

VAUXHALL

Press Association reports, Thursday, October 9.

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However, it was attended by well over 1,000 strikers. Speaker after speaker came forward to say that the strike was 'solid' and that there would be no surrender.

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No confidence

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'There are 36 faceless people sitting around in Edinburgh, smoking their cigars and drinking their wine, controlling our lives. But they had better remember we are still here!'

Several strikers spoke to the Workers Press about the growing impact of their strike, the Fleet Street witch-hunt, Wilson's attack on the strikers and the threat of a productivity sell-out.

Tom Mason (Kensington) explained:

'So many people have been saying this is a wild-cat strike. Let's look at the facts. Four or five months ago we went out on strike for 30s. in our area. It lasted four days.

'Then the borough engineer told us to go back to work. But nothing came of it.'

'This is the sort of thing which has brought things to a head now.'

'They've tried to use everything against us. Fires, health, super-fines—the lot!'

'If there's any health hazard, the people who are responsible are the people who refuse to settle our wage claim.'

Not forseen

Frank Sully (liaison steward, Lambeth) said: 'no one had foreseen this dispute but it had obviously been in the back of the men's minds since the Lambeth strike earlier in the year.'

'We don't hold the local authorities as such responsible for what's happening, but all too often they're too willing by half to hide behind the Joint Industrial Council. And unless the workers are putting on big pressure, our trade unions tend to fall into the rut.'

'They are only as strong as the membership make them. We are now setting out on the road to make ourselves strong.'

Measures

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'He wouldn't only have the local authority workers against him, but masses of other workers as well!'

'Basically, I feel, public opinion is with us.'

Response

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EDITORIAL

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IS THE Czech working class faced with another Hungary?

The chain of events over recent weeks could point in that direction. First came the purges from the Central Committee and the removal of Dubcek from the ruling Party Presidency.

Then came the actual arrest of leading figures in the struggle against the Kremlin-backed Husak regime.

Now in the last few days we have the trade union purge and the expulsion of leading anti-Stalinist writers from the Party.

And lastly, the most ominous sign of all, comes the sealing of Czechoslovakia's frontier with the west.

The Soviet bureaucracy is ready for civil war. We warn all those British Communist Party members who have tagged along behind Dubcek: it is no longer a question of Husak against the 'liberals', but the Soviet bureaucracy and its armed forces against the Czech working class.

When the Kremlin crushed the Hungarian workers' revolution of 1956, Gollan and company supported the bureaucracy to the hilt. Where does the Communist Party stand on Hungary now, when an identical situation is being prepared by the Kremlin in Czechoslovakia?

The only support the Czech working class can rely on will come from their class brothers in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the capitalist world.

It is our job to mobilize this solidarity before the Kremlin strikes its first counter-revolutionary blows.

All trade unionists must support the dustmen

THE STENCH from the heaps of garbage piled up in London's back alleys is a perfume compared with the odour emanating from Westminster and Fleet Street.

In both these quarters every effort is being made to railroad the dustmen into a rotten productivity 'compromise'.

Following Heath's call for the government to step in and break the strike, the Wilson cabinet decided on Wednesday to use troops as strike-breakers if any of London's 32 boroughs complained that public health was being endangered.

Wilson assured Heath that he was keeping a close eye on the situation. Here the Labour leaders jump to it when the Tories crack the whip.

Wilson's statements tie in completely with the concerted press campaign to make the maximum of the 'health threat'.

Half Fleet Street has been trailing round London all week in the footsteps of Mr William Parker, a leading public health inspector. His remarks about 'very objectionable animal matter' to be seen in the streets were given wide circulation.

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They hope to create a crisis atmosphere in which the dustmen's leaders can be panicked into accepting some form of deal.

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By David Maude

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Gestetner workers greet the daily

WE EXTEND our warmest greetings to the Workers Press.

The twice-weekly newsletter laid great stress on political leadership in the unions. We have recently been saddled with a productivity deal. Our leaders, through all kinds of excuses that we can't fight the government, that we should accept productivity and get what we can out of it and that we should keep politics out of the unions, enabled the deal to go through.

Now we are faced with enormous speed-up with very little reward in wage packets. We have no confidence in the trade union bureaucracy who have been busy signing these deals and agreeing to wage cuts, penalties, flexibility and every other tool of attack against the working class now being put forward by the government and the employers.

May the Workers Press continue to fight for an alternative leadership based on socialist policies that we are confident can lead the working class to victory.

Long live the Workers Press!

R. Goldstein (Shop Steward die casting), M. Ismail, H. Morris, Sam A. Olanipekun, D. Stanley, C. Young.

TUC-Castle discussion

THE TUC's economic committee has decided to seek an early meeting with Mrs Barbara Castle to discuss changing the government's mind about retaining legal powers to restrain wages.

The committee wants to discuss government moves to renege Part 2 of the Prices and Incomes Act.

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The response from the factories is extremely good. In some cases we are selling more of the daily than we used to sell of the twice-weekly Newsletter.

In spite of the usual quota of problems familiar to such a publication, we are now well on the way to making some major changes in the news presentation of the paper.

We are working towards the possibility of producing a special weekly edition of

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And this can only be deepened by Thursday afternoon's announcement of a big drop in car sales on the home market this year.

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Every line apart from the Minor 1000, where a few cars were produced, was at a standstill following Wednesday's walkout in protest against British-Leyland's threat of short-time working on the Maxi line.

Across the Oxford by-pass at Pressed Steel Fisher, 440 Maxi line workers were laid off until further notice because of the Morris dispute.

No surrender

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Standard-Triumph has laid off another 10,000 workers in Liverpool, Birmingham and Coventry as a result of the strike.

At York, talks aimed at settling the three-week-old Vauxhall dispute ended with a new form of words for the infamous 'penal clauses' the company wants to introduce as part of a new pay deal, but no more money.

The clauses have already been re-worded at least five times, each time equally unacceptable to the men.

Big demand

What's more, the Ellesmere Port workers whose work-torule shut Vauxhall's three plants are demanding a 5s-an-hour increase in pay—not the 8d., 9d. or 10d. which still constitute the company's offer.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SWINDON

Speaker: Frank Willis
Young Socialists candidate in the parliamentary by-election

Tuesday, October 14 8 p.m.
Reuben George Hall
Walco Estate

Friday, October 17 8 p.m.
Swindon Town Hall

MIXED RECEPTION FOR T.V. SERIES

THE BBC television series, 'Representing the Unions', which aims to sell the illusion of a 'fair deal' for workers under productivity deals and Measured-Day Work, started this week.

ATUA meeting

'Unemployment and the lessons of GEC-English Electric'

LIVERPOOL
Sunday, October 19 7.30 p.m.
Museum Lecture Hall
William Brown Street
Speaker: C. Slaughter



'Guardian' cheers Tory scabs' charter

By John Spencer

'HOW to make friends and influence people' should be the sub-title of the 'scab's charter' unveiled by shadow Minister of Labour Mr Robert Carr at the Tory conference on Wednesday.

For the Tory proposals to abolish the closed shop, bring in enforceable contracts and alter the Trades Disputes Act to make possible civil action against 'unofficial' strikers is welcomed not only by arch-right-winger Enoch Powell, but also by... the Liberal 'Guardian'.

'The Guardian's' editorial for Thursday, October 9 professes to detect 'the first signs of a hopeful change in the Tory mood'.

Be cautious

The Tories, the paper says, have learned from the Labour government's experience 'the need to be cautious when stepping into the labour relations jungle'.

This cuddling up to the Tories is a sign of the anti-working-class line-up that is now developing.

If the Tories have had to dress up their attack with proposals for 'participation' along Gaullist lines, it is because, like the Labour leaders, they fear the strength and confidence of the working class.

Lining up

But the mailed fist of Tory reaction is only very imperfectly concealed by Carr's careful phrases.

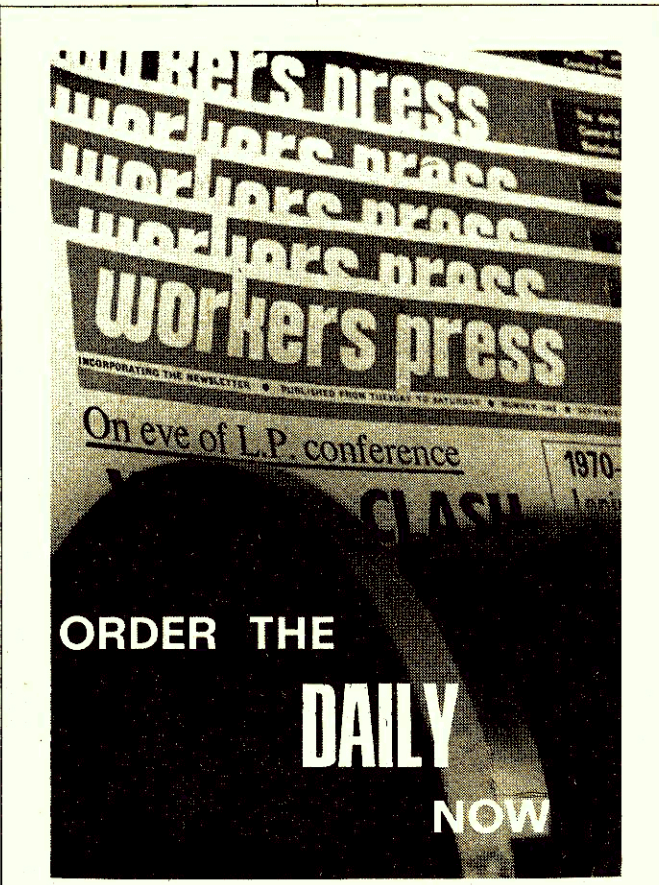
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There is no room on this question for any middle road. The Guardian's 'united front' with the Tories and Powellites against the unions is a preparation for war with the working class.

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Then came the actual arrest of leading figures in the struggle against the Kremlin-backed Husak regime. Now in the last few days we have the trade union purge and the expulsion of leading anti-Stalinist writers from the Party.

And lastly, the most ominous sign of all, comes the sealing of Czechoslovakia's frontier with the west.

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the Workers' Press with a four-page magazine insertion dealing with problems of Marxist theory in relation to the labour movement.

We hope to make an announcement early in 1970 along these lines.

Film

A 22-minute film of the first issue of the Workers Press in production is now almost complete and will be available for a national circulation campaign which is to be launched early in November.

As one would expect the Stalinists and revisionists

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Swindon Town Hall

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THE BBC television series, 'Representing the Unions', which aims to sell the illusion of a 'fair deal' for workers under productivity deals and Measured-Day Work, started this week.

It is reported that the TUC were 'delighted' with the response to the series.

It took the TUC and BBC Further Education Advisory Committee two years to decide on its contents.

Significantly, Rootes, which is in the throes of introducing Measured-Day Work, provided facilities for 150 of its shop stewards to watch the series during working hours.

British-Leyland, where the introduction of Measured-Day Work has been resisted, said they were 'very impressed', but a company spokesman said: 'I don't think anybody has asked for time off to watch the series...'

Although the use of television will not assist the managements very much, its intervention into the field of industrial relations certainly marks a new stage in the use of the medium by the ruling class.

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There is no room on this question for any middle road.

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ATUA meeting COVENTRY

'Workers Press and the fight against redundancy and Measured-Day Work.'

Wednesday-October 16, 7.30 p.m.

Coventry Cross (The Burgess)

Full subscription (Posted daily) £10 a year £2 10s. for three months OR Two editions (For any two days you select) £4 a year £1 for three months

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Appeal by Alexis Kosterin translated from 'Samizdat 1'

ALEXIS KOSTERIN joined the Bolshevik Party in 1916. He was deported for 17 years to the gold mines of Kolyma. He died on November 16, 1968, three weeks after writing this letter.

Take up the struggle against Stalinism

Appeal by Alexis Kosterin to the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR. Copies to:

The editorial committee of 'Pravda' for publication;

The local committee of the Frunze Party;

The Party organization of the Moscow Writers' Union.

Dear Comrades,

OVER the last few months I have sent several letters to my Party cell and to the Central Committee criticising a whole series of negative phenomena in the internal life of the Party and the social life of our country.

I persisted so that the problems I raised would lead to public discussion.

After having debated them clearly, in the spirit of the Party, I could be told how and why I was wrong; and, if sometimes I was right, I could be supported so that positive solutions to the problems I raised could be found and applied where necessary to the Party and the State.

No one can deny, I believe, that I had the indisputable right guaranteed to me by the Party statutes as a Party member, to take this step.

What followed however, violated the Party statutes as well as violating simple common sense.

I was informed that the Moscow Party Committee would debate my letters on October 17 of this year.

For reasons of health, I could not be at the meeting—following a serious and painful heart attack, the second—that recently laid me up; the doctors categorically forbid me to participate in these discussions because of the nervous tension it would have involved.

And as I had set out and argued very clearly and in a convincing way the problems I was raising I thought the discussion could go on without me.

It appears that the content of my letters was never examined. Instead of discussing them, my letters had the labels 'anti-Party' and 'anti-Soviet' attached to them in a totally wanton way and I was expelled from the Party.

Several other CPSU statutes were flagrantly violated:

1. The question of my Party membership was ruled on without consulting my local organization.
2. I was expelled for exercising the indefensible right of a Party member: to express himself before the Party on any important question, to present his proposals and defend them until a decision is taken about the matters they concern.
3. The transcript of the proceedings of the meeting and the decision of the Party Committee were passed on to the local committee right away without informing me first.
4. Neither was I told about the local committee's deliberations; they had evidently already decided with amazing rapidity to

'settle' the question of my expulsion.

This confirmed my hypothesis that only the fact that I sent the letters was considered and not the questions raised in those letters. Their content—the real problems—has not been examined.

The label 'anti-Party' was wantonly attached to my letters. I had already been reproached for defending the Tartars of Crimea.

To be consistent, the Party Committee should have accused me at the same time for writing in defence of the Germans living in the Volga and the Turks. It should also be remembered that in 1958 I was expelled from the Party for having defended the Chetchen-Ingush people. I should have been reproached for having defended with arms, in the first years of the revolution, the Leninist policy of nationalities and the right of minorities to national equality.

What happened to me is not accidental.

It springs from the whole line of the Party leadership. The Politbureau of the Central Committee does not itself respect the Party laws, does not take them into account.

In spite of the decisions of the 22nd and 23rd Party Congresses, the name and anti-human acts of Stalin are being 'cautiously' but insistently rehabilitated. And, in practice, Stalinist methods are allowed more and more scope.

As under Stalin, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom to meet, freedom to march and demonstrate in the streets only exists in written form in the Constitution.

In practice, all those who try to exercise these rights

are arrested; those who protest against this arbitrary injustice are expelled from the Party, dismissed from their jobs and put under constant surveillance by KGB agents. Their mouths are closed by all possible methods including the most repugnant.

As under Stalin, a whole series of national minorities are the victims of savage persecution, discrimination and veritable acts of genocide.

Stalinism manifests itself with particular clarity in the domain of foreign policy. The events in Czechoslovakia are an especially striking illustration.

The supreme leadership of the Party and the Soviet state is not afraid to put the world on the brink of a thermonuclear catastrophe without considering the genuine interests of our country and the world communist movement; the leadership has provided the imperialist extremists with arguments to be used for increasing international tension.

The leadership has inflicted a moral defeat with very far reaching effects on our country and on the international communist movement. And all this with the sole end of defending the narrow interests of caste.

A climate of oppression continues to reign in the Party. The carefully sorted and selected Stalinist Party machinery throws itself unambiguously into the assault against whoever expresses any doubts—whoever the doubter is—about the machine's policies or tries to criticise any member of the Party and state leadership.

In our Party today discussion is forbidden, the right to think is refused. You are expelled from the sole reason

THE LETTER of resignation and the funeral oration published here have an exceptional significance for the international communist movement. The author of the letter was an old Bolshevik who fought in the civil war, endured the torture and terror of the Stalin regime and yet retained his communist convictions undimmed.

He fought the bureaucracy's policies in the party consistently and passionately. In particular he fought for a Leninist policy in relation to the national minorities such as the Chetchen-Ingush, the Volga Germans and the Crimean Tartars who were deported en masse to the far east before the Second World War by Stalin.

After his resignation Kosterin continued his struggle for the regeneration of socialism in the USSR and against the return of some of the worst features of Stalinism—exemplified by the trial of the Soviet writers and the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Kosterin lived and died a communist. His remarkable life and struggle, the grandeur and pathos of which is so vividly evoked in the speech of Yakir, is a magnificent testimony to the resurgence of the Soviet working class and the new generation of youth who will dig the graves of the Kremlin bureaucracy as surely as Kosterin's generation dug the graves of the Kremlin Tsar and the Russian bourgeoisie.

The speech and the letter together constitute an eloquent and damning indictment of the heirs of Stalin and, we feel certain, it will inspire the new generation of communists inside and outside the Soviet Union to complete the task begun by Trotsky and the Left Opposition: to carry through the political revolution and open the road to a world October.

M. Banda, October 10, 1969



Michael Banda, editor of Workers' Press

Kosterin endured all attacks and privations during the repressive Stalin era, but still remained a communist. Stalin is seen left with Bukharin.



that you have formulated proposals that appeared good to you but don't conform to the prescriptions that rain down from on high.

Only those who carry out orders from on high without thinking can live in this Party; only those who consider their presence in the Party an assurance of safe conduct and of their own well being can live in this Party.

I foresaw what the local Party Committee's decision would be because I knew of certain other expulsions from the Party decided upon by its committees without any discussion in the lower Party organizations.

But I do not want to go to the local committee to be 'corrected'. I don't have the strength or health for that. I could still endure these corrections in 1937 when they followed my arrest, but not today.

As a protest against the flagrant violations of Party statutes and in order to free myself from that Party discipline which deprives me of the right to think, I am resigning from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and I am returning my Party membership card, number 8,293,698.

I am taking this step con-

sciously and with the hope that it will compel true communists to think seriously about what is happening inside our Party as well as in all of our society.

If the Central Committee sees that it is in its interest that all Party members, including the Party machine, observe the statutes, it will decide on my case publicly and punish those who are guilty of violating these statutes.

If this is the case I will rescind my decision to resign from the Party and continue to struggle against Stalinism inside the Party ranks submitting to its discipline.

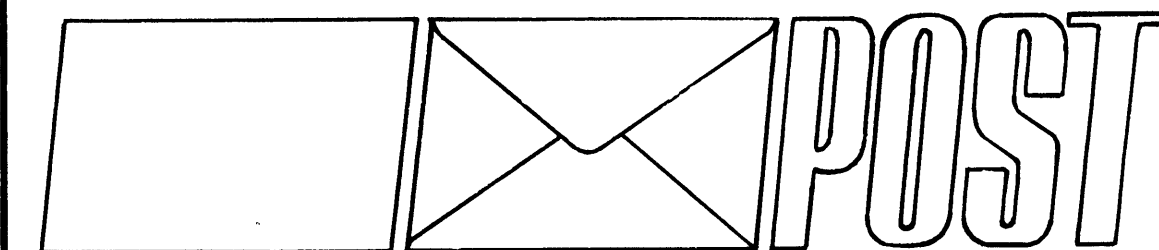
But with or without a Party card I have been, I am, and I will remain a Marxist-Leninist communist, a Bolshevik. My whole existence, from my youth to today, bears witness to that.

If I find myself outside the Party I will continue to struggle for my Marxist-Leninist ideas, for their democratic application in life, as I've always struggled, making use of all the rights given to me by our Constitution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man adopted by the United Nations and signed by our government.

October 24, 1968



A Soviet armoured car rolls through Czechoslovakia (below) during the August 1968 invasion. Kosterin had the deepest feelings for the working class in that country, and expressed his opposition to the bureaucracy's action.



A teacher asks: When is a reform?

ATTACKS on education of various kinds were forecast in the Workers' Press of September 30 and October 2. Some others are already operating or being introduced as reforms.

Teachers want the best for the children and do not always recognize inroads in their own conditions until too late.

It's not just the money. Special responsibility allowances will not cure the heart disease or sciatica which seem to be occupational hazards for city teachers.

Children are streamed, and teachers stream themselves—there are the middle-aged, dogged and cynical, and the young, keen, underpaid and anxious. The gulf between them is apparent at any staff-meeting.

☆

Only the authorities stand to gain.

Various educational reports have outlined changes to benefit the pupils.

But almost any reform can be manipulated into an economy. The merging of schools into comprehensives is one example.

The union demand for the employment of fully-qualified teachers can be used to starve schools of 'supply' staff and extra part-timers. The insistence on smaller classes, especially in primary schools, and for 'group teaching', can end up as an arrangement for fewer staff looking after a larger flow of pupils.

☆

Similarly ideas about teachers' aides schemes, involving parent participation and part-time teaching for little ones, these all sound like good ideas, especially for parents who can afford to enter into the day-time life of the school.

But unless all 'reforms' are negotiated under the control of the staff, experience shows that they can undermine the teachers' standards, or simply be used as economies.

If the morning assembly period is unpopular, it can be transformed into an extra teaching period, with only one age-group going to assembly each day.

If older children in cities could do with more time at school in the evening, then introduce a 'third session' with appropriate rates of pay for teachers 'volunteering' to stay on.

For overtime by any other name the pay is sweet, the demand for a real increase in the basic rate is undermined by the third session pay-packet.

☆

In other words, all the contradictions which affect other large state enterprises are to be found in teaching.

The sexes are played off against each other—20 years

ago the National Union of Women Teachers was a ginger group, now we have the National Association of Schoolmasters excluding women and competing with the NUT.

Strong, lively branches of the NUT in every school should struggle on every re-organization proposal in the school and in the local association. By dealing with immediate issues and by contact with parents and pupils, teachers can develop the unity for a political struggle for control, going beyond the £135-a-year pay-rise demand to which the NUT is committed.

B. Russel.

More light on Mr. Coates' institute

I WOULD like to add some remarks to the article 'Mr. Coates and the "Morning Star"' by your political correspondent in the October 3 issue.

Last Monday (September 29) the 'The Times' Business News carried a letter from a Mr K. Fleet, secretary of the Institute for Workers' Control, entitled 'The Struggle for Workers' Control'. This letter throws more light on the activities and politics of this organisation.

☆

The Institute for Workers' Control, of which Mr Coates is a leading member, has always been a determined opponent of the struggle for class consciousness in the working class.

They have always opposed the working class acting independently of the bureaucracy and are, of course, opposed to

the struggle of the working class to take power.

For them, socialism is watered down with 'radical' phrases about 'industrial democracy' etc., in order not to hurt the feelings of their middle-class friends.

As the letter in 'The Times' says: 'The argument for industrial democracy or workers' control is no less valid in its humane promise for these people (highly qualified technical personnel and middle-aged executives) than it is for shop-floor workers'.

The letter explains that they were 'not disappointed' at the failure of GEC on Merseyside last month.

'The struggle for industrial democracy does not proceed only by such dramatic upheavals.'

(Least of all do their middle-class friends want 'upheavals'.)

They then explain how 'Industrial Democracy' is to be achieved.

'We have been studying the markets for the GEC Liverpool products . . . at specially negotiated prices.'

☆

'If British-Leyland can sell hundreds of buses to developing countries, by the simple device of organizing long runs of production at a low price: how much more easily could the government follow suit, with their capacity to link trade deals to the aid programme: to offer special trade terms and to enter into commodity agreements.'

The circle is now complete! While Mr Coates hands out praise to the Stalinists, his friend Mr Fleet offers advice to the employers and government on how best to run British capitalism.

The working class which now comes on to the scene in a fighting mood is something these people like to forget.

J. M. Jarvis.

No index reference to 'Where is Britain Going'

October 7, 1969 FOLLOWING up your review of Klugmann's book on the British Communist Party in the General Strike period, may I mention a revealing detail.

The index to this book refers the reader who looks up 'Trotsky' to two hostile allusions to Trotsky which appear on pages 321 and 326, but not—to the mention in passing—on page 350 that the CPGB published his book 'Where is Britain Going?'. The less attention is drawn to this fact, the less likely, of course, that readers will wonder at the absence of any discussion of Trotsky's analysis of the situation in Britain in this period.

Readers of the Workers' Press who want to engage Communist Party members in discussion around Klugmann's book should note that on page 46 even this official historian

feels obliged to admit, regarding the slogan 'All power to the General Council!', that 'it can still be questioned whether this was a correct demand'.

What is completely lacking, of course, is any explanation of why this policy was adopted, in spite of the misgivings expressed by some Party members at the time. On this vital question the books by Trotsky listed by your reviewer are essential for the 'international' background. For specific 'British' detail, may I remind readers of my own pamphlets, 'Early history of the British Communist Party and 'Some past rank-and-file Movements'.

Brian Pearce.

* Both available from New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.—Ed.

PIOTR YAKIR is an historian from Moscow and the son of Army Commander I. E. Yakir, who was assassinated by Stalin. Piotr himself, as the son of an 'enemy of the people', spent 17 years in a concentration camp from the age of 14 to the age of 31.

☆

MANY TRUE things have already been said about the dead man. I also loved him and I would like to speak about him without holding back.

I would like to recall my meetings and discussions with him; those meetings which now seem to have been so few and far between. At my last meeting with him I even arrived late.

I went to see him at his invitation; that was when it was most possible to have a conversation with him.

I won't take too much time away from those who are waiting their turn to share their sorrow with friends. I'll only describe one side of Alexis Kosterin, a side that I don't see in many of his generation. I want to talk about his fidelity to his ideals.

This fidelity he preserved pure and unshaken from his youth to the last sigh; to the last moment he raised his fist to ask for oxygen because he could no longer speak.

I know that among the millions of men ruthlessly wiped out by the Stalinist extermination machine, there were many—perhaps the majority—who, because they kept their faith in Marxism-Leninism, had to cross the Styx. [Traditionally the entry into Hell.]

But many of this generation survived. The majority of these survivors were not victims of repression. And all, all betrayed their ideals.

A few isolated men, crouching in their corners and holding their faith deep in their

Funeral oration at the grave of Alexis Kosterin

hearts do not change the appalling picture of the degeneration of an entire generation.

Some of the representatives of this generation, of course, speak about 'sacred ideals' to which they swear fidelity but they serve the Stalinists faithfully, the Stalinists who mock ideals whatever they are.

Many of these flunkies hope to get a few scraps from the leftovers of the banquet table of our rulers. The Christian ethic calls such people Pharisees.

Others behave like this out of fear. They are repulsive hypocrites who in public praise and flatter the powerful and then turn around and criticize them in private confidences.

Some of them, having already fouled themselves like this, then don't hesitate to denounce their erstwhile and trusting confidants when they sense danger.

Most of these people are fanatics and petty bourgeois. They have never read the

works of the creators of Marxist-Leninist theory; they are stuffed with prejudices and ready to dress up any drivel with the name of Marxism-Leninism, socialism, communism and other 'isms' in order to receive their credentials from the authorities.

They will support all the undertakings of those in power including exploits worthy of the Black Hundreds; they are ready to do even better.

These are the people who cried 'crucify him' to Pontius Pilate; the people who flood the streets of our cities and villages like a tidal wave, howling for the execution of the 'enemies of the people'.

This is how they dealt with Kosterin in his Party organization and in the Presidium of the Writers' Union.

How could one not be struck by the strength of this man's spirit; this man who preserved his convictions in the midst of this dark mass of people, gangrenous with prejudices and preconceived ideas; this man who preserved his convictions through the tortures of the 'house of Vaskov', the horrible Magadan where he was shut up in May 1938 and Kolyma concentration camp; preserved his convictions through 're-education' by the pharisees and hypocrites and the howls of the fanatics and petty bourgeoisie.

Looking at the life of this man one can only say, 'Truly, the men of October were a strong generation'.

I loved Alexis Kosterin because of his great spirit; I loved him as a citizen. An empathy which flowed from our somewhat shared destinies no doubt played a part too. But I loved him particularly for the clarity of his thought, for his fidelity to his thoughts.

It's no secret that many who endured the same trials as Alexis Kosterin lost faith in the ideals they had fought for in their youth. They considered the ideas, and not only men, responsible for what happened to them.

Alexis Kosterin drew other lessons. When we were together he spoke to me like this:

Marxism-Leninism, no more than any other ideological system, is not totally pure nor genuine in all its parts. It carries

with it the mark of the individuality of its creators—who were men and not gods—and of the period in which it was created—and we know times change.

There is therefore nothing astonishing if men who specialize in this study find in the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin all the quotations necessary to justify the blackest deeds of all the Stalins, Krushchevs and Brezhnevs.

It's a very easy thing to do in our country, given the method of quotation used here; a method that shatters the thought expressed in a passage, not once but often into many fragments.

The quotation is often completed with statements entirely strange to the original text.

This is done with impunity because in our country no organ of the press would dare to contradict such falsifications. There are many volunteers ready to shovel and distribute this pre-digested food.

This exploitation of the ideas and names sacred to our people has created the 'moral' base on which Stalinism in the past and neo-Stalinism today have developed. It's been difficult even for me to free myself of this hallucination.

For a long time I too thought that the policies carried out consciously to consolidate Stalin's personal dictatorship were a series of errors of 'detail' committed in the local and Central Committees. I fought against these 'errors' of 'detail' and 'deviations'.

I always emerged from these struggles scarred and bruised but sometimes luck was with me and I threw myself into tilting at windmills again absolutely certain that this was exactly what my duty as a Party member consisted of.

It wasn't until after 1934, after the assassination of Kirov, that I started to have doubts. But the veil didn't finally fall from my eyes until the 'house of Vaskov'. It was only then that I understood that Marxism-Leninism had been buried in our country and Lenin's party destroyed.

I am leaving aside the question of whether or not his final conclusion is correct.

But I must bow before the



Kosterin told Yakir that he began to have doubts in 1934 about the leadership after the assassination of Kirov (above). Stalin used the death of Kirov to begin the purge of the Old Bolsheviks in the infamous Moscow Trials.

integrity of this man, his purity, his courage and his incredible fortitude. Imagine a man convinced that in spite of the doctrine they profess, men who hold nothing sacred are leading this country.

Imagine that he knows that these leaders will stop at nothing to close the mouths of whoever tries to unmask them.

As if that were not enough, he also had endured the tortures of the 'house of Vaskov' and years at the Kolyma concentration camp!

If you have imagined all that then bow your head again to

Alexis Kosterin. Without having time to heal from all he'd endured he intervened on behalf of the Chetchens and the Ingushes.

At once the pack of pharisees, hypocrites and fanatics fell on him. He was again expelled from the Party and he expected his arrest at any moment. A trial beyond comprehension for those who did not pass through 'the house of Vaskov' and Kolyma or through the other numerous camps in our country.

But Kosterin survived this new test.

There were communists who

defended him, kept him out of prison and got him reinstated in the Party. I speak to all those militants, and above all to one communist whose name I won't give because I was not authorized to do so—he never forgot, to his last day.

Even after this terrible moral test, Alexis Kosterin entered into struggle for his ideals.

He intervened on behalf of the Germans in the Lower Volga, on behalf of the Tartars of the Crimea and on behalf of other national minorities. He spoke out against the re-birth of Stalinism.

But how can I enumerate all that this man with a half-broken heart but such a strong soul was able to do? He tried to make us, his friends and companions at arms, share his faith. I remember one of our conversations in which he countered our objections with the following arguments:

Of course the so-called advanced capitalist countries have outstripped us in social development by an entire epoch. They have satisfied the material and spiritual needs of their citizens much better than we, they have guaranteed the free development of the individual better than we.

But have they attained the ideal?

Can a man whose life does not satisfy him whether because of birth or unhappy circumstances—can he hope to break out of the vicious circle in which he is caught?

Have they created equal conditions for the development of everyone?

Has misery and crime completely disappeared?

Have social, national, racial inequalities been liquidated?

What do you propose as an alternative to this system which we see is far from being perfect?

He was silent for several minutes then answered himself:

The only alternative to this system and to Stalinist 'socialism' is Marxism-Leninist socialism, pulled out of the mud, regenerated and developing in liberty.

How full of joy he was at the birth of democracy in Czechoslovakia! Hearing the news about the process of democratization there, he burst out:

You see! That's what I told you! There it is, the alternative to capitalism and to Stalinism!

He had complete confidence in the Czech Communist Party and the Czech people.

But Czechoslovakia is not Russia! People there know what democracy is. They will not endure the barbarism forced on them for long. Stalin made a mistake.

After a pause he added ironically:

He swallowed a delicacy that his barbaric stomach couldn't digest.

Czechoslovakia is not Touva or Mongolia! It's an advanced European country with the richest democratic traditions. I think that little Czechoslovakia will have enough moral strength to sweep the whole socialist world along with it.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia marked him deeply.

I believe this intervention brought the fatal end closer by putting too heavy a burden on his heart.

He followed the evolution of events in Czechoslovakia closely. He seemed to want to hold back the disease that was keeping him in his bed so that he could fly to this people he believed in and become a soldier in their ranks.

Until his death, until his last sigh, he believed in the victory of the Czechoslovak people because he believed in the strength of the ideas that illuminated the way they had taken and which had illuminated his whole life.

I bow once again before the strength of this incredible spirit, before his courage, and before this fidelity to his ideals. I ask you to join me.

I would like to be like him; I would like those close to me, family and friends, to be like him.

WEEKEND TELEVISION

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
B.B.C. 1	B.B.C. 1
B.B.C. 2	Border TV
L.W.T.	Yorkshire
Yorkshire	Westward
Westward	Yorkshire
Yorkshire	Westward



Talking of certain falsifications by the bureaucracy, Kosterin once told Yakir that men specialized in a study of Marx and Engels could find all the necessary quotations necessary to justify the blackest deeds of the Stalins, Krushchevs and Brezhnevs. Krushchev, deposed in 1966, is seen above.

A NEW SYSTEM of work-measurement has recently been developed in Britain, according to 'Work Study', the specialist magazine for consultants and managers. This new system called 'tape data analysis' (TDA) has been devised by a research team set up in 1966 by the Methods-Time-Measurement Association of the United Kingdom. The Report comments that the new measuring technique is: 'claimed to be at least ten times more productive than the Methods-Time-Measurement-2 (MTM-2) technique hitherto regarded as the most advanced system of its type.' It explains that the MTM system of copying down in a notebook the actions of an operator has serious disadvantages which are overcome by TDA. In the new system the work measurer uses a portable tape recorder in conjunction with a series of mnemonic codes which correspond to MTM-2 motion se-

WORK STUDY METHODS

THE LATEST

By Bernard Franks

with a methods description over 100 times more detailed.' It reports that the TDA system is being released at the moment for use and that: 'Considerable interest in this new technique is being shown by industrial engineers abroad and arrangements made for its release in other countries.' With the Labour government's official backing for work-study, there is a ready market—and a profitable one—for new methods of intensifying work and rationalizing the worker.

NEXT

TUESDAY'S

WORKERS

PRESS

World port

workers under

attack

quency'. (mnemonic = designed to aid the memory. OED) The report adds: 'The limitations which an analyst encounters when he cannot write or even speak fast enough to record rapid sequences of movements is overcome by the new verbal "shorthand" and the added verbal descriptions enable the trained analyst to reconstruct MTM-2 analyses for entire jobs with a high degree of accuracy'. The existing MTM systems are based on the theory that all work can be broken down into a number of basic moves and that it is only necessary to take down the sequence of moves made by any operator, then to look up the 'standard times' for these moves to arrive at the correct time for the job. Up to now, the consultants have used a type of written shorthand combined with figures for distance moved and weight lifted. The article quotes the technical director of MTMA that 'Tape data analysis allows work to be recorded as fast as with time study,

11.0 a.m., The Morning Service. 12.15 p.m., Sunday Session. 12.40, Your Living Body. 1.05, You And Your Child. 1.30, All Our Yesterdays. 2.0 Sunday Sport. 3.30, The Moonraker. 5.0, Julia. 5.30, The Flaxton Boys. 6.0, News. 6.15, All Creatures Great And Small. 6.35, A Man On His Own. 7.0, Stars On Sunday. 7.25, Hawaii Five-O. 8.25, Music Hall. 9.25, From Here To Eternity (part one) with Bert Lancaster, Frank Sinatra, Montgomery Clift, Ernest Borgnine. 10.10, News and Weather. 10.20, From Here To Eternity (part two). 11.40, Tonight With David Nixon. 12.25 a.m., Late Weather.

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G.E.C.-English Electric MANAGEMENT TRIES TO SPLIT WORKERS

EIGHT HUNDRED GEC-English Electric workers, who have been on strike at the company's three Merseyside plants since Monday, returned to work yesterday after an undertaking that management staff would be withdrawn from maintenance work.

By David Maude

The company is also trying to convince them that its threat to make 3,000 workers redundant is not so serious after all. Joint talks aimed at ending the overtime ban which has been in force since August will take place today.

A GEC spokesman said on Wednesday: 'We are hoping that AEF members will now understand that they are striking about a situation where none of them are affected by redundancy, following the announcements'.

The announcements were to the effect that the 1,000 workers at the Napier plant, due for closure, now had a choice of three jobs!

They would be offered 117 jobs in the company's domestic appliance and fuse gear

plants. Other employers in Merseyside had told GEC of 286 suitable vacancies.

Take over

Lastly there were prospects of a take-over of the Napier factory by a big British engineering firm and the consequent employment of some of the men.

The management also said that there would be no redundancies among hourly-paid workers at the East Lancs. Road factory, thus relieving 150 of the 300 threatened jobs.

It is, of course, nonsense to suggest that the whole dispute arose over a misunderstanding or that the management has changed its mind.

The management's statement is an open attempt to divide those threatened with redundancy by offering jobs to certain sections.

But GEC workers will not be divided by these tactics. Nor should they be deceived by illusory promises of alternative employment.

The GEC strikers should not be left to fight the threat of unemployment alone and must be supported, by industrial action if necessary, by the rest of Merseyside.

In the course of the campaign for the nationalization of GEC-EE should be a central demand.

Tyneside builders victimized

THREE MORE building workers were sacked on Wednesday at the Crudens redevelopment site in School Street, Hebburn, Tyneside.

The sackings follow 13 days of trouble at the site, which began after 60 workers voted solidly to strike against the sacking of two of their mates.

Crudens immediately retaliated by sacking 21 of the men. The strike broke up because of inadequate leadership and 12 of the 21 were left outside the gate.

In the background to the failure of the strike and the consequent sackings is the acute unemployment in the Tyneside area.

As the daily queues lengthen, the employers become more high-handed.

On this part of the North-East coast there are 21 men waiting for every available job on the building sites, according to official figures.

On the whole of Tyneside there are only 14 vacancies for labourers and 2,358 are unemployed.

Many workers are incensed by union leaders' failure to act against the sackings at School Street.

AUBTW officials told the sacked men there was nothing they could do. They were advised to go and look for jobs elsewhere.

Ban on S.L.L. members reversed

BIRMINGHAM University Socialist Society voted on Wednesday to reverse the ban placed on all Socialist Labour League members at the previous meeting. This followed a full campaign waged by the Young Socialist Student Society against the ban.

Preston dock employers squeal

THE Preston dockers' strike, which has gone on for eight weeks without an ounce of union support, is beginning to bite.

Port employers have so far refused to concede their claim for a £19-a-week minimum wage and a £7-a-day guarantee for piece-workers.

Now the future of the Preston-Northern Ireland container traffic is threatened. Ulster firms have been shipping 1,500,000 tons a year in and out of Preston—100,000 tons from Londonderry alone.

Prior to the strike, Anglo-



Irish Transport had been operating four services a week to Londonderry and Newry. But all sailings have been halted since early August.

The company now says it 'cannot hold out much longer'.

No doubt port employers will now be gnashing their teeth daily about the threat to Anglo-Irish Transport and to Londonderry's last remaining link across the Irish Sea.

The answer, of course, is simple. Settle the demands of the Preston dockers immediately!

Mersey dock talks fail

MERSEYSIDE port employers failed to get agreement with the Transport and General Workers' Union on Wednesday on a new deal for 10,500 dockers.

A statement issued after a four-hour meeting of the local modernization committee said simply that the employers' £21-a-week offer had been rejected.

No further meeting was arranged. For the £21 basic rate, which is intended as an interim offer during discussion of the Devlin 'modernization' scheme's second phase, the employers want to buy out all the existing bonuses and commodity differential payments.

There have been over 120 strikes over pay awards on Merseyside this year and the employers' offer was designed to keep dockers quiet while the real carve-up goes on around the Phase Two negotiating table.

They were supporting the three-week-old strike at Cadeby Main colliery. Despite the refusal of NCB officials to meet the demonstrators, miners from two more pits joined the strike after the meeting.

Ten pits are now out in support of the Cadeby market men's claim. Cadeby Main itself, Maltby, Kilmhurst, Manvers Main, Goldthorpe, Highgate, Barnborough, Cortonwood, Silver-

wood and Wath Main. At the Yorkshire area council meeting on Monday, which was lobbied by a large contingent of striking miners, Cadeby put forward the resolution that if there was no settlement within 96 hours the whole Yorkshire area should be brought out in support.

This was defeated by 54 votes to 22 with a number of abstentions.

Refused demand

No doubt the employers also hoped to get their week-old ban on new container work lifted.

The employers have refused the T&GWU's demand for raising the basic rate to £16, from £11 1s. 8d., together with proportional increases in the existing piece-rates.

They have said this would add 44 per cent to the wages bill.

NO RETURN

The platform then proposed that the men should go back to work and that they would call the area out if no settlement was reached by the end of the week.

This was carried, but the strikers refused to return. A strike proposal from the Yorkshire leadership of the National Union of Mine-workers is unheard of, and is a sign of the determination of the Cadeby men and of the growing support for them throughout Yorkshire.

It is also true, however, that the Yorkshire area leaders hope to hide behind some concessions on surface men's hours in the negotiations which are taking place this week.

Meanwhile, the strikers are growing more and more determined and the right wing more and more alarmed.

THREE LINES

The men say that at some pits they are meeting three lines of defence—the management, the police and the union officials.

A special strikers' meeting on Tuesday was addressed by area officials of the NUM, two right-wingers and two Communist Party members.

All four pressed for a return to work, but received a hostile reception from the strikers.

WAGES

Vauxhall had sent 15,000 men home at Luton, Dunstable and Ellesmere Port in retaliation against the Ellesmere Port work-to-rule.

But it is not only from this direction that dangers threaten.

While the employers are digging in their heels for a fight all over the industry, the union leaders continue the headlong retreat they began during the engineering pay claim last year, continued at Ford in March and speeded up at Downing Street on June 18.

New body

On Thursday afternoon, again in York, it was announced after an executive meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions that the Amalgamated

MORE PITS BACK CADEBY PAY STRIKE

FIVE HUNDRED striking miners demonstrated on Thursday outside the Manvers, Yorkshire, headquarters of the National Coal Board.

By Jack Gale

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Ten pits are now out in support of the Cadeby market men's claim. Cadeby Main itself, Maltby, Kilmhurst, Manvers Main, Goldthorpe, Highgate, Barnborough, Cortonwood, Silver-

wood and Wath Main. At the Yorkshire area council meeting on Monday, which was lobbied by a large contingent of striking miners, Cadeby put forward the resolution that if there was no settlement within 96 hours the whole Yorkshire area should be brought out in support.

This was defeated by 54 votes to 22 with a number of abstentions.

Disease

They have no drainage, lighting or water, while children are exposed to rats and intestinal diseases.

The Rome authorities are completely unable to cope with this appalling situation. Only 30,000 rooms (not flats) are under construction.

Many shanty dwellers are now forcing their way into newly-built, empty flats in the centre of Rome.

'SHOW OF FORCE'

—China claims

The Chinese Foreign Ministry charged the Kremlin with putting out 'historical absurdities' about the boundaries between the two countries.

It is the Soviet Union, and not China, that has sent large numbers of troops to be stationed in the People's Republic of Mongolia and dispatched hundreds of thousands of troops to occupy Czechoslovakia.

Here the Chinese leaders are correct; the Kremlin's policy is equally counter-revolutionary in Eastern Europe and China.

In both cases, the Soviet bureaucracy plays the game of the imperialists.

Touted around

It should also be noted that Christian Democrat Moro has been touted around by the Italian Stalinists as a capitalist politician ready to take the Communist Party into a coalition government with the main bourgeois parties.

His role, together with that of the Social Democrat president Saragat, has unquestionably been of assistance in helping the Kremlin to bring this counter-revolutionary pressure to bear on the struggles of the Arab people.

Moro stated that an arms embargo would only be a 'first step' towards 'a final settlement of the Middle-East chaos'.

Like the Kremlin, the ruling classes of Europe and the United States seek an end to what they call 'chaos'. They intend the 'final settlement' to be at the expense of the working class.

Support Dustmen

FROM PAGE ONE

The dustmen must stand firm.

Any 'health hazard' is entirely the responsibility of the government and the employers, who have refused for so long to pay council workers a living wage.

It should not be forgotten that dustmen work every day amid piles of stinking garbage for a weekly wage only just over a third of what Wilson gets in a day.

Nothing was said before the strike of the health hazard to these workers.

The dustmen are under attack.

There must be a fight to a finish for the full claim without strings and any attempts to break the strike must be met with the united opposition of all workers.

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Car workers prepare for national conference

DELEGATES are coming from the main car factories for the All Trades Unions Alliance motor workers' conference to be held in Birmingham on November 8.

This conference could not be more timely as it is now absolutely clear that car workers right across the country and internationally face the common problems of arbitrary lay-offs, short-time working and redundancy.

The first effects of the recession are being felt most directly in this industry and the question of leadership for the big struggles now beginning is therefore posed very sharply.

The ATUA motors conference will discuss the building of an alternative revolutionary leadership and the programme to meet the deepening problems facing car workers.

Only the building of this leadership can open the way to resolving the crisis in the motor industry, which is part

of the general crisis of the capitalist system.

This is why workers from the French motor companies of Michelin, Renault and Citroen will be coming to take part in the discussion.

The provisional agenda is: 1. Reports on the position of car workers in England and West Europe. 2. The campaign against un-

employment and short-time working.

3. Steps to be taken to support the campaign for wage parity between Ford and Vauxhall workers and the Midlands.

4. The setting up of a national car workers' advisory committee affiliated to the All Trades Unions Alliance.

All car, car components and delivery workers are invited to the conference which will be held at the Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth, Birmingham on Saturday, November 8 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Schumann arrives in Moscow

By a foreign correspondent

MAURICE SCHUMANN, French Foreign Minister, flew to Moscow on Thursday for talks with top Soviet leaders.

During his five-day visit he will not only continue to extend French capitalism's economic, scientific and cultural links with the Kremlin, but smooth the way for Pompidou's trip there expected some time in the New Year.

Two were shot and more than 30 arrested in Chicago demonstration on the second anniversary of the killing of Che Guevara by the Bolivian Army.

Police used tear gas to attack a rally called by the 'Students for a Democratic Society' (SDS).

In Latin America, guerrilla groups in Uruguay and Argentina launched bomb attacks and raids on police stations.

These were also linked to the same anniversary.

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ATUA meeting

HULL 'Workers' Press and productivity deals' Sunday, October 12, 3 p.m. Carron House Beverley Road

Pressure for a Middle East conference

LAST WEEK'S United Nations meeting between Soviet and US leaders has produced a flurry of further diplomatic activity, but no halt to the fighting in the Middle East.

Gromyko and Rogers agreed on an Arab-Israeli 'package-deal' to be presented to the warring governments.

Then on Wednesday of this week, Cairo announced that it would accept negotiations with Israel provided they did not take the form of direct talks.

Within hours of this news came a statement from the Italian government calling for an arms embargo to be imposed on both the Arab states and Israel.

Foreign Minister Aldo Moro's appeal follows directly on President Saragat's visit to Tito in Belgrade.

And Tito, in his turn, was only recently visited by top Soviet leaders.

We can only surmise the content of their many secret discussions, but all the evidence points to a joint Soviet-US campaign to force Egypt and the other Arab states to the conference table, while the Zionists still hold down millions of Arabs in the occupied territories.

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