# Decimal price rise will slash

Party who tried to slander the Workers Press. Each month the response to

way politically to prepare hundreds of thousands of workers for the class battles

yours as soon as possible to: Workers Press Special Fund, 186a Clapham High Street,

THE OPENING of the £1,250,000 propaganda whitewash campaign for decimal currency is little more than a Tory confidence trick.

The trend is clear for all to

'it would be prudent to expect more rises!'

covers all grades of petrol,

dery, gas oil, burning oils and

BY PETER READ

Home Office could justify this

action in view of the 1957

This made clear that in

security cases telephone tap-

ping would be carried out on

a warrant signed by the Home

**Justification** 

But the main justification

'The Economist' is em-

phatic: 'In this case, there

were clearly no such grounds'.

authorized on a vast scale, with the Special Branch being

given a free hand to pry

is no stranger to not-so-secret

state tampering with mail,

In 1967 the SLL fought a

campaign to force the Labour

government to admit that a

warrant had been issued for

the opening of its mail after

information had strongly sug-

gested that this was regular

But the Labourites replied

it would 'be contrary to

established practice' to give

**Implication** 

Dutschke case make it un-

mistakably clear that the fight

to defend him is inseparable

from the struggle to defend

the basic rights of the work-

ing class against the Tory

government and increasing

The implications of the

information of that kind.

telephones and telegrams.

The Socialist Labour League

where it wishes?

Is telephone tapping now

least substantial

must always be

was that major subversive or

spying activity was involved.

Birkett report.'

grounds

practice.

The Shell and BP move

### **Petrol rise** 'rounded up'

SHELL and BP petrol costs 2d a gallon more from today the third rise this year!

The company yesterday announced a 11d increase, but retailers were expected to round this up to a 2d rise.

An increase in the price of petrol, a basic material, is a

ld to a g

sure indication of inflation eating into the value of wages. Last summer most garages

Backlash from Dutschke tribunal

THE TORY government is wasting no time in oiling up the state machine for continual surveillance and repressive measures against all militants and the working class as a whole.

The appeal tribunal hearing into Rudi Dutschke's request to remain in Britain have deepened anxiety on this

The tribunal's decision will probably not be made known until next week, but more and more questions have been asked about its procedure.

One of its most disturbing features was the denial of Dutschke's right to know the central case against him and the power to cross examine witnesses making accusatory evidence.

With just a few changes in the law, such rights could be denied to anyone under the orbit of the government's security services.

#### Denied right

After all, organizations declared 'subversive' and hounded during the McCarthy witch-hunts in the United States were denied the right to know the evidence against them or even the right to a hearing.

'The Economist' says that the new machinery for immigration appeal was set up so that agents of a foreign power could not gain knowledge of security techniques by deliberately involving themselves in an immigration appeal and then cross examining security men.

'But no-one', the journal comments, 'has ever suggested that Mr Dutschke is the agent of a foreign power.' A second major question also raised by 'The

'One of the nastiest undercurrents at the hearing was the suspicion that the authorities had attempted to build up their case by the use of telephone tapping. If this were indeed so, it would be interesting to know how the

As expected, the Tories, and the Wilson government before them, have done all in their power to keep the working class ignorant about the real nature of their

Spokesmen for Esso and Total — who usually quickly received follow a competitor's price rise -said the situation would be changeover and

absence of all but a pass-

Yesterday's newspaper reports on Tuesday's DCB



DCB chairman Lord Fiske

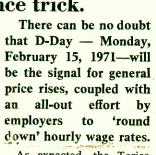
press conference maintain this silence. Only 'The Guardian' even suggested that 'there are fears that the move will be

exploited to mark up prices

on prices.

While DCB chairman
Lord Fiske washes his
hands of the whole affair,

In other words, the way of steep price rises. Yet there has been not



Free Burgos 16!

Black Spanish

trade!—YS

YOUNG Socialists were joined by Basque,

Catalan, Galician and Spanish exiles on Tuesday

night when they braved snow, sleet and slush

to march on the Spanish embassy in London

demanding the release of the 16 Basque revolu-

icians in Spain had become

'The oppression we have to face is both national and social,' he said.

Basque National Party in order to use violent revolu-

tionary means to fight Franco.

Repression

repression,' he told the meet-

ing. The trial was illegal, the

defendants were tortured, handcuffed throughout the

The Burgos trial had sparked a general strike all

over Spain. 'The Spanish people have shown us what they think about this trial,'

BROADSIDE of St

Helens scorn has greeted

the establishment of a five-man troubleshooting team to sort out organization

and recruitment problems

in the General and Muni-

The team - to be com-

posed of 'young chaps who've gone part of the way through the mill' —

will provide 'manpower and

brainpower' in areas where

the union faces special difficulties, a G&MWU

difficulties, a G&MWU spokesman told Workers

Sacked Pilkington glass-orkers' leader Gerry

Caughey commented that

cipal Workers.

difficulties,

workers'

Press yesterday.

the Basque country.

the proceedings.

Behotegi said.

ETA had broken from the

tionaries held in Burgos jail.

Headed by the Socialist

Labour League banner de-manding the release of the

Burgos 16 and no recognition

of the Franco regime, demon-

strators on the march to the

embassy shouted demands for

the freeing of the 16 and the blacking of Spanish trade.

As the march swung into

'The Internationale' as

Belgrave Square, marchers

they joined pickets who have

maintained a continuous vigil

outside the embassy since the

200 people attended a meeting

launched the march on the

The meeting, fixed at a few

hour's notice, heard Young

Socialists' national secretary John Simmance, Workers' Press editor Mike Banda and

Inaki Behotegi, representing

ETA (the Basque nationalist

Determination

tion of the six young revolu-tionaries condemned to death

part of the world offensive of

imperialism against the rights

of the working class,' he said.

Angela Davis, threatened with

the gas chamber in California,

the imprisonment of Geisman

in France, and the execution of Tran van Dong in Vietnam.

the Tory government in Britain, he said that Heath's

election victory in June had

fight to force the Tory gov-ernment to resign. This is the

best assistance we can render

the Spanish workers.'
Inaki Behotegi pointed out

that since Franco's victory in

the Civil War, the position of national minorities like

Basques, Catalans and Gal-

Our task in Britain is to

strengthened Franco.

Stressing the need to fight

He recalled the cases of

John Simmance emphasized

revolutionary determina-

in the Conway Hall which

Despite the bad weather

sentences were announced.

employers have The a continuous stream of material from the Decimal Currency Board to prepare them for the courage them to take advantage of these measures to accelerate rationalization and productivity schemes.

#### 'Soft soap'

For millions of workers who are already facing the increasing onslaught on their living standards there is to be six weeks of propaganda 'soft soap' to con-vince them that all is well. Nothing is further from the truth.

There is an ominous ing mention in the DCB's lavish campaign material of the two vital issues of prices and wages.

in Burgos.
Their courageous statement from jail voiced the determination of Spanish youth and youth all over the world to fight to the end against imperialism, he said.
'These death sentences are

The Tory plan is clear. The government is throwing aside even the thinnest facade of keeping a watch

the Tories are closing down both the Prices and Incomes Board and the Consumer

monopolists are to be given their head and the working class is to be subjected to an attack on their wage packets, by

PAGE FOUR COL. 1

# FINAL TOTAL £1,423 195 7d WE FINISHED up with almost £174 over the target. Never before has there been such a tremendous campaign for our monthly £1,250 fund.

This is the best answer we can give to all those like Ramelson of the Communist

our appeals gets better. This makes us even more determined to continue to speak out and tell the truth to the working class. It is the only

ahead.

In two days time, we are aiming to complete our special fund for the wrapping machine. We need every donation that can be raised. Send

At their latest meeting on Tuesday, the Sheffield district committee of the Amalgam-ated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers passed a resolution admitting that 'mistakes were made' and that

the Devey settlement was But beyond this the committee will not go.

They want to bury this murky episode, which has shaken the AEF on both sides of the Pennines, and they will certainly not attempt to discipline district secretary and leading Communist Party member George Caborn for his part in negotiating the pay-off.

Because of the important issues of principle involved, the All Trades Unions Alliance lost no time in supporting Devey's fight for reinstatement. Workers Press was first to

expose later events at Batchelor's—with our report of December 24—for the same The fact that the AEF district committee is dominated by Communist Party members and sympathizers indicates that it is they who are now leading the rearguard action to cover what has been one of the most shocking

retreats in the city's industrial history.
At Tuesday's meeting, only

## **Stalinists** whitewash the Devey affair

SHEFFIELD Stalinists are now attempting to whitewash the men responsible for the now notorious affair of Terry Devey—the ex-convenor who ended a key reinstatement strike when he accepted a £3,000 cash pay-off.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

PRICE 6d.

one man voted against the whitewash resolution—and he was not a Party member.

Feeling in the Sheffield Communist Party is that their 'dirty linen should not be washed in public', and the least said the better, hence the tight-lipped silence from those members who played a leading role in the Devey affair.

Yet despite all the re-criminations and counterrecriminations, the facts of the case are a clear and damning indictment of all the forces involved.

In October, Terry Devey, then a leading CP member and a convenor at Batchelor's Foods, Sheffield, was fired for holding a meeting with outside contractors which extended into working hours.
An official seven-week strike for his reinstatement began

and factories in the Sheffield area were levied to support the Batchelor's men. After weeks of deadlock AEF district secretary George Caborn made an approach to the Leeds office of the Depart-

ment of Employment to con-ciliate in the dispute. This was early in the week

beginning December 6.
Within seven days, a proposed settlement had been worked out between unions, the DEP and Batchelor's, whereby management agreed to pay Devey £2,000

if he left the firm. This was put to the strike committee at Batchelor's on the evening of Monday, December 14 and on the following Tuesday morning. There is some doubt as to whether Devey voted for or against the settlement, but the strike committee did agree to it, with one vote against, after management had come forward with a further £1,000. That same evening the AEF

district committee met. This was the key stage of the dispute, and the committee could still have condemned the pay-off and recommended against accept-

Such a condemnation could have had a crucial effect on

PAGE FOUR COL. 7

BY JOHN SPENCER

Airport ban on

Spanish goods?

AS DICTATOR Franco prepared a nationwide television statement on the Burgos death sentences yesterday, a T&GWU official threatened that Spanish goods might be blacked at airports.

Cousins might call action

This would be the first action apart from protest by British trade unionists since the Burgos trial began. But there appear to be no plans to place a black on Spanish goods in and out of British docks.

Exceptionally harsh repres-sion from the fascists had followed the execution of police 'I've been thinking about chief Meliton Manzanas, whose execution by ETA had been greeted with joy throughout kers Press. 'These six death sentences are the culmination of this

death sentences.'

'I think such a ban is quite likely if the sentences are not commuted tonight. That's certainly my view and probably would be shared by the actrial and their ears plugged so they could not take part in tivists at the airport. I shall recommend it if there is no change in these appalling

> Reactions from other union officers varied from complacency to outrage, however. The TUC said they knew of no plans to 'black' Spanish

the team could only be a

'watchdog committee' act-

ing at the behest of the

union's right-wing leader-

A former G&MWU con-

'I thought that this was

The G&MWU's Ruxley

the plan of a bloke called

Towers headquarters in

Esher was not exactly forth-

coming yesterday about what exactly the function of

the team would have been PAGE FOUR COL. 1

venor in the glass giant's St Helens Triplex plant,

Caughey asked:

Edward Heath!'

somewhere before?

PAGE FOUR COL. 6

G&MWU sets up

'watchdog' body

#### In any case, they were just back from the Christmas holi-

Their spokesman seemed to consider the Tory govern-ment's protest would be quite 'We held a meeting with

the Foreign and Commonthis ever since these evil senwealth Office before the sentences came through two days tences were announced, and, ago,' John Cousins told Worthough they were non-commital then, they have made a protest now.

Complacency was also the order of the day at Labour Party headquarters, where general secretary Harry Nicholas' recent protest to the Spanish ambassador more than

And there will certainly be no action on London docks if local T&GWU docks officer Peter Shea has anything to do

#### NO ACTION

'We're certainly not taking any action,' he said.

'They didn't take any action when these people (the ETA) murdered that police chief. I happen to be a Christian and I don't want to see anyone

'As for the French and Belgians who have taken ac tion over this trial, you should tell them to get their tin hats on. There won't be any action here I can tell you that !'

The executive of the smaller Watermen's and Lightermen's union was meeting last night, but had no plans to discuss 'blacking' Spanish

'There's been no call for it, and in any case we've only got one item on our agenda—that's January 12,' a spokesman at their London office

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sound and sound 

Saturday January 2, 1971 at 2.30 p.m. East India Hall East India Dock Rd, London E14

#### **National Speaking** Contest

Special **Photo** 

Report to be given by Aileen Jennings, Editor of Keep Left

Dance to 'the Uptights' in the evening

TICKETS 7s 6d Apply to: 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4. THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

# Decimal price rise will slash

WE FINISHED up with almost £174 over the target. Never before has there been such a tremendous campaign for our monthly £1,250 fund. This is the best answer we can give to all those like Ramelson of the Communist Party who tried to slander the Party who tried to slander the Workers Press.

Each month the response to our appeals gets better. This makes us even more determined to continue to speak out and tell the truth to the working class. It is the only way politically to prepare hundreds of thousands of workers for the class battles

In two days time, we are aiming to complete our special fund for the wrapping machine. We need every donation that can be raised. Send yours as soon as possible to: Workers Press Special Fund, 186a Clapham High Street,

London, SW4.

## **Stalinists** whitewash the Devey affair

SHEFFIELD Stalinists are now attempting to whitewash the men responsible for the now notorious affair of Terry Devey—the ex-convenor who ended a key reinstatement strike when he accepted a £3,000 cash pay-off.

At their latest meeting on Tuesday, the Sheffield district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers passed a resolution admitting that 'mistakes were made' and that the Devey settlement was 'wrong'.

But beyond this the com-They want to bury this murky episode, which has shaken the AEF on both sides of the Pennines, and they will

certainly not attempt to dis-cipline district secretary and leading Communist Party member George Caborn for his part in negotiating the Because of the important issues of principle involved,

All Trades Unions Alliance lost no time in supporting Devey's fight for reinstatement. Workers Press was first to

expose later events at Batchelor's—with our report of December 24—for the same

The fact that the AEF district committee is dominated by Communist Party members and sympathizers indicates that it is they who are now leading the rearguard action to cover what has been one of the most shocking retreats in the city's industrial

history.
At Tuesday's meeting, only

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

one man voted against the whitewash resolution—and he was not a Party member.

Feeling in the Sheffield Communist Party is that their 'dirty linen should not be washed in public', and the least said the better, hence the tight-lipped silence from those members who played a leading role in the Devey

affair. Yet despite all the recriminations and counterrecriminations, the facts of the case are a clear and damning indictment of all the forces involved.

In October, Terry Devey, then a leading CP member and a convenor at Batchelor's Foods, Sheffield, was fired for holding a meeting with outside contractors which extended into working hours.
An official seven-week strike

his reinstatement began and factories in the Sheffield area were levied to support the Batchelor's men. After weeks of deadlock

AEF district secretary George Caborn made an approach to the Leeds office of the Department of Employment to con-ciliate in the dispute.

This was early in the week beginning December 6.
Within seven days, a proposed settlement had been worked out between the unions, the DEP and Batchelor's, whereby management

agreed to pay Devey £2,000 if he left the firm. was nut to the committee at Batchelor's on the evening of Monday, December 14 and on the following Tuesday morning.

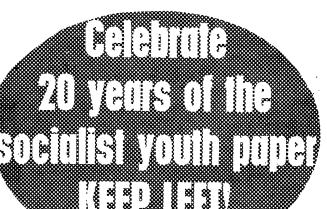
There is some doubt as to whether Devey voted for or against the settlement, but the strike committee did agree to it, with one vote against, after management had come forward with a further £1,000. That same evening the AEF district committee met.

This was the key stage of the dispute, and the committee could still have condemned the pay-off and recommended against accept-

Such a condemnation could have had a crucial effect on

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Saturday January 2, 1971 at 2.30 p.m. East India Hall

Report to be given by Aileen Jennings, Editor of Keep Left

Dance to 'the Uptights' in the evening

TICKETS 7s 6d

THE OPENING of the £1,250,000 propaganda whitewash campaign for decimal currency is little more than a Tory confidence trick.

## Petrol rise 'rounded up'

SHELL and BP petrol costs 2d a gallon more from today—the third rise this year!

The company yesterday announced a 11d increase, but retailers were expected to round this up to a 2d rise.

An increase in the price of petrol, a basic material, is a sure indication of inflation eating into the value of wages. Last summer most garages

A company spokesman said

'it would be prudent to expect more rises!' The Shell and BP move covers all grades of petrol, derv, gas oil, burning oils and fuel oils.

Spokesmen for Esso and Total — who usually quickly follow a competitor's price rise —said the situation would be repeated this only last month. made later.

BY PETER READ

Home Office could justify this

action in view of the 1957

This made clear that in

**Tustification** 

was that major subversive or

substantial

spying activity was involved.

were clearly no such grounds'.

with the Special Branch being

The Socialist Labour League

is no stranger to not-so-secret

state tampering with mail,

In 1967 the SLL fought a

campaign to force the Labour

government to admit that a

warrant had been issued for

the opening of its mail after

information had strongly sug-

But the Labourites replied

it would 'be contrary to established practice' to give

**Implication** 

The implications of the

Dutschke case make it un-

mistakably clear that the fight

to defend him is inseparable

from the struggle to defend

the basic rights of the work-

ing class against the Tory

government and increasing

information of that kind.

gested that this was regular

telephones and telegrams.

where it wishes?

least

Birkett report.'

grounds

## Backlash from Dutschke tribunal

THE TORY government is wasting no time in oiling up the state machine for continual surveillance and repressive measures against all militants and the working class as a whole.

The appeal tribunal hearing into Rudi Dutschke's request to remain in Britain have deepened anxiety on this

The tribunal's decision will probably not be made known until next week, but more and more questions have been asked about its procedure. One of its most disturbing

features was the denial of Dutschke's right to know the central case against him and the power to cross examine witnesses making accusatory

With just a few changes in the law, such rights could be denied to anyone under the orbit of the government's security services.

#### Denied right

After all, organizations 'subversive' and hounded during the McCarthy witch-hunts in the United States were denied the right to know the evidence against them or even the right to a hearing.

'The Economist' says that the new machinery for immigration appeal was set up so that agents of a foreign power could not gain knowledge of security techniques by deliberately involving themselves in an immigration appeal and then cross examining security men.

'But no-one', the journal comments, 'has ever sug-gested that Mr Dutschke is the agent of a foreign power. A second major question is also raised by

Economist' 'One of the nastiest undercurrents at the hearing was the suspicion that the authorities had attempted to build up their case by the use of telephone tapping. If this were indeed so, it would be interesting to know how the

be the signal for general price rises, coupled with an all-out effort by employers to 'round The trend is clear for all to down' hourly wage rates.

As expected, the Tories, and the Wilson government before them, have done all in their power to keep the working class ignorant about the real nature of their

There can be no doubt

that D-Day - Monday,

February 15, 1971—will

The employers have received a continuous stream of material from the for prepare them courage them to take advantage of these measures to accelerate rationalization and productivity schemes.

#### *'Soft soap'*

For millions of workers who are already facing the increasing onslaught on their living standards there is to be six weeks of propaganda 'soft soap' to con-vince them that all is well. Nothing is further from the truth.

There is an ominous absence of all but a passing mention in the DCB's lavish campaign material of the two vital issues of prices and wages.

Yesterday's newspaper reports on Tuesday's DCB



chairman Lord Fiske DCB

press conference maintain this silence. Only 'The Guardian' even suggested that 'there are fears that the move will be

exploited to mark up prices The Tory plan is clear. The government is throwing aside even the thinnest façade of keeping a watch

on prices. While DCB chairman Lord Fiske washes his hands of the whole affair, the Tories are closing down both the Prices and Incomes Board and the Consumer Council.

In other words, the monopolists are to be given their head and the working class is to be subjected to an attack on their wage packets, by way of steep price rises. Yet there has been not

PAGE FOUR COL. 1

## Free Burgos 16! Black Spanish trade!—YS

YOUNG Socialists were joined by Basque, Catalan, Galician and Spanish exiles on Tuesday night when they braved snow, sleet and slush to march on the Spanish embassy in London demanding the release of the 16 Basque revolutionaries held in Burgos jail.

Headed by the Socialist Labour League banner de-manding the release of the Burgos 16 and no recognition of the Franco regime, demonstrators on the march to the embassy shouted demands for the freeing of the 16 and the blacking of Spanish trade.

As the march swung into Belgrave Square, marchers sang 'The Internationale' as they joined pickets who have maintained a continuous vigil outside the embassy since the sentences were announced.

Despite the bad weather 200 people attended a meeting in the Conway Hall which launched the march on the

The meeting, fixed at a few hour's notice, heard Young Socialists' national secretary John Simmance, Workers' Press editor Mike Banda and Inaki Behotegi, representing ETA (the Basque nationalist

#### Determination

John Simmance emphasized revolutionary determination of the six young revolu-tionaries condemned to death

in Burgos. Their courageous statement from jail voiced the determination of Spanish youth and youth all over the world to fight to the end against imperialism, he said.
'These death sentences are

part of the world offensive of imperialism against the rights of the working class,' he said. He recalled the cases of Angela Davis, threatened with the gas chamber in California, the imprisonment of Geismar in France, and the execution of Tran van Dong in Vietnam. Stressing the need to fight the Tory government in Britain, he said that Heath's election victory in June had strengthened Franco. 'Our task in Britain is to fight to force the Tory government to resign. This is the

the Spanish workers.'
Inaki Behotegi pointed out that since Franco's victory in the Civil War, the position of national minorities like Basques, Catalans and Gal-

best assistance we can render

## icians in Spain had become

intolerable. 'The oppression we have to face is both national and ETA had broken from the Basque National Party in

order to use violent revolutionary means to fight Franco.

Repression Exceptionally harsh repression from the fascists had followed the execution of police chief Meliton Manzanas, whose execution by ETA had been greeted with joy throughout

the Basque country. 'These six death sentences are the culmination of this repression,' he told the meeting. The trial was illegal, the defendants were tortured, handcuffed throughout the trial and their ears plugged so they could not take part in

the proceedings. The Burgos trial had sparked a general strike all over Spain. 'The Spanish people have shown us what they think about this trial,' Behotegi said.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 6

## Airport ban on Spanish goods?

BY JOHN SPENCER

Their spokesman seemed to

We held a meeting with

consider the Tory govern-ment's protest would be quite

the Foreign and Common-wealth Office before the sen-

tences were announced, and,

though they were non-com-

mital then, they have made a

Complacency was also the

order of the day at Labour Party headquarters, where

officials apparently consider

general secretary Harry Nicho-

Spanish ambassador more than

And there will certainly be

no action on London docks if local T&GWU docks officer

Peter Shea has anything to do

'We're certainly not taking

las' recent protest to the

#### Cousins might call action

AS DICTATOR Franco prepared a nationwide television statement on the Burgos death sentences yesterday, a T&GWU official threatened that Spanish goods might be blacked at airports

This would be the first action apart from protest by British trade unionists since the Burgos trial began. But there appear to be no plans to place a black on Spanish goods in and out of British docks.

'I've been thinking about this ever since these evil sentences came through two days ago,' John Cousins told Wor-'I think such a ban is quite

likely if the sentences are not commuted tonight. That's certainly my view and probably would be shared by the activists at the airport. I shall recommend it if there is no change in these appalling death sentences.'

Reactions from other union officers varied from complacency to outrage, however.

The TUC said they knew of no plans to 'black' Spanish

## G&MWU sets up

A BROADSIDE of St Helens scorn has greeted the establishment of a fiveman troubleshooting team to sort out organization and recruitment problems in the General and Municipal Workers.

The team - to be composed of 'young chaps who've gone part of the way through the mill' will provide 'manpower and brainpower' in areas where the union faces special difficulties, a G&MWU spokesman told Workers Press yesterday.

Sacked Pilkington glassworkers' leader Caughey commented that

union's right-wing leadership.
A former G&MWU con-

Caughey asked:

Edward Heath!' The G&MWU's Ruxley

'watchdog' body the team could only be a 'watchdog committee' acting at the behest of the

> venor in the glass giant's St Helens Triplex plant, 'Haven't I heard this somewhere before? 'I thought that this was

the plan of a bloke called

Towers headquarters in Esher was not exactly forthcoming yesterday about what exactly the function of the team would have been

PAGE FOUR COL. 1

#### with it. NO ACTION

protest now.

sufficient.

'They didn't take any action when these people (the ETA) murdered that police chief. I happen to be a Christian and I don't want to see anyone

'As for the French and Belgians who have taken action over this trial, you should tell them to get their tin hats on. There won't be any action here I can tell you that!' The executive of the smal-

ler Watermen's and Lightermen's union was meeting last night, but had no plans to discuss 'blacking' Spanish

'There's been no call for it, and in any case we've only got one item on our agenda—that's January 12,' a spokesman at their London



East India Dock Rd, London E14

National Speaking

Apply to: 186a, Ciapham High Street, London SW4.

ments in the toxicity tests was

far too small; that because of

this; a low frequency of side effects could not be detected,

though these are important for

a sedative like Thalidomide and

'The conventional toxicological

and pharmacological tests are

most unsatisfactory. Kunz, Keller

and Muckter openly tried to hoodwink the reader by creating

a false impression of the scope of

However, Gruenenthal pressed

ahead with clinical trials under

the supervision of nine experts, who discussed their findings at

Four were in favour of the

drug, four uncertain and one

against — hardly an encouraging outcome. In addition, the main

supporter—Dr Hermann Jung—

had already detected serious side

effects of dizziness, constipation, lowering of temperature, shiver-

Nevertheless, in his opinion, we have in K17 a substance

which at the correct dose level has no undesirable side effects'.

and again serious side effects were detected. Muckter and his

employers were, therefore, well aware of at least some of the drug's harmful powers.

On Tuesday, October 1, 1957,

amid a blaze of publicity, the drug was launched on to the

market under the brand name

Contergan. Advertisements appeared in 50 medical journals

and letters were sent out to

At the centre of the sales cam-

paign was the claim, repeated time and again, that the drug was

completely non-poisonous and

This was the basis of its

tremendous success. It was ex-

ported to nearly 50 countries

throughout the world and manu-

factured under licence under 51

In W Germany, the drug could

It was estimated that a million

W German people alone took Contergan and world sales

reached 20 million pills a month.

Sales of the drug finally accounted for half of Gruenenthal's

be bought freely across the counter, while in Britain a pre-

**Tremendous** 

200.000 doctors.

success

scription was needed.

brand names.

ing and buzzing in the ears.

the end of 1955.

very necessary if the substance is

to be declared unpoisonous.



which a defendant has the right

to expect a verdict within a reasonable length of time!

The bosses of Chemie Gruenen-thal are now free to go about

their profitable business, having graciously placed some £16 million at the disposal of the 2,600

The publicity given to the case in the early 1960s and subsequent

court reports revealed the grim reality of the workings of drug

Chemie Gruenenthal began

after the Second World War as

a small pharmaceutical firm under the leadership of Hermann

Wirtz, a member of an old, established family in the deter-

The head of Gruenenthal's re-

search laboratory from 1946 was

Dr Heinrich Muckter, a qualified

chemist and doctor, who had worked under the German

Army's control during the war

at the Institute for Typhus and Virus Research at Krakow in

Experiments carried out at the Institute led to the deaths of a

number of prisoners from the in-

famous Buchenwald concentration

However, the Polish authorities

commented: 'Muckter was loyal to his German superiors, but

committed no criminal agains the Polish population.

gent and cosmetic business.

and marketing for

Thalidomide children in

Germany.

private profit.

#### ON DECEMBER 18, the biggest trial ever to take place in W Germany ended.

After two-and-a-half years of legal wrangling, involving an estimated 400,000 yards of tape-recorded material, 283 days of hearings and an expenditure of more than £700,000, the trial of seven executives of the firm Chemie Gruenenthal — W German manufacturers and distributors of the drug Thalidomide—was called off.

Despite overwhelming evidence that the drug was responsible for the deaths of over 6.000 deformed children, the charges have been dropped.

The company was accused of causing bodily harm through neglect and with intent and negligent killing and violation of

Now drug manufacturers every-where will breathe a sigh of

They can afford to smile because the proceedings ended thanks to the United Nations Charter of Human Rights, under

## **MARTIN ZARROP**

It was Muckter, the discoverer Thalidomide, who resisted attempts to withdraw the drug from the market.

Thalidomide was discovered in 1954 as a by-product of research into drugs for reducing obesity and lessening the risk of heart

#### Money

#### spinner

Muckter quickly latched on to the new substance—labelled K17 —as a possible money-spinner in the expanding market for sedatives. The incentive was considerable.

Muckter's contract ensured him 1 per cent of the company's turnover and at its peak drug's subsequent success netted him a weekly income of

Muckter and two associates, Dr Herbert Keller and Dr Wilhelm Kunz, carried out a series of tests on animals. The results seemed promising.

The drug apparently could be taken in large doses without death resulting—a striking advantage over barbiturates, with their unpleasant side-effects and dangers of suicide.

In 1965, commenting on the tests, Swedish scientists said:

The second and fateful step in the company's sales campaign 'The number of animal experi-

came in 1958, when the drug was claimed to be safe for use by pregnant women. This was based on tests carried out by Dr Augustin Peter Blasiu at his private Munich nursing home.

Blasiu, who was retained by the company, later said that the drug was used only on nursing mothers and operation cases and never given to pregnant women. He denied knowledge of the use of his name for advertising pur-

By 1959 sales were booming and an increasing number of complaints trickled into the company's headquarters, linking the use of the drug with a nervous disorder called peripheral neuritis. The symptoms had in all essentials been detected by Dr Jung in 1955.

Gruenenthal's response to growing criticism was either dismiss-

At this stage, the worst fate that was envisaged was the placing of the drug on prescription. In April 1960, the sales department reported:

'From our side everything must be done to avoid putting it on prescription, since already a substantial amount of our turnover from over-the-counter

Faced with a serious threat to profits, the company pulled out the stops in an effort to stem

This was after medical evi-

dence that Contergan had caused nerve damage 'of the most severe

Influence was used to delay the publication of unfavourable reports while strenuous efforts were made to publicize 'successful' treatment.

But time was running out. In February, 1961, the medical profession learned that the nerve damage that followed prolonged use of Contergan was permanent.

By the summer of that year, the drug was put on prescription by health authorities in a number of German provinces, and sales began to drop.

But the worst was still to

#### Severe malformations

By November 1961, it was clear from independent sources in Australia and W Germany that there was a link between the use of Contergan in pregnancy and the sudden rash of babies being born with severe malformations.

The previously rare sight of babies born with flipper-like limbs was becoming a common such a tragic event was estimated at less than one in every 100,000

In 1960, between one and two of every 1,000 infants born in

Hamburg were deformed. In W Germany, the main attack on the drug came from Dr Widukind Lenz (now professor of Human Genetics at Muenster University) who subsequently became the prosecution's main witness at the trial.

The Company tried desperately to discredit Lenz and his evidence, but to no avail.

Muckter was the last of the management to yield. The drug was withdrawn and a circular sent out to customers announcing that 'publicity has removed the basis for scientific discussion'.

But the battle had just begun. Gruenenthal was not admitting publicly that the Company was to blame for the deformed births

Not until January 1968-over ten years after the launching of Thalidomide — did the Chief Criminal Court in Aachen decide that there was sufficient evidence for a trial.

The Company threw all its massive resources into the fight spending £2,000 a day on public relations and hiring 18 of the best lawyers in W Germany.

Dr Screiber, a lawyer representing some of the plaintiffs, remarked bitterly:

'The defence is manipulating the Press and is admitting it proudly. Chemie Gruenenthal is also paying considerable incomes to medical experts and is creating the climate for the pious belief — but not the knowledge that the defendants are innocent.

'W Germany's pharmaceutical industry, or its lobby, has taken over this task as well. They are increasing their pressure on socalled free and independent science and on the free and in-

The drug giants finally won In each country where manufacturers were brought to trial, there have been no convictions. The settlements have been expensive (sometimes), but the workings of capitalist medicine are once again securely hidden behind a respectable façade.

The Thalidomide case will be dismissed as an 'exception'.

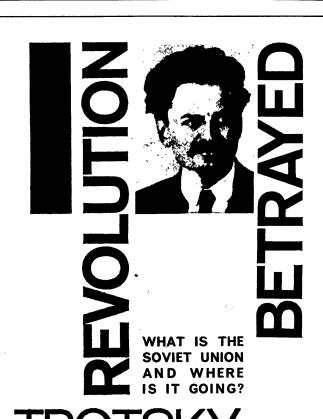
Certainly, a catastrophe of that magnitude is exceptional. What is important is the drive for profit that culminated in disaster.

The proposals of the Tory government to dismantle the National Health Service and to 'encourage' private medicine can be seen in context when we examine the history of the drug

ABOVE: ONE OF W GERMANY'S VICTIMS

## **CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA**

Important reading



Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St., SW4

Price 13s 8d post incl.

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

THE PRINCIPLE of non - collaboration in Africa was an expression of the class struggle which Marx said was the basis of change in slave, feudal and capitalist societies.

Its opposite is collaboration and African nationalism fits into this category.

It begins with the idea that all 'black people' should unite and ends with a call to all 'black' workers to unite with 'black' capitalists who are the subservient vassals of the 'white' imper-

#### **Nationalism**

African nationalism inevitably drags workers under the heels of the imperialists. Into their plantations, their mines, their Commonwealth, their apartheid, their United Nations Organiza-tion and their Organization of African Unity.

African nationalism began as a European idea. It was particularly favoured by the British Liberals and social democrats of the Fabian Labour Party and by the trade union bureaucracy.

These groups were used by the

imperialists to train and corrupt the petty-bourgeois leaders in the colonies which later became 'independent'.

Through the 'home' Labour aristocracy and the semi-colonial bourgeoisie the imperialist-capitalist class maintains its rule throughout the world. The social-chauvinism under-

lying this twin corruption spread from the imperialist camp into the Workers' States producing the agency of imperialism known as Stalinism. Stalinism is not the product of

socialism, but of capitalism. It was made possible by the isolation and inherited backwardness of the Workers' States (USSR, China, E Europe) which are themselves products of capital-

#### Semi-colonial

African nationalism operates the semi-colonial state machinery for imperialism, especially for the British and the French. It is the enemy of the African oppressed and the workers.

Stalinism, by its recognition of the right of Israel to exist as a state, its support for the UN, including the intervention in the Congo and future UN action against the oppressed people of Namibia (SW Africa), its backing for the OAU and the African quisling regimes of Ethiopia. Kenya and elsewhere, has helped imperialism to stay in its African saddle.

But at the same time the toilers of Africa regard the USSR and China, together with the other Workers' States, as revolutionary examples and antiimperialist bastions in their own struggle for liberation. The defence of the USSR and

China is inseparable from their own anti-imperialist struggles. As long as they are under foreign imperialist economic military or political domination, the toilers and oppressed of Africa, 'Latin' America and semi-colonial Asia, have, of necessity to organize what is called a 'liberation movement'.

The semi-colonial bourgeoisie. quasi-tribalists and semi-feudalists constantly divert, betray and the anti-imperialist crush struggle.

#### Solidarity

This reinforces the necessity for the formation of workers' and peasants' parties politically independent of the 'national bourgeoisie', even when combined military action against imperial-

ism (e.g. Israel) is required. The independent political organization of the toilers of Africa against capitalism means a noncollaborationist anti-imperialist movement.

This, in turn, means solidarity with the USSR and China as creations of a social revolution, but equally it means a struggle against the collaborationist poli-cies of Stalinism, including Maoism, in Africa itself.

There will be many struggles between the oppressed of Africa and British governments, whether they are Labour or Tory.

There is no difference between

the Tories and the social-democratic Labour group. They are both imperialist. They both share, however unequally, the vested interests of British imperialism in

African workers have nothing in common with social demo-But they have everything in

common with the workers of Britain, W Europe and the USA. Capitalism is their common enemy. British labour cannot be free so long as African labour

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

**ALEXANDRA PALACE** 

Wood Green London, N22

Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance **GREAT NATIONAL** RALLY AGAINST **TORYISM** 

**BOOK THIS DATE NOW!** 

#### BBC 1

1.00 p.m. Swyn y glec. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 1.55 Out of school. 3.05 'The Tail T'. With Randolph Scott, Richard Boone and Maureen O'Sullivan. A ranch owner and a honeymoon couple are held for ransom by bandits. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-Doo where are you? 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE, London.

5.45 FOLLIES OF THE WISE. With Spike Milligan

7.30 THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW. With guests The Supremes, Bobby Darin and Barbara Bain and Martin Landau 8.15 THE MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. With guests Barbara

Murray and Dusty Springfield. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.15 'MASQUERADE'. With Cliff Robertson, Jack Hawkins and Marisa Mell. A soldier of fortune is hired by the Foreign Office

to protect an Arab prince. 10.55 INTO 71. Non-stop music by Blue Mink, CCS, Georgie Fame, Elton John, Alexis Korner, Lulu, Pan's People, Alan Price, Labi Siffre, Cat Stevens, Sue and Sunny, Livingston Taylor,

Peter Thorup, Traffic, The Who. 11.50 THE GOOD OLD DAYS. New Year celebration from the North. 12.55 a.m. Weather.

#### REGIONAL BBC All regions as above except:

Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East, weather. 12.55 Weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 12.55 Weather. Wales: 6.00 Wales today, weather. Nationwide. 6.45 Heddiw, 7.05-7.30 Year in year out. 12.55 Weather. Scotland: 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland,

BBC 2

weather, Nationwide, 9.15 The Scottish Minstrel. 10.05 'See A Wednesday'. 10.55 Stanley Baxter show. 11.25 Ring out the old. 11.50 Meditation. 12-12.40 Ring out the old, part two. N Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene around six, weather. Nationwide. 11.50 Greensleeves. 12 midnight Ring out the old. 12.40 Weather. SW, South, West. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW, weather. 11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 7.00 p.m. TEST CRICKET FROM AUSTRALIA. Third Test Match.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 1970-WHAT A WAY TO START A DECADE. A Money Pro-'COSI FAN TUTTE'. Mozart's opera televised live from the

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1968. 11.55 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

12 midnight DOUBLE BILL. 'Anastasia'. With Ingrid Bergman, Yul Brynner. A group of White Russians in Paris claim to have found the Tsar's daughter.

11.05 a.m. Out of school. 12.50 p.m. Holiday in Switzerland. 1.35 Origami. 1.45 Mad movies. 2.00 A tale of two puppies. Two Alsatians born in the same litter live very different lives. 2.55 Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.25 Crossroads. 3.50 'Where No Vultures Fly'. With Anthony Steele, Dinah , Sheridan and Harold Warrender. African adventure. 5.50 News.

6.02 NANNY AND THE PROFESSOR. 'A Letter For Nanny'. 6.30 PEYTON PLACE.

7.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST. 'When Love Walks In'.

7.30 ROYAL GALA CABARET. With Glen Campbell, Petula Clark, Rex Harrison, Bob Hope, Engelbert Humperdinck, Tom Jones, George Kirby, Millicent Martin, Rudolph Nureyev, Antoinette

9.00 'NORTH BY NORTHWEST'. With Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason. A business executive becomes involved in a dangerous international intrique. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 'NORTH BY NORTHWEST'. Part two. 11.55 THE HOGMANAY SHOW. With Andy Stewart, Francie and

#### Josie, Dana, Tommy Makem, Jimmy Shand, Linda Scott. REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 1.15 Fastest man on earth.
2.05 Mona McCluskey, 2.30 Puffin's birthday greetings. 2.40 Origami. 2.55 Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.25 Skippy.
3.50 Puffin's birthday greetings. 3.52 This is your life. 4.20 Film: 'Bottoms Pp'. With Jimmy Edwards and Arthur Howard. 5.50 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Farming news. 6.15 Sports roundup. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 9.00 Film: 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'. With Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film. Part two. 11.40 Cartoon time. 11.55 London. 12.35 Weather.
WESTWARD. As Channel except:

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 11.00-12.50 London. 2.30 Gus Honeybun show. 3.50 News. 6.00 Diary. 12.40 Faith for life. 12.45 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.05 London. 12.50 Forest rangers. 1.15 Where's Charley. 2.55 Out of town. 3.20 Man from Uncle. 4.15 Houseparty. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 London. 9.00 Film: 'The Sins of Rachel Cade'. With Angie Dickinson, Peter Finch and Roger Moore. A missionary in Africa becomes involved with two men. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film. Part two. 11.45 News. 11.55 London. 12.50 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 11.05 London. 12.30 Cowboy in Africa. 1.25 'The Village'. With John Justin and Eva Dahlbeck. Two teachers of war orphans fall in love. 2.55 London. 3.25 Hatty town. 3.40 'Sinbad the Sallor'. With Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Maureen O'Hara. Sinbad wants to find the treasure of Alexander

the Great. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Cross-roads. 7.00 London. 12.50 Weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 6.10-6.35 Sport West. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 2.55-3.25 Dibyn-dobyn. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

Dibyn-dobyn. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

ANGLIA: 11.05 London. 12.50 'The Good Beginning'. With John Fraser, Eileen Moore, Peter Reynolds and Lana Morris. 1.55 Holiday in Switzerland. 2.40 Rupert Bear. 2.55 Joe 90, 3.15 Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.50 'The Young Ones'. With Cliff Richard. The father of a leader of a youth club plans to buy the property their club stands on. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 9.00 '36 Hours'. With James Garner, Eva Marie Saint and Rod Taylor. An American major in US Intelligence is kidnapped by the Germans. 11.55 London. 12.50 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05-12.05 London.

don. 12.50 Épilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05-12.05 London.
12.25 Film: 'They came to Cordura'.
2.40 Diane's Magic Book. 2.55 Fury.'
3.15 Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.53 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 A tale of two puppies. 5.20 Ramar of the jungle. 5.50 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 9.00 Film: 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film. Part two. 11.45 Nearsighted Mr Magoo. 11.55 London.

ULSTER: 11.05-12.45 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News, 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 9.00 Film: Hell to Eternity'. With Jeffrey Hunter and David Janssen. War epic. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film. Part two. 11.55 London.

VORKSHIRE: 11.15 London, 12.50 Survival, 1.15 'Where's Charley?', With Ray Bolger, Allyn McLerie, Musical version of the show Charley's Aunt. 2.55 Origami, 3.10 Rainbow country, 3.35 Magpie in Derbyshire, 4.05 'The Seven Faces of Dr Lao', With Tony Randall and Barbara Eden, A Chinese magician can turn himself into anything, 5.50 London, 6.00 Calendar, weather, 6.30 Syd Lawrence band show, 7.00 London, 12.50 Weather.

7.00 London. 12.50 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.05-12.25 London. 12.30
Doris Day show. 1.00 Cartoon time.
1.10 'The Card'. With Alec Guinness,
Glynis Johns and Petula Clark. A
young opportunist makes his way in
the world by wangling. 2.40 Enchanted
house. 2.55 Woobinda—animal doctor.
3.20 Magpie. 3.50 Peyton Place. 4.20.
'Operation Bullshine'. With Donald
Sinden and Ronald Shiner: A gun site
on the English coast is invaded by
females. 5.50 London. 6.01 Newsday.
6.20 This is your right. 6.30 Gilligan's
island. 7.00 London.

BORDER: 11.05-12.42 London. 2.00

BORDER: 11.05-12.42 London. 2.00 Jimmy Shand. 2.15 Jungle boy. 2.45 Mad movies. 3.10 Forest rangers. 3.35 Magpie. 4.05 News. 4.07 Film: "The Seven Faces of Dr Lao'. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London.

roads. 7.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 10.50 Sara and Hoppity. 11.05-12.27 London. 12.30 Survival.. 1.00 My three sons. 1.30 Get Smart. 2.00 'I Could Go On Singing'. With Judy Garland and Dirk Bogarde. A famous singing star gave up the man she loved for her career. 3.35 Magpie. 4.05 Flipper. 4.30 News. 4.35 'The Sharkfighters'. With Victor Mature and Karen Stelle. A naval research team seeks shark repellent. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Police call. 6.30 Syd Lawrence band show. 7.00 London. 12.45 Time passing.

SCOTTISH: 11.05-12.41 London. 2.55

SCOTTISH: 11.05-12.41 London. 2.55 Origami, 3.10 Cartoons. 3.20 Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.53 Women today. 4.15 Datelline. 4.25 London. 4.50 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 High living. 7.00 London. 12.55 Late call.

call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.02-12.42 London. 3.20
Magpie in Derbyshire. 3.50 News. 3.55
Women today. 4.10 Film: 'On the
Town'. With Gene Kelly and Frank
Sinatra. Adventures of three sailors
during a 24-hour leave. 5.50 London.
6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Win a
word with Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads:
7.00 London. 9.00 Film: 'Some Cama
Running'. With Frank Sinatra, Cama
Martin and Shirley MacLaine. A cynical
ex-Serviceman returns home after the
war. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film. Part
two. 11.45 A guid New Year.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF WAR

25 years of the United Nations

BY CHARLES PARKINS



## AND PLUNDER

## ALL IN THE NAME OF 'PEACE'

## THE CONG

THE CONGO is Africa's second largest country, and potentially its richest. It is a country where all the contradictions of imperialism have been thrown together in sharp and violent contrasts.

Poverty and malnutrition co-exist with vast mineral wealth; subsistence farming and food-gathering economies exist alongside profitable mines and plantations; primitive tribal communities exist within the same society as modern industrial cities, and an organized African working class.

The Congolese people have seen in their history the advent 'European civilization', bringing barbarity and cruelty, the destruction of their native culture and decimation of the population.

-In modern times they have seen the value of their country's exports increasing, and yet the workers' wages and living standards reduced, as the imperialist countries take their profits.

#### Intervention

They have seen their country's future being discussed by international organizations dedicated to world 'peace', as the prelude to its being plunged into bloody war.

The United Nations intervention in the Congo in 1960 was the second time that the country's fate was decided in the councils of nations by a gathering of the great powers.

The first occasion on which the Congo was disposed of in an imperialist 'Thieves' Kitchen' was at the Berlin Conference of 1884, when the assembled imperialists of Europe agreed to recognize, as the government of the Congo, the International African Association', which had been founded by Leopold II, King of the Belgians.

This Association proclaimed itself to exist 'for the purpose of promoting the civilization and commerce of Africa and for other human and benevolent purposes'.

What noble and philanthropic aims! And with a crowned head of Europe in charge of the endeavour!

In actual fact, as the 'Congo Free State', the Association founded by King Leopold was responsible for subjecting the African people of the Congo to the most bloody and rapacious colonialism.

Early visitors to the Congo had been impressed by the thriving native commerce and the evident vigour of the people and their culture.

#### 'Flanders'

They remarked on the 'enterprise' shown by the river peoples, and their highlydeveloped trading connections with the interior. They described thriving native villages, with busy forges and tanneries.

On land won from the forests, the people were farming sugar-cane, ground-nuts, sweet potatoes, millet, maize, and bananas. They had vegetable patches which, according to a Belgian traveller, were 'as finely kept as any in Flanders'.

The Congo before its conquest by Belgian imperialism was no African Utopia; but nor was it just the wild jungle which we in imperialist

## PART ONE: SEEDS OF VIOLENCE

countries like Britain have been brought up to imagine.

Savagery and violence, the 'law of the jungle', were brought into the Congo by European 'civilization'-or, to be precise, by the most savage and bloodthirsty beast of all, capital, 'red in tooth and claw', bringing the laws of its own

European travellers who explored the Congo basin in the latter part of the 19th century estimated its population to be something over 20 million. By 1911, when the Belgian administration took an official census, it had been reduced to eight-and-a-half million people.

#### **Profit**

What King Leopold and his capitalist associates wanted in the Congo was rubber, ivory, and, above all - profit; and profits there were to be had.

One of the companies to which the King farmed out concessions in the territory, the Abir Concessionaire Company, made a net profit in six years of £720,000 on a paid-up capital of £9,280. Its shares were at one time being speculated in at £900 to £1,000 per share. Shares in concessionaire companies rose so rapidly they became negotiable in tenths of

Many a Belgian politician or other influential figure held Congo shares, and hence a the system of exploitation of the Congolese people.

It was a very bloody system. Nowhere in history have the people submitted voluntarily to becoming an exploited proletariat.

Some force is necessary.

Here in Britain we had forcible Enclosure of Common lands; the crushing of peasant revolts; the institution of slavery in the Scottish coalfields; the 18th-century penal code; and the Highland clearances—all part of the process by which the mass of people were deprived of any share of the means of production, of 'their country', and transformed forcibly into a propertyless class of workers, available for exploitation.

Capitalism is bloody and violent. In establishing its rule in the Congo it murdered millions of people.

#### Atrocities

The methods of Belgian colonialism led to atrocities with which only the Nazi rule in Europe can be compared.

First the colonialists established an army in the Congo. Then, in 1891 and 1892, they passed edicts under which all the soil of the Congo which was not already cultivated was to belong to King Leopold II; and the people were forbidden to sell rubber or ivory, but were to pay it as a 'tax' to the Belgian officials.

To make sure this tribute was extracted was the job of the army.

In 1899, a Congo Free State official told a British consular official about the methods he

'His method of procedure was to arrive in canoes at a village, the inhabitants of which invariably bolted on their arrival; the soldiers were then landed, and commenced looting, taking all the chickens. grain, etc., out of the houses: after this they attacked the natives until able to seize their women; these women were then kept as hostages until the Chief of the district brought in the required number of kilo-

grammes of rubber. 'The rubber having been brought, the women were sold back to their owners for a couple of goats a-piece, and so he continued from village to village until the requisite amount of rubber had been collected.'

Naturally this sort of treatment met with resistance from the people, and it took 20 years of fighting to establish white rule, during which the methods used by the colonizers became more and more bar-

troops to kill and mutiliate recalcitrant villagers.

It became customary for the

'Each time the corporal goes

capitalists, death for the Congolese people. If violence has been harvested in the Congo, we should recognize who sowed the seeds.

To quote again the American missionary Mr Clark:

'It is blood-curdling to see them (the soldiers) returning with hands of the slain, and to find the hands of young children amongst the bigger ones evidencing their bravery offs' for himself Leopold had . . The rubber from this started granting new concesdistrict has cost hundreds of sions to outside interests, such lives, and the scenes I have as the American Congo Comwitnessed, while unable to help pany — and this aroused the share-buying public in Belgium the oppressed, have been almost enough to make me wish to take a fresh interest in the I were dead . . .



PATRICE LUMUMBA ARRESTED IN PORT FRANCQUI **ON DECEMBER 1, 1960.** 

out to get rubber, cartridges are given to him. He must bring back all not used; and for every one used he must bring back a right hand! . . . As to the extent to which this is carried on, he informed me that in six months they, the State, on the Momboyo River had used 6,000 cartridges, which means tht 6,000 people are killed or mutilated.

'It means more than 6,000, for the people have told me repeatedly that soldiers kill children with the butts of their guns.' (Evidence given by Mr Clark, an American missionary, for the Casement report.)

Besides the actual massacres, there was the effect on the native people of destroying their means of living. According to the British consul, Thesiger, reporting on the Kasai region, which in 1908 produced 50 per cent of the Congo's rubber:

'The rubber tax was so heavy that the villagers had no time to attend even to the necessities of life . . . the capitas (armed soldiers) told me they had orders not to allow the natives to clear the ground for cultivation, to hunt or to fish as it took up time which should be spent in making rubber.

#### Death

'Even so, in many cases the natives can only comply with the demands made on them for rubber by utilizing the labour of the women and children. In consequence, their huts are falling to ruin, their fields are uncultivated, and the people are short of food ... and dying off ... This district was formerly rich in corn, millet and other foodstuffs . . . now it is almost a desert.'

A saying grew up in the Upper Congo region, Botofi bo le iwa—'Rubber is death'. Profits for the European

Repressive Measures

LEFT-WING student Nail Karakan of Ankara university in Turkey was murdered last Friday when right-wing extremists attacked him and some of his friends.

The brutal manner of Karakan's death is a measure of the increasingly sharp conflict between the students and the working class on one side and the government, backed by right-wing archreactionaries, on the other.

Left-wing students have recently been demonstrating against the Turkish government talks over the future of Cyprus.

They are demanding that the conditions for settlement should be the evacuation of all foreign bases on the island and a nonnational Cyprus regime (that is not divided into Greek and Turkish).

In the course of these most recent demonstrations Ankara university was occupied by students and petrol bombs were thrown at the increasingly un-popular Premier Sulieman Demirel of the Justice Party.

The extreme right in Turkey's

government circles has been clamouring all year for harsher measures to be implemented by government particularly against the students.

'This rubber traffic is steeped in blood, and if the natives

were to rise and sweep every white person on the Upper

would still be left a fearful

In 1908, the 'Congo Free

State' became the 'Belgian

Congo', as the Belgian parlia-

ment voted to annex the terri-

Criticism of King Leopold's

system and its atrocities had

helped to bring about this

step, but there were two more

fundamental reasons why it

'Rake-offs'

In his search for more 'rake-

The second reason was that

the Congo as a source of rubber was now declining in

importance relative to the

Congo as a source of mineral

In 1906, Belgian and British interests had come together in

Union Minière — a monopoly concern to exploit the copper

In the same year, a railway company, BCK was founded to

develop a railway system link-

ing Katanga with the ports. A

third company founded in that

year was Forminière, which

was granted exclusive mining

rights in Kasai and other parts

All three of the companies

were dominated by one giant

Générale, but other interests

were also involved — the

Ryan-Guggenheim

of the Congo.

THURSDAY'S

and other resources

balance to their credit.'

into eternity, there

Following a series of sharp clashes by students and workers with the police and the troops early this year the government drafted a series of repressive measures in relation to the

universities.

These would allow police to check student organization headquarters, facilitate the call-up of militant students to force them to do their national service at once, and enable a special squad of university police to enter campuses to 'intervene' amongst students.

Even these measures, however, were not enough for some sec-tions of the right who demanded an immediate declaration of martial law. And although apparently reluc-

tant at that time to move in and declare such a law, Premier Demirel was to do so later in the year in June. For a whole period the national

newspapers talked openly of the dangers of a military coup to oust the Demirel government. Their fear was of both the right wing's growing impatience for more repressive measures and

the increasing militancy of not only the students, but the organized working class as well. Events finally came to a head in June when the government attempted to introduce amend-



**RIOTING IN LEOPOLDVILLE, 1960** 

group with shares in Forminière, a French bank par-British company Tanganyika Concessions Ltd with a sizeable holding in Union Minière.

The new Belgian Congo administration confirmed the concessions granted to these big monopolies — and granted another one, to the Lever Bros subsidiary HCB, for palm oils.

It also legislated to introduce free wage-labour. So, in place of the brutal pillaging carried out by King Leopold's regime there was to

be modern monopoly capital-

ism and an African proletariat. It was still exploitation, still

In fact, forced labour continued to be a feature of Belgian rule. Corvées were enforced for road-building, and there was obligatory cultivation and provision of crops. A chief in Orientale province described his people's experience:

'We were forced to move back to where the white men were building the big road that now runs from Kisanganyi (Stanleyville). It took many years to build, and they demanded that we supply men -so many from each villageas well as food for all their soldiers, who stood with their guns in case we tried to escape. The white men did not always carry guns themselves, often they carried whips and they beat us like animals.

'I remembered my father, and I said I would not let my people work for them. Because of the guns that had brought my people back to the roadside I said that we would supply whatever food we could spare, and for a time the white men accepted that. But they were not pleased.

#### 'Told us . . .'

'Then they came around and told us we had to plant cotton and other things we did not want to plant. They said they would pay us but I explained that if we planted cotton we would have to grow less food.

'They said we could buy food with the money we got for the cotton and I told them this was like the play of children, because we could easily grow our own food without money, and have enough left over to give them.

'It was then that they told me that I was not a man, that I was evil, that I did not want to help my people, that I only wanted to make trouble. Therefore, they said, I was no longer chief.'

Continued tomorrow

ISTANBUL POLICE ATTACK STUDENTS AND WORKERS **DURING UNION DEMONSTRATIONS** IN JUNE 1970.

laws, aimed at streamlining the trade unions. In the severe clashes which took place between the workers and troops three people were killed and 200 injured. Thirty

ments to the existing labour

union leaders were arrested. In retaliation 5,000 Istanbul workers staged a sit-down strike in their factories. Demirel declared martial law on June 7 in Istanbul and Kocaeli province which was to last a month. All administrative

powers were vested in a military commander and legal matters were handled by courts martial. Seriously worried by the developments and the radicalization taking place even in some sections of the army the com-mander of the Turkish air force warned of the danger in his report to the National Security Council and as an antidote called for widespread economic and social reforms.

This, however, is precisely what the government cannot do. With a steadily-deteriorating economic situation staring him in the face Premier Demirel finds himself assailed from the extreme right on one side and from the students and workers on the

other.

At the beginning of the year he lost a vote of confidence from the parliament's Lower House

when the extreme-right 'Bilgic' faction voted against him. Demirel's position however is

by no means ambiguous.

He is no friend of the workers and students of Turkey. He has had long-held plans for prohibiting communism which he is only waiting for the right opportunity to introduce.

The growing militancy of the students and workers, the physical attacks from the right wing and Karakan's murder are not separate incidents.

They are reflections of capitalism's deep-going international crisis in which the struggle by the youth against oppression must come to the fore.



SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

RELEASEBURGOS 16

NO RECOGNITION

### **G&MWU**

in the Pilkington dispute, had it been in existence. 'They would have been up there helping out,' said the spokesman.

He thought that the

Pilkington experience had been one of the factors influencing the union hierarchy to set up the team. This will operate under the jurisdiction of national officer David Basnett, and its members will have the status of regular union

Besides warning that this team could become mere policemen for the union leaders, the St Helens rankand-file committee fear G&MWU officials may be trying to 'work a flanker' on their fight for reinstatement. The committee has said they are prepared to resume their G&MWU membership if the union will fight their

But in informal contacts with the committee's solicitor, officials have implied that this decision will rest with the union's six St Helens branches, and that these may be reluctant to come to terms.

Committee chairman Gerry Caughey stressed yesterday that it is still vital for pressure to be kept up on union executives to demand that the G&MWU win the sacked men's jobs

# Guerrillas close to Phnom Penh

CORRESPONDENT

### Decimal

FROM PAGE ONE

one word of warning from the Trades Union Congress on the employers' plans.
In November 1969 the
Department of Employment Productivity issued a

#### **CLAPTRAP CAPPED**

LOYALTY to the nation-state could become one of the biggest dangers in society, Labour ex-Minister of Education Shirley Williams MP said yesterday.
She told the 28th annual

conference of the Council for Education in World Citizen-ship that Britain would be better placed if we had less consciousness of class than we

have now'. The imperialist and reformist claptrap spouted at this London conference—attended by about 1,500 students from all over the country, mainly sixth-formers—is expected to be capped today by a special message from United Nations secretary-general U Thant. Its agenda is dominated by discussions on the UN, which is celebrating its 25th blood-

stained anniversary.

Referring to N Ireland as an 'extraordinary paradox', Williams claimed yesterday that the only lives lost in clashes there had been due 'to differences in religious beliefs' Changes in the education system had done much to alter the class system, she

#### **ORDER YOUR POSTERS** TODAY!



2s per poster 30s for 20 £3 5s for 50 Send your orders to: Socialist Labour League 186a Clapham High Street London, SW4.

#### UNIONS ALLIANCE **MEETINGS**

Miners and the Charter of Basic Rights

ENGLAND and Wales will have wintry showers, most frequent in E and SE, but more scattered further W with some sunny in-

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Continuing cold with showers or longer periods of sleet or snow. Night frosts.

#### **BRIEFLY**

**HAND-OUTS DURING ULSTER FIGHTING** 

Fighting in Ulster cost the Stormont government nearly. £5½m in the last financial year. Further large amounts will have to be met in the 1970-71 budget, the Auditor General's report said yester-

However, 40 per cent of the total sum was spent on police, prisons and hand-outs to private industry. The latter accounted for over £600,000not far short of the cost of re-housing those made homeless in the fighting.

#### **SOLICITORS FORM** TRADE UNION

The British Legal Association, representing 3,000 solicitors, has become the legal profession's first trade union. Its registration, by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, became effective on December

First chairman of the union will be Mr F. Morris Williams, a solicitor of Ipswich and London, at present chairman of the BLA national executive.

Britain's jobless total is certain to rise to 800,000 by the end of 1971, according to a business prospect fore-

It is made by the economics editor of 'Management Today' and is based on the expectation that output at the end of next year will be only 1.7 per cent more than the last three months of 1970.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

with the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry which contained wage rates conversion tables.

not be the excuse for a rounding up of prices!
Since that time—despite
the election of a Tory government—the TUC leadership has remained silent.

It also expressed the wish

that decimalization should

It is clear that their headlong retreat before the Tories on the Industrial Relations Bill is to be coupled with close col-laboration with both government and employers in disarming workers in the face of these new

Perhaps, parroting Lord Fiske, TUC advice to workers facing a roundingdown of wage rates will be

to 'shop around'! In the face of mounting unemployment, every worker knows that the renegotiation of wage rates because of decimalization will be a battle with the employers and their Tory government from start to

#### **Re-negotiate**

Every trade unionist must take seriously the Transport and General Workers' Union proposal that the renegotiation of wage rates must be the cue for wage rises to offset cost of living

More than this. Trade union leaders must demand that decimalization is postponed until such negotia-

## **ALL TRADES**

CASTLEFORD: Saturday, January 9, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Sid Hinchcliffe (Glasshoughton Colliery). BENTLEY: Sunday, January 10, 12 noon. Bay Horse Inn. Speaker: Frank McCabe (Brodsworth Colliery). ÖLLERTON: Saturday, January 16, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Ecki Barker (Ollerton Colliery).

#### WEATHER

More general snow may, however, spread from the N to N England and N Wales later in the day. Scotland and N Ireland will have snow showers, and some longer outbreaks of snow are likely to spread from the N. It will be cold generally with frost early and late in places well away from the east coast.

800,000 JOBLESS IN 1971?

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

outskirts of Phnom Penh, capital of the rightwing Cambodian regime headed by General Lon Nol. It was the closest liberation forces had been to the city since

A GUERRILLA unit yesterday penetrated to the

the guerrilla siege began more than six months ago.

They crossed marshlands on the city's western side and entered the village of Bayap, less than one mile from the Phnom Penh suburb, Toul Kauk.

The Lon Nol regime at once moved its harassed forces to the area of the advance. Supporters of the liberation movement in Phnom Penh have been stepping up their activities in line with the guerrilla offensive, distributing anti-imperialist leaflets and attacking government installations and buildings.

#### Kremlin recognition

Yet with the liberation forces now pressing against the last stronghold of the pro-US military regime, the Kremlin continues not only to recognize Lon Nol diplomatically, but to supply his forces with military equipment.

Stalinism plays the same treacherous role in Indo-China as it does in Spain

## 'Liberals' protest US war cash

THE US Congress yesterday approved Nixon's Defence Appropriation Bill, which allocates £27,750m for war expenditure in

the coming year.

After the Administration's liberal critics had registered their protest against US military aid for Saigon troops fighting in Cambodia, the Senate sent the Bill to the White House by a vote of White House by a vote of

70 to 2.

The House of Representatives had earlier approved the measure by 234 votes to one. Liberal Senators did succeed in preserving clauses in the Bill which bar the use of US ground troops in Cambodia,

Laos or Thailand. Such legal niceties have never troubled US imperialism in the past-technically it is

not at war with N Vietnam. It still awaits the approval of Congress. Something far more substantial than the protests of a few liberal-minded capitalists will be required to bring

Nixon's bloody war to an end.

That force is the American

#### working class. Gas pay talks adjourned

REPRESENTATIVES of Britain's 60,000 gas-industry manual workers today told their employers that they will not consider any offer of £2 or under on basic rates.

At a meeting in London of the national industry's joint council, the unions emphasized they were not prepared to consider anything unless it was above the disputed £2

supply industry workers.

It was agreed that talks should be adjourned pending the outcome of the inquiry into the power workers' pay dispute.

The employers promised, however, that any settlement reached eventually would take effect from January 17, 1971. The gas men have followed the course taken by nearly 30,000 manual workers in the

water-supply industry.

They have also rejected an offer of 30s a week on basic rates and put off further consideration of their claim until the findings of the court of inquiry into the power dispute are known.

Manual workers' present rates in the gas industry range from £15 10s to £19 2s 6d a

**RESOLUTION** FROM PAGE ONE THE FOLLOWING motion was carried at

trade unionists throughout

Britain to demand of their leaders, like those in the

Workers' Union and the

National Union of Seamen,

to black all Spanish ships,

planes and cargoes to and

We further urge all wor-kers to ensure that this

campaign be linked up with

the struggle to force the Trades Union Congress to

call a general strike against

the Tories until the govern-

The Tories helped put

Franco in power in the 1930s and today help keep

him in power with capital investment and political support. Therefore a blow

against the Tories is the most powerful contribution

we can make to the struggle

of the Basque people and

the Spanish workers against

Finally, we demand of the Stalinist E European

regimes and the leaders of

the Soviet Union to cease

immediately every form of

political, diplomatic, cultural

and economic collaboration

with the Franco regime.

Stalinist protests at the

Burgos trial are a mockery

of proletarian international

ism so long as this form of

peaceful co-existence con-

Victory to the Spanish

Long live the European

workers and peasants!

socialist revolution!

ment resigns.

and General

Workers Press editor Michael Banda speaking to Conway Hall audience on

Tuesday night's Young Socialist meeting with five against and ten abstentions. A copy was handed in at the Spanish embassy by YS national secretary John Simmance at the end of a march after the meeting.

THE death penalty imposed on the six Basque revolutionists and the massive prison sentences passed on the remaining ten by the fascist military court in Burgos are a barbarous attack on the European working class in general and the youth in particular.

We consider this an integral part not only of Franco's repression of Basque interests, but more so of the world-wide imperialist threat to deprive the working class and oppressed nationalities of their rights and to pacify the world in the interests of imperialist exploitation and

oppression.

example of a system peculiar to Spain, but a generalized tendency which expresses itself in the My Lai massacres, the murder of Palestinian refugees, the frame-up and execution of Negro militants in America, French nationalists in Canada and the savage attacks of the Tory government on the trade unions

in Britain. To defend the Basque revolutionaries is to defend the conquests and traditions of the working-class and Europe and the world.

The best defence of the heroic Burgos 16 today is not to protest, but to destroy European and Spanish capitalism and replace with a federated Europe of Socialist republics.

As a first step we call on

## **Burgos**

He also criticized the 'unbelievably small' response from the British labour movement against the trial. 'We want as much help as you can give us,'

The Franco regime, Mike Banda told the meeting, represented all that was decadent, reactionary and rotten

It was an expression of the decadence and decay of capi-

'When we talk about the Burgos trial, the whole bloody history of the European work ing class is under scrutiny,' he

#### Criticized

Franco could not have defeated the Spanish working class in the Civil War without the collaboration of the socalled 'democracies', but even more important was the counter-revolutionary policy Stalinism and reformism.

British labour movement's failure to act over Spain. 'The Labour leaders do nothing, even to stop their members taking holidays in Spain, he said, recalling that ex-TUC leaders like George

There was some truth, he

said, in the criticisms of the

Woodcock took their holidays in Majorca. 'If this is what the leaders do, you can hardly blame the ordinary workers if they lack the consciousness to do other-

The union leaders should be forced to call out dockers, seamen and airline workers and black all trade with Spain. Above all it was necessary to fight the Tories—the British friends of Franco who were trying to introduce corporatist laws into Britain along the lines already existing in Spain. 'One blow against the Tor-

one blow against the 10ries would be worth a million protests. We think that the victory of the Spanish working class is entirely possible and will be carried through.'

A collection at the meeting raised £31 10s towards broad ening the campaign to save the Burgos 16.

## The Devey affair is more than an industrial retreat in Sheffield. As the capitalist press have gleefully noted, to accept a cash pay-off as com-

'After the district secretary Caborn] had given the report [of the settlement], three members of the [Batchelor's] pensation for victimization is to operate the Tory anti-union strike committee were admitlaws before they are on the statute book. ted to the district committee who, along with Brother T. It is an even greater scan-Devey, criticized the district dal that many leading Comsecretary's handling of the dispute for calling in the manpower officer of the DEP munist Party members in the AEF—who are active in organizing opposition to the Bill-should be party to such a at a stage, that was in their deal, as they were originally, despite their later disclaimers. Now the Party can conopinion, too early and also for not having adequate dis-

£3,000?

committee.' According to the minutes, the settlement and the representation from the Batchelor's men was merely 'noted'. Nobody objected or voted

Yugoslavia

THE YUGOSLAV government rushed emer-

gency legislation through parliament on Tuesday

limiting wage increases over the next four

months to 11 per cent of the average 1970 wage.

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

the law on the grounds that about a million workers had

incomes below subsistence

been a series of strikes in mining and other industries

for higher pay and against

bureaucratic mismanagement

of the economy.

• FROM PAGE ONE

the mass meeting of Batche-

lor's men who were to vote on the offer the following day,

Yet at this meeting there

was no opposition to the Devey pay-off. The minutes of this meeting read:

Wednesday, December 16.

Over the last year there has

The law, which is operative

attacked by many deputies.

During the debate, Prime
Minister Mitja Ribicic ad-

mitted that the 1965 economic

The government, he told his critics, now had to hold

down wages so as to 'nip the last source of present infla-

'STABILIZE'

The new law, part of the Tito regime's short-term 'stabilization' programme, stipulates that from next May,

Yugoslavia's six Republics and

two Provinces should work

Trade Union Council Secre-

tary Marjan Rozic objects to

out their own incomes policies.

reform had failed.

tionary trends'.

On the Wednesday, the Batchelor's men voted to return and Devey presumably received his £3,000.

It was then the recriminations started in earnest. Devey resigned from the Communist Party and accused them of using him as a whipping boy. In the December 23 edition of the Sheffield 'Morning Telegraph' he is quoted as saying: 'Mr Caborn's actions gave

me no option but to resign. The lads on the shop floor have been sold down the river. I resigned freely so that I can raise freely the things that Caborn is doing in Sheffield.

'The Communist Party,' he me the whipping boy for the mistakes of Mr George Caborn. They are frightened

of him. These statements were made by Devey after the Yorkshire district committee of the Com-

munist Party had issued a criticism of the affair and publicly disowned Devey.

Their condemnations were aped by the AEF district committee, who belatedly came out against the Devey pay-off

— a week after they had 'noted' it at a time when it could have been stopped. With this Tuesday's events, this brings the Devey saga up to date.

The major question which arises from these sordid manoeuvres is: why did the Communist Party fail to use its powers and stop the settle-

Clearly from the time when Caborn made the first approach to the Department of Employment to that final meeting which noted the settlement, it could have done

Leading officials of the Yorkshire district committee of the CP, say CP members, got news of the pay-off before the vote on the strike committee was taken and well before it was first raised on the AEF district committee.

Devey, some of them report, elephoned several leading members on the eve of his acceptance to ask their advice. Caborn, the Sheffield CP's metal committee and all the CP faction on the district committee could have been contacted and instructed to vote down the recommended

Instead nothing appears to have been done.

If the Communist Party disclaims responsibility for the AEF district committee's decisions, why did the committee issue a condemnation on the same day the CP Yorkshire area committee belatedly condemned the deal (Decem

Clearly the Party, facing the tide of anger and frustration Sheffield factories which had supported the Batchelor's strike, was forced to issue some public disclaimer of the pay-off and instructed its members of the district committee to do likewise.

Why couldn't such an instruction have been issued a Then there is Devey him-

He was a long-standing Communist Party member and a powerful influence on the local Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions — a body organizing strikes against the Industrial Rela-

# Wage freeze Australian law in LETTE

SYDNEY, December 23 — A storm warning has been issued by bourgeois economists.

An article in the 'Australian Economic Review' clearly points out to workers that the sunny days are over and grey clouds are gathering rapidly.

It also has the same warning for the nation's capitalists but it makes it clear that the best way to weather the storm is for the workers to stop asking for more money. It points out that no matter how many pay rises are obtained by the working class

price makers never lose out to price-takers'.

Average weekly earnings have increased by 6.3 per cent over a previous eight-year period to 8.9 per cent in 1969-1970.

Surely Devey realized the implications of such a settle-

against the pay-off on the strike committee. Why then

did he go on to take the

demn. Now the AEF district committee and its Stalinists can plead for silence.

But the fact remains; a major

strike against victimization was called off under the

benevolent guidance of the Tory-controlled Department of

Would it be better to be nice and forget this affair as an embarrassing and never-to-

Because the Devey affair, in

our opinion, is no mistake,

but a direct outcome of Stalinist politics.

Caborn knew what he was oing when he met the DEP.

Devey knew what he was

And above all, the York-

doing when he accepted the

shire area of the Communist Party knew what it was doing

when it deemed it fit not to mobilize Caborn and their

district committee members to

All these forces now stand

condemned for their utter

political opportunism and that

We raise this issue again

The Stalinists will not fight

Instead they provide a left

cover for opportunist trade union leaders.

It is time, we say, for serious Communist Party rank-and-file members to break

from these policies.

because of the enormous threat of the Tory anti-union

throw out the Devey deal.

is what Stalinism means.

these laws.

be-repeated mistake?

It would not.

Employment.

money.

It seems likely that he voted

#### the gross national product (GNP) paid in wages has decreased from 63.2 per cent to 61.7 per cent since 1955. During the same period the number of wage-earners in-creased from 89.6 per cent of

the work force to 91 per cent. It appears the capitalist claim that what is good for them is good for the working

class is not true after all-for those who did not already The report calls for com-

munity responsibility and 'far-sighted leadership' to solve the coming problems. It then proceeds to appeal to union bureaucrats for an alliance between capital and

In a call which might just as well have come from the last Labour government of Harold Wilson, the article makes what amounts to a plea to help the lower-paid workers and allow them to

As a final prod at the 'humanitarian' heart of the working class, a plea is made on behalf of the old age pen-sioners who for years have been struggling along on the pittance capitalism pays them when they are no longer considered worthy units of production.

To make sure the message gets across to the timid as well as the soft-hearted, the 'Review' adds that the workers 'stand to suffer most' if they do not co-operate.

This restraint and cooperation called for between labour and capital is seen in many circles as being equivalent to the 'Premier's Plan' of 1931, which called on workers to take huge cuts to defend the system under which they were exploited. The 'Premier's Plan' which

called for a 20 per cent reduction in wages and pensions, a reduction in interest payments and a steep rise in taxation, created great unrest in the working class and was instru-mental in bringing down one of the then giants of the labour movement, Jack Lang, premier of New South Wales.

Lang, of whom the phrase 'Lang is greater than Lenin' was coined, refused to comply with the demands.

This led to the incredible situation whereby the democratically elected Lang was dismissed by Governor Sir Phillip Game (state representative of the British monarch).

Scores of thousands of workers attended rallies in Sydney and a call was made

to arm the workers. But Lang and the Australian Communist Party leadership of the time backed down at the crucial moment for the

working class. The leadership retreated before the onslaught. The lessons to be drawn from this are quite clear.

Unless the Australian working class works hard and fast, now, to build a revolutionary leadership as an alternative to the present reformist and opportunist leaders of the labour movement, they are going to be faced with the same sell-outs in a short time.

## Elements of Marxism

Lecture by G. Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway. Tuesday, January 5, 8 p.m.

## **SUBSCRIBE NOW**

£13 for 12 months (312 issues) £6 10s for six months (156 issues £3 5s for three months (78 issues

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are: £1 for three months (24 issues) £4 for 12 months (96) issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to: Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4.

I would like to	take ou	ıt a s	subsc	ription	to	Workers	Press
Days required	MON	IDAY		TH	IURS	SDAY	
(Please tick)	TUE	SDAY		FR	IDA	Υ	
	WED	NESE	PAY	SA	TUF	RDAY	
Or							
Full subscription	(six	days)	for				months
Name							
Name		• • • • • •			• • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • •	••••••
Address			· · · · · · ·				
,							
••••••	•••••		• • • • • • •	.,,,,,,,	•••••		.,.,,,
A	mount e	enclos	ed £	s	d		