'ordinary people' like Lowsby.

The case against the CSA was in danger of being won, but on the Tories own ground and not in the interests of the working class, Chapple said.

A housing worker for Southwark, JIM SMITH, spoke of how the parts of the Asylum Act designed to restrict access to housing for asylum-seekers were being extended to everyone.

Smith related the way that the government had taken away the responsibility for public housing from councils and given them to the unaccountable government-appointed Housing Corporation, which doles out money to housing associations. Hertfordshire UNISON shop

steward BEN CALLAN described his battle against privatisation of cleaning services.

Callan described the way union officials and Labour councillors had blocked his campaign. He warned against accepting compulsory competitive tendering with in-house tenders.

You may not lose today, but in three years time you'll lose for definite,' he said.

The privatisation drive was

Inside

Jackanories

HE Tories are waging a vicious mpaign of smears against abour,' said Labour local governent spokesperson Jack Straw Pribune', 4 February), citing a tale the 'Birmingham Post' (propetor Sir Norman Fowler, Tory rty chairman), in December, hich claimed Birmingham city uncil had banned Father

The Tories have their own wores. Sir Norman Fowler spent six purs in Hammersmith police staon last week, discussing stockings,

spenders and bags.

But Labour has a problem, in ek Straw. Last year, leaping in shind the Tory media attack on ambeth, he boasted Labour had t rid of 'Trotskyist' councillors ecause 'in Lambeth and Liverpool, rotskyism and corruption went and in hand.

Expelled left-wing councillors, ot charged with any 'corruption', ensulted their lawyers. The abour Party paid for Straw's affe. Now he is on about Hackney, nd the head teacher who turned

own ballet tickets.

The now famous "Romeo and liet" letter was written some onths ago. I am convinced that ery strategists sat on it until last eek, and then set a trap — not for e hapless head but for Hackney ocal Education Authority which, ey hoped, would ensnare itself in e head's eccentric views. All credit Labour's leaders in Hackney that ey resisted this invitation.

We've heard that until the Tory evening Standard' phoned Hackey council, the media didn't know hich school was involved. Somene from the council told them here to lay siege with their micphones and cameras. (Hackney, ondon's poorest borough, has pointed a £53,000 a year tourism ficer, but I thought this was for ghts like Stoke Newington police ation, famous for exotic plants.) Any credit in this affair belongs the working-class parents who, hatever their views on the ballet, ffectively told the council and the ory media to piss off, standing by head teacher whom they felt had one well by their kids.

RISH struggle continues', said Weekly Worker' for 27 January. The British government has not efeated the IRA in the Six Counes, but the republican movement as not won either.'

Communist Party national orgaiser Anne Murphy says: 'If the evolutionary situation in the Six ounties of Northern Ireland is resoled negatively through a negotiated lement with the British ruling ass, a new situation will come into eing for the working class of Northm Ireland. In common with the ritish working class, they would be ced with the "United Kingdom"

Under those conditions the job of Communists living within the borers of the "United Kingdom" would to unite in one party for the purose of overthrowing that state. We ould need a Communist Party of

e United Kingdom.'

Weekly Worker' objected when e criticised nationalist IRA ethods which didn't distinguish etween the imperialist state and rdinary working people. Now they lame the outcome — negotiations ith imperialism — on 'the change the world balance of forces' (as hough Stalinism was such an ally!). Ireland, Palestine and South Afria, they write off the struggle, conluding that imperialism has won. A Communist Party of the United ingdom' - What next?!

Charlie Pottins

Rebuilding the Fourth International

This is the second and final part of a report from the second congress of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International that met on 14-16 November and the first meeting, on 22-23 January, of the executive committee that was elected by the congress. The first part appeared on 5 February.

'ARE WE still working as if we are a Trotskyist propaganda circle which from time to time "intervenes"?', asked Cliff Slaughter in his report to the second congress of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International.

Can the Fourth International in the course of its reconstruction organise into a Marxist leadership the vanguard of workers who come forward against the existing reformist and Stalinist leaderships?

Will this be done with the tactic of a transitional form of political organisation, such as the International Trade Union Solidarity Campaign, to organise around us the forces for this fight?

We have already said that the revolutionary nucleus in any country must be politically formed, continuously, by the work of a Marxist leadership at the international level. Its members are members of an international party (not just an internationalist one).

'In summary, besides the indispensable broadening out of our work and our membership, the winning of new forces, a strict selection and testing of revolutionary leadership is essential.'

In the course of the Workers International's work on the initiative for the Workers Aid campaign's convoy to Bosnia, we (together with new forces who came together with us in this work) clashed with the so-called United Secretariat of the Fourth International (USec), led by Ernest Mandel.

The USec is a centrist organisation, organised in Britain as the International Socialist Group, publishing the fortnightly 'Socialist Outlook', and in France as the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire, publishing 'Rouge'

The Workers International second congress report by Cliff Slaughter concluded:

'It is part of the new stage reached in the fight to resolve the crisis of working-class revolutionary leadership that wherever workers come forward now to reconstruct the working-class movement, they find it necessary to fight against and overcome these groups of self-proclaimed left activists.

That is part of the legacy of Stalinism and its damage to classconsciousness: the Stalinist bureaucracy is in a state of disintegration, but the revision of Marxism by those in the Fourth International who long ago capitulated to Stalinist pressure plays its part in disorientating workers, through these centrist groups.

'The political and theoretical fight against them is an essential part of the reconstruction of the Fourth International and at the same time a necessity for the working-class movement as a whole in its own struggle for reconstruction.

At the Workers Aid meeting called in Manchester on 30 October 1993 to report back on the first convoy, there was a decisive two-to-one majority endorsing the main report and proposals of Workers International executive member Dot Gibson, which were to concentrate the

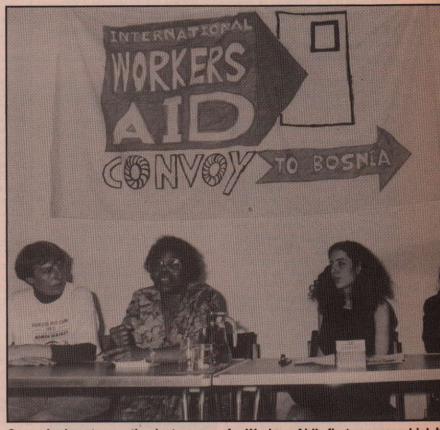
'The revolutionary nucleus in any country must be politically formed, continuously, by the work of a Marxist leadership at the international level.'

campaign throughout the workers' movement on the opening, in a fight against the United Nations, of the northern route to the town of Tuzla.

The Bosnians at the meeting voted for this proposal to open this vital lifeline to Tuzla, which is the principal obstacle to the carve-up of Bosnia.

Supporters of USec voted against this position, guided by French journalist Catherine Samary and other centrist 'leaders'. These leaders used Steve Myers and his opposition report to launch a treacherous and diversionary attack on the Workers International as allegedly 'hijacking' Workers Aid.

Respon recon



Campaigning at a meeting last summer for Workers Aid's first convoy, which he

Radoslav Pavlovic - our Serbian comrade who first proposed the convoy initiative — has written on this question of the northern route:

'The "northern route" was not an invention of the British or Hungarian Trotskyists.

'Its opening is the obvious aim that flows from the serious political, military and geographical analysis made by the Bosnians themselves. And among them the representatives of Tuzla in Zagreb, who know what they are talking about.

'Unfortunately the leaders of

USec think that, with their university degrees and recognition as famous journalists in the Western press, they are far superior to the Bosnians who have acquired their experiences at the dearest price' (Workers Press, 12 February)

On the day following the 30 October convoy report-back meeting in Manchester, at a gathering billed as 'international' - it was so 'international' that no Bosnians were invited! — the USec leaders rejected a resolution to fight for the decisions of the previous day. Instead they voted to set up a rival 'International Workers Aid'

The USec denounced the fight for the northern route as an 'obsession' and instead voted for a general platform against racism and for 'solidarity with all Balkan peoples' and for the opening of Tuzla airport. All these unexceptionable things could have been voted for before there existed any such thing as Workers Aid or a convoy to Bosnia.

Above all the USec leaders ran away from the political lessons established by the convoy: that the UN had been clearly exposed as the main agent of the Great Powers (Vance-Owen) plan to partition Bosnia and reward the 'ethnic cleansing' and reactionary nationalism of the Serbian regime, now looking for agreement with the Croatian nationalist government.

For the USec leaders the important thing — worth a split in the campaign for international proletarian solidarity with the workers of Bosnia — was to prevent the awful prospect of the policy of the Workers International clearly having the leadership of the international solidarity campaign, resulting in the building of the Workers Interna-

Here is an example of the worst kind of how these professional centrists are simultaneously opportunist and sectarian.

In the period since the Manchester meeting and our Workers International second congress, the necessity of an independent working-class line and intervention in



Workers Aid was given great support by the Timex strikers in Dundee on 9 August 1993

Photo: Anthony Myers

sibilities of struction



ded for Bosnia from Britain in September last year (left); and Workers Press supporters calling for the defence of Bosnia

ex-Yugoslavia has become even

The Serbian and Croatian governments came to an agreement in January. This was in the immediate aftermath of Clinton's meetings with Yeltsin, marking US imperialism's moves to strengthen itself against its European rivals.

Milosevic and Tudjman are vital to the restoration of 'order' in the Balkans and Near East as a main priority, and the first victims are to be the Bosnian people.

Thus even more pressure comes on Bosnian President Izetbegovic. Having held out to his people the prospect of salvation by Western intervention, he is on the verge of having to sign away the integrity of

The only alternative — the only one which can be perceived by bourgeois nationalism, since it can-

'[The northern route's] opening is the obvious aim that flows from the serious political, military and geographical analysis made by the Bosnians themselves.'

not envisage the revolutionary working-class solution — is to continue a bloody war without the material means of victory.

These were the considerations when the Workers International executive met in January and discussed the next steps in preparing Workers Aid's all-European convoy now being built for March.

It is clearer now than ever that it is only the independent strength of the working class — in ex-Yugoslavia as well as in the rest of Europe, east and west — that can beat back the forces of fascism in the Balkans.

For the working class and for us, all the USec talk about our 'hijacking' Workers Aid is water off a duck's back. The essential content of the Workers Aid campaign is that only by the working class winning power can the war be stopped and the Bosnian people saved.

Workers Aid can and does fight alongside many others who work to aid the Bosnian people's struggle, while at the same time holding firmly to this programme and perspective. Workers Aid is proving in practice that it is the working class that must lead the struggle against ethnic cleansing', reactionary nationalism and fascism.

What is necessary then is a politically independent fight by the workers of Bosnia, and of Serbia and Croatia and all ex-Yugoslavia, together with the building up of solidarity from the working-class movement in Europe.

It is the ABC of Marxism that that political independence, that international unity in struggle, that fight for working-class power, demand above all the building of revolutionary parties of the Fourth International. And it is precisely this 'ABC of Marxism', this starting-point that it is the working-class revolution that is at stake, that the USec denies, and exists in order to deny.

It is along this line that the Workers International proposes to the miners of Tuzla, and to miners' organisations in all countries, to convene a conference of miners from all Europe: in the first place to unite in the fight for working-class solidarity with the struggle of the Bosnian people, and secondly to unite miners of all countries in the fight against closures and privatisa-

We published in Workers Press (18 September) a letter from Bosnian miners, which we will attempt to circulate to all miners. In addition, the work of the International Trade Union Solidarity Campaign now begins for an international conference of trades unionists from the Balkans and other countries, on the fight for a working-class, socialist solution to the problems of the

This fight in the trades unions cannot be just a general propaganda campaign of the type proposed by the centrists, against racism or for 'peace' in the ex-Yugoslavia. It is a political fight, for alternative and revolutionary leadership against the existing trade union bureaucracy, subservient as it is to capitalism and in particular to US

Certainly it is necessary to concentrate Workers Aid's work even more on the unions because the bureacracy's opposition to our work for solidarity with the workers of Bosnia will now intensify in line with US policy.

In this kind of work we also lay the basis for a real international of trades unions, opposed to the 'yellow' International Confederation of Free Trade Unions with its HQ in

The campaign for the next convoy to Tuzla must broaden the scope of Workers Aid for Bosnia, organising trades unions and trades unionists into a Europe-wide and, more and more, an international network

for international solidarity. But

In every country where the Workers Aid convoy has been fought for, new forces and new possibilities for the building of revolutionary parties, sections of the Fourth International, have been brought forward.

In eastern and in western Europe, these forces can now be organised to fight for our Workers International second congress's proposals for a conference to unite European miners around the Tuzla issue, and for a trade union conference in the Balkans.

The organisation of new forces around these aims is a practical expression of the important discussions begun in 1993 on the need for new parties of the working class, and of the nature of these parties (Workers Press, 22 May 1993).

The Workers Aid convoy has surely demonstrated that political initiatives, based soundly on the revolutionary perspectives which have been established in a long struggle for Trotskyism, will find in the new international situation the ing world situation demands a new and continuous study of world eco nomy and the class struggle inter nationally, a greater concentration on theoretical work.

2. The offensive against Marxisn ('capitalism won the cold war'
'communism has failed', 'Marxism is dead', etc.), and against science and culture as a whole, is now accel erated after the collapse of the Sta linist bureaucracy. But the oppor tunity as well as the necessity o answering this offensive are grea ter than ever before. The second congress and the January executive meeting of the Workers Internation al decided to prepare an interna tional conference for October on th theme: 'The Future of Marxism'.

3. The Workers International wil organise an intensive programm of basic Marxist education for a members, with special concentra tion on the new members and sur porters won in the Workers Ai campaigns.

As already emphasised, the ex pansion of our movement, as well a the great changes in the situation

'It is clearer now than ever that it is only the independent strength of the working class — in ex-Yugoslavia as well as in the rest of Europe, east and west — that can beat back the forces of fascism in the Balkans.'

forces for such revolutionary

The deepening of capitalism's crisis in its epoch of decline, and Stalinism's collapse, force the working class into great struggles, of which we have seen only the beginning, from the one-year British miners' 1984-85 strike to the war in Bosnia.

The international apparatus of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the 'Communist' Parties cannot monopolise the politics of the most classconscious workers as it had done for generations, always successfully sabotaging the work of the Marxists of the Fourth International.

The convoy has proved this, and, more important, has proved that it is possible to rebuild the movement after the Stalinist destruction.

The response to Workers Aid should shock us into the recognition of how far we lag behind the new opportunities of organising thousands of youth and workers in every country into revolutionary parties of the Fourth International.

This means that besides and along with the work for the next convoy we must work on these deeper implications revealed by Workers Aid's first convoy.

That is to say, in each country it is necessary to work out the next steps in the rebuilding of the parties of the Fourth International.

1. The new and rapidly develop-

make necessary a special emphasi on the selection and Marxist train ing and education of leadership.

Only in this way will the Fourt International be armed to meet it responsibilities to the working

4. The sections of the Worker International in each country mus fight to take the initiative in provol ing the widest possible discussion of the burning question of what kind party the working class needs nov

To take the initiative here mean to be taking political initiatives of great questions, like Workers Aid and bringing into the discussion in the workers' movement the force thus brought forward, and not sin ply organising debate and discu sion or passing resolutions.

5. For all this work, the Worker International needs a greater cer tralisation, politically and organisa

The most important aspect of th centralisation is that the change brought about by the convoy wor make it possible now for a signif cant number of our existing men bers, workers in the trades union and others, to come forward as lea ers in the international work.

This was already the case in th convoy, and in the immediate future it will be manifested in the work the International Trade Union Sol darity Campaign for internation workers' solidarity.



Workers Aid convoy trucks in Nottingham last year during the build-up to the first convoy

Photo: Rex Du

John Fordun

John Maclean again

FROM time to time, Workers Press returns to the question of the Scottish Marxist, John Maclean. Rightly so. He made his mark on history with his revolutionary opposition to World War I, and with his courageous speech from the dock' in the High Court in Edinburgh in May

Accused of sedition and facing a five-year prison sentence, Maclean addressed the working class over the heads of the court. He denounced the barbarism of the capitalist war, exposed the brutality of the British state, and defended the Russian October revolution.

Recently the John Maclean Society in Glasgow organised a conference to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Maclean's death (aged 44) in 1923.

Talks by Maclean biographer Jim Young on the anti-imperialist tradition in Scotland, and by political eco-nomist Hillel Ticktin on Marxist education were followed by a debate on whether or not the call for a Scottish parliament should be part of the armoury of socialists north of the border. The exciting feature was that Maclean's name was being used to encourage contemporary socialist discussion, not political ancestor-worship.

AFTER the October revolution John Maclean was appointed, along with Lenin and Trotsky, an honorary president of the Petrograd soviet. The Bolshevik government made him its consul in Glasgow. Yet if you read recent textbooks on 20th-century British history, you will scarcely find him mentioned.

* * * * *

Specialist labour historians in England — with a few honour-able exceptions — don't do much better.

Chroniclers of Scotland's contemporary past have been more careful. Michael Lynch, in his 'Scotland: a new history' (Pimlico paperback, 1992), for example, pays considerable attention to the Clydeside Marxist. He is also franker than most, in admitting that, to him, Maclean 'remains an enigma'

Explication of the enigma must begin in Scotland, but it should not end here. Maclean is significant internationally, and particularly for an understanding of the historical problems of the British working class.

* * * * *

I FOUND myself reflecting afresh on this when a friend gave me an account of the recent 'Opening the Books' conference held in Manchester, involving researchers into the history of the now deceased Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB).

The numbers present, and the seriousness of some scholars, impressed him. But the general approach, he com-mented, was of the 'where did the party go wrong?' variety.

Wrong-turning theories of history are seductive but nearly always misleading. They allow us to convince ourselves that history would have followed the course we want to think it should have taken, if only something had not 'gone wrong', or some individual (or group) had not made mistakes

If only, in the 1840s, the English Chartists had followed their 'physical force' leaders instead of those who favoured moral persuasion, might they not have come together with the emergent communists and strangled industrial capitalism in its cradle? If only Trotsky had outmanoeuvred Stalin in the struggle for the succession to Lenin . . . ? History is littered with such 'if onlys'

They usually lead nowhere, and, worse, can actually distort our whole outlook on the past. The tragedy of the CPGB will not be understood by a fruitless search for the moment when it 'went wrong', nor for scapegoats to blame for its degeneration into the counter-revolutionary instrument of a brutal

Nor will anything much be grasped by those who see its past primarily in terms of the personal tragedies of honest, class-conscious fighters whose lives and personalities became distorted by serving Stalinism. CPGB history can only be studied with real objectivity if it is approached from the standpoint of the theoretical needs today of the working class as a whole.

This means, above all, linking the British party's history to an understanding of the degeneration of the Soviet Union and the Third (Communist) International.

Of course researchers cannot be asked to accept without question some particular analysis of that degeneration. But those who are determined to find the 'flaw' in the British CP's past without confronting these major international issues would be better, to change the metaphor, to join the quest for the Holy Grail.

FOR a brief but important moment in history Maclean was the best-known figure internationally in the revolutionary movement in Britain.

* * * *

Both because he was a Clydesider, and because he took up the cause of Scottish republicanism at the end of his life, Scottish socialists, and historians of Scotland, tend to know more about him than most. But too often they get stuck in an intellectual peat-bog of 'if onlys' and wrong turnings'

They seem to want to keep Maclean to themselves, to turn him into what they would like to - internationalists uncontaminated by Stalinism - and make him the forerunner of their utopian search for a 'Scottish road to socialism'.

It is worth looking seriously at Maclean's theory that - particularly after the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 — the political break-up of 'Britain' might be a necessary part of the final demolition of the British Empire. Though conditions are greatly changed today, it is an idea that still has

But what are the main features of Maclean's life which may still help us to a meaningful perspective on the study of communism and Stalinism in Britain? And which can help return 'labour history' to its proper goal of making objective historical knowledge available to the working class in its struggle for self-emancipation?

Much the most significant is the fact that Maclean was able internationalism in the British working-class movement, and to do so on the basis of an evident conviction that genuine communist politics depend on a Marxist educational programme within which the educators are constantly striving self-critically for their own re-educa-

A grasp of this aspect of Maclean's struggle, and of how he was able to conduct it in the world circumstances of 1914 to the early 1920s, will be of great help to those who want to understand the real history of communism in Britain. It will certainly challenge the barren conception that the CPGB's problem was simply that it never became 'British' enough.

The evidence is growing that the ideas of John Maclean are coming hame tae the Clyde' But they must also be made relevant on the Tyne and the Mersey. And even the Thames!

Television

Genie: a victim isolated

IN THE year 1800, a naked boy without speech emerged from a forest in southern France to become the centre of scientific interest. Francois Truffaut made a film called 'The Wild Child' which followed the experiences of this boy.

Victor, as the boy came to be known, was taken in by a local biology teacher and was the subject of the scientist's experiment to discover if someone so isolated in childhood and living in a cave could still be 'civilised'.

HORIZON: 'Genie' (31 January, BBC2) traced the experiences of another child brought up in isolation, and raised some important questions about human rights and the attitude of the scientific world to experimentation on humans.

Genie, as she was called, was seen with her virtually blind mother in 1970 when both wandered by mistake into a social services building. She was later taken into protective care following a raid on her home in the Los Angeles suburb of Arcadia.

Genie had spent ten years confined to a single room with a cot and a seat with a hole in it for access to the toilet to which she was daily strapped.

Shot

Her father had thought her mentally retarded. He later shot himself and Genie was subjected to experimentation by a whole range of figures from the scientific world.

The team put in charge of research was also responsible for her care. She undoubtedly made progress in the course of this experience and was learning to speak and to adopt the rudiments of sign language.

She was taken by members

Review by Phil Edwards

of the team to see 'The Wild Child' and this film became the basis of a discussion held with numerous consultants throughout the US. The questions uppermost in their minds was whether or not an older girl could be taught language and whether her mental retardation was inborn or the result of the social isolation.

In talking about 'The Wild Child', the question raised was:

cial education tutor who looked after Genie until 1988. It was also the view of Genie's mother, who claimed that she herself had been the victim of the father's abuse.

In the middle of all this was Genie, isolated from her mother by the scientists and shuttled from one hospital to another.

She had probably been beaten as a child every time she

mediocre and downright abysmal historical and archaeological documentaries using the latest computer wizardry to recreate the past and how people

'The Great Pyramid -Gateway To The Stars' (6 February, BBC2), was, perhaps, one of the more interesting of these teresting of these.

Sent

Last year a tiny robot was sent into the largest pyramid of the pharaoh Cheops, built in Giza in the Nile valley, to rediscover the Queen's Chamber, which was thought to have been abandoned.

The robot was sent down the four tiny shafts leading to the chambers to investigate the circulation of air in the pyramid. It came to a halt in front of a stone panel with two copper handles.

It is thought this panel could be raised from above to allow light into the shafts. Superseding the various heliocentric theories of Egyptologists, it is surmised that this was lifted when the constellation of Orion and the star Sirius shone directly down them, so impregnating the dead king who would in turn be reborn in the act of giving his seed to Orion (Osiris) the partner of Sirius (Isis).

But the most astounding claim is that the actual alignment of the three pyramids, built in the Fourth Dynasty over the period of a century, and of others a large distance away form the exact replica of the Orion constellation.

Such a theory, if ever proved correct, would lend some grand purpose to the otherwise enigmatic phenomena of the great pyramids.



Genie, brought up in isolation, was subjected to experimentation

'What makes us human? What makes us different from the beasts?'

The dilemma is that in answering that question in a mechanical way, and by carrying out this type of experimentation on another human being, the subject herself is in danger of being treated as something less than human.

That was the view of the spe-

made a sound. Having been encouraged to vocalise, she was again beaten in one of these homes, this time for vomiting.

This trauma sent her back into her shell. At the age of 36 she remains in an adult home having regressed almost to her former state.

WE HAVE been bombarded recently with a number of

Programme guide



The Baka people face pressures of surviving the modern world, Saturday, Channel 4

Saturday 19 February 'Baka: People of the Rain Forest'. First of two hour-long documentaries by Phil Agland about a tribe in East Cameroon facing all the pressures of surviving intact in the modern world (8pm, Channel 4).

Sunday 20 February THE MONEY POLICE: 'The Inland Revenue'. Beginning of a threepart series which investigates the workings of the financial world (5.15pm, Channel 4). 'The Picasso Files'. Explores for the first time the secret-service documents on the artist after he joined the French Communist Party in 1944 (9.50pm, BBC2). MOVING PICTURES Jonathan Demme talks about his new film 'Philadelphia' the first major Hollywood production to deal with the subject of AIDS (10.35pm, BBC2).

Tuesday 22 February NET-WORK FIRST: 'Death of a Nation'. A report from the tiny Portuguese colony of East Timor, terrorised by the might of Indonesia since it was invaded in 1975. Staggering new evidence of a continued reign of terror and the complicity and duplicity of Western governments (10.40pm, ITV).

Wednesday 23 February EAST: 'Islands Apart'. Report from Trinidad, where unrest between the African and Indian communities has developed since Indians became the largest ethnic group on the island (7.30pm, BBC2).

Selected films

JOURNEY INTO FEAR (1942). World War II spy drama with

ton. Welles was removed as director and it was handed over to Norman Foster (Saturday, 3.10pm, BBC2). LONGTIME COMPANION (1990). Emotional account of how the spread of AIDS affected a group of New York gay men in the early 1980s (Sunday, 11.25pm, BBC2). THEM! (1954). Climactic sci-fi thriller, directed by Gordon Douglas, about radiation-created giant ants taking over Manhattan sewers (Friday, 12.05am, Channel 4).

Orson Welles and Joseph Cot-

JJ

APOLOGIES for the errors made with the pictures last week. The wrong picture was used for 'The Lynchburg Story', and the caption for 'The Dark Side of Black' gave the wrong channel.

When Labour harassed Picasso

ARTIST Pablo Picasso was searched at Dover customs, and his journey delayed, when he came to Britain in 1950 to attend the Sheffield Peace Conference.

Labour prime minister Clement Attlee, as concerned as his US cold-war allies about a 'Communist' plot, ordered MI5 and Special Branch to 'keep a close eye on all those attending the conference'.

Shadowed

Picasso was shadowed. Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich, Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, and black American singer Paul Robeson were refused entry to the country at this time. In protest at the government's attitude, Picasso refused to visit an Arts Council exhibition of his work in London, and never returned to Britain.

Picasso had left Spain after the civil war. His famous painting 'Guernica' reflected his horror at the fascist bombing of the Basque market town. The story is told of a German officer seeing the 'decadent' painting in France, and demanding 'Did you do this?' 'No, you did,' replied Picasso calmly.

Although he had joined the Stalinist Communist Party in France in 1944, and supported 'progressive' causes, Picasso's work was not exhibited in the Soviet Union, presumably because it didn't meet the standards of 'socialist realism' favoured by Stalin.

Soon after the dictator's death he agreed to provide a portrait, depicting Stalin as a young man. The Stalinists didn't



Picasso: didn't return to Britain

like it, and denounced Picasso

as an enemy.

The way governments treated Picasso is the subject of a television programme this weekend, 'The Picasso Files'

(Sunday 20 February, 9.50pm,

It shows how the FBI intercepted telegrams Picasso sent, as a Spanish Republican exile, to the Joint Anti-fascist Refugee Committee.

Upset

The FBI's J. Edgar Hoover was upset by the artist's friendship with Charlie Chaplin, and had a 1947 birthday telegram to the actor intercepted. Picasso was refused a US entry visa.

■ Britain's Labour government shared military plans with neutral' Sweden in 1951, a Swedish commission has reported. The Swedish military secretly expanded airbases and two naval harbours for NATO use in the event of war with the Soviet Union, the report says.

'Shock' failure in Two the former USSR

WHEN President Yeltsin sent tanks to blow holes in the Russian parliament four months ago, the capitalist press crowed that 'victory over communism' was complete.

Full speed ahead, they said, thinking the main obstruction to restoring capitalism by 'shock therapy' had been removed.

The foundation-stones of 'shock therapy' were to make the rouble convertible with the dollar and to stop protecting Russian industry from world competition by printing roubles.

'Unfettered market forces' (the ones of which the Thatcherites are so fond) would lay waste to industry like avenging angels; what replaced it would be wholesome and privately

Today, the 'shock therapy' roadshow is upside down in a ditch.

The American-educated 'reformists' who were steering -Yegor Gaidar, the economics minister, and Boris Fyodorov, the finance minister - left the Russian government last month.

The back-seat driver, Harvard University monetarist Jeffrey Sachs, quit as the government's adviser at the same

Economic policy is now in the hands of 'conservative' representatives of industrial bureaucrats: prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, his main deputy, Oleg Soskovets, and agriculture minister Alexandr Zaveryukha.

There will be investment, in an attempt to direct industry to export markets, subsidies . and more roubles printed.

Paralysis

The first use for these will be to ameliorate the 'crisis of payments', which threatens to completely paralyse manufacturing, and above all the oil, gas and coal industries. (Even before the 'reformists' departed, Soskovets said the government would double the public debt from 5,000 billion roubles for this purpose.)

The 'payments' crisis was seriously aggravated last year when fuel price controls were partly lifted by Gaidar.

Factories have simply been unable to pay bills for fuel and

other supplies.
(The 'Guardian' recently quoted the example of the Biisk Sibpribormash Amalgamation, Siberia's biggest military-industrial plant, which closed down and laid off thousands of workers last month because it couldn't pay a 5 billion rouble fuel bill.)

The coal industry is owed 979 billion roubles, and the gas and oil industries a similar sum.

Energy workers, who are the best organised, have not been

paid for months. There have been strikes, strike threats and endless pre-

dictions of 'social explosions'.

The agricultural sector is owed 2,300 billion roubles.

Alongside industrial intervention, the 'conservatives' are trying to resuscitate Russian colonialism.

First, former Soviet republics, trade with whom has been disrupted by monetary reform, are being brought back into the rouble zone.

Bielarus, where 'reformist' president Stanislav Shushkevich has just been ousted, has signed a deal with Moscow in which monetary control is returned to 'the centre'.

The failing Bielarus coupon will be traded for roubles at an

advantageous fixed rate. Bielarus will pay for its enerSIMON PIRANI examines the failure of 'market reforms' in the former Soviet Union, and the social catastrophe they are causing.

gy imports in roubles as it did in the USSR, instead of at world

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze also wants to get back into the rouble zone.

Outside these negotiations is Ukraine. The imposition last year of dollar prices on all trade with Russia is playing havoc.

Hyperinflation is at 100 per cent a month, making Ukraine the first country after Serbia where banknotes are worth less

tical: to keep reformers in

'The West failed to support the reformers, and lost them.'

IMF officials say the Russian government is at fault, for not having stuck to the promises it made when it took the money.

But Sachs's argument is not really with them.

His real opponents are US President Bill Clinton, his vicepresident, Al Gore, and his main adviser on Russian affairs,



Queueing outside a shop in Moscow: it was conditions such as these that led to the confused 'protest against poverty'.

than the paper they are printed

Fuel shortages have caused power cuts in the winter.

War between Russia and Ukraine is 'probable', says the Royal United Services Institute in London, which monitors conflicts for imperialism.

The dispute over Crimea could start it.

Meanwhile, the 'reformers' are nursing their wounds.

The leaders of the world bourgeoisie themselves are split over 'what went wrong in Moscow'. Recriminations are

The 'reformers' bore ill tidings to the World Economic Forum on the Greek island of Davos earlier this month.

Chernomyrdin's policy will lead to hyperinflation, Fyodornress cor

Prices rose 16 per cent in the first three weeks of 1994, he said. Compound annual inflation would soon reach 2,000 per

Ninety-seven per cent of Russia's budget deficit was financed by printing roubles rather than selling government securities, he moaned.

Poverty

At the same press conference, the exasperated Sachs lashed out at the International Monetary Fund - which, alarmed by the high vote for right-wing populist Vladimir Zhirinovsky in the Russian elections in December, had agreed to finance a 'social safety net' policy to try to contain poverty.

Sachs says the money should have been used not for palliative 'fire-fighting' when things went wrong, but lent with strict political conditions.

The 'Economist' reported: The purpose of aid to Russia, insists Mr Sachs, should be poli-

Strobe Talbott. Fearful that Russia, still a force in 'great power' politics, can be ripped apart by class and national struggles, they are strongly in favour of continuing to pour in money - even if 'reform' is slowed down.

Therapy

When President Clinton visited Russia in January, he said the country needed 'less shock, more therapy'.

Yeltsin agreed, warning that people had voted for Zhirinovsky as a 'protest against poverty' and that could not be ignored.

Fyodorov says that by offering more money to Russia, despite the slowing-down of capitalist restoration, Clinton has betrayed the 'reformers'.

Clinton's line also opposition within the [American] cabinet, where the treasury secretary, Lloyd Bentsen, opposes any slackening of the west's credit terms', according to the 'Guardian'.

'Mr Bentsen has the support of the European allies, including Helmut Kohl and Mr Major.'

Beneath these conflicting political opinions lie the imperialists' own serious economic

The 'Economist' explained that if the purpose of pouring aid into Russia was to give political support to Gaidar, Fyodorov and company, then the time to have done it was the middle of 1993, not the end.

'More should have come from the G7 [Group of Seven industrialised countries].

'For various reasons, it did

'Some of the G7 countries were in recession. Germany had provided half of all aid to Russia since 1991 and was unwilling to

'Japan was locked in a dis-

pute over the Kurile Islands.

We could add that Britain was desperately trying to handle the consequences of the Bundesbank's hard line, America was too busy with its trade dis-pute against Japan, etc.

There is another far more important factor: funds have poured into Russia from imperialist states and institutions. but private capitalist investors have not touched 'the wild east' with a bargepole.

'The US Commerce Department says American companies have invested just \$400 million in Russia since 1987, compared to \$2.5 billion in Hungary', reported 'International Business

Laugh

\$400 million! How pathetic! Tiny Hungary gets, per head, about 150 times more American investment than that.

No wonder the 'conservatives', busying themselves with re-colonising the old Soviet republics, laugh at the 'reformers' and their non-existent capitalist 'new dawn'.

No wonder prime minister Chernomyrdin harangues Anatoly Chubais, head of Russia's privatisation agency, in the newspaper 'Trud', for the ludicrous privatisation vouchers.

These put industry in the hands of 'millions of povertystricken shareholders' and did nothing at all to inject new private capital.

We in the workers' movement might pause for thought at the problems of pro-capitalist 'reform', too.

How many times have YOU thought in the past year, 'The game's up! The mafia is running the show, capitalism is back and the workers couldn't

Of course capitalism IS at work. All its crudest features are to be seen in Russia.

The mafia IS on the loose. The danger looms that the ultimate expressions of capitalist decline, war and ethnic cleansing, will spread from Yugoslavia to the former Soviet Union.

But this is not a triumphant march of capitalism. It has suffered a setback and its mouthpieces are saying so.

In September 1990, they talked about a '500-day reform'; 1,300 days later, they have hard-

'Reform in Russia', moans the 'Economist', 'was always

going to be harder than anywhere else.' That is because the expropriation of bourgeois property,

carried through not by militarybureaucratic methods as it was in eastern Europe but by the action of workers and farmers organised in soviets, was far more decisive. The suppression of the

bourgeoisie and its institutions. by civil war, was far more thorough-going. These are the gains of the Russian revolution, which are proving more stubborn and persistent than the world bourgeoisie imagined.

They are reflected in the minds of Russian workers today, not only unconsciously but completely upside-down.

In the absence of any independent workers' party in the elections, they voted for the near-fascist Zhirinovsky 'in protest against poverty'.

Defending the still-not-completely-overturned gains of the revolution remains crucial for the renewal of the workers' movement in the former USSR.

It will be a long, hard battle. Sixty years of Stalinist dictatorship has discredited and perverted consciousness.

Bronwen Handyside reports

nations



Judging sanity

LET me tell you the story of the man, deemed by the courts to be a dangerous schizophrenic, who escaped from a psychiatric hospital's grounds and carried out an armed bank robbery last October.

Earl Lewis was already being held under the Mental Health Act without time limit, at Bethlem Hospital in Kent, when he climbed over the wall and hailed a minicab to take him to a branch of the Midland Bank in south London.

He got away with £4,650 after threatening staff with an imita-

tion firearm.

Judge Kenneth Richardson was convinced of Mr Lewis's total insanity when police reported that he had told them he did not see why it was wrong to hold up a bank because he had no money and the bank had plenty.

For this moment of blazing lucidity, Mr Lewis was re-sentenced to be detained indefinitely in the most secure mental hospital the judge could find.

Owed a living

THANK goodness there's somebody around who can tell us who's mad and who's sane.

Meanwhile the Lloyd's 'names', who invested in the famous insurance company in the good old days because it was an easy way for wealthy people to become fabulously rich, have turned down a £900 million compensation package for huge losses sustained over the past three years.

These people are extremely angry because they were convinced that having a lot of money gave them the inalienable right to continue making even more money.

Earl Lewis made the mis-take of starting his money-making career with no cash in hand.

Westminster rides again

SEE if you can tell the lunatics from the sane in this story.

Westminster city council, already famous for its caring privatisation of housing, announced last week that it will privatise care for the mentally ill. This involves breaking up the service into separate, privately run units.

Carers fear that Westminster's mentally ill will no longer have stability if the service is

One manager said: 'This is inane. The fact that this is going to happen every five years when the contract comes up is fundamental, because the patients here need somewhere stable.

'If they don't have that, it could have a serious mental effect on every one of them.'

Labour on NHS

OUR noble 'leaders' in the Labour Party have continued their brave struggle against the privatisation and destruction of the National Health Service by accepting that self-governing hospitals are here to stay, and that the Tories were right to separate purchase and provision of health care.

In a long-awaited health policy document, the party will drop its commitment at the last general election to return hospitals and other health trusts to local health authority control.

David Blunkett, shadow minister for health, hopes that Labour's programme will show the million people who are working in the health service, 'particularly its managers' that the party's approach is not wholly negative.

The document does not propose more funding for the NHS it will link funding to the performance of the economy

All this in the aftermath of the report into nurse Beverly Allitt's murder of four children and attacks on nine others. She was employed, though managers had doubts about her suitability, because pay for nurses is so low in the NHS that hospitals have to take what they can get. In that case they got a massmurderer.

BAe chief's gold

JOHN CAHILL, the Floridabased chairman of British Aerospace, is to leave the company with a £3.2 million golden handshake.

He headed BAe for just 21 months. In that time he spent only 90 days a year in Britain to avoid tax.

And during the period he sacked 25,000 workers. Losses included the closure of plants in Kingston, Hatfield, and

Preston. BAe bought Rover, the car manufacturers, as part of the Tory government's car-boot sale of nationalised industries at a knockdown price of £180 million. The sale was further 'sweetened' by various govern-ment financial inducements.

The company then sold Rover in January 1994 for £800 million to BMW. The sale took place five months after a fiveyear deadline expired — before which part of the proceeds would have have gone to the taxpayer.

BAe said last week that Mr Cahill was going because: 'He has now accomplished the majority of tasks he set out to do. You betcha.

Saving money

WHAT about the local authority engineer who saved a fortune in water and electricity bills? He tracked down the three tramps who spent their nights in Taunton Deane's public lavatories, using the electric hand-dryers to keep warm, and made sure they could not get in.

While the engineer got a council award, the three tramps did not fare quite so well.

One of them, Cyril, was found dead from hypothermia at the public toilets at Station Road last May. He was cre-mated at the council's expense.

Well done

LET me congratulate the two Antipodeans who livened up Prince Charles's otherwise stupefyingly boring tour of the southern hemisphere.

Prince Charles said that 'a thousand years of breeding' had gone into his stunned mullet-like response to two mock assassination attempts in Australia and New Zealand.

I myself think there was much more than a thousand years of breeding that went into it. There is great similarity in more than one respect between the royal family and certain species of dinosaur - particularly in the problems the big lizards had in moving with any great speed.

When you have a large body steered by a brain the size of a walnut, you have to have another semi-brain in the hindquarters, to operate the back end of the body. The signals from the tiny brain take a minute or so to reach the brain in the hindquarters, which then takes another minute to mobilise the legs.

Life was a bit slower in the Pleistocene era — about 60 million years before your true republicans began to evolve.

If you have any material for this column, please send it to me at Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB.

From DOT GIBSON

in Zagreb

voy to Tuzla. Kavgić, who works

at Velenje pit, was co-chair at

the Stuttgart meeting held by

Workers Aid for Bosnia on 15-16

humanitarian aid organisation

ready to move', he said, 'and if the trade unions in western

Europe can help by supplying the trucks, together we can take

this aid to the miners of Tuzla.'

History

miners' history of struggle against the old bureaucratic

regime in the former Yugos-

understand that we have been

fighting against bureaucracy

for a long time', he said, 'and

that we have not lost our social-

took part in the 1972 strike at the

Velenje pit. That strike was part

of the fight against the old

what they call "social owner-

ship" of the pits and power in-

so-called "market economy"

they are talking of "state own-

ference is — but we do know that

the unions and the workers are

on one side and all the rest are

"market" as cheap labour — we

want the same conditions and

up our health and safety rights'

Ukrainian miners were fighting

along the same lines.

on the other side.

'We don't know what the dif-

'We do not want to go into the

'Nor are we prepared to give

He added that Russian and

The Slovenian miners' union

'I was a young man when I

'At the moment we have

with the coming of the

Druk spoke of the Slovenian

Workers in the West should

Kavgić is also president of a

We have 500 tonnes of aid

Saturday 19 February 1994 Page 8

Newsdesk 071-582 8882

Send your letters and photos — Deadline Monda? Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB Telephone: 071-582 8882 Fax: 071-582 8834

SLOVENIANMIERS RALLY TO BOSNA

NEGOTIATIONS for the Workers Aid Christmas convoy trucks to go along the northern route to Tuzla have for the moment broken down.

The director of the Tuzla Logistic Centre, Edo Asceric, told Workers Press: 'The killing of 68 people in Sarajevo, and threats by Western governments that they will bomb the Serbs, meant that there was no possibility of a good outcome of the discussions.'

January

run by miners.

ist ideals.

dustry .

It is now hoped that some trucks on the Logistic Centre's 'Convoy of Love' will go to Tuzla on the southern (Split) route on

23 February.
'The problem is that only trucks under 20 tonnes can travel on that route', said Asceric. 'This is a big blow, because the people are starving in Tuzla, and many children are ill.'
'We will not give up our fight

to open the northern route', said Asceric, 'but we have no choice at the moment other than to send trucks the other way if we want to make contact with our people in Tuzla, and bring aid into the region.

Faruk Ibrahimovic of Radio Tuzla also spoke of the necessity to take aid into Tuzla.

The news coming out of the town is very bad. It is difficult to keep up the fight with so much hunger and death', he said.

■ Support from the Slovenian miners had earlier given a big boost to the all-European Workers Aid for Bosnia convoy.

With the build-up of the campaign comes the real possibility of uniting workers in east and west Europe to build internationalism in a convoy which takes workers' solidarity to the people of Tuzla.

Resolution

Franc Druk, president of the Slovenian Power Workers Union, had already read the re-solution from the Workers Aid for Bosnia's January Stuttgart meeting before discussions with the convoy team delegation on 2 February.

He announced immediately that the miners would be joining the convoy and calling for support from other Slovenian unions.

'The appeal of this convoy is that it is to build workers' inter-nationalism', he said, 'and that is why I will be raising it at a meeting of power workers' unions in Rome on 22 February.' The Slovenian miners' union is now preparing to join with the

for giving him the news about Hungarian, Slovakian, Polish the all-European workers con- and Czech miners to build the

convoy. Druk said that it was shameful that the British miners had been left to fight alone, and that the pits were closing and with them the communities. He said he would be working for the rebuilding of workers' solidarity, east and west.

Druk also spoke warmly of

the Tuzla miners. 'We must re-build our connections and make sure that we end the isolation of sections of workers.

He said 'The Bosnians are the victims of politicians.

'We have a big job to do, because we see no other way than to make use of all the contacts we have made — build on these contacts, deepen our relationships, and work on the real

situation in Bosnia and the whole of the ex-Yugoslavia. That is the possibility for unity to be rebuilt based on workers' solidarity.

■ The all-European workers' convoy is scheduled to leave Zupanja in Croatia on 26 March destination Tuzla.

Collaboration

Collaboration between the Zagreb-based logistic centres of 19 towns in the Brcko and Tuzla regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina was discussed with Edo Asceric, director of the Tuzla Logistic Centre at a meeting on 2-3 February.

He is still hoping to hear that

the convoy, including workers and trucks which set out before Christmas, will eventually get permission from all authorities to travel along the northern route from Zupanje-Orasje to

Workers Aid drivers are standing by to join their trucks pending successful negotiations. Asceric said: 'I am determined that Workers Aid for Bosnia will be in the leadership of

that convoy.
'Everybody knows that Workers Aid has led the campaign for the opening of the northern route.'

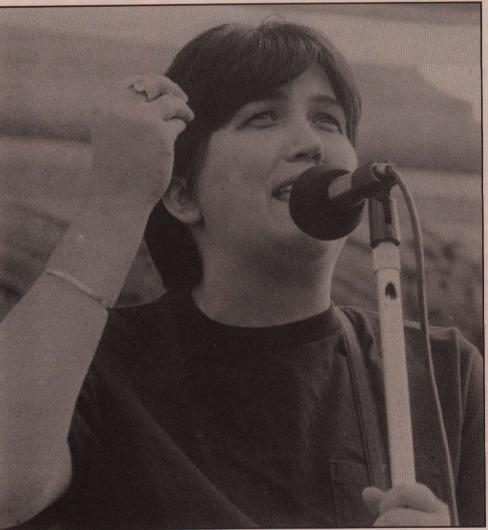
For this convoy to get to Tuzla along this main direct route, which the UN has refused the campaign for the all-Eur pean workers' convoy.

■ There have been three cent demonstrations in Fran demanding freedom for t whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Poster

A poster calling for the comonstrations said: 'For a ju and durable peace in Euro you must say no to a ne "Munich" imposed by the U and NATO'. Another slog said: 'History must not be witten by public execution or o passive-collaboration'. A another: 'Today Milosev Tomorrow Le Pen'.

Trafalgar Square rally on Bosnia



Indjiana Harper last year at the Workers Aid Trafalgar Square rally

Photo: Alan Clark

THREE HUNDRED people attended rally called by the Alliance to Defe Bosnia-Herzegovina last Saturday.

Indjiana Harper told the meeting Trafalgar Square: 'We want Bosnia we know it.

We don't want Western intervent in our country to impose their solution

What has been proposed at meeting in Geneva, London and Paris is 'People have been calling on the W

to intervene. They have already int vened. The arms embargo is interv tion. 'We shall never forget or forgive

Western countries for allowing this happen. We shall defend what we have if we give up we cannot live. Bosnia never disappear, long live Bosnia.'

Other speakers included Mich Foot, who said Lord Owen and the B ish government were trying to imp ethnic cleansing and partition on Bosnians. He likened their position to pro-Franco position of the British g ernment during the Spanish Civil Wa

Leeds university theology profes Adrian Hastings welcomed the UN tion in Sarajevo as 'overdue'. He cal for action to end shelling of all Bosn

The Bishop of Barking also called military intervention as 'a way of pressing Godly outrage', thereby ea ing his nickname the 'bombing bish

Also speaking was Vanessa R grave, in her capacity as a UNIC fundraiser. In the course of a long confused speech, she said that work to help children was above politics.

Many of the audience were Bosn and aid workers who had been invol in sending convoys.

Workers Press SUBSCRIBE

to the socialist weekly that tells the truth **NEW RATES**

> Please send me □ 10 issues for £5.60 ☐ 50 issues for £27.60

INTERNATIONAL RATES: Europe and Near East, £7.70 for 10 issues, 50 for £38.50; Americas and India £12.70 for 10 issues, 50 for £63.50; Australia, Japan

and E Asia 10	issues for £1.	5.70, 50 101 1	200.50.	
Name				
Address				

I enclose £..... for my subscription, and

an extra donation of £.....

Make cheques, POs payable to Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB.

Indonesia: union leaders

INDONESIAN authorities have released most of the leaders of the independent union SBSI, arrested after a wave of strikes over minimum wages, during which workers fought police and stormed offices at a shoe factory in Java.

The leaders were arrested on the eve of a general strike, on 11 February, in which 750,000 took part. Altogether 185 strikes had taken place in recent weeks. Manpower Minister Abdul Latief condemned 'agitation', but announced that 23 employers around Jakarta, the capital, would be prosecuted for failing to pay the minimum wage.

The Indonesian government has increased the legal minimum wage (often ignored by employers if they can get away with it), and tried a face-lift on the state-recognised All-Indonesia Labour Union, in an effort to meet US trade preferences and counter the growth of the SBSI

nternational

Price £2.0

Open the northern aid route to Tuzla The nature of bureaucracy

The birth of the Left Opposition

A British miner writes to Russian miner Tom Kemp: 1921-1993

Subscription rates for six issues: Britain £20, Europe £24, Americ and India £26, Australia, Japan and East Asia £28

Money payable to 'The International', PO Box 735, London SW8 11