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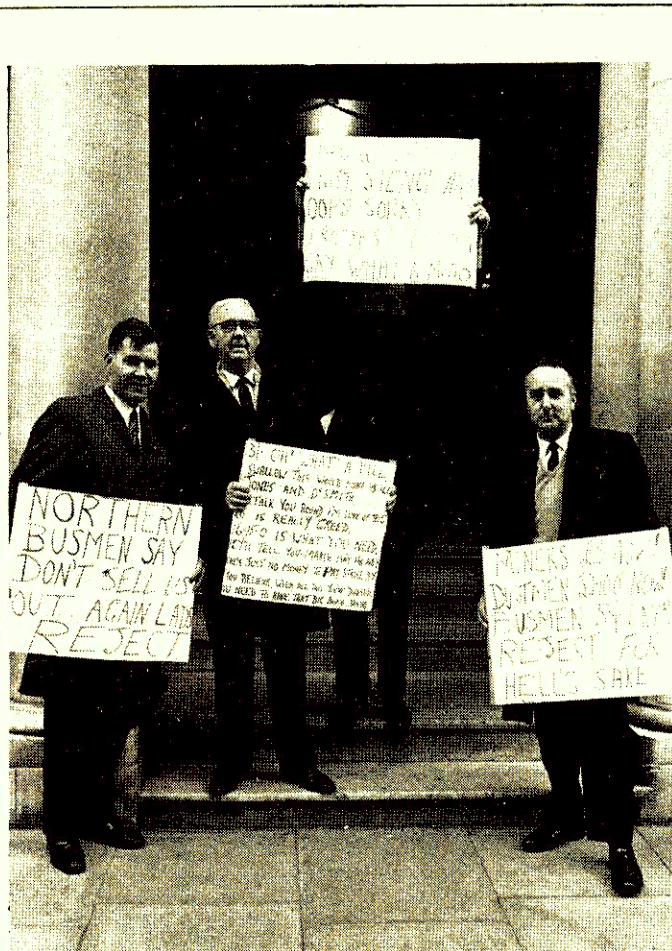
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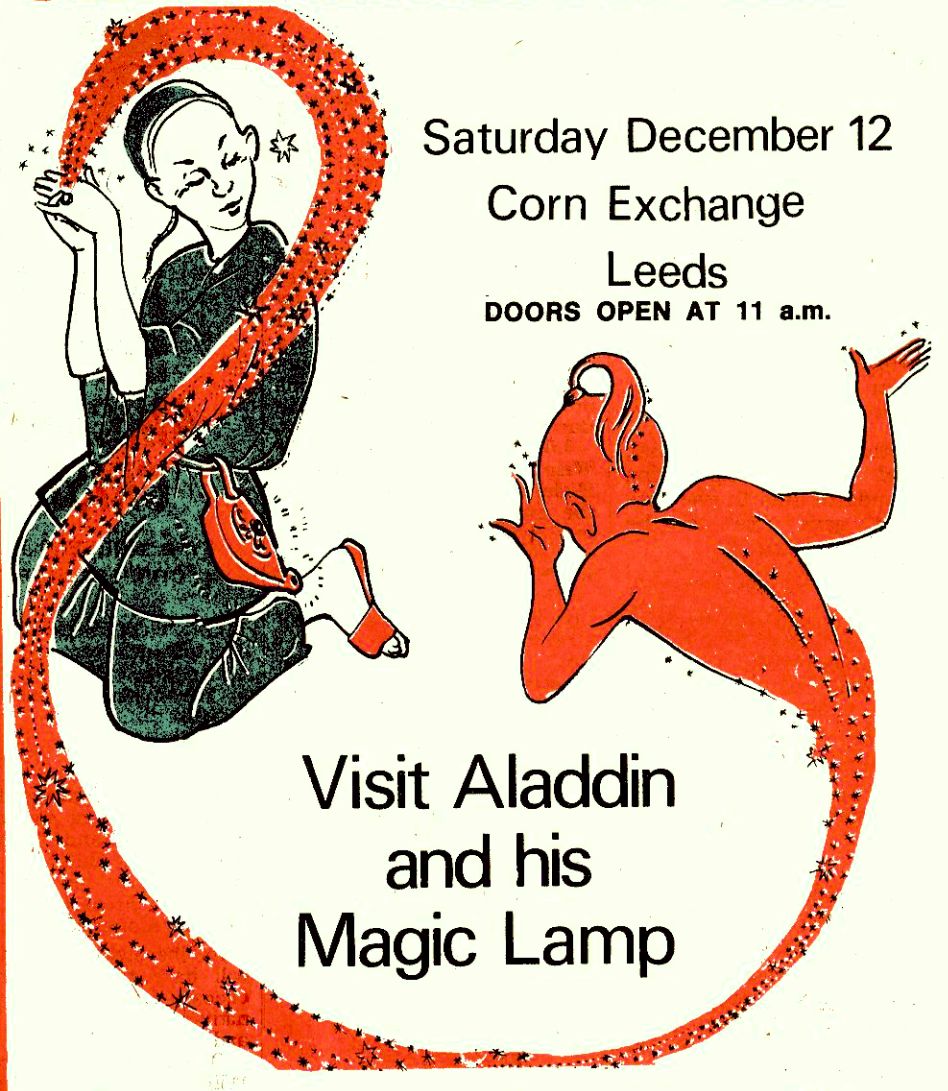
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THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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A spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Security would not comment on the 'muscle men' claim, until details of the alleged incidents were presented to the department.

Meacher said he had put his name down for an adjournment debate on the 'four-week rule' of the Supplementary Commission - which related to single unskilled men under 45.

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IN FIVE DAYS time, dawn will break over the Sea of Rains and the sun's rays will fall on this desolate sea of lunar rock for the first time in 14 days.

As the temperature begins to climb from over 200 degrees of frost, a control will be operated in the Soviet Union and some three seconds later, Russian scientists will know whether Lunokhod 1 — a small man-made vehicle parked nearly a quarter of a million miles away—has survived the lunar night and is ready to move again.

If it does, it will be the first automatic lunar vehicle to do so. Lunokhod will open its solar panels to receive the sun's energy in order to recharge its batteries. With this achieved, it will be able to move again and to continue its programme of experiments which began soon after the robot rolled down the ramp of the unmanned Luna-17 spacecraft on November 17.

The Luna-17 flight has been acknowledged by scientists everywhere as a major step forward in space exploration. Should Lunokhod survive the lunar cold, it will be a massive argument against the American manned lunar exploration programme from almost every viewpoint.

Cost: Unmanned flights cost about 4 per cent of a manned space shot. Even if more elaborate robots are sent to the moon, it would still be possible to have a team of about a dozen machines, surveying the lunar crust for the cost of sending two astronauts and a mooncar (as planned for the Apollo-15 moonshot next year).

Safety: Machines are dispensable, human beings aren't. Automatic mooncraft can land in areas of the moon where the terrain is too rugged to attempt a manned landing at present. Manned spacecraft must always carry extra fuel for manoeuvring in search of optimum landing sites and, of course, returning to earth.

The fuel problem also excludes manned craft from exploring the moon's polar regions, which are considered scientifically extremely important.

This is because the moon's axis of rotation is almost parallel to that of the earth and the best orbits fuel-wise of mooncraft are those parallel to the lunar equator. To change such an orbit to one which passes over the moon's poles requires a large expenditure of fuel. Unmanned one-way journeys can carry adequate reserves of fuel and Soviet scientists may well attempt a polar landing in the near future.

Another area out of bounds for astronauts at present is the moon's rear, which we never see from earth. Here there is a communications problem. Whenever a spacecraft passes behind the moon, there is a radio blackout because radio waves cannot pass through the moon's body.

Obviously, it will be impossible for man to spend extended periods behind the moon before a reliable satellite communications system is put in lunar orbit so as to ensure continuous contact with the expedition.

Such a communications system is certainly a must in the future and requires reliable sources of power for transmission. (In fact, Lunas 10, 11 and 12 are in lunar orbit, but are now dead.)

Store data

Without such a system, the control of a Lunokhod behind the moon would also be impossible, but such a robot could carry out certain experiments by itself, store data and then travel into the area of 'radio visibility' to transmit its information.

Not being human, such an automation need not put in an appearance for long periods of time and the worst anxiety would only be over the loss of a machine.

The safety factor strictly limits the areas where man can go at

present and therefore overlaps the first factor of scientific usefulness.

The techniques used for unmanned flights to the moon can be used to explore most of the planets in the solar system. Apart from the moon and Mars, it is doubtful whether any other body will be reached by man himself in the foreseeable future.

Indeed, I think it would be extremely risky to put a date on 'the first man on Mars', despite scientists. The cost has been estimated at greater than the whole Apollo programme (around \$30,000 million) and probably enough to finance hundreds of unmanned missions.

Manned bases on the moon and Mars for scientific investigation will certainly be constructed in the future, and the wealth of information accumulated by the Americans during the Apollo missions will be extremely useful.

However, such voyages will remain dangerous and few and far between until the safety

End of the myth

BY MARTIN ZARROP

margin, together with possible time under power, is increased through some breakthrough in rocket technology and/or power sources.

The Soviet Union has never ruled out manned lunar landings from its long-term programme, but has insisted that such a project must be built on a firm foundation as part of a wider programme.

Commenting on Luna-17's success, one Soviet scientist wrote in Pravda:

'There are still people in the world to whom it has never occurred that the conquest of space is not a fireworks display of stunning experiments, not a demonstration of record achievements, but creative, planned work.'

The designers of Soviet space apparatus and our scientists, solve their task on the basis of

conditions of maximum efficiency and the least possible risk.'

With the Apollo-13 fiasco still fresh in everyone's mind, this scarcely-veiled criticism of the American moon programme no doubt found its mark.

Despite the immense technological achievements of Apollo-11 and 12, it would be difficult to accuse the Russians of sour grapes. In terms of 'record achievements' or 'space firsts', Soviet scientists can list about 20 to date over the last 13 years—from the first earth satellite in 1957 to the first lunar robot vehicle, from Sputnik to Lunokhod.

Here is what Gherman Titov, second Russian in space in 1961, said in 1968 about the Soviet programme and the so-called 'space race':

'Soviet space explorers are moved by one aim: to gain maximum scientific information about space in general, and the planets of the solar system in particular, with the least expenditure of effort and resources. That is why our space research is conducted in such a way that every new experiment helps to solve some essentially new problem.'

'Soviet scientists try not to duplicate solutions already attained. They concentrate on promoting a next stage in fathoming the universe by technical devices or by man himself.'

'This attitude of the Soviet space explorers precludes their participation in any space exploration race.'

'Space-race'

The myth of the 'space race' was a useful face-saver for US imperialism faced with a series of impressive Soviet 'firsts' in space.

Other myths which faded away during the 1960s were that 'it was all due to captured German scientists' (compare comments on China's satellite launch) and that in any case Soviet electronics was useless.

The latter was smashed when it became clear that the Soviet Venus probes were finding their mark from 1967 onwards. The soft-landings of instruments on distant planets required electronic finesse.

Many examples since reinforce this, not forgetting Lunokhod 1 itself.

As for the German scientists, working on the V2 at Peenemünde, the lion's share went to America.

As one of them put it: 'The US stole the brains; the Russians got the mechanics.'

Not only did the 'brains' fall to America, but five truckloads of documents covering the German research into rocketry.

One of the scientists, Dieter Huzel, hid the valuable cache in a mountain cave and dynamited the entrance. Eventually 300 rocketmen and six shiploads of rocket equipment, including the entire contents of the cave were shipped to America.

Said Huzel: 'These contents were of inestimable value. Who ever doubted them would be able to start in rocketry at a point at which we had left off with the benefits not only of our accomplishments, but of our mistakes as well—the real ingredient of experience.'

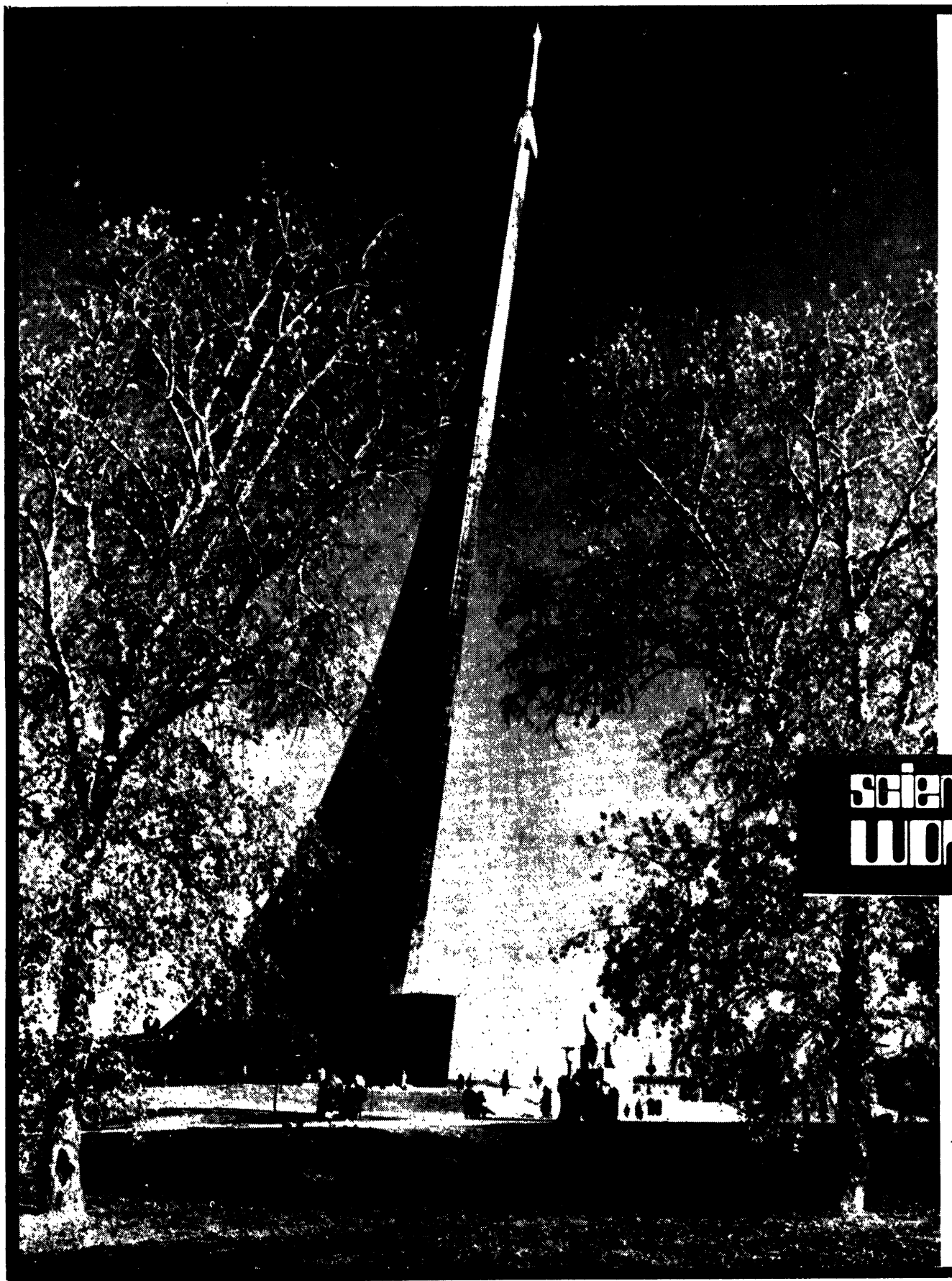
No doubt more myths will be forthcoming anything rather than objective assessment of how, despite Stalinism, a workers' state has been able to reach for the stars.

The removal of the profit motive has given an inspiring glimpse of the possibilities held out by the planning of resources and production.

Following the Soyuz-4 flight in January 1969, 'The Times' commented:

'But in the end Russia's greatest strength has been the ability to pursue her many-stranded programme systematically, undisturbed by what others may choose to do...'

Whence comes this 'ability'? There is no reply! However, the differences in the US and Soviet programmes must now become very marked. After Luna-16's successful return to earth with its dust samples, the 'Economist' remarked: 'It could also mean that scientists will have to rely on Moscow for the next decade or two, all their information about the moon... It will be ironic if the answers in future will have to be sought in Moscow.'



scientific WORLD

The Moscow obelisk in honour of Soviet space exploration.

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

Imperialism:

mass murderer in Pakistan

WHILE Anglican Archbishop Dr Michael Ramsey was in S Africa preaching the doctrine of non-violence to the non-European oppressed, Christian Aid was busy in E Pakistan using charity to cover up for British economic exploitation.

In Pakistan, Britain robbed, murdered, starved and super-exploited Muslim and Hindu for centuries.

They set one against the other as part of their policy of divide-and-rule, and in 1947 tore what had been one country in two by creating Pakistan and India.

As a direct result a pogrom was triggered in the Punjab in which half a million people died—more than the floods this November.

Super exploitation

Having divided India into two states, they continued to super-exploit both, causing the deaths of tens of millions of people each year.

What is true of India and Pakistan is no less true of S Africa, where a million Africans die each year as a result of the apartheid system introduced by British capitalists and the British aristocracy in and after the 19th century.

It was a system the British created then made the Boers operate, blaming them for what British capital and the lumpen immigrants from the English working class had been responsible for.

Ramsey had not said anything about the fact that it is Britain that is today responsible for



Searching for crops amid dead cattle.

apartheid and that the Boers are simply Britain's convenient scapegoat.

Nor, when he talked of violence, did he mention the violence of British imperialism upon the non-European people whom he called on not to use violence until they had exercised their 'infinite patience'—turn the other cheek for ever.

Plunder of centuries

'Christian Aid' is giving money to selected so-called anti-apar-

theid organizations in order to make them toe the line of collaboration and non-violence.

'Christian Aid', plus the banks and government, not to mention the army, air force, and navy, rushed to the 'rescue' in E Pakistan.

But the £1 million donated as emergency aid is only about what Britain takes out of Pakistan in super-exploitation and profits in one week: a crumb thrown back at the victims, robbed over and over again by the aid giver.

Pakistan is traditionally entitled to a thousand times the amount being returned out of the centuries of plunder.

If Pakistan took this back, beginning with the uncompensated confiscation of all British assets and repudiation of all British loans repayments, then the flood havoc could begin to be tackled in a preventive way.

Death by natural disaster is a result not so much of hurricanes as of housing, safety and other social conditions.

In E Pakistan hundreds of thousands died in the November floods because they lived in shacks and not houses. They had no real houses because they were impoverished by the activities of the imperialist countries such as Britain, the US, W Germany and Italy.

They were impoverished by the taxes needed to repay the 'aid' given by these countries. 'Aid'

had bankrupted Pakistan and made it impossible to build dykes to contain the sea tides and save lives.

Semi-colonialism

Not only financially but also organizationally, Pakistan's bureaucratic incapability in the face of the flood havoc is a direct result of semi-colonialism.

This denies industry, the basis of modern organization, to the country. Britain starves Pakistan of industry in order to maintain her own industrial monopolies and to concentrate Pakistan labour in the field of primary production, which is the productive basis of imperialism today.

The result of this starvation of industry is physical starvation and helplessness in the face of natural catastrophes.

Few need have died if Britain had not made it impossible for them to have housing, sea-walls and warning systems enabling them to withstand the tidal waves.

The real killer in Pakistan, as in S Africa or any other 'semi-colonial' region, is not nature, but imperialism. And Britain remains one of the biggest and most hypocritical mass murderers in the imperialist camp.

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4.

Name _____

Address _____

Charter of Basic Rights

DAVID BELLIS is a storekeeper at the Acton electrical plant of Evershed and Vignoles Ltd. A militant member of the Engineers' and Foundryworkers' Union, he was for many years in the Communist Party, but now disagrees fundamentally with that organization's reformist policies.

Here, he talks to the Workers Press about the Charter of Basic Rights, the draft discussion document for the All Trades Unions Alliance conference in Birmingham on December 19.

I've read the Charter of Rights thoroughly and I can say I support it 100 per cent. I am particularly in favour of the section on Measured-Day Work. I'm definitely opposed to this speed-up system. They are trying to introduce it in our factory just now—and getting away with it!

On section one, I think, of course, that we have every right to a job and to the right to work. The Tories have no business taking away the right to strike, either. It's something that's ours anyway.

Carr isn't giving us anything when he tells us we will have the right to join a union—I'm already in a union and I don't need the Tories to give me the right to join.

The Charter is absolutely right when it speaks of defending the gains that have already been made. I know what these gains mean when I contrast my own childhood in Lancashire with the life of young workers today.

These gains have been fought for very, very hard

A CALL for engineering union chiefs to back the All Trades Unions Alliance's Charter of Basic Rights has gone out from the Thornton Heath AEF branch.

The branch declares its support for the Charter as drawn up by the ATUA.

It stresses that the defence and extension of the gains of the working class, won in struggle from the employers, is now the most urgent question before the whole trade union and labour movement: defence of jobs, the right to strike and organize, of welfare benefits, and the struggle for decent housing, pensions and fair prices tied to a sliding scale of wages.

'This branch therefore calls for the adoption of this Charter by the union executive and district committee'.

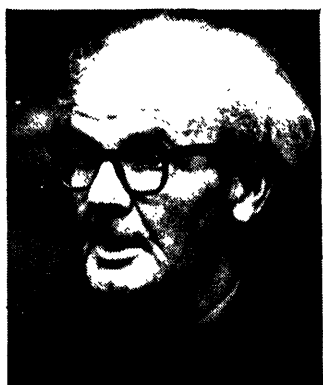
over countless years and we just can't afford to ignore the work that has been done and the gains that have been made already.

The section on prices and rents is also extremely important. A lot of shoppers and housewives find things have shot up in price overnight—even doubled in some cases. The housewives just don't know what to do about it. It just seems that we've got to pay the prices and there just doesn't seem to be any argument about it.

This is a question on which the working class strength must be mobilized to defend living standards. I feel very, very strongly about the plight of the old age pensioners. I think they are getting definitely the worst deal that they could possibly get and as far as I can see they're not in a position to challenge this in any organized form.

We have one old lady who came down to our union branch and made an appeal for support for the pensioners, but I don't see the unions doing much about it.

Surely these old people



have the biggest right of anybody because they have done the lion's share of achieving what we have got and the rights we have won so far.

Another thing I feel strongly about is the property racket, which I can see going on in my own part of London. All sections of the working class should be mobilized against it.

There can be no question of leaving the Tories in office to run their full term. We have the right, as the Charter correctly points out, to force them out.

And we must do this. The question of nationalization is very important, but it must be put across in its true concept: not the Labour concept that we did get after the war, whereby the owners were better off under the so-called nationalization due to the compensation payments they received than they were before the industries were nationalized.

In other words, I want to see Keir Hardie's words applied in practice—workers should take over the means of production for the benefit of the workers and not the boss class.

This Charter should definitely become the basis for a campaign—we should go ahead with it at once. I support it without reservation.

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W German consul still held Strikes as Basque trial opens

BASQUE nationalists are holding the W German consul in San Sebastian as hostage for their 16 comrades who go on trial before a military court in Burgos today.

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

The consul, 59-year-old Herr Eugen Beihl, was seized by a group of young men as he was putting his car into his garage late on Tuesday evening.

The Basque separatist movement ETA yesterday warned that Beihl's safety would depend on the outcome of the trial—in which six alleged ETA members face possible death sentences for the killing of San Sebastian police chief Meliton Manzanar in August 1968.

The Basque country was put under martial law after the killing—a measure extended to the whole of Spain in January 1969 and lifted after three months.

Indignation

Today's trial, conducted before a panel of outright fascists, has aroused a storm of indignation inside and outside Spain.

In Bilbao, heart of the Basque country, both the Nautical and Engineering Schools are on indefinite strike and there have been big demonstrations against the trial.

In Oviedo the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters has suspended all classes until Monday following an attack on a right-wing professor.

Barcelona and Madrid have also seen the scene of big demonstrations despite a rigid police clampdown.

Support for the trial has come from the extreme right-wing organization 'Guerrillas of Christ the King'.

These gorillas have filed complaints against appeals for clemency in the trial made by the Roman Catholic bishops of San Sebastian and Bilbao.

Paris demo

In Paris on Tuesday night, police attacked demonstrators protesting against the trial. More than 2,000 young people were on the Paris march.

WEATHER

CENTRAL and N Scotland will remain rather cold, with occasional wintry showers and snow over the mountains.

S Scotland, N Ireland and N England will be rather cloudy, but with bright periods and mainly dry, although rain may affect N Ireland and N England later.

Wales, the Midlands and SW England will be mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, but becoming dry for a time inland during the afternoon.

East Anglia and SE England will be mostly cloudy but dry. Little change in temperature. Outlook: continuing unsettled.

Overtime ban hangs over power talks



Some of the powerworkers lobbying yesterday's talks.

POWER WORKERS' shop stewards meet tonight to consider the results of yesterday's lengthy pay talks. An overtime ban and work-to-rule come into force on Monday if the electricity boards refuse to raise their 10 per cent reply to the unions' demand for a £5 16s increase in average basic rates.

The Electricity Council has threatened to impose further price rises if the offer is raised, but the overtime ban and work-to-rule will undoubtedly bring power cuts before Christmas if it goes into operation. 125,000 workers are involved in the pay deal. Under the 19th-century Public Utilities Act, they have no right to strike.

Another call for tough stand on wages

From our industrial correspondent

BEECHAM group chairman Sir Ronald Edwards added his voice yesterday to the call for tougher methods against the trade unions.

Speaking to the Royal Society of Arts, he said that the view of both the Tory government and the Confederation of British Industry was that firms should stand up to 'unjustified' claims.

'Current wage increases are out of hand and we face serious cost-inflation,' he said.

Strong deflationary measures may prove to be essential, he predicted, but no one should under-rate the problem and the heavy cost for even the larger firms.

Such measures—which would lead to large-scale unemployment—were obviously the best way of dealing with unions and stewards who, according to Sir Ronald, 'are increasingly adept at taking on one firm at a time through a key activity'.

Big-business spokesmen are making it clear that a massive dose of unemployment will be necessary.

Kremlin aid for Lon Nol

British CP must speak OVERWHELMING evidence has now been produced that the Soviet government is supplying military aid to the pro-US regime in Cambodia to fight the liberation movement.

A statement just issued by Norodom Sihanouk's exile Cabinet, bases its accusation on a report in the Japanese paper 'Sankei Shimbun' on November 1.

The journal carried a statement by Lon Nol regime Minister Mau Say on the Soviet bureaucracy's dealings with the pro-US regime in Phnom Penh.

'The aid in various fields which has been given to Cambodia by the Soviet Union has scarcely been affected by the end of the Sihanouk era, and it continues normally.

Here we have the clearest possible illustration of the counter-revolutionary role of world Stalinism.

Even as the guerrillas press forward with their new offensive against the Lon Nol regime, driving back its demoralized forces to the outskirts of Phnom Penh itself, the Kremlin continues to send military aid to this communist-killing dictatorship.

British Communist Party leaders cannot evade this issue any longer.

Where do they stand on Soviet military backing for the Lon Nol regime, creature of US imperialism? Will they publicly denounce the Kremlin's position or maintain their usual cowardly silence? Communist Party rank-and-file members should force them to make such a declaration.

Civilians shot to boost body counts

- Vietnam veterans

SIX VIETNAM army veterans stated in Washington on Tuesday that civilians were killed in Vietnam to step up the number of victims claimed by the US army.

This charge was made before a three-day National Veterans' inquiry into Vietnam war crimes.

They argued that Lt William Calley and others on trial for their role in the My Lai massacre of March 1968 were being made scapegoats for what had become general policy in S Vietnam.

One of the six, Larry Rottman, said that soldiers were given bonuses for the number of Vietnamese killed—leave in Hong Kong, Australia or Honolulu.

'I even saw fights between soldiers each claiming they had killed more than the other,' he said.

After the 1968 'Tet offensive' General Westmoreland had demanded more emphasis on 'body counts'.

'In my presence, he told our commanding general... "I want more bodies".'

Military Command in Saigon would call up, went on Rottman, and 'ask that we dig up more bodies. And that is precisely what we would do—dig up bodies from graves.'

Another witness, former Lt Col Kenneth Campbell, told the inquiry that in August 1968 his battery opened fire on two populated villages just north of the demilitarized zone.

Medical orderly Samuel Rankin related how his platoon destroyed a village one night in July 1969.

'All I or anyone else found was destroyed—huts, broken and burned household goods, dead pigs and 23 dead civilians, including young women, children, old men and a few babies...'

National organizer of the inquiry Tod Ensign explained the purpose of the hearings:

'So far the focus has been on Lt Calley and the others who have been made scapegoats. Our objective is to have a full-scale public inquiry that will put the finger on the policy-makers, civilians and military, and not individual soldiers who are obeying orders.'

By staging the Calley trial, Nixon and the High Command hoped to silence opponents of the Vietnam war.

Instead, veterans moved by the most contradictory motives are now coming forward all over the United States to testify against Nixon's oppressive war on the Vietnamese people.

The new revelations confirm what many Americans had already guessed—that the My Lai massacre was no accident, but part of deliberate imperialist policy.

LATE NEWS

UN TEAM ACCUSES PORTUGAL

The United Nations' investigation team which visited Guinea has returned to New York with direct evidence linking the Portuguese army to the recent invasion of Guinea.

The team is expected to present its report to the Security Council this week-end.

The mission is said to have concluded the expedition was so well organized and equipped it could only have been supported by a major foreign power.

TORY LAND-GRAB STARTS

A Bill to dissolve the Land Commission and abolish the betterment levy introduced by Secretary Environment Peter Walker, was given formal first reading in the Commons last night.

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Mersey anger

FROM PAGE ONE

rent free warehouses for their cargoes.

'On top of this, their charges for hired equipment are ridiculously low, even with the 50 per cent increase.'

His workmate, William McNally, who has worked the Liverpool waterfront for 30 years, said that he thought the government was trying to blame the dockers for the crisis.

'They want to come to us and say "the dock is bankrupt and you will have to accept Devlin on the cheap", but we will not fall for this one.'

SACK THE LOT

'This crisis is the Board's own making and everybody in the port of Liverpool knows this. We should sack the whole lot of them and open the books.'

At the North of the port in the East Hornby dock, an ex-dockers' steward said that he thought there were political motives behind the government's move.

'I see it in line with what they are trying to do to the Post Office and to the airlines,' he said.

'What the government intervention will mean here is that the Board workers will be sacked. This means unemployment for the gate men and people who maintain the berths. For the dockers, they are trying to create a scare tactic so they will accept Devlin Phase Two,' he said.

VISIT

Today Cuckney will make his first visit to Liverpool and report back to his team that the Board over the closure of the South end of the dock by 1972 and wholesale rationalization elsewhere.

But the Board's viability is only one issue behind the sackings.

Shipowners have made it clear that their main problem is the cost of loading and unloading and not dock charges.

Dockers and Board workers need to be on a collision course with the Tory government's desire to rationalize, modernize and cut back the labour force.

So far, union leaders say they will not accept any redundancies, but they have given no indication how they will fight the inevitable sackings.

Public Meeting
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
7.30 p.m.

The fight for workers' rights
The Town Hall
St Helens, Lancs.
Speaker: G. HEALY
(National Secretary of SLL)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday December 3, 7.30 p.m. Footback pub, Mansfield Rd.

SHEFFIELD: Thursday, December 3, 7.30 p.m. Young Socialists' premises, Portobello (near Jessop's Hospital). 'The Sheffield employers' offensive and the anti-union laws'.

BRISTOL: Friday, December 4, 8 p.m. Old England pub, off Cheltenham Rd.

Bill out

FROM PAGE ONE

given the word, to fight to a finish to defend its basic organizations.

If one million workers come out against the wishes of the TUC and the union chiefs, what will ten million of the leaders issue the call?

This is the point at which the Communist Party's obstinate refusal to expose the TUC's manoeuvres now assumes the proportions of full-blown treachery.

Because of their position, the union chiefs are the only people who can swing the majority of the working class into action at this stage against the Tories.

their opportunist twists and turns.

The Stalinists refuse to raise the demand that the TUC call a general strike, though they have lately been forced to report this demand from a number of important union sections.

They avoid raising the demand that the Tories must be forced to resign and instead foster the illusion that Carr and Heath can be influenced by protest actions.

The Stalinist cover-up for the union leaders poses extreme dangers for December 8—which they want to convert into a blind-alley protest without any perspective for mobilizing all those workers who have been unmoved by the campaign so far.

The demand for the TUC to call a general strike to force the Tories to resign must be raised loud and clear in all the demonstrations and resolutions of next Tuesday's action.

All Trades Unions Alliance

Second Annual Conference

Discuss

THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM

Sat. December 19

Digbeth Civic Hall,
Digbeth 10.30 am

For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.