

## Forward to new Marxist organisation

# JOIN WITH FIGHT FOR NEW PARTY



Liverpool dockers' Strand Road picket. For latest news, see page 3

**A NEW political organisation of Marxists who will fight together to move towards a new party of the working class will be formed this October.**

This was the decision of last weekend's national congress of the Workers Revolutionary Party. It comes after two years of intense discussion initiated by Workers Press on the necessity of a new socialist party of the working class.

In 1995, the last WRP congress resolved to devote itself to this aim.

Then followed the 16 March conference, 'Crisis in the Labour Movement: the need for a new socialist party', attended by 200 people.

The Liverpool dockers' fight against sackings and casualisation, now nearing its tenth month, has brought home the need to move now.

This fight of the dockers rallied workers in other industries — JJ Fast Food, Hillingdon hospital — but above all it has struck a great blow for working-class internationalism.

Travelling to the four corners of the world these dockers have won support from dockers internationally.

In February they called a highly successful international dockers' conference attended by workers from 17 countries. This was a big step forward, because the reconstruction of working-class internationalism is at the core of the reconstruction of the working-class movement that is now vital.

At the heart of this reconstruction is the need for the most advanced workers in each section of the class and its movement to come together in a new party.

From the start, the dockers' committee recognised that the fight is political as well as industrial. From the start a new party must also reject the traditional division between the so-called industrial and political arms of the movement.

Support for the dockers' fight and for their paper the *Dockers Charter* has opened up a new stage in the work that has to be done in the reconstruction of the workers' movement on new foundations.

There is a growing recogni-

### Our resolution:

The WRP proposes the formation of a new Marxist political organisation, to be founded at the October recall conference decided on 16 March, called provisionally 'Marxists for a New Party'.

Workers Press and all other resources of the WRP will be resources of this new organisation. The WRP will then cease to exist as a separate organisation.

### BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

tion that support groups and so on must go beyond organising solidarity for current disputes. They must become the network within which grows the understanding and organisation to prepare for the coming decisive struggles against capital and its state.

Such a preparation is the very opposite of what the Labour Party is doing. Having thrown out Clause Four and introduced a rule-book that is nothing but a straitjacket for any socialist and class-conscious worker, Blair and company are 'preparing for government'.

They have made it crystal clear that they will serve capitalism faithfully, making full use of the anti-union and anti-immigration laws against the working class.

### Conviction

The WRP carried its resolution in the firm conviction that millions of workers will be forced into conflict with their traditional party, the Labour Party.

They will be forced to confront the question of a new socialist party and they will join those who though still in a minority at this stage understand the need to prepare now for the building of that new party.

We are therefore calling a conference — in fact the recall conference decided on 16 March — to set up an organisation which will be a transition towards a new party.

We are convinced that the great changes brought by the collapse of Stalinism and the intensification of capitalism's world-wide crisis means that the Trotskyists must break out of their isolation and propaganda-group existence imposed on Marxists for so long.

The initiatives already taken by the Workers International (of which the WRP is the British section) have proved that this can be done.

■ In June the International Trade Union Solidarity Campaign/African Liberation Solidarity Campaign conference was able to bring together representatives of countries who now constitute a truly international committee.

■ For three years, Workers Aid for Bosnia and its convoys, initiated by the Workers International, has fought tooth and nail to break the isolation imposed by imperialism and nationalism on the workers of Bosnia.

■ The comrades that led this work can be proud that Bosnian trade unionists could be brought to last month's Unison conference, to today's Durham Miners' Gala and meetings with the Liverpool dockers.

The reconstruction of the working-class movement, its internationalism, and the Fourth International, begun, and these gains an important steps. Workers Press's columns are completely open to discussion of this initiative for a new party.

■ We ask all socialists, those intellectuals who fight for the development of Marxism in their fields of study, those workers who realise that the fight facing the working class is political and not simply industrial, to join with us in forming this new organisation of Marxists for a socialist party.

■ Help us build for October.

For our part, the WRP determined that this initiative will succeed.

■ There will be a meeting of the steering committee from the 16 March conference in London, Wednesday 17 July, 7pm. Queen's Head pub, Acton Street, London WC1. Tube: King's Cross. All welcome.

## Hillingdon hospital protest

**Saturday 13 July, 11am**

Colham Green Recreation Ground,  
Colham Green Road, Uxbridge.

Opposite the hospital. Tube: Uxbridge. No car parking at Colham Green.

## Summer Dockers' Festival

A great day out for all the family!

**Sunday 14 July, 11.30am-7pm**

Edinburgh Park Dockers' Club,  
Townsend Lane, Clubmoor.

Promoters: Tony Melia and Jimmy Davies Jnr, 0151-207 3388.

Workers Aid for Bosnia

## Durham Miners Gala

**Saturday 13 July:** Bosnian miners will be raising their banner in the Market Square, Durham at **9.30am**. We ask everyone who has supported their struggle against racism and fascism to march with them to celebrate workers' internationalism and solidarity.

Advance notice: There will be no Workers Press on 27 July and 3 August







Market collapse

# of 'Mr Copper'

## Science focus

A monthly column by Daniel Robertson, principal scientist at a leading bio-technology company

### The sunflowers of Suffolk

ACCEPTANCE of the majority view of scientists that global warming is a reality has finally obliged British government ministers to speak the unspeakable.

John Gummer, the environment minister, has admitted that enormous climate changes are on the way. Over the next 25 years the 'Garden of England' will have moved to Yorkshire and the south of England will be covered with maize and sunflowers.

Gummer says that tourism will benefit but increased storms, flooding, destruction of wildlife and the need to rapidly change farming practices will cause problems.

The expensive lobbying efforts of the polluting industries in attempting to rubbish the work of concerned scientists have been successful in the past.

These people include major chemical polluters and the oil interests of the USA and Saudi Arabia.

But there are signs now that capitalist politicians everywhere are beginning to worry about the predicament they face. They can no longer deny that there is a crisis. They know that this strengthens the hand of radical critics of the status quo as witnessed by the continuing growth of green political movements. Insurance companies are facing increasing losses as climate disasters increase in frequency.

Over the next few decades large areas of Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy will have turned to desert — the process of desertification is already underway in these countries. Many more backward countries will be destroyed completely by the coming changes.

As readers of this column have been warned previously the effects will not be predictable. One possible outcome is that the Gulf Stream that brings warm Atlantic air to Britain may reverse. This could plunge British temperatures to a Scandinavian climate almost overnight.

Denying that this is a crisis made by capitalism will soon become unfeasible and radical solutions will have to be sought by the millions whose lives will be ruined in even the most advanced countries.

The UN Convention on Climate Change will meet in Geneva this month to discuss new plans for restricting levels of the industrial gases that cause the greenhouse effect. Will international capital be able to reverse this coming disaster or will a means be found to unload the resulting suffering onto the poor of the world?

The latter will be capital's ultimate solution — despite the protestations of concern from the likes of Gummer. We must ensure that a third solution is built that identifies the guilty and mobilises the forces necessary to resolve humanity's greatest crisis.

### Nuclear power is safe

IT'S like saying that British beef is safe — safe as long as you stay well away. This is the lesson that dockyard workers at the Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard are learning as the Ministry of Defence admits that working on nuclear submarines exposed them to unacceptable levels of radiation.

An investigation by local Rochester City council found that up to a third of the dockyard's nuclear workers may have been exposed to levels of radiation up to 12 times that allowed by international standards.

The 18 May Science Focus described how sloppy standards were exposing workers in Murmansk in Russia to radioactive dangers from Soviet nuclear submarine waste — now we learn that dockyard workers in Britain, only a few miles

from London, have also been exposed to this deadly threat.

As many as 3,000 former Chatham dockyard workers will now be screened for evidence of radiation-induced cancers.

Several, including a Labour councillor who worked at the yard, have already died from suspicious diseases such as leukaemia.

The MoD have generously offered 'counselling' to worried workers.

The still radioactive buildings used to house submarines are now used to store fruit.

### Tiger economies decimate rain forests

TWO recent stories in the news demonstrate how the 'Asian Tiger' capitalist economies of some Far East countries are using destruction of the rain forests to fuel their drive for expansion and profit.

The prime minister of Malaysia has for years wanted a prestige industrial project to mark that country's emergence as a successful capitalist power. His favourite has been a £4bn dam that will create a massive lake in the centre of the rain forests of Sarawak, one of the states making up Malaysia.

This will generate energy for Malaysia's future industrialisation. The economics have been questioned but have been swept aside by the vested interests likely to make vast fortunes from the construction project and sale of cleared timber.

Concern about the environmental damage this will cause has been ignored by the clever trick of removing the project from Malaysian federal environmental legislation by making it a Sarawak state project free of restraints.

Now 270 square miles of virgin forest will disappear along with the indigenous peoples and wild life they contained.

But the Tiger economies' impact on rain forests stretches beyond their home area. Malaysian, Indonesian and Korean timber companies are buying up enormous areas of the Amazonian basin where they hope to join the cattle ranchers who have previously rained death and destruction onto these areas.

I am not referring just to the death of the forests and their contents here. The people profiting from the destruction and rape of these remote areas readily use death squads to murder anyone attempting to resist them. Until now these murderers have been largely local businessmen.

How long before the Tigers from the Far East acquire these habits for dealing with awkward protesters particularly in these areas miles away from media attention.

### Socialist Science Forum

THE June meeting of the Forum made several commitments that will be of interest to readers. We will shortly be distributing the first *Socialist Science Forum Newsletter*. Please contact me via Workers Press if you would like to join the circulation list. Subscriptions will be free until the quality of my home word processing achieves a standard that I dare charge for!

The *Newsletter* will contain information about our activities as well as discussion of issues raised at meetings and in this column. We will soon start a series of public meetings on science topics of current political interest.

Suggested topics cover areas such as the human genetics/IQ debate, animal rights and capitalist farming methods, human health, destruction of the environment, and the crisis in science. Please do not hesitate to forward your views on topics that you feel we should include.



New York: Global trading takes place increasingly by computer

money management was 'more profitable than investments in real goods.'

One can only agree, but for entirely different reasons.

It is precisely because capitalism globally is in long-term decay that the declining opportunity for investment in production must be increasingly supplemented through deployment of the growing surplus of money capital as speculative funds for various types of financial dealings.

The increasing levels of global financial fraud show that even this

speculative activity has to continually 'break the rules' that capital once set up to guarantee its own orderly expansion in the intensifying competition between rival blocs to guarantee profit.

Hence Nick Leeson, hence Yashuo Hamanaka.

### Crime

It is often said that financial crime is less harmful than rape or burglary because poor people do not suffer as victims.

Here we can entirely endorse the

observation of the *Guardian* (29 June) that the real victims of the copper price rigging and its subsequent collapse are 'the lowly paid day-rate miners in Chile, Zambia and China whose livelihood has been threatened by the greed of global speculators who play the commodity markets like an outsized casino.'

Where such fine liberal sentiments would be more ill at ease, no doubt, is in the further observation that it is precisely that class of miners and workers who are the only force on earth who can put a stop to the whole rotten system.

## ic History of Marxism

### mp (1921-1993)

respectively, with French financial policy between the world wars and with the Regulation school of economists.

The final chapters return to the more direct exploration of questions of Marxism.

A provocative essay by Cyril Smith details the weaknesses he sees in the treatment of Hegel and of Marx's *Capital* by modern economists.

The Marxist philosopher István Mészáros gives a major study of how philosophers have wrestled with the concept of the specificity of particular periods of history, including their own, and of how a lack of grasp of what he calls 'historical temporality' provides the ruling class with its most crucial ideological weapon.

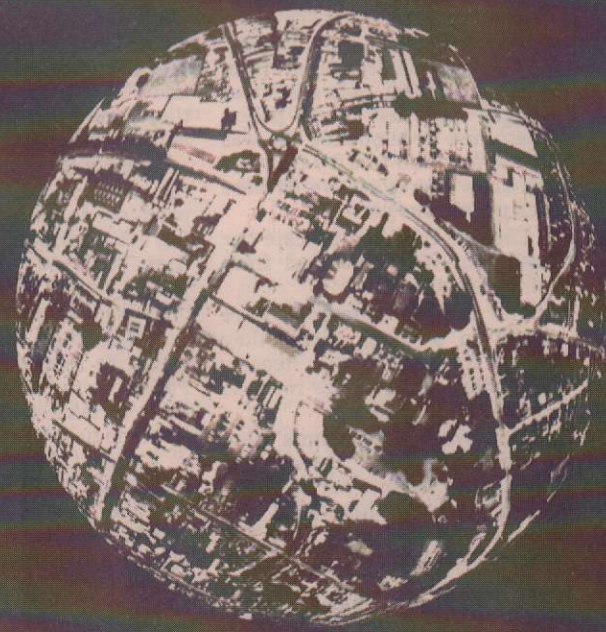
Brotherstone finishes the book with an account of how many like Tom Kemp broke from the Communist Party of Great Britain in 1956.

In an appendix, Peter Fryer and Tom's son Michael Kemp give an interim bibliography, which they explain is necessarily incomplete. But it gives some indication of Tom's intellectual range.

■ *History, Economic History and the Future of Marxism, Essays in Memory of Tom Kemp (1921-1993)*, edited by Terry Brotherstone and Geoff Pilling, is available from Porcupine Press, price £14.95. Individuals may order direct (add £1.50 for postage) from Porcupine Press, Woburn Bookshop, 10 Woburn Walk, London WC1H 0JL. Tel: 0171-388 7278. Fax: 0171-263 5196.

## HISTORY, ECONOMIC HISTORY AND THE FUTURE OF MARXISM

ESSAYS IN MEMORY OF TOM KEMP



EDITED BY TERRY BROTHERSTONE AND GEOFF PILLING





