

U.S. government responsible for

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Their evidence shatters once and for all the myth, sustained by Brown, Stewart and all the other apologists for imperialism within the labour movement, that the massacres in Vietnam do not result from official US government policy.

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The men insist they were told that frequent resort to the most extreme forms of torture was necessary. The two lieutenants received their training in torture and assassination at a combat intelligence school at Fort Holabird, Baltimore.

'Kill orders'

Reitemeyer and Cohn were told at the school that one of their jobs as 'advisers' would be to supervise and pay 18 mercenaries, probably Chinese. The statement claimed the task of these hired killers was 'explicitly to find, capture and/or kill as many Vietcong and Vietcong sympathisers within a given number of small villages as was possible under the circumstances'.

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From the training camps in the United States to the paddy fields and villages of Vietnam, imperialism has constructed a chain of murder.

Lieutenants Reitemeyer and Cohn refused to become links in that blood-stained chain, and, after learning of the nature of their mission, registered as conscientious objectors.

They were discharged from the army.

Systematic

They were caught up in a machine that for sheer ruthlessness and calculated terror rivals the systematic elimination of the Jews by the Nazis in the last war. The commandants of the death camps at Auschwitz and Treblinka also had their 'kill quota' to fulfil, they also had their mercenaries who were instructed in the finer points of torture and mass killings.

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BY ROBERT BLACK

plays the same techniques of repression and brutalization whether it openly proclaims its goal of world domination and genocide, as under Hitler, or attempts to hide behind the mask of 'democracy' and 'freedom'.

When the Browns, the Stewarts and the others glorify the deeds of the US army in Vietnam, they help to perfect the weapons that will one day be turned against the US and British working class.

The 'training schools' of the United States—and for all we know, of Britain—are not only building a force to intimidate and crush the peoples of the semi-colonial world, though that, at present, is their most pressing task.

The capitalist class will one day need its mercenaries, its

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Jury 'inquiry' into Panther murders

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Anti-Semitism in Prague

JUDGING from the statements emanating from the Interior Ministry in Prague, it seems as if another version of the Slansky trial is being prepared by the new pro-Moscow regime.

Once more—as in 1952—the spectre of a 'Zionist conspiracy' is being evoked by leading members of the government.

This is aimed at besmirching the popular movement of workers, students and intellectuals, which overthrew the hated Novotny regime and installed the centrist Dubeck in power.

These preposterous charges were made by Bohumil Molnar in an interview with 'Svoboda', a Bohemian newspaper.

Molnar denounced the former head of the Slovak State Bank, Eugen Loeb, who was falsely implicated in the frame-up of Slansky, tortured and tried and given a life sentence—then later exonerated and made Director of the State Bank.

'Zionist' cells

Loeb, Molnar charged, had instigated Eduard Goldstuecker and Kamil Winter—two of the leading intellectuals in the 'January Revolt' of 1968.

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Two more S. Africa-U.K. deals

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'Incomes policy would continue to be based on statutory interference in collective bargaining,' complained the TUC General Council on Thursday.

It noticed that there was a marked disparity between the emphasis given to wages and salaries and that given to prices.

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By our science correspondent

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'The incident underlines the continual danger associated with the moving and storage of nerve gas.'

Sheep killed

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chemical warfare establishment—the British equivalent of Dugway—played a part in the recent outbreak of seal deaths along the Cornish coast.

Though an inquiry has concluded that the seal deaths were due to natural causes, many people are not convinced.

Menace

Nancekuke, like Dugway, is a menace not only to the lives and health of people living locally, but to the entire world.

The fiendish perversions of scientific knowledge, in which these centres specialize, are part of world capitalism's global preparations for war with the working class.

STOP WILSON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Scottish CP members sign petition

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The Clydeside full-time official W. Dougan also signed. The same petition has been signed by Pat Howden, AEF convenor of Sunbeam Electric, East Kilbride, and 25 signatures have been collected by Hamilton Young Socialists.

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'The massacres of Vietnamese peasants by the US army have once again revealed the barbarism of capitalism and the duplicity of its representatives in the British Labour Party. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all US troops and for the prevention of Wilson's Washington visit which signifies his support for Nixon.'

34 students at Warwick University have signed a similar petition, calling for the greatest mobilization of the labour and trade union movement to stop Wilson's visit. Eddie McCluskey, Coventry Trades Council President, chairman of shop stewards at Rootes Motors, Stoke, and a prominent member of the Communist Party, has also signed this petition.

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KEEP LEFT WEEKEND RALLY

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Saturday, January 10, 2.30 p.m.

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DANCE IN THE EVENING

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Special appearance

LONG JOHN BALDRY

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FILM MAKING AND THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Sunday, January 11 9.30 a.m.

CLASSIC CINEMA, POND STREET

HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, N.W.3

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FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM!

DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY JAN. 11

ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M.

MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.

MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M.

Details from 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4

Tickets for the whole weekend 12s 6d

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE
PUBLIC MEETING
Czechoslovakia, persecution of Soviet intellectuals and the Communist Party Congress
Monday Dec. 15, 8p.m.
HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL
John's Mews off Northington Street (nearest tube Chancery Lane)
Speaker: G. Healy (national secretary, Socialist Labour League)
Chairman: M. Banda (Editor, Workers Press)

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Different approach

The TUC, said Mr Victor Feather, had 'a different ap-

proach to the whole of the economic problem. 'We are asking for the government to change their policy towards economic growth'. 24.4 per cent, claimed an earlier TUC statement, was 'an unduly cautious estimate of the nation's productive potential'.

In other words, the trade union leaders would presumably be expected to accept wage restraint if it conformed to their own cock-eyed 6 per cent 'estimate of the nation's productive potential' and... if it were 'voluntary'.

Needless to say they have the full support of the 'Morning Star'.

Everyone knows, of course, that Mrs Castle's White Paper has nothing to do with the government's desire to see 'expansion without inflation' and a great deal to do with Wilson's proposed visit to Washington.

The Labour leaders are in pawn to Nixon and the US banks up to their eye-balls.

This is their end-of-term report. Mrs Castle has had the enthusiastic co-operation of the trade union leaders in preparing the productivity side of the balance-sheet. They even boast about it. The 'left' MPs have carried out no struggle against the government's main weapon in forcing through productivity deals... unemployment. Neither the TUC General Council, the Labour 'lefts' nor the Communist Party—which called in yesterday's 'Morning Star' merely for 'a campaign of active opposition'—are go-

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Czechoslovakia, persecution
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Monday Dec. 15, 8p.m.

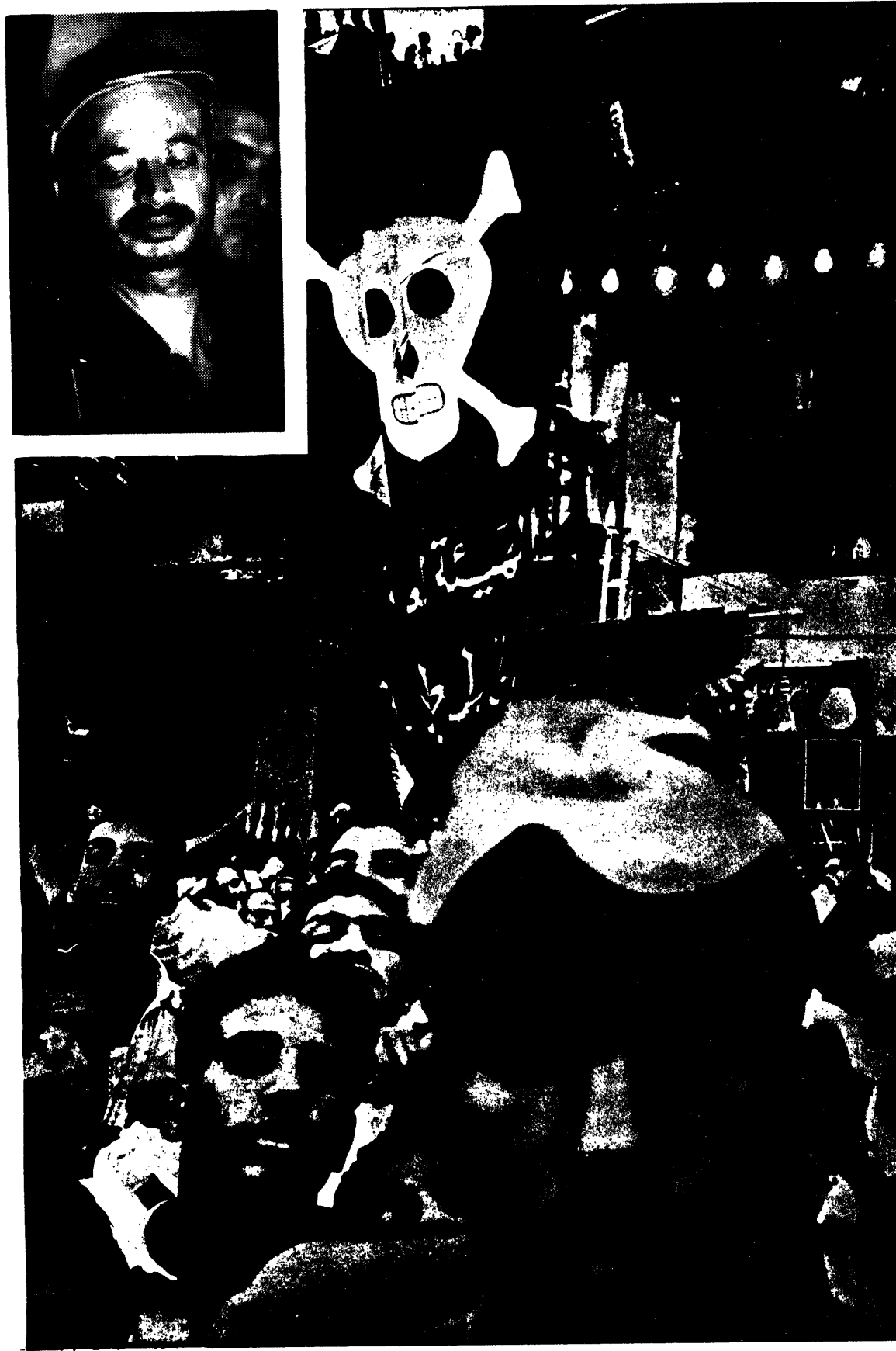
HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL
John's Mews off Northampton Street
(nearest tube Chancery Lane)

Speaker: G. Healy (national secretary, Socialist Labour League)

Chairman: M. Banda (Editor, Workers Press)

Palestine and the Arab revolution

BY CHARLES PARKINS - PART THREE



Top: The makeshift policy of Nasser's regime and his total lack of preparation allowed the Israelis to destroy most of the Egyptian Air Force before it even had a chance to take off. Below: The struggle of the Arab masses is restricted by those like Yasser Arafat, who go no farther than bourgeois nationalism.

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1967. In Tel Aviv, an Israeli spokesman claims that Egyptian tanks have begun moving into southern Israel. General Moshe Dayan, newly installed as Defence Minister, tells his troops: 'Soldiers of Israel! We have no aims of territorial conquest. Our sole aim is to bring to naught the attempt of the Arab countries to conquer our country...'

At the United Nations, the Israeli delegate gets to his feet to make a passionate denunciation of the United Arab Republic for its invasion.

In fact, of course, most of the Egyptian Air Force had been destroyed in Israeli bombing of the airfields, and Israeli forces were beginning their invasion of Arab territory.

General Hod, the Israeli Air Force Commander, was to go on record later as saying about the air strike:

'Sixteen years' planning had gone into those initial 80 minutes. We lived with the plan, we slept on the plan, we ate the plan. Constantly we perfected it.'

The planned nature of the Israeli aggression contrasted with the makeshift policy of Nasser's regime, and his total lack of preparation.

The Israeli commander-in-chief, Yitzhak Rabin, has acknowledged that there was no evidence that the Egyptian forces in Sinai were prepared for any offensive action.

On the morning that the Israeli planes attacked, the commanding officers of Egypt's air force were not available. They were recovering from an all-night party.

The masses had to suffer for the failure of their rulers.

Thousands of Egyptian soldiers, mostly raw, underfed fellahs torn from their villages and thrown into uniform, were captured by the Israelis, had their boots taken off them and were turned out into the desert without water.

The Palestinian people once again suffered the deliberate brutality of Zionist conquest.

On June 12, 1967, at the village of Zeita, about 30 miles north-west of Jerusalem:

'When all the villagers were assembled, Israeli guards climbed on to the nearest rooftops and trained their guns on the crowd. It was about 6.30 in the morning. No one was allowed to move and the villagers stayed where they were until 6 in the evening.

'No adult could go aside to relieve himself, no child could go and fetch a cup of water. While they sat there, Israeli soldiers carefully and systematically blew up 67 houses, including a school and a clinic maintained by the International Council of Churches' ('Sunday Times', June 16, 1968).

It was the same at Kalkilya, Beit Nuba, Yalu and other villages. For those who remained, a new period of brutal oppression had begun.

Inside Egypt, and elsewhere, part of the aftermath of the war was a new questioning by the Arab masses of the prestige and authority which the Nasser regime had been accorded.

The war held up a mirror to Egyptian society, and reflected in it were all the faults of the regime and the ruling class.

Nasser tried to find scapegoats for his regime. He blamed the army, arrested the air force officers, accused Field Marshal Amer of plotting against him.

In February 1968, mass demonstrations of workers and students took place; and from saying that the sentences on the air force officers were too lenient, the demonstrators went on to demand a new offensive against Zionism and reaction, coupled with political democratization within Egypt.

The students demanded the right to unions independent of the state.

What if the workers put the same demand?

Nasser and his colleagues must have regarded the situation as ominous; recalling how the defeat of 1948 had precipitated the downfall of Farouk in 1952, and the coup with which they had launched their own revolution.

Nasser might blame his officers, but as boss of the lot, the chief responsibility for Egyptian unpreparedness rested with Nasser himself.

As a matter of fact, on the eve of the war, when he visited the forces in Sinai, Nasser was frankly criticized for his hesitancy by a number



Israeli Air Force Commander Hod: '16 years of planning went into the first 80 minutes.'

of younger officers, who warned of the danger of an Israeli surprise attack and urged offensive action.

Nasser's failure was political. It was the failure of bourgeois nationalism, and the Bonapartist regime and neutralist politics which it created, which meant 'running with the hare and hunting with the hounds' regarding imperialism and the struggle against it.

Radio Amman was not far from the truth when it commented cynically on Nasser's demagoguery:

'We are used to hearing curses against America, and America's response to the curses by granting more loans, aid and wheat and surplus supplies.'

As Nasser's own spokesman, Mohammed Hasanein Heykal remarked:

'For Egypt, foreign policy is one of her largest investments.'

The more Egypt extended influence in the Arab region, the more demagogic anti-American speeches Nasser made, the more dollars might be extracted from the American imperialists.

What Nasser did not realize was that they were no longer playing the game. On the eve of the war, he was hoping that the US would restrain Israel.

In correspondence with Johnson he was urging that vice-president Humphrey visit the Middle East, while vice-president Zakariah Muhieddin would visit Washington.

The way in which Nasser has been prepared to seek diplomatic 'solutions' of the Palestine problem might seem in contradiction with some of his more militant speeches. On May 28, 1967, for example, he was quoted as saying, 'We will



Field Marshal Amer: Used as scapegoat for defeats of June war.

not accept any possibility of co-existence with Israel.'

However, the explanation given to Eric Rouleau of 'Le Monde' by an official of the Egyptian broadcasting service, just about sums it all up:

'We committed the mistake of connecting the microphones of Cairo broadcasting station together, so that Nasser was addressing the masses, and world public opinion at the same time.'

Palestinians wage their own struggle

For 20 years, as refugees in the camps or as an oppressed minority inside Israel, the Palestinian people suffered because of Zionist colonialism and because of the failure of the Arab governments, whether feudal or bourgeois, to smash Zionism.

The Palestinian guerrilla movement is an expression not only of the Palestinian masses' resistance to Zionist conquest, and their determination to liberate their homeland, but also of their determination to shape their own future independent of the demagoguery and double-dealing diplomacy of the Arab ruling classes.

In asserting this right for the masses, the Palestinian liberation movements arouse support from the mass of workers and peasants, and particularly the youth, in all the Arab countries.

If there was any tendency to demoralization after the debacle of June 1967, it has been offset by the guerrillas' successes.

In March, 1968, in the defence of the village of Karameh against Israeli attack, the guerrillas held out against tanks, aircraft and paratroops and inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli forces sufficient to defeat the object of the attack.

This resolute stand not only restored Arab confidence, it helped to transfer it from the governments to the guerrillas.

In November, 1968, when the Jordanian government sent forces to Wahdad refugee camp to suppress the guerrilla organizations, the refugee youth rallied to stand by the guerrillas against Hussein's forces.

In Lebanon, workers and students took strike action and came on to the streets to oppose the government when it moved against the guerrillas.

The Lebanese government's repressive moves were in line with those taken by other Arab governments such as the Iraq regime, to assert their authority by restricting the Palestinian movements and attempting to enforce their subordination to the governments.

These governments were joined by Nasser in securing a deal for the Lebanese authorities.

There is evidence that US imperialism was pressing for moves to be taken against the Palestinians.

Shortly before the attack was launched on the guerrillas, the US government had expressed concern about Lebanon's 'territorial integrity' being respected.

The Economist on October 25 commented that the US statement 'has been generally interpreted by a hostile Arab world as a blast at the Palestinian commandos—and as an encouragement to the Lebanese, and other governments, to take action against them.'

Knowing the resources and methods of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), it would not have been beyond them to have initiated the attack on the guerrillas themselves via contacts in the Lebanese army establishment.

Palestinian leaderships

To some extent, the Palestinian leaders have shown recognition of the line-up of forces. In August last year, Hassarein Heykal, editor of 'Al Ahran', generally regarded as a mouthpiece for Nasser, published an editorial praising the courage of a Palestinian commando. An Al Fatah leader remarked:

'Look carefully at this article. On the surface it is a sentimental eulogy to our cause, but this is simply for the masses to show that Egypt is 100 per cent behind the Palestinian resistance.'

If you look further on you will see that Heykal is arguing that the Palestinian resistance is secondary in importance to the Arab governmental policy. If this policy is to wait indefinitely for the Arab states to prepare for a new confrontation, then we must wait; if they accept an expedient diplomatic solution that requires us to stop our operations "temporarily", then we must stop. We do not accept Mr Heykal's ideas. We are directing the liberation struggle, not the Egyptian government; these governments will work for us because they know that their people support us' (Quoted by M. Hudson, 'Middle East Journal', Summer 1969).

Following the agreement

with the Lebanese government, a statement by the largest of the guerrilla movements, 'Al Fatah', claims that:

'Most of the points agreed upon by the Palestinian and Lebanese representatives in Cairo follow the pattern drawn up by the Palestine Revolution.'

It goes on to say:

'Our struggle against the Zionist enemy is a common one and no doubt our valiant brothers the Lebanese masses will act as a bastion to protect our Revolution and will ensure its continuity' (Al Fatah statement, published in 'Free Palestine', November 1969).

In effect, this is acknowledging that the Cairo agreement was a compromise, open to interpretation, and that the way it is actually implemented will be decided by the balance of class forces in the Lebanon.

However, in the next sentence, the Al Fatah statement says:

'Unlike our previous agreement with the Lebanese



Arab refugees ousted from their homes after the June war work on a new road to Kallia.

authorities, this present agreement has been guaranteed by official Arab third parties, who will supervise its interpretation.'

So it seems from this that Al Fatah is swinging between reliance on the masses and reliance on Arab governments, and avoiding a real analysis of the role of these governments. This may also reflect differences between various elements within Al Fatah.

The Al Fatah movement, while insisting on the independence of the Palestinian struggle, also insists that the Palestinians must concentrate on their own struggle to the exclusion of other struggles in the region, and in this way it observes the connection between the struggle against Zionism and the struggles against imperialism and Arab reaction.

Interviewed in 'Free Palestine', August 1969 issue, Yasser Arafat (also known as Abu Amar) stated:

'We will not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab country that will not in its turn put obstacles in the way of our Revolution or threaten its continuation.'

Not only has Al Fatah not gone further than bourgeois

nationalism, it has declared for neutrality, indifference, between 'progressive' bourgeois nationalist states and pro-imperialist feudal reactionaries such as the Saudi Arabian monarchy.

It is asking for support from the masses, yet not aligning with their struggles.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contribute money to Al Fatah, but these states are as much allies of imperialism as Israel is.

The reactionaries are prepared to make demagogic play with the Palestine issue so long as they can use it as a diversion from the class struggle in their own countries.

This fakery was exposed, to cite one example, when King Feisal of Saudi Arabia used the argument of unity against Zionism to call for support for his 'Islamic Alliance'.

This alliance included Persia, which has been Israel's chief source of oil!

The recent Saudi Arabian provocations on the frontier with the South Yemeni republic, following that country's nationalization of British companies, are conspicuously reminiscent of the sort of aggressive acts that Israel has carried out on behalf of imperialism.

Certain upholders of imperialism, both in the Tory and Labour Parties, have been expressing sympathy for the Palestinians.

No one should be taken in by these people. They had very little to say when British troops were brutally repressing

the people in the occupied South Yemen.

They are chiefly interested, behind their 'humanitarianism', in revivifying the old alliance between the Foreign Office and Arab reactionaries.

In an article praising Al Fatah in the 'Sunday Times' on November 30, former Tory Foreign Minister Anthony Nutting says:

'... the PLO as a whole accept Al Fatah's rule that interference in the affairs of the "host" countries should be avoided, and that, until liberation is achieved, ideological differences should be put aside. Arafat himself enjoys a close relationship with King Hussein and other Arab rulers of every political colour. And, from what King Hussein told me in Amman on this visit, whatever misgivings the Resistance may still have about other leading Jordanians, he personally now seems deeply committed to supporting the Palestinians, if only out of despair of Israel ever agreeing to withdraw from the occupying territories' (Our emphasis).

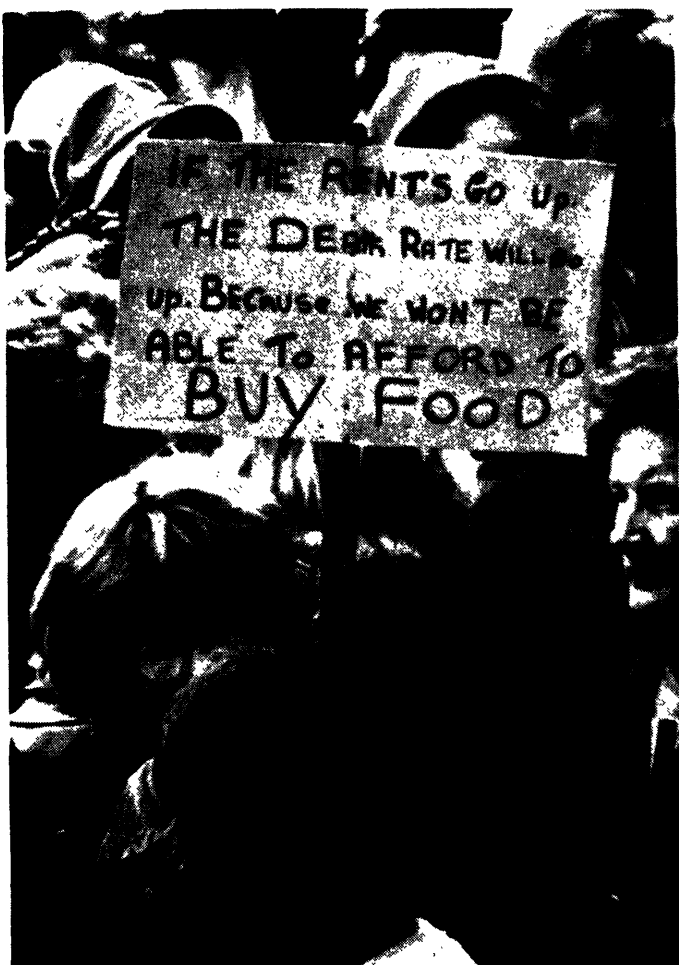
So Hussein has become 'converted' to the guerrillas' cause, only because he wants the Israelis to withdraw from the West Bank, but to smash the



Arab arrested by Israeli police in Tel-Aviv. Since the invasion every Arab is automatically a target for police persecution.

EGYPTIANS RETURN HOME AFTER MOSCOW TALKS

THE top-level Egyptian delegation which has spent the last three days in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders left for home yesterday. During the last session of the talks, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met his Egyptian opposite number Mahmoud Riad in a final attempt to agree on a joint approach to the Middle-East crisis.



A young tenant demonstrator makes a telling point.

Rent and fares attack on West Midlands workers

PROPOSED bus fare rises and increases in rents in Birmingham and district will be the latest blows aimed at the standard of living of working class families in the West Midlands.

Under the proposals of the West Midlands Transport Authority, fares will increase in the new year by up to 3d.

The recently-introduced 6d. fare, a rationalization of the 4d. and 8d. fares, will go up to 9d.—an increase of over 100 per cent in the cost of a journey previously costing 4d.

There is already a great deal of resentment over the erosion of the standard of living, particularly amongst council tenants, who are in for some real attacks in 1970, if the local councils have their way.

IN BIRMINGHAM an average increase of 7s. 6d. will come into force on February 23. Some families will have increased rents of 10s. or even more.

Rent of a pre-war non-

parlour house, at present £3 2s. 7d. will go up to £3 10s. 7d., an 8s. increase.

Families in three-bedroomed post-war houses, at present paying £3 15s. d., will now have to pay £4 4s. 2d., a 9s. rise.

9s. will also go on two-bedroomed post-war flats.

Announcing the rises—the sixth in four years—on December 4, 37-year-old Anthony Beaumont Dark, Tory Housing Committee chairman, explained that he was 'deeply sorry that there has to be these increases, but we have to face up to reality'.

Reality

The reality referred to by Alderman Dark is that in the next two or three years, Birmingham Corporation will have to repay seven-year loans of over £20 million borrowed between 1962 and 1964 at interest rates of 24, 34 and 44 per cent.

To pay back these loans, further sums must be borrowed at rates of nearly 10 per cent.

'Alderman Dark said that if the minister did not see his way clear to keeping the spirit of the government's intention that housing money should cost 4 per cent, the housing account would have to be looked at again for another potential increase in six months' time' ('Evening Mail', December 4).

In other words, another massive increase after six months and we can blame it all on the Labour government!

The cynical election 'promises' of the Labour leaders of 3 per cent mortgages and 4 per cent interest rates—broken long ago—are used by the Tories to attack the working class.

Dark commented 'We are gambling on the fact that the government will keep the spirit of its intentions... when interest rates do begin to fall the rents could be decreased'.

With the government pledged to repay £300 million each year for the next ten years to the international bankers, he must know there is little chance of such a 'gamble' paying off.

Possible deficit

IT IS much the same story in STAFFORD where 5,500 tenants face increases ranging from 4s. 8d. to 10s. 10d. a week from April 27.

A deficit of £82,271, largely through increased interest rates, would have to be faced if the increases were not made, said Alderman C. H. Merrey on Wednesday, December 3.

ON THE same day, increased rents for 27,000 council tenants in DUDLEY were detailed by the Housing Committee chairman.

The rises are of similar amounts to those at Stafford and come into effect from April 6. The spectre of interest rates was raised by councillors—Labour and Tory.

The total debt on the Housing Revenue Account is £35 million and a one per cent increase in interest rate meant finding an additional £350,000, explained the mathematically-minded chairman.

Interest rates over the past 12 months had risen from 7½ per cent to 10½ per cent. The Dudley rises come just nine months after an increase ranging from 3s. 8d. to 10s. earlier this year.

Families living in three-bedroom pre-war houses will now pay an extra 8s. 10d., whilst the increase for a three-bedroom post-war house will be 9s. 8d. a week.

Although Labour apparently has a majority on the Dudley Council, only a number of Labour councillors were reported as voting against the rises, which were approved at the council meeting.

One Labour alderman pointed out that £3,390 had just been paid for a new civic car, and the council had recently sold some land which he felt would 'cushion' the rises.

Another Labour alderman

WEATHER

Weather for 24 hours from Friday noon: London, SE and Central Southern England, East Midlands: Occasional rain at first. Becoming mostly dry with variable cloud. Fog patches overnight. Wind variable, light, increasing south, moderate. Normal. Maximum 7C (45F). West Midlands, Channel Islands, SW, NW and Central Northern England, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Bright intervals at first. Increasing

blamed 'manipulation by financiers' for the high interest rates.

All these local Labour leaders avoid responsibility for taking up a fight to remove the Labour leadership, which, by refusing to make the employers and the bankers pay for their economic crisis, opens the way to the Tories and worse attacks on the working class.

Feeble protest

The feeble protest by Birmingham Labour MPs at the House of Commons on the day that the increases were announced must meet with a sharp rebuke from their constituents.

In their statement, the MPs, led by Julius Silverman (Aston), and Christopher Price (Perry Barr), call for a 'full examination' of the efficiency of the Tory housing administration.

But nothing is said about the 'efficiency' with which their own Party leaders are making the working class pay for the economic difficulties of capitalism.

Instead, they propose to 'urge' Housing Minister Anthony Greenwood to stop the increases, if they prove 'substantial'.

Greenwood, of course, has already approved a 7s. 6d. 'norm' for increases, which is being manipulated by the local councils so that the average rise is 7s. 6d., though some families may pay up to 2s. 6d. above this.

The Labour MPs also put forward the reactionary policy of increasing Birmingham rates.

We have already pointed out in the Workers Press that this will not solve the problem of interest rates and will only drive a wedge between council tenants and workers living in privately-owned houses.



Housing in Smethwick, near Birmingham.

Jones intervenes in Jan. 1 strike

ONE man of whom it should never be said that he is not a democrat is Mr Jack Jones. More than a belief in democracy, however, is going to be required if Britain's 70,000 municipal busmen are going to win the 10 per cent wage claim Jones has submitted on their behalf. Considerably more.

Mr Jones, who is general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, always likes to give everybody the benefit of having his say. So when it appeared that some 28,000 of his members were planning to go on strike on January 1, it was only natural that this benefit should be conferred on... Mr Fred Mulley, Mr Desmond Plummer and Sir Richard Way.

Wasn't it? Mulley is, after all, the Labour government's Minister of Transport. Way is, after all, the new chairman of the London Transport Board and Plummer is, after all, Tory

leader of the Greater London Council. As the busmen are protesting against cuts threatened when the GLC takes over London Transport on January 1 these are obviously the people who matter.

Are they? Mr Jones' concern is, of course, all for the public good. 'We want', he said yesterday 'to discuss the serious crisis in bus transport... in some areas of London there has been a virtual collapse of public transport due to inefficient management and over-emphasis on economy instead of providing an adequate public service'.

If this is the case surely Mr Jones should be calling mass meetings of his members to discuss the threatened further cuts; the fight against speed-up, productivity deals and redundancies; the struggle for a decent living wage.

Similarly with national T&GWU bus secretary Mr Alan Thomson. Mr Thomson apparently thinks that the municipal men have simply to argue that there is no reason why the busmen's claim should not be granted, on the basis of increases paid to other sections of low-paid workers, and the employers will cave in. He is wrong.

None of these issues, of course, can really be solved outside the battle for workers' control of public transport and the nationalization of the basic industries in order to direct funds towards the public services.

Is this why no such meetings have been called?

By a Workers Press correspondent

THE METHODS of 'struggle' proposed by the Tenants' Action Group in WARLEY, where increases averaging 7s. 6d. are proposed for 26,000 tenants, must also be rejected.

The group is calling for a boycott of local Labour clubs in Rowley Regis, Oldbury and Smethwick to 'put pressure' on the Labour government to reduce interest rates.

Whilst correctly seeing the government as the chief instigator of the standard of the standard of living, this is not the kind of programme which will shift Greenwood and Wilson.

The 'grass roots' Labour Parties and clubs have in many areas been long ago 'boycotted' by members feeling betrayed by Wilson.

But this has had no effect on the policies of the government, which is tied hand and foot to the dictates of the international financiers.

What is required is a fight inside and outside the Labour Party to remove Wilson and his cabinet and implement socialist policy for the crisis.

The rent increases will not go to improve the standard of accommodation for tenants, many of whom are being forced to rent slums from the council.

The cash will go straight into the pockets of the money-lenders.

The only answer to the rent increases is the immediate suspension of interest payments, and the instigation of a socialist housing policy, with the construction industry and land nationalized under workers' control.

This must go alongside the bringing under state ownership of all building societies, banks and insurance companies.

The fight to achieve this demands the building of an alternative socialist leadership in the working class.

The fight against rent increases is closely linked to the present struggle in the Midlands factories, a great number of which are connected to the motor industry.

The big financiers who pull the strings to make Wilson jump and who are the ones who gain from rent increases are also behind the attacks being mounted against wages and conditions in the factories.

Tenants' committees must seek the support of the shop stewards' committees and trade union branches in this fight.

Council tenants, ratepayers, factory workers and busmen are all engaged in a common struggle.

MEET MR. LOLLIPOP IN LEEDS TODAY



at the Young Socialists GRAND XMAS BAZAAR Saturday December 13 CORN EXCHANGE LEEDS

Doors open 12 noon

PONTYPOOL

Mixed reaction to new ICI deal

LEADERS of 3,500 production workers at ICI Fibres, Pontypool, are divided in their reaction to the new productivity deal being introduced by the company at their factory and throughout the combine.

But at least 12 months will be needed before the consequences of the new 'Weekly Staff Agreement' will become apparent, they told Workers Press reporters this week.

From our own correspondent

a steward re-negotiating a bonus rate for the job and this was easier,' said Mr Jackson.

Less strength

'In other words I think that under WSA the shop floor has less strength and less manoeuvrability.

'As far as taking more responsibility, and being treated as staff is concerned, I think that's just "window-dressing"—to make us accept the productivity deal.

'Some supervisory jobs have been abolished under this plan. The job itself disciplines the worker. All work is measured down to the last second.'

'As in all productivity schemes WSA offers certain immediate advantages to the workers. But ICI have introduced the deal solely to raise productivity.

In this case, the 25 per cent increase is expected within a year.

Costs slashed

Administrative and supervisory costs have been slashed and the new output is only being achieved on the basis of work speed-up and breaking down job-demarcations.

Workers must consider two things. First: would they have done better under the old system? Second: if demand for ICI products slumps, will the company's current benevolent attitude change to a tougher line on grading, and will their promise of no redundancies still hold true?

Critics

There are, however, strong critics of the scheme on the T&GWU Fibres Committee.

'Traditional bargaining methods are better. This new scheme of total involvement from the shop floor means that the management gets more out of the worker by making him believe he is taking more responsibility,' said Mr Don Jackson.

'Once a deal like this has been signed, there is nothing we can do for 12 months. If within that time any department wants a wage increase by moving up a grade everything has to go back into the melting-pot and the management has to be given proof that the job should be regraded.

'This is a difficult and complicated thing for workers to do.

'Before it was just a case of

'Phoney war'

FROM PAGE ONE

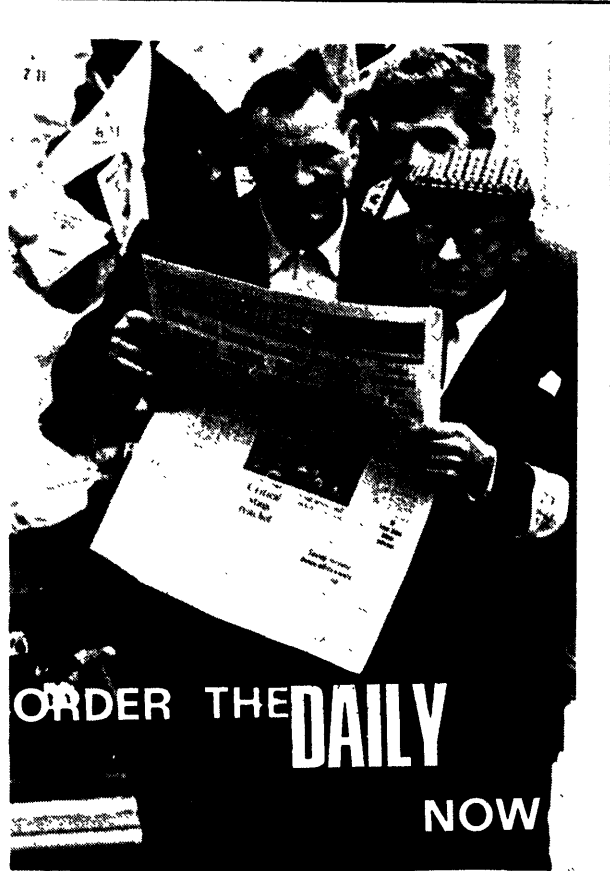
ing to lead a principled fight to clear out all forms of state intervention against the trade unions.

Forced into opposition to the Labour leaders by the movement of the working class, they remain there only in order to confuse.

Equally treacherous

The Communist Party, for instance, is quite able to square advice that trade unionists should 'campaign with all their strength to get the White Paper rejected and made inoperable' with demands that Wilson 'speak for Britain' on Vietnam when he visits Nixon in January.

In both cases it is equally treacherous.



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Vietnam

FROM PAGE ONE

fascist gangs, strike-breakers and killers in the most decisive war of all—against the working class at home. The mercenaries and those that train them today are the potential fascists and union-smashers of tomorrow.

Hitler began by baiting and attacking the Jews, but ended up by terrorizing and smashing the entire German and European labour movement on behalf of the employers.

That is why working-class solidarity with the Vietnamese people is so urgent. In essence we are fighting the same battle against the same enemy—world imperialism.

These new revelations must serve as an added political spur in our campaign to stop the Wilson trip to Washington.

The British labour movement cannot in any way be identified with the leader of the system that instructs its soldiers to maintain their 'kill quotas'.

The bodies they are instructed to produce belong to the same class as ourselves.

No trade unionist, Labour or Communist Party member or socialist can abstain on the issue of Wilson's visit.

If they do, they are, in fact, helping to dig the graves not only of the workers and peasants of Vietnam today, but the British working class in the future.

That was the depth of the betrayal by the German social democrats before the war. We must not allow them to take the same road here.

Radiators men stand firm against speed-up

TWO HUNDRED press operators at Coventry Radiators have decided to continue their three-week strike over suspensions and will be meeting again next Thursday.

The strike, against management attempts to introduce arbitrary speed-up under the terms of a new productivity deal, has seriously hit production at the factory and is now affecting other firms in the Midlands area.

In a statement to the 'Coventry Evening Telegraph', managing director Mr H. W. Raine said that however serious the position is, he is not prepared to give way. He said:

'We must stand firm because we believe we have a fair agreement freely negotiated...'

In the same paper on December 5, Raine launched a witch-hunt against the Radiators strikers with his

totally unfounded claim that 'Trotskyist activity is behind industrial unrest at the factory'.

But, as workers pointed out at the time (see Wednesday's Workers Press), the strike is due to the company's own actions.

Slippery slope

Replying to Raine's latest outburst, Radiators' convenor George Anderson said:

'Mr Raine is prepared to stand firm. He should examine his foundations, which are on a slippery slope. If he is so sure of his side of the story, then I am prepared to publicly debate this with him—in front of TV cameras if necessary.'

This statement could create considerable confusion. The strikers are not involved in a debate with Raine, or his company.

As the strikers' financial appeal to trade unionists says: 'We appeal for the support of all trade unionists in our just struggle. The attack on our conditions is management's attempt to make us work at arbitrary and excessive speeds.'

'It is an attack not only on us, but on all organized workers in the country.' The strike has yet to be made official.

LIBYA CABINET MINISTERS FACE MILITARY TRIAL

THE TWO Libyan Cabinet Ministers accused of plotting to overthrow the new military regime are to be brought before a court martial, it was announced in Tripoli yesterday.

Defence Minister Adam Al-Hawas and Minister of the Interior Moussa Ahmad, both Lieutenant-Colonels, face possible death sentences under a new law issued on Thursday, which also set up the three-man court that will try them.

No mercy

Chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council Colonel Muammar Gaddafi said: 'There will be no mercy for the traitors.'

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GREET WORKERS PRESS



at public meetings

See the film of the first issue being prepared and printed and the film 'Young Socialists, 1969'

LIVERPOOL

Sunday, December 14, 7.30 p.m. Shaftesbury Hotel, Mount Pleasant

SHEFFIELD

Sunday December 21, 7.30 p.m. Industries Exhibition Centre Carver Street (behind City Hall)

Speakers

MIKE BANDA (Editor of Workers' Press) SHEILA TORRANCE (National Secretary of the Young Socialists)