









# DOCKERS CONDEMN LEADERS RETREAT

**HOW DO you regard the outcome of the docks strike and the acceptance of the Pearson Report?**

WELL, it was a complete retreat. But unfortunately, it was foreseen before it actually took place.

It was a strike we lost on all counts and it sort of knocked us back as workers and the rest of the working class — it must have put us back 20 years.

Jones wouldn't face the issue. Although he was fully aware that it was a political struggle, he wouldn't accept it — either because he couldn't or because he had ulterior motives of another kind.

**WHAT DO you think of the position that was taken up by the shop stewards and the docks delegates who also accepted the Pearson Report?**

SHOP STEWARDS in the Royal Group were fully aware that it was a retreat, but they seemed to be inclined to accept the delegates' report that they should go back.

It was rather a poor show really, because it meant we were going to lose the struggle, and there was a possibility we could have stayed out as from the Monday even though we might have been on our own.

At least we would have tried if we were able to show some sort of protest.

As I said, the shop stewards were aware of the position but they still led us back and they never spoke against Jones or anyone else.

**WHAT is the feeling now on the docks about this?**

WE'VE lost two weeks' wages, that's about all, because we haven't gained anything financially.

That's the short-term aspect. But the biggest blow is the Tories have sorted out a strong working body. For militancy, the dockers are pretty strong and within a short week, they've beaten us, they've smashed us wide open so it doesn't give the rest of the working population much chance.

**HOW will this affect the negotiations for Devlin Phase Two?**

THE position on the Royal Group is particularly strange. I can only speak for them.

Counting the amount of 'White' (Transport and General Workers' Union) men who voted against it, combined with the figure of the 'Blue'

**JOHN BARBER is a member of the 'Blue' National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers working on London's Royal Docks. 'Blue' dockers, whose only official instruction was not to cross picket lines, nevertheless played a big part in the strike and many—like Barber—were angry at the recommendation to return.**



(National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers), there's just not enough.

The people that want the scheme are in the minority. So I can't possibly see Phase Two going in.

But it'll be the employers' job to force it in at the first opportunity because the longer they wait the more it will cost and in the end the rest of the workers will realize that it's certainly no good to them. It won't come in at any price. So that the policy now is to crunch it in at the first opportunity.

**WHAT will be the effect of Devlin Phase Two on the Royal Group?**

FOR a year or two, perhaps it won't make a great deal of difference.

It's the rest of the country I think they're aiming at. But it will end up with nine in ten redundancies. Nine in ten men will be out of work by 1975.

You'll have no bargaining power whatsoever, it'll be a Measured-Day Work stroke, but it'll give them colossal tonnages.

For years and years we've worked on piecework, and the cheapest type of worker is the pieceworker.

We've had to get along with inadequate gear, dilapidated places of work, old-fashioned cranes.

But now they've realized all these things are clapping out. They've got to be renewed, but when they do renew them we'll be in a position where we can do vast tonnages.

Whereas in the past the employer wanted you to do piecework for nothing an hour—once we stopped we were virtually off pay—we're coming to an era now where we can work at a casual stroke and do colossal tonnages, so they've got to switch over quick.

Until they do get Phase Two in and they get us at this Measured-Day Work they can't possibly introduce new gear.

**YOUR UNION is opposed to the introduction of Devlin. How do you think they will fight on this question?**

WELL, as I say, most people only get the leadership they deserve. I've got faith in Newman. He's still new to the job and he's only feeling his feet. It's quite a job he's got on his hands.

But I believe he'll realize that this is the be all and end all.

If we lose this one we might as well give up. So I think he'll take it to its extreme, if the men'll go behind him in this thing.

I think it's a fight to the finish. But then again we've got the might of the transport union leaders. That'll have a disastrous effect if they retreat on Phase Two as they retreated on this basic wage thing.

So although I've got faith in Newman, I'm afraid the T&G could retreat again.

**WHAT IS the attitude of the Royal Docks shop stewards to the Devlin proposals?**

THEY DIDN'T like the idea of losing this basic wage struggle. They looked rather sick when it was announced that it had gone against us — that they'd accepted the Pearson

Report and were going back as from Monday.

They looked physically sick, the shop stewards that are supposed to be representing us, but they still said, 'Well, OK, that's it, we'll go back Monday.'

Well, I don't think it really carries a lot of weight, what they say and what they do now. If they're told to go back to work, I'm afraid they might just do that.

They did it on Pearson, they could do it on Devlin Stage Two.

I can't explain why they went into such a somersault. It's bad no matter how you look at it.

**HOW DO you see the development of alternative political leadership on the docks?**

I THINK the Workers Press made a very good case during the strike.

I've always been to the left. I've never been in the Communist Party. I've never quite known why, but perhaps things are coming to light now that are making me know why.

They'll go for anything they can get provided there's no effort involved. But if it's going to cause any sort of trouble, they change their minds and negotiate later.

But it's always later rather than sooner.

They duck all the main issues.

There's a strong Communist Party element in the Royal Group, but I haven't seen anything great from them.

Over this Pearson Report, which they themselves were against, they still advised us to return to work.

I'm afraid I'm not all that inclined to accept them. If our leadership is this type of communism, then that's something I don't ever want.

I want something to represent the workers, and this Workers Press has put a good case all along the line and if anything my money is on them.

\*NAS&D acting general secretary.

**ON MERSEYSIDE, we spoke to Transport and General Workers' steward Jack Abbott—(on left) one of those who opposed recommending a return to work on the Pearson formula ten days ago.**



**HOW DO you feel about the ending of the strike and the return to work?**

WE HAVE to admit that it was a retreat.

I think what happened was that, with the Tory government in power, the employers put up a hard and solid front and backed the union leadership down. But if we'd stayed out longer—even if the troops had been used — the resolve of the men would have hardened.

Jones and O'Leary have lost a lot of prestige on this dock through their handling of the dispute.

The Liverpool delegates voted 100 per cent to continue the strike: none of us wanted to go back. It was only the smaller ports that saw the £20 fall-back as something good and it was they who led the retreat.

We really haven't got anything out of the strike.

**DO YOU think this means the employers are now going to press more confidently for the implementation of Devlin Phase Two?**

THERE'LL be no agreement over productivity deals in this dock.

The employers have put out a 42-page document on Phase Two in reply to our demand for £60 for 20 hours for working Devlin.

Let me tell you, when I read this document I thought it must have been written for a joke or something.

No one on Merseyside could possibly accept this deal.

60-for-20 is the only way we can deal with this shift-working and the other provisions they want to introduce — price them out.

Of course, if we get those hours we'd need twice the number of people there'd be

otherwise under containerization—and you could absorb all the present labour force.

The £60 is actually based on the average earnings now for what the employers tell us is the present average tonnage: 15 tons an hour.

In fact on the present rates containerization should give us about £60 an hour, but—not to be too greedy—we've said we'll settle for that for the whole week!

What we're really after is some of the fruits of productivity.

But the whole of Devlin Phase Two is really completely unacceptable. You've got this massive document there, and —one thing I object to—they seem to have broken their necks not to mention shop stewards; they keep calling them 'workpeople's representatives' and the like.

This goes on right up to Clause 21, when they mention senior stewards. But they would just be puppets, there to make sure everyone abides by the agreement.

**AND IF they don't? THEN THE management would have the power to do them!**

**WHAT about the disciplinary clauses in the document?**

THEY CAN have you up on charges for negligence in a way that virtually takes away a man's democratic right to have a witness.

And then there's the discipline imposed under the Measured-Day Work system. I don't go along with that at all.

You can't treat people as a block — which is what the employers want to do. They take a fast rate of working and call it the average which others have to reach.

I don't agree with piecework, but what's happening here is now that dockers are making a bit of a go of it the employers are saying it's got to be abolished.

They're trying to get us to attend courses to hear about

Method-Time Measurement Systems.

The danger is that in the little two-page sheet they've given you're going to get £35 a week for almost nothing.

The shop stewards have rejected these proposals and I can't in all seriousness see it being accepted in this port.

The £35 is for anyone who can do any job—but what about the men who are not completely fit?

If you read it carefully you can see that what they're aiming at is just to throw the older and the injured men on the scrapheap and use the younger ones. Light-duty men will be on just £27.

**HAS any progress been made towards implementing the sort of promises on working conditions the employers were making when Phase One was introduced?**

THERE HASN'T been much progress on the amenity blocks they were supposed to set up under Phase One of Devlin.

The ridiculous thing is that they've got one for the banana berth—and you don't get much dirt off bananas!—while for the men working fish-meal there's still absolutely nothing.

**HAVE YOU any comment to make about the conduct of the strike leadership?**

I'VE LOST a lot of faith in Jack Jones over this whole business. He's general secretary of the biggest union in the country and he never needed to go to the employers like he did—coming on television like that, telling us to stay at work and pleading for a meeting with Tonge.

And he should have rejected the inquiry outright without recalling the delegate conference.

The employers are certainly going to take advantage of the situation they've got now.

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# Theatre

REVIEW BY DAVID BARNES

Gunter GRASS

## Making revolution... in one's head

IT WAS because they were unable to achieve a revolution in reality, Marx says, that the Germans made one within their heads.

The impotence of the German bourgeoisie, at a time when the French revolution was decapitating the king and laying waste the old order, was reflected in the amazing power and inventiveness of German philosophers when the 18th century was becoming the 19th.

Gunter Grass is the inheritor of that impotence—and of a little of that inventiveness, but now grown sour and over-ingenious. 'The Plebeians' is intended to be a play erected on a dilemma—that of the intellectual 'defining his position' in relation to the revolution.

### 'Dilemma'

But the 'dilemma' is the playwright's own construction, and one moreover in which he finds himself entirely at home.

'The Plebeians' is set in East Berlin, on June 17, 1953.

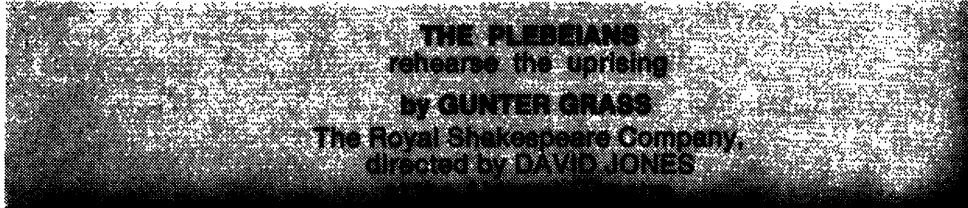
On that day the uprising against the Ulbricht regime, which had started when the construction workers of the Stalinallee led a demonstration against increased work norms, reached its height in a general strike, involving many other parts of E Germany.

Without any political lead, and with the W German trade union leaders refusing to give support, the workers were attacked by Russian tanks and martial law was imposed.

After fierce street-fighting in Berlin the insurrection was defeated. Hundreds were shot, including men in the Red Army who had refused to attack when ordered. Stalinism regained control and the western powers discreetly wiped their brows.

Grass—who, though broad-minded, recognizes that his stage

The Plebeians:  
Aug. 13, 7.30  
Aug. 14, 7.30  
Aug. 24, 7.30  
Aug. 25, 7.30  
Sept. 7, 7.30  
Sept. 8, 7.30  
Sept. 21, 7.30  
Oct. 1, 7.30  
Oct. 2, 7.30  
Oct. 9, 7.30  
Oct. 10, 2.30  
Oct. 10, 7.30



IN NOSES: NICHOLAS SELBY—ERWIN (left) AND EMRYS JAMES—THE BOSS. RIGHT: EAST BERLIN JUNE 1953: STONES WERE THROWN AT SOVIET TANKS BY WORKERS.

would be overcrowded if he were to admit the political revolution — takes us to another theatre.

Brecht's Berliner Ensemble are rehearsing his adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Coriolanus'.

A delegation of workers arrives, asking Brecht to support them and write a manifesto.

Endlessly he prevaricates, questioning, provoking, examining the workers, deceiving them and himself to get material for his stage.

And at the end the revolution is suppressed while Brecht (whom Grass thinly simulates as 'The Boss') laments his inability to live forever with voices in my ears.

Grass has no scruples about

distinguishing history from theatre.

With doubtful honesty he tells us he didn't intend to write a documentary play about the way Brecht behaved, despite the fact that 'The Boss' is unmistakably Brecht and does him, in clever cynicism, a snide injustice.

But let us leave the real Brecht out of this.

Grass's interest, a note tells us, is not in Brecht but in 'The Situation... of the poet and intellectual who does not come to grips with the political reality he has so often invoked'.

Looked at that way the situation is complex enough. Reflected in Grass's intellectualism and through three layers of literary allusion it becomes infinitely more so.

Shakespeare's 'Coriolanus' is a military hero, a Roman patrician who despises the common people but becomes Consul when he captures Corioli from the Volscians.

When he refuses to ease the shortage of grain the plebeians rebel and he is forced into exile. He goes over to the Volscians, and leads them against Rome. But his mother persuades him not to attack the city, and the Volscians put him to death.

Grass's Brecht is adapting the play to set 'Coriolanus' against 'class-conscious plebeians'.



Bertold BRECHT

The Berlin workers are to be models for them, and they in turn are to interpret the workers.

He greets those who interrupt his rehearsal and keeps them waiting around while he wrestles with his 'dilemma': 'You build walls. I write. Straight walls — straight sentences. Who can build them without difficulty? A minute ago I thought a manifesto was shaping up; but now that I say its over it smacks of elegy.'

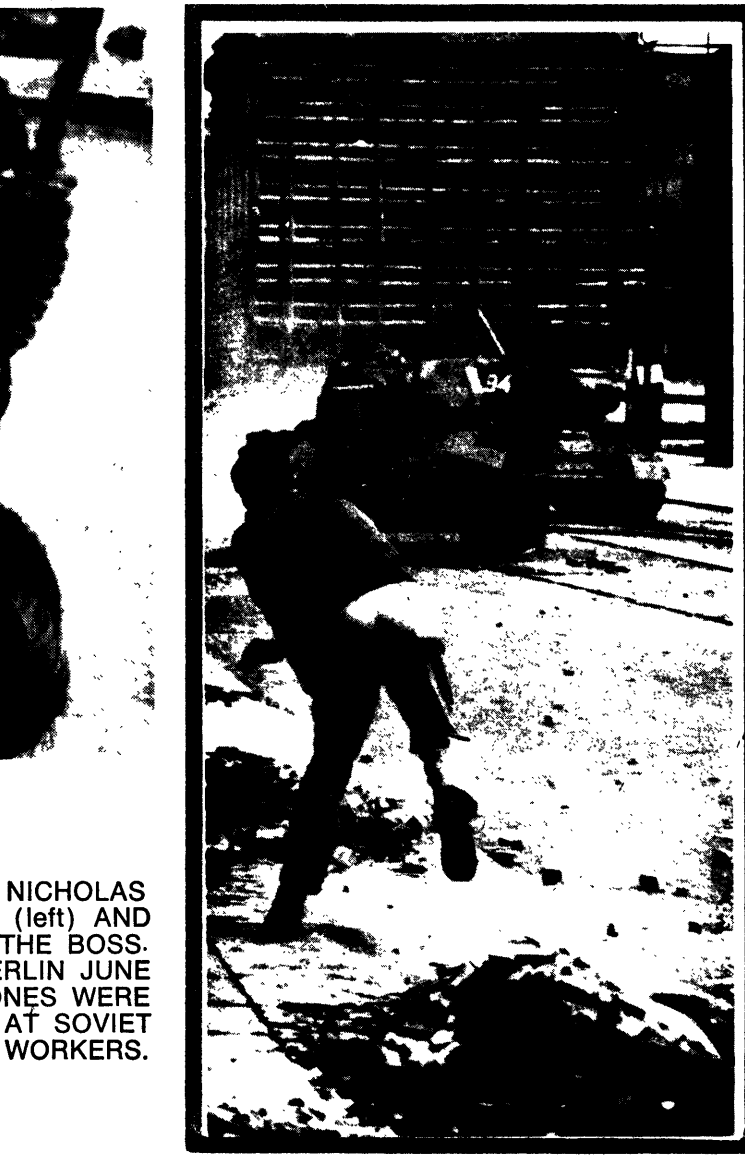
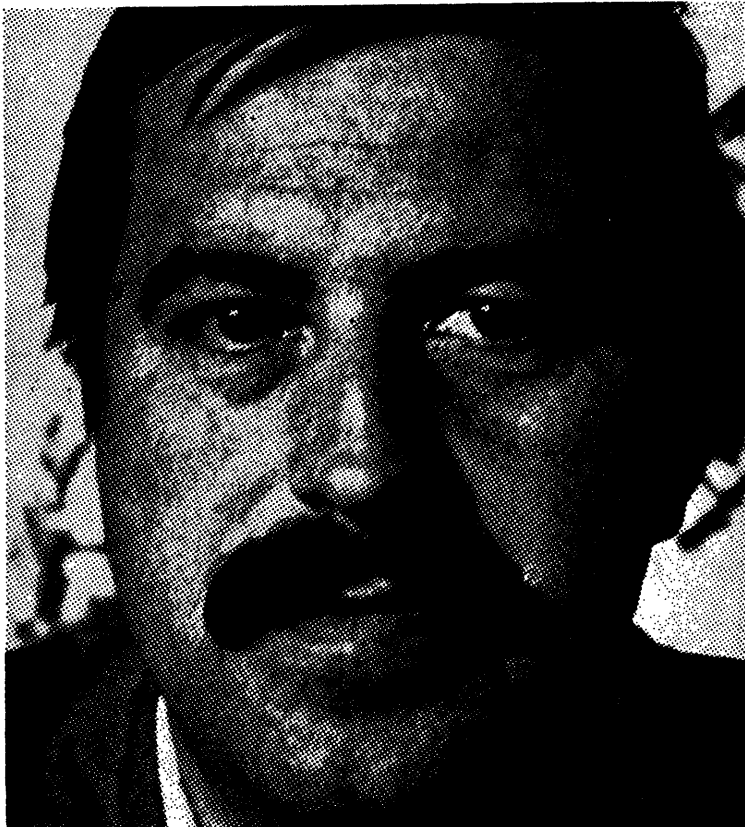
For art must not let itself be hurried by life. And if art must live along for its own ends, so much the worse.

And if at the end life kicks art on one side, could anything be more artlessly artful? When, irate, the workers propose to string The Boss and his assistant up from their own props, they extricate themselves by relating 'the fable of the belly' from Coriolanus.

The other limbs decide to do away with the belly—a useless parasite, 'idle and inactive', doing nothing but take the food they themselves have sweated to produce.

Eager to preserve himself, the belly cautions them: 'I am the store-house and the shop of the whole body. I send out cargoes of nourishment to all you other parts, yielding a full account of all that comes to me. I keep nothing but the waste. I keep nothing but the waste. If you hang me you will hang yourselves at the same time. So beware, for so it is with the state. And the other members, being warned, spare him.'

You see? So sophisticated is their predicament that only sophistries can save them. Story-telling can save their necks but nothing can ease their spiritual agonies. And our hearts bleed for them because they survive. The Boss's indecision, on



which he is crucified at the end, was in the first place a play that he deliberately adopted. Before he can get entangled in his problems he must first manufacture them. That's what makes them his own problems.

'The Plebeians' is, in fact, a vast, elaborate, sceptical, subjective contrivance, made of ironical phrases and resting on nothingness.

It's the outgrowth of that section of the intelligentsia which seeks in the struggle of classes a nostrum for their own uncertainties and neuroses.

Watching it, my mind was carried behind the stage to the workers of E Europe and the Soviet Union whose real task it is to destroy Stalinism.

The insurgents of E Berlin struck the first blow in that battle. In June 1953 they almost immediately passed beyond the questions of the work norms (important enough in themselves) to call for the resignation of the government and the unification of Germany.

But there was no support (though all sorts of agents were at work) for bringing back the banks and capitalist firms.

While pictures of Stalin were torn to shreds, those of Marx were carefully preserved.

At the same time (a fact with which Grass's Brecht has great fun) they insisted on the legality of their demands, 'being careful not to walk on the municipal flowerbeds'.

The Berlin uprising pointed the way for the Hungarian Workers' Councils and the political revolution in Czechoslovakia.

Learning from these bitter experiences and joining hands with the revolutionary struggles in the West the workers of E Europe will forge the strength to put an end to Stalinism once and for all.

But they will get no support from Gunter Grass, who is a fervent supporter of Willy Brandt. 'I have no ideology, no worldview. The last one I had fell apart when I was 17 years old.'

The programme biographer describes him, doubtless with his approval, as 'dedicated with single-minded fanaticism to the cause of moderation'.

It is social-democratic 'moderation' that revels in the convulsions of the intelligentsia and stands aside for Stalinism to strangle the revolution.

But the German revolution will find an appropriate fate for him. 'Take eloquence,' as a Frenchman once suggested, 'and bring its neck'.

## behind THE NEWS A FABIAN DREAM

NOW THAT the Labourites have settled comfortably into the opposition benches with a good view of the Tory government on the rampage, the time has come to write a few memoirs, edit a journal or two or even become a lord of the realm.

No doubt it helps to pass the time and keeps the wolves away from the door.

In any case, it is a time for (some) truth—when a little of the goings-on behind the scenes and a certain amount of soul-searching is made available to the outside world.

Mr R. H. S. Crossman — Dick to his friends—obviously enjoyed government.

Speaking to a recent meeting of the Central London Fabian Society on 'The Future for Labour', the ex-Minister of Health and Social Security went on at great length about how pampered he was as a member of Wilson's government.

His middle-class audience, packed into the inadequate Oak Room at Holborn's Kingsway Hall, guffawed and chuckled at his performance.

'Like the Queen, I never got wet,' he said, 'I didn't even know about the Victoria Line. There was a stratospheric separation from reality.'

Nevertheless, mused R.H.S., 'it's a good system'.

Lots of helpful civil servants waiting to draft legislation for you, based on your election manifesto. In fact this seemed Crossman's main argument for having a programme at all!

If you stray from definite policies, 'you find yourself committed to idiocies and you have to carry them out. That's the penalty of democracy.'

'The Prices and Incomes Act, the Industrial Relations Bill were not part of the manifesto and we had a little trouble with it.'

Clearly R.H.S. and his colleagues were more worried about trouble with 'their' civil servants than with the working class.

However, while defending a Labour government's right to be independent of its supporters...

porters (and dependent on the civil service), he had to admit that there was some opposition to the Labour Party becoming a 'party of government'.

'The labour movement would never be content if we were to constitute ourselves as a party of government. We were sent there [parliament] to carry out what is referred to as so-called socialist change.'

What this strange animal was he wasn't quite sure.

'I'm not an economist', he admitted, 'and I know little about public ownership. We did not find the secret of a rapidly-expanding economy with a balance of payments surplus.'

'We had the highest level of unemployment for 40 years—was this inevitable? If so we had better abandon some of our socialist principles and say so openly.'

Having said so openly for some years, the remark seemed superfluous! 'We tried and we failed,' he said ambiguously. However, it was up to others to criticize.

'We're not likely to make objective criticisms about ourselves. The NEC cannot look at its record.'

Yet he ventured his opinion that 'I don't think organization was responsible for the last election. I don't think that the nationalization of steel was anything but a liability in terms of votes.'

'I was in favour of a sharp immigration policy. Callaghan handled it with supreme skill. We stopped the people coming in.'

These remarks evoked scarcely a murmur from the audience.

Not even Crossman's astounding statement that had the Labourites won the election, they would have run out of ideas in two years, disturbed the fossilized Fabians. 'Think of that—only two years away from socialism!'

Of course, the working class got hardly a mention (even though 48,000 dockers happened to be on strike at the time) and the Fabians moved out into the evening air to the inspiring rally cry: 'Third time lucky!'

## The bureaucrats tremble

AS THE SECOND anniversary of the Kremlin invasion of Czechoslovakia on August 20-21 approaches, the Husak regime has launched a concerted press and radio campaign against those workers who took strike action against the invasion.

As reported in last Thursday's Workers Press, the threat of even passive resistance to the regime has forced the Stalinists to reveal details of the movement in 1968 which were previously unknown.

Prague Home Service on August 1 reported the activities of one strike committee set up in the Vitkov uranium mines to organize resistance to the invasion forces.

According to the broadcast, the strikers issued the following appeal to fellow workers:

'Dear comrades, we inform you that we, workers of the Vitkov II mine of the uranium mines in W Bohemia, yesterday started a general strike under the following conditions: 1. We are not willing to deliver a single gramme of our uranium to those who have attacked and occupied us. 2. As soon as the situation becomes normal again and the full activity of all elected State and Party organs is secured, we shall compensate for all shifts lost through the strike, in such a way that all damage caused to the national economy will be made up completely. We shall secure the fulfilment of all planned tasks and of the plan as such. 3. We believe that, if the normal activity of the State and Party organs is not restored and the occupation of our fatherland continues, our uranium shall not serve the occupiers.'

'A group of workers of shaft No. 3 was also very active. They arrived on August 21, 1968, to set the example of the district national committee, Comrade Kozlik and told him that the official radio has broadcast information about Comrade Kozlik being a collaborator with the occupiers.'

'They asked him to accompany them to the shaft, where a meeting of the all-enterprise strike committee was taking place.'

'There, representatives of the enterprise attacked him sharply and asked him to repudiate publicly the entry of Warsaw armies. 'Comrade Kozlik, on whom the attention of the fanatic crowd [this is how the Husak regime speaks of the Czech working class] in Tachov was centred, was forced in the end to speak in this spirit on the wireless...'

Dubcek's return—then as the leader of a collaborationist regime — politically disorientated the growing strike movement, which was clearly not confined to the uranium mines or W Bohemia.

With Dubcek and his supporters disgraced, there is now only Husak and the ultra-Stalinists around Blak and Strougal between the Kremlin's forces and the Czech working class.

Despite the slanders and the purge which has decimated the ranks of the Czech Communist Party, the working class refuses to accept the Soviet occupation or to collaborate with the invaders.

As more and more details are released, the prostration of the revisionists before Dubcek in 1968 is revealed as completely treacherous.

Every detail vindicates the stand of the Socialist Labour League from that time to this. Not surprisingly, the leaders of the British Communist Party maintain their despicable silence.

**TV**

**BBC 1**

12.25-1.25 p.m. Cymanfa ganu. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Mole and the Rocket. 4.45 Dusty of the circus. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 Shazzan! 5.44 Abbott and Costello. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 LONDON, Nationwide.

6.45 Z CARS. 'Weekend With Sally'. Part two.

7.10 HIPPODROME CIRCUS. Great Yarmouth.

8.00 GOOD OLD DAYS. Old-time music hall.

8.50 NEWS and weather.

9.10 'THE DEVIL TAKES THE YOUNGEST'. Tuesday's documentary.

10.00 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS.

10.30 24 HOURS.

11.05 WORLD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR LEICESTER.

11.30 POSTSCRIPT. 11.35 Weather.

**REGIONAL BBC**

All regions as BBC 1 except:

6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 10.00-10.25 Z cars. 10.25-10.30 Not strictly folk. 11.37 News.

Midlands and E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Your region tonight: Look East, weather. Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Contact. Monty Python's flying circus. 11.37 News, weather.

North of England: 6.00-6.45 Your region tonight: Look North, weather. Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Monty Python's flying circus. Look North for the Great North Road Show. 11.37 News, weather.

Wales: 5.20-5.50 Teletwe. 6.00-6.45 Wales today, weather. Nationwide.

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

7.30 p.m. NEWS and weather.

8.00 SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES. 'The Naval Treaty'.

8.50 LOOK STRANGER. 'Patterns in the sky—the two worlds of Miss Frances MacRae'.

9.10 PREMIERE. 'Who Killed Merri-Ann?'. With Dennis Weaver. A US marshal escorts his prisoner from New Mexico to New York City and then loses him.

10.45 NEWS and weather. 10.50 LINE-UP.

**ITV**

2.35 p.m. Journey of a lifetime. 2.50 The young approach. 3.50 F troop. 4.17 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bright's boffins. 5.20 Country boys. 5.50 News.

6.02 FLINTSTONES.

6.50 GHOST AND MRS MUIR.

7.00 FILM: 'The Bandit of Zbobe'. With Victor Mature, Anthony Newley and Anne Aubrey. The chieftain of Zbobe vows vengeance on the British.

8.30 NEVER SAY DIE. 'Goodbye, Mr Bridge'.

9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. 'Inside'.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 REPORT. 'Europe: The Great Debate'. Ludovic Kennedy introduces a debate on the Common Market.

11.30 WORLD OF CRIME. 'The Lessons of Crime'.

12.00 midnight 'J. S. Bach: Genius or Hack?'

**REGIONAL ITV**

CHANNEL: 4.30 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Meet Me After the Show'. With Betty Grable and Rory Calhoun. 8.30 London. 11.25 Gazette. 11.30 Les francais chez vous. 11.45 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 4.25 News. 4.27 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 Faith for life. 11.35 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Film: 'Robbery Under Arms'. With Peter Finch. Ronald Lewis, Maureen Swanson and David McCallum. Cattle-rustling in Australian outback in the 1860s. 6.01 Report. 6.10 Parkin's patch. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Mr and Mrs. 8.30 London. 11.30 Underwater swimming. Midnight weather.

HARLECH: 4.25 Women today. 4.49 Diane's magic theatre. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report. 6.10 Parkin's patch. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Champions. 8.00 Mr and Mrs. 8.30 London. 11.30 Underwater swimming. Midnight weather.

HTV (West) colour channel 51 as above except: 4.23-4.25. 6.01-6.35 See West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 10.30 Interview. 11.00 Y dydd. 11.30 Dan sylw. 12.05 Weather.

HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.00 Y dydd. 6.30-6.35 Report Wales. 10.30 Dan sylw. 11.00 Danger man.

ANGLIA: 4.30 Newsroom. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'The Ship That Died of Shame'. With Richard Attenborough, George Baker and Virginia McKenna. A ship is bombed by some of its war-time crew and used as a smuggling venture. London. 11.30 Letters from the dead. 11.58 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 4.00 Women today. 4.10 Petron Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Where the jobs are. 6.30 Joe. 7.00 Film: 'The Astonished Heart'. With Noel Coward and Celia Johnson. A couple happily married for 12 years take each other for granted until another woman comes along. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 Variations on a theme of hands.

BORDER: 4.10 News. 4.12 Telephone game. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Along the Great Divide'. With Kirk Douglas, Virginia Mayo, John Agar and Walter Brennan. Five men and a girl make their way across the Mojave desert. 8.30 London. 11.30 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 4.15 London. 6.00 Summer scene. 6.30 Telephone game. 7.00 Movie. 8.25 London. 10.30 Report. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 4.25 Survival. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather, farming news. 6.15 Vintage comics. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Movie: 'The Tin Star'. 8.25 Botby nights. 9.00 London. 11.30 A kind of living.

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# Confidence warning in IOS Carving up the Fund of Funds

BY PETER JEFFRIES

**A NEW STAGE in the struggle for the pickings left on the bones of Investors Overseas Services Ltd has been reached with the announcement by former chairman Mr Bernard Cornfeld that he intends to regain control of the company.**

Cornfeld claims that he already has over half the preference shareholdings tied up in 'proxy' votes and will have the necessary two-thirds majority at some point during the coming week.

Cornfeld's plan to 'save' the company had earlier been rejected by the existing board from which he was removed last May.

Its main component was a scheme to build an American 'cinema city' where film companies could lease sets and buy equipment.

Cornfeld also claims promised loans from the Hyatt Corporation of California, who are also involved in the cinema venture.

Few IOS shareholders and certainly no bankers will be impressed by this latest show of 'support'. Not one leading American or European banker has come forward with any concrete assistance for IOS over the last three months.

Nor are these hard-faced gentlemen likely to be reassured by IOS chairman Sir Eric Wynham White's counter-plan to salvage IOS. Sir Eric also claims to have negotiated a loan of \$15 million—from International Controls Corporation—which he claims is dependent on Cornfeld's not returning to the IOS board.

The real worth of this 'support' is questionable, particularly in the light of the fact that a major IOS concern, International Investment Trust, is already a leading ICC shareholder.

## 'Police'

● FROM PAGE ONE

'peace-keeping' mission in the Middle East.

This is going to be the pattern of the 1970s as far as imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracies are concerned. If Nixon and the Kremlin have their way, Vietnam and the whole of Indo-China will be subjected to the same operation.

In the interests of an imperialist-imposed 'peace', the struggle of the colonial peoples for national liberation and socialism is betrayed—with the full approval of the Soviet bureaucracy.

## In favour

British Stalinist thinking is completely in favour of this strategy, as is evident from Monday's 'Morning Star' headline, which reports the Zionist bombing raid without condemning it.

And if the 'Star' refuses to condemn the Zionist attacks on guerrilla bases today, then it will most certainly not oppose actions against them by any projected Soviet-US force in the future.

## Blueprint

What the Stalinists and imperialists are trying to force through in the Middle East is a blueprint for counter-revolution throughout the world—including Europe.

But defeat for the Kremlin-Nixon deal in the Middle East will disrupt these plans.

That is why every socialist, trade unionist and Communist Party member must compel the entire labour movement to speak and act against this Stalinist betrayal of the Arab revolution and surrender of the Nasserites to Zionism.

## Weekend talks with Italy's premier

# Govt touches gloves with the unions

THE COLOMBO centre-left government, sworn in by President Saragat last week, is even less likely to achieve any stability than the last Rumor administration, which toppled a month ago after a life of just over 100 days.

BY DAVID BARNES

There has been little redistribution of cabinet posts, but a record 58 under-secretaries have been appointed—a sprouting of sinecures made necessary to compensate for the uncertain career prospects facing Italy's assorted parliamentarians.

Colombo was obliged to meet the leaders of the three national trade unions at the weekend to discuss their demands for reforms—in housing, health, education, transport and social security.

Colombo himself, as Treasury Minister under Rumor, was one of the most outspoken opponents of con-

cessions to the working class. It is possible for the employers to place him at the head of the government only because of the extreme cowardice of the trade union leaders.

They broke the general strike for reforms called for July 7 when Rumor resigned in the face of it.

Nonetheless working-class pressure forces Colombo to meet the union leaders and promise to resume negotiations. Similarly it forced Lama, Stalinist head of the largest union (CGIL) to declare after his interview that 'we shall judge the government on facts... and facts of which we shall not be merely spectators, but protagonists...'

## RESUMPTION

The class battles of last autumn—the real gains of which are being eroded by rapidly rising prices—promise to resume this autumn.

They will be centred around questions which in themselves unite the working class rather than the labour contracts which brought struggles in each industry during the last year.

Even the labour contracts did not end the conflicts. Railwaymen have threatened a 24-hour strike starting tomorrow against the delay in reducing the working week to the agreed 42 hours.

Management in the state railways hopes not only to impose continued long hours of work, but to avoid recruiting new staff and thus help keep up unemployment.

In face of a renewed offensive by the working class, fascist provocations have multiplied in recent weeks.

There are almost daily reports of attacks on militant workers and strikers, especially in the new NE industrial areas.

The passive attitude of the police towards these provocations is the other face of the police shooting near Venice last week.

While the fascists are still not in a position to openly take on the organized working class, these incidents serve as a serious warning of their intentions.

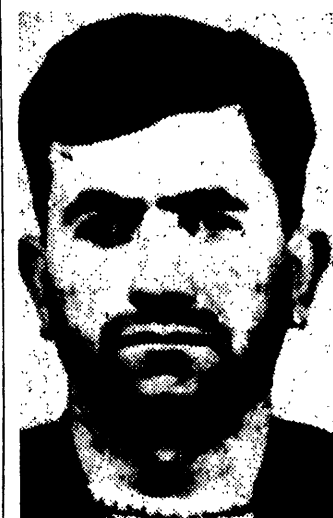
## Uruguayan capital sealed off in hunt for guerrillas

TENSION continues to mount in Montevideo after 14,000 police and troops yesterday sealed off the city and raided hundreds of suspected guerrilla hideouts.

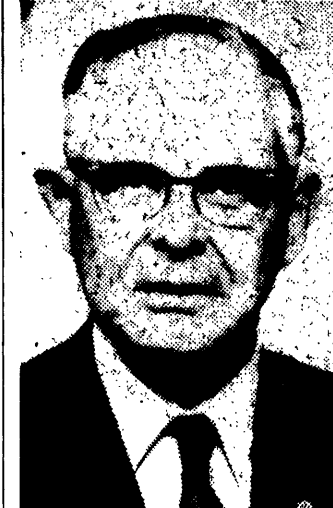
These new moves followed a report that the US diplomat Daniel Mitrone, kidnapped by Uruguayan guerrillas as a hostage for left-wing political prisoners held by the government, had been killed by his captors.

The guerrillas are still hiding two other hostages—Brazilian Consul Aloysio Dias Gomide and another US official, Claude Fly.

The Uruguayan government has so far refused to agree to an exchange of prisoners.



Above: Raul Sendic one of those arrested on suspicion of kidnapping. Below: Missing American Claude Fly.



## Files

● FROM PAGE ONE

the worst crime being committed—being found out.

Now the police are to go through the tiresome charade of investigating themselves.

Said Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe whose constituency is in the area: 'This is a grave matter.'

It was not quite clear whether this referred to the existence of such files or to their embarrassing discovery.

# Guerrillas reach out- skirts of Phnom Penh

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a lull of several days in Cambodia, fighting flared up over the weekend between liberation forces and right-wing troops only two miles from the centre of the capital Phnom Penh.

The advance—the closest yet made since Sihanouk was deposed by a US-inspired coup last March—appears to be part of a widespread offensive by guerrilla forces against the Lon Nol regime's last remaining strongholds in W and S Cambodia.

Phnom Penh military officials said guerrillas had attacked in force around six towns situated around the capital.

And a Lon Nol official at Kompong Speu openly boasted that his forces were receiving full backing from US jets.

'Our troops at Kirirom get American air support whenever they need it' said Colonel Sar Hor, the region's deputy commander.

## CONTRADICT

This contradicts completely last week's statement by US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird, who repeated earlier claims that US air strikes were aimed at communist supply routes and were not intended to give support to pro-US ground forces fighting guerrillas.

## WEATHER

London Area, SE, East and central southern, North-West, Central Northern England, East and West Midlands: Dry sunny periods. Wind light, westerly. Normal. Max. 20C (68F).

S. England and Channel Islands: Cloudy, Occasional drizzle. Wind moderate or fresh, westerly. Normal. Max. 19C (66F).

N. England, Edinburgh, E. Scotland and Glasgow Area: Dry, Sunny periods. Wind moderate, westerly. Normal. Max. 18C (64F).

Northern Ireland: Dry at first with sunny periods. Cloudy later with some rain. Wind moderate, westerly. Normal. Max. 18C (64F).

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Changeable, with rain at times in most places.

## CZECH FRAME-UP TRIAL THIS MONTH?

ACCORDING to sources in Vienna, quoted in the Paris daily 'Le Figaro', the Czechoslovak regime intends to open a frame-up trial on August 15 of some of the leading signatories of the 'Manifesto of Two Thousand Words'.

The 'Manifesto' was published in August 1969, a year after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and openly opposed the re-imposition of the Stalinist dictatorship in the country.

Those expected to be placed in the dock include Jiri Hochmann, Ludvik Vaculik, Vaclav Havel, the historian Teszar and the famous chess-player Pachmann.

Hochmann was a prominent journalist on 'Rude Pravo' immediately before the invasion.

Vaculik, a writer, and Havel, a dramatist, have been held in jail for some time already, as has Pachmann, who is reported to be in very bad health as a result of his treatment.

The unmistakable preparations of the Czech State to return to the frame-up methods of the Stalin era must be opposed by the whole European labour movement.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING

SW LONDON, Tuesday August 18, 8 p.m. Princess Head, Falcon Rd, SW11. 'Lessons of the dock strike'.

# Nerve gas begins perilous trip across US

TWO TRAINS loaded with cargoes of deadly Second World War nerve gas set out across the southern states of America yesterday, despite world-wide protests over the plan to dump the gas in the Atlantic Ocean, only 33 miles off Nassau in the Bahamas.

BY MARTIN ZARROP

In all, 12,540 nerve gas rockets containing 66 tons of gas will be loaded into an old wartime liberty ship at Sunny Point, N Carolina, taken out to sea and dropped in 16,000 feet of water.

Scientists have claimed that the rockets are in danger of exploding and the army claims that seawater will dilute the gas and render it harmless when the steel and concrete containers are finally corroded.

There are many doubts on this score.

For years nerve gas has been shipped from one part of the United States to another in trains with the minimum of safety precautions.

Last year a plan to move 27,000 tons of lethal gas in 603 railway wagons across several hundred miles of territory was uncovered at the 11th hour by a handful of Congressmen.

A crash or derailment would have wiped out many centres of population as only a small amount of gas—a few drops, if it is the latest type—is necessary to kill a human being within seconds by disrupting the central nervous system.

## No warning

The US Army had intended to dump the entire shipment in the ocean without informing the State Department or the Department of the Interior and without any warning to international shipping.

The Pentagon admitted that since 1965 the Army had been transporting drums of poisonous gas by air from one base to another across the United States despite an agreement of the International Air Transport Association, which prohibits commercial carriers from transporting war weapons in peace time.

An accidental release of nerve gas from an Army plane in March 1968 killed 6,000 sheep in Utah.

There is therefore some scepticism surrounding the claim that the latest dumping will be safe.

One investigator has collected evidence to show that, if a ship carrying a load of defoliants to Vietnam were to be sunk, it could totally poison the surrounding ocean for 25 years.

Defoliants are not nerve gases, but this indicates the length of time that these deadly chemicals maintain their lethal properties.

It is probable that three loads had already been dumped before last June. 'The Army tells us nothing,' was one comment from Kevin Shea who investigated the Utah incident. 'There is nothing in these

horrific activities that is surprising. The arrogance and unbridled power of the imperialist armies is well-known.

Today this power threatens the lives of millions not only in Indo-China, but through its day-to-day activities in the metropolitan capitalist countries as well.

# AUSTRALIAN LETTER Law-and-order laws for two states

THE STATE of Victoria is following hard on the heels of New South Wales in lending its voice to the screams for law and order.

A bill to 'consolidate, into one act, the powers of police to make arrests', is expected to be passed in the spring (southern) sitting of parliament.

The state's acting Chief Secretary, Mr Ian Smith, came out with the usual verbal camouflage.

Demonstrations should not unduly influence the public, or exceed reasonable bounds he said in defence of the bill.

But no politically active person needs to have it spelled out what the bill really means.

New South Wales' own version of law and order is to be made an election issue according to state premier Robin Askin of the ruling Liberal (Conservative) Party.

Not that Mr Askin wants to turn NSW into a police state, he claimed.

The moves are simply an attempt to increase fines and jail sentences on trade unionists, students and anyone else who has the audacity to disagree with the way society is run—and show this disagreement on the streets rather than in sterile debate or through the ballot box.

Mr Askin is sure he has the backing of 'law-abiding citizens' in his moves to clamp down on dissenters 'if they break the law'.

Under the proposed legislation the present law would be changed to such a degree that a licence would be needed to hold a demonstration.

to demonstrate, then no licence, and no legal demonstration. THE SAME law-and-order echo has been heard from New Zealand too.

This week the country's Minister for Labour, Mr Marshall, threatened striking unionists with government action if they did not return to work immediately.

A series of battles have been fought on the labour-employer front recently.

It is significant that Mr Askin chose a recent strike of building workers as an example of what was no longer going to be tolerated. During the strike pickets destroyed work valued at a few hundred dollars which had been completed by scab labour on a Sydney site.

And a serious step for the workers was the recent intervention by the government which forced striking workers of ferries linking North and

South islands to submit to arbitration. Strikes have been illegal in New Zealand since 1894, but there were early loopholes which were tightened up in 1913 and 1957.

Most unions are now registered under the 1954 Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, which removes the right to strike, but allows access to arbitration court for pay awards.

This Act is obviously not

strong enough for New Zealand capital and further attempts are going to be made to close off remaining loopholes.

WORKING families struggling to find somewhere to live in any of Australia's capital cities will not be very happy with building figures for the June quarter.

This shows an average drop of 25 per cent, with a high of 67 per cent in W Australia. But the squeeze which is forcing money out of housing is having the reverse effect on commercial building and during the same quarter the value of commercial and industrial approvals (hotels, offices, etc.) increased by 35 per cent.

Housing is a field in which the consumer is exploited even more than in most other fields, both in quantity and quality. Frequently a purchaser has to take out two mortgages, one at about 10 per cent and the second at up to 15 per cent to enable them to find somewhere to live.

Council houses are virtually unknown and the alternative to buying is renting on the open market, with all the advantages on the side of the landlord and very little security for the tenant.

New building in the ever sprawling cities is done on the basis of selling blocks of land to the highest bidder who then proceeds to sub-divide and sell the completed houses. Alternatively a low rise blocks of flats are built for sale or private renting in areas already developed.

No matter which is employed, the main concern is not of creating an environment for the people, but of making profit for everyone concerned, from land speculators to moneylenders.

The need for parks, play-schools, youth clubs, and community centres is ignored. The thing is to make houses rather than homes: profits rather than communities.

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## LATE NEWS

**TROOPS BREAK CEASEFIRE**

King Hussein Bridge, Jordan Valley, Monday—Jordanian and Israeli troops twice exchanged fire yesterday across the Jordan river, a Jordanian army officer, Lieutenant Fakhr Adib, said here today.

This was the first violation by regular forces of the 90-day Middle-East ceasefire which came into force at midnight last Friday under the US peace initiative accepted by Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

**ANOTHER BUSINESSMAN JOINS GOVERNMENT**

Mr Leslie Watson, an executive director of Rio Tinto Zinc Pillar—one of the world's largest mining companies—and Deputy Chief of Angelsey Aluminium Ltd is to join the Board of Trade for two years to be Deputy Head of the Overseas Projects Group.

The Group is concerned with British firm's business abroad.

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