



**What we think**  
**Release Alain Geismar**  
ALAIN GEISMAR, a leader of the outlawed French Maoist group, 'Proletarian Left', is still in jail three months after being arrested by Pompidou's police.  
What is Geismar's 'crime'?  
That he organized, together with many other left-wing organizations, opposition to the reactionary, anti-working-class law passed by the National Assembly last May.  
This law established collective criminal liability for all those organizing or taking part in 'illicit' demonstrations.  
The continued detention of Geismar and his comrades, and the maintenance of the ban on his organization, is serious enough.  
But now we learn that he was probably framed by police agents.  
For the last ten days, he and his jailed comrades have been on hunger strike in protest against the conduct of their trial.  
'Le Monde' implies that Geismar's arrest and trial were suspect.  
Appealing against his conviction earlier this week, he accused the judge who sentenced him of prejudice against revolutionaries.  
Police agents and provocation were used, insisted Geismar, to secure his arrest and conviction.  
Refuting these charges, the judge read out transcripts from tape recordings taken at a meeting held in the Paris Mutualité on May 25 to protest against repressive laws.  
Geismar's case proves that behind the scenes, the extreme right-wing Bonapartist apparatus is being mobilized not only against left-wing students and small groups, but the entire French workers' movement.  
Every sector of the socialist and working-class movement, no matter what their political differences with Geismar, must unite for common action in defence of basic democratic rights.  
After de Gaulle's ban on 11 left-wing organizations in June 1968, the Socialist Labour League won such support in a campaign to secure the lifting of the political bans and the release of all political prisoners.  
Although the ban was recently lifted on certain organizations, including our comrades in the French Trotskyist movement, it is still being applied to groups affiliated to the Unified Secretariat.  
This is a situation no socialist internationalist can tolerate.  
Stalinist leaders in Britain and France refused to campaign in 1968 for the lifting of the bans. Today, they slander persecuted left-wing organizations as 'fascists of the left'.  
They are making a rod for the backs of their own members and the whole workers' movement.  
Every unanswered attack only gives further encouragement to the class enemy.  
Engaged in a bitter fight to defend working-class rights in this country from attack by the Tories and their big business friends, we must now take up the defence of Geismar in France.  
An injury to one is an injury to all — whether the victim be a French Maoist or an English strike picket.

**Croydon sackings**  
DRAWING office staff at the Croydon factory of Aeronautical and General Instruments have taken strike action over the sacking of their steward and two other members of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association.  
The three men were informed of the management decision last Friday and were given one hour to leave the premises.  
A strike last July won the DATA members a £5 increase with another £6 to £7 from April, 1971.  
DATA is approaching shop floor AEF workers for support in the fight against the sackings.

## The retreat from Brighton

# TUC opens the door to Tory attack

From our industrial correspondent DAVID MAUDE in Brighton

**NONE OF THE Tory union bashers due to assemble for their Party's conference in three weeks' time will have been deterred by the militant noises made by TUC delegates at Brighton this week.**

If anything Tory hopes will have been strengthened by the Brighton chatter.

Only vague dangers were glimpsed by delegates beneath the surface of the dying 102nd Congress when they discussed yesterday productivity deals, the Common Market and the government's threats to freeze wages in the nationalized industries.

There was an 'air of unreality', as one commentator noted in a London evening newspaper earlier this week, about this Congress; unreality born of crisis, not complacency—the complacency, or paralysis, forming part of the crisis.

With their noses pressed hard against Tory determination to make workers pay for the deepening capitalist crisis with speed-up and hard-line resistance to wage-claims, policed by rising unemployment and anti-union laws, most union leaders—'lefts' included—have produced little more than a flurry of words.



Royal dockers at yesterday's meeting.

**Mapped course**  
But Congress's right wing—chiefly through Victor Feather's speeches—has mapped out its course carefully and clearly (his Common Market speech is reported on this page).

Perhaps his most significant statements came in Monday's introduction to the TUC structure and development debate and Tuesday's industrial relations lead-in.

Tlongside his 'one man's strike' he another man's 'lay-off' and his call for an 'intelligent and sparing' use of strikes, went an exposition of the General Council's 'radical' and 'far-reaching' proposal for a network of industrial committees.

Steel and construction are already covered by such bodies and transport, local government, engineering and the health service are next in line.

The committees' Feather explained, 'would look at recruitment, inter-union relationships, collective bargaining and wages structures...'

If they wanted to take on the work of wage negotiation there would be nothing to stop them.

**'Services'**  
Strengthening of the TUC's productivity disputes settlement and other services is to go on at the same time.

Leading in on industrial relations the following day, Feather praised the 'real progress... steady, painstaking work in a wide range of fields' that had followed from the June 1969 'Programme for Action'.

He called on the Tories to

**Problems loom for Devlin switch**  
BY STEPHEN JOHNS

WITH THE introduction of Devlin Phase Two only a week away, a manning dispute has broken out on London's Royal docks.

The men claim unloading procedures worked by the Port of London Authority break past practices and threaten the livelihood of portworkers employed by private stevedoring firms.

Trouble flared at Royal Albert Dock No. 4 shed and led to a complete dock walk-out on Wednesday when PLA gangs were used for quay-side unloading.

Normal practice is for men employed by private firms — in this case Tom Wallis, a closed-dock employer — to work both on ship and quay-side when unloading.

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS**  
Employers and the PLA have told dock stewards that the new loading arrangements are connected with ships moving in from the Surrey docks, London, which is to be closed by the end of the year.

Contracting firms transferring from Surrey are bringing methods of work operated

**Released from hard labour, but Moscow bars Yuli Daniel**  
BY WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

SOVIET writer Yuli Daniel, to be freed on Sunday after 4½ years' hard labour, will be barred from Moscow.

He has been offered the choice of three towns where he can settle: Ryazan and Kaluga, both 120 miles from Moscow, and Tula.

He was sentenced in February 1966 to five years' hard labour for writings critical of the Stalinist regime.

His early release may have been due to a widespread campaign by fellow writers and leaders of the Soviet opposition.

At his 'trial' both Daniel and his fellow defendant Sinyavsky conducted themselves courageously, refusing to confess to charges of anti-Sovietism.

**Court reply**  
When accused of this by the prosecutor, Daniel replied:  
'I've always thought, and I continue to think, that my books were not anti-Soviet

**Retreat on EEC and productivity**  
By industrial reporter

Brighton, Thursday

**TWO VITAL issues for rank-and-file trade unionists were handed over lock, stock and barrel here this morning to the not-so-tender mercies of Trades Union Congress leadership.**

A strong anti-Common Market challenge mounted by the boilermakers', sheet metal workers and other unions failed by two-and-a-half million votes to rock the General Council's fence-sitting policy on British entry into the European Economic Community.

**Investigate**  
And a resolution calling on the productivity-favouring Council to investigate whether job evaluation, Measured-Day Work and other related schemes were 'providing adequate remuneration for workers' was carried.

General secretary Victor Feather made a 3,000-word appeal for Congress to reserve its position and stand by its previous attitude until 'the outcome of negotiations is known'.

A card vote backed the General Council's report by a comfortable 4,724,000 majority.

**Warnings**  
Warning that Market membership could become a fact 'without any of the real questions being asked', boilermakers' president Dan McGarvey wanted delegates to instruct the Council to 'vigorously... oppose Britain's entry'.

Seconding him technicians' secretary Clive Jenkins said opposition should be 'ferocious'.

But the Market's opponents tied a can of patriotic garbage about 'those in the Commonwealth who stood by us in two world wars' (McGarvey) and 'a progressive, forward-looking Commonwealth' (Jenkins) to their warnings.

**Estimation**  
Only the sheet metal workers' Bill Warman came anywhere near a class estimation of entry's implications:

'Where do we go? With Douglas-Horne for unity in the interests of capitalism or in unity with the workers?'

And with the key AEF supporting the General Council and the giant T&GWU abstaining in the vote, there was never any real threat to Feather's 'negotiations have started and we need—and in-

**Coventry engineers back glassmen**  
A RESOLUTION supporting the sacked Pilkington glassmen has been passed by the Coventry 54 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry-workers.

It demands that the AEF Executive Committee issue a call to all factories to black Pilkington glass until all sacked glassmen are reinstated with full rights.

The resolution, sent to the Coventry Trades Council, expresses concern at the sacking of glassworkers for exercising their right to strike.

**Porters win new fall-back rate**



AFTER a week and a half of work-to-rule Covent Garden's 1,000 fruit and vegetable porters voted overwhelmingly yesterday to accept the market employers' increased offer on a guaranteed weekly wage.

The fall back rate will now be increased from £17 15s a week, with a minimum guarantee of £305 10s (£23 10s a week) over a 13-week period.

In other words, if the collective total has not reached the minimum guarantee over the 13 weeks, the difference will be made up.

The employers previously had refused to raise their offer above the £20.

After yesterday's meeting John Porchester, chairman of 1/440 T&GWU fruit and vegetable porters' branch, complimented the Workers Press on its objective reporting of the dispute.

**MY LAI: GENERAL CHARGED**  
Fort McPherson, Georgia: Thursday—A US Army sergeant accused of murder in the alleged My Lai (Pinkville) massacre has signed a complaint charging the army Chief of Staff, William Westmoreland, with dereliction of duty in failing to control the troops involved.  
The complaint was signed by Sergeant Esequiel Torres, 22, of Texas, one of ten officers and enlisted men charged in the My Lai killings.

**JORDAN**  
**Fierce fight near govt HQ**  
By our Middle East correspondent

**FIERCE fighting again flared up in the Jordan capital Amman yesterday.**

There were bitter clashes between guerrillas and King Hussein's forces around the government buildings quarter in Jebel, Amman.

A cease-fire order given to the Jordanian army by its Chief-of-Staff was ignored by the leaders of several units.

Rockets and machine-guns were used in the fighting, which is the heaviest yet seen in the capital.

Casualties are thought to be very high.

In Damascus, Palestinian commando leaders demanded that King Hussein purge his government and armed forces of 'rotten elements'.

They called for the formation of a 'National Jordanian Government as the only one capable of maintaining law and order'.

**NO UNITY**  
Either the pro-imperialist Hussein regime is overthrown, or the guerrillas will be crushed, with US backing and the acquiescence of the Soviet Union.

There can be no national unity with a government that fires on the Palestinian freedom fighters.

**THIS WEEKEND**  
**YS REPORT**  
Organized by London Region Young Socialists

**Swimming Gala**  
Saturday  
September 12 6 p.m.  
YORK HALL  
BATHS  
Old Ford Rd, E2

**Sports Day**  
Sunday  
September 13 2 p.m.  
PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS

**Trotsky Memorial Lectures**

TROTSKY'S LAST WORDS  
I AM CONFIDENT OF THE VICTORY OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL GO FORWARD....  
1965 THAT MEANS FORWARD TO THE FIRST DAILY TROTSKYIST PAPER  
1970 THAT MEANS BUILD THE WORKERS PRESS

**Monday, 14 September**  
'Trotsky's struggle against Stalinism'  
**Monday, 21 September**  
'Trotsky's fight against revisionism'  
BEAVER HALL  
GARLICK HILL  
Near Mansion House tube

Starts 8 p.m. Admission 2s  
Both lectures given by G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE**  
The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike!  
Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws!  
St George's Hall, Lime St LIVERPOOL  
**Saturday October 3**  
2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Credentails and visitors cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.







