

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

VOLIO NO.6

JUNE 1986

25P

JOBS ON THE LINE

HOW MANY

MORE MUST GG?



The month of May saw announcements of cuts in jobs on the railways, in shipbuilding, in the mines... The catalogue of disaster goes on. Disaster for individuals, and for whole families. Behind the bald statistics are as many stories of poverty, deprivation and degradation.

3,325,048

This is the official unemployment figure. Add to that, the unemployed who are not registered: the single parents, married women, those on temporary so-called training schemes and 'special' projects. Four and a half million would be an underestimate.

And life on the dole, life on benefit gets worse. Benefits are to be hit again: lodgings allowances, single payments, mortgage interest payments, industrial injuries benefit - all these and more - are due for the axe.

In May, British Rail first cut 400 jobs in the parcels service. This was quickly followed by a bigger blow. British Rail Engineering and maintenance depots are to lose another 7,650 jobs. Over 30,000 have already gone in the workshops in the last six years. By the end of

PAGES 2&3

the decade, there will be about 17,000 jobs left.

British Shipbuilders has announced another 3,500 redundances throwing people out of work from Scotland to Devon. In Middlesborough alone, 1,295 jobs are to go. The 'knock-on' effect will hit even more. At least 5,000 more people in Middlesborough will lose their livelihood in related industries.

British Caledonian, the second biggest airline in Britain, declared another 1,000 sackings on May 15th.

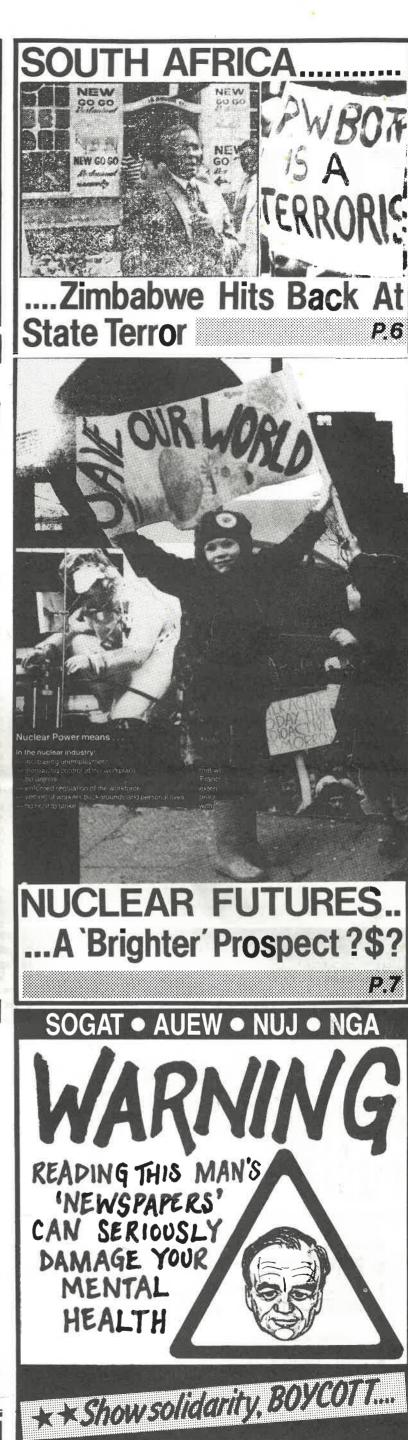
The closure of the coal pits continue, confirming the predictions (scorned at the time by the media), of the leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers. Since the end of the coal strike 34,500 jobs have been lost already and another 4,000 were announced in Yorkshire alone at the end of May.

FIGHT BACK

And does all this not confirm how right the miners were to fight pit closures? Does it not prove that the miners' heroic resistance was a demonstration to the whole of the working class that there is only one possible course to take. Despite the solidarity shown at the time by many sections of the working class, by the national minorities and by people in other countries, the miners never received the support they deserved from the working class as a whole, nor

CONTINUED ON P.3.

Trade Union Struggle



THE SUN, NEWS OF THE WORLD,

TIMES AND SUNDAY TIMES

1

CLASS STRUGGLE TETTERS

South Africa's raids on Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana have shown yet again that it cannot change its spots. The week of Africa Liberation Day - May 25th - the racist regime lashed out in the most vicious manner, proving, once more, that there is no room for real reform in South Africa. The white minority will never concede black majority rule voluntarily.



Even the cosmetic changes Botha's racist government has made to some of the most obnoxious legislation has led to a white 'backlash'. Only three days after the raids against the frontline states, the swastika-like emblem of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement was raised as they smashed up a meeting of the ruling National Party due to be addressed by the Foreign Minister, Potha.

The black majority on the other hand, will accept nothing less than full national and democratic rights. That is an end to white rule. Attempts by the racist regime to use a section of the black population against the liberation struggle have been stepped up with the use of black vigilators, backed by police, to attack the with the use of black vigilantes, backed by police, to attack the squatter camp at Crossroads. But the inevitable failure of all this is demonstrated by the success already achieved by black militants in the townships in driving cut the black police and councils. To pretend that there can be a 'diplomatic solution', a perceful settlement agreeable to both the black majority and the white minority is clearly ludicrous.

And yet this is what Thatcher, like Reagan, is continuing to claim. Having opposed mendatory sanctions at the Commonwealth Conference, Thatcher finally agreed to a compromise statement that diplomatic methods should be tried before a joint economic boycott was considered. Accordingly, a Commonwealth team has been in South Africa, which to its credit has been ready to meet all the liberation movements.

The team was forced to leave when the raids tock place. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Shridath Ramphal, has since said: "South Africa has declared war against peace Pretoria is giving its answer in the most brutally orchestrated manner to our efforts to end apartheid through peaceful means What more do Western countries need to disengage from South Africa and ostracise it from human society in both political and economic terms."

British imperialism has too much at stake to do so. It feeds itself from human misery. But the pressure must rise, and the struggle to defeat imperialism, not only in Azania, but throughout the world, will continue to grow, whatever brutal reprisals the imperialists and the racists are ready to take.



We print below two further contributions to the debate cn the nature of the unions and how, as communists, we should work within them. Although the second letter was not written as a reply to the first, we think it takes up the essential points and 'Class Struggle' supports the views expressed

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter from a London reader in May 'Class Struggle', on the subject of trade unions, I would like to share a personal experience which occurred while I was a social worker and a member of Birmingham NALGO.

STRIKE AGAINST CUTS

October 1982, three Birmingham social workers were sacked for refusing to cooperate with a survey by Price Waterhouse Ltd., which was aimed at cuts in services and man-power. It was NALGO's policy that we should not cooperate with this survey.

On the day they were sacked, all 9,500 members of NALGO's Birmingham Branch walked out of their various places of work and congregrated in the streets. The local union leadership sent them all back to work except the workers in the Social Services Dept., about 600 Services Dept., about 600 people. Most of those in the people. Most of those in the Social Services Dept went on strike.

For the next three weeks, we who were on strike, had one aim: to take our struggle to the Birmingham branch and get all 9,500 members out on strike in support of their colleagues who were sacked upholding their policy. At every turn we were prevented from doing so by the local NALGO leadership.

When the leadership realised they could not longer avoid calling a branch meeting, they negotiated a secret deal with the employers: that the three sacked workers would be reinstated and NALGO would give full co-operation to the survey. The leadership attempted to reverse NALGO policy without any discussion with the membership. We who were on strike rejected this deal and insisted on a branch meeting.

When the branch meeting finally took place, it was so badly organised and so badly chaired that nobody knew what they were voting for. The outcome was that the sacked workers were reinstated, the strikers went back to work, and NALGO's policy was changed to co-operation with the survey.

NALGO LEADERSHIP'S TRUE COLOURS

The local NALGO leadership had shown its true colours. Rather than support their members who were sacked implementing their policy, they changed their policy. They pledged full co-operation to the employers whose plan was to cut services and jobs.

Sid Platt, the full-time NALGO official who led the union in this capitulation to the employers, is now Regional Chairman of the West Midlands

CLASS SOLIDARITY?

The other thing I would like to say about Birmingham NALGO is the amount of money they gave the miners during the miners' strike. They gave £100.

There are 9,500 NALGO members in Birmingham. If they had each given £1, that would have made £9,500. But instead, they gave £100. Their fellow trade unionists were fighting for their jobs, their communities and their lives. Their benefits were cut and their children were going hungry. And my union branch gave them £100! So much for trade union solidarity!

Do we seriously expect trade unions to support the struggles of the oppressed? They don't even support their own members. They don't even colleagues and their fellow workers. I would guess that Birmingham NALGC is not very different from a lot of trade color branches. Your 'Class said They don't even support their Struggle' correspondent said they won't march peacefully for Baba Bakhtaura. They didn't even march peacefully for May

The trade unions are sexist, racist and pro-imperialist, like the Labour Party they support. I do not see how this can be changed from within, any more than the Labour Party can be

TOTAL

changed by joining it. There are undoubtedly genuine revolutionaries within the unions, but the unions themselves are reactionary and the partybuilding organisation will be built despite them.

Another Birmingham reader.

Dear Editor,

A 'Class Struggle' reader writes: "The type of trade unions in Britain today hold back the development of revolutionary politics". (See April, 'Class Struggle': Ed.)

But the nature of unions has not changed: tactics might alter in line with the economic climate but essentially as negotiating bodies they are characterised by a conciliatory nature. The means to reach a deal may require militant, lawbreaking tactics and pressure group lobbying of governments is undertaken as trade unions are forced into political battles against state legislation. But trade unions favour conciliation in the corridors of power: mainly close relations with Labour's administration. They offer control of a workforce. However the trade union leadership cannot always deliver, as evidenced by the workers' revolt against Stage Three of the Social Contract that forced Labour out in 1979. That acts both ways as T&G drivers cross the mass pickets at Wapping in direct opposition to their union's instructions.

Today's unions reflect by and large the positions of their members, as February's article recognises: "Other unions and union members are collaborating with Murdoch"; and that it is not "simply a question of betrayal by union leaderships". Demoralisation has set in: commonsense acceptance of the "new realism" against mass unemployment expresses traditional deferential paternalism that has infected too many

REFORMISM

Trade union structures may reek of reformism and opportunism

AGITATE, EDUCATE, ORGANISE

This month we are repeating our appeal for money to support 'Class Struggle'. As we said last month, producing a good Marxist-Leninist paper at a price people can afford necessarily means the paper is subsidised. We believe that the paper has a key role to play as a collective organiser and appeal to you to do what you can to support it. Write letters and articles Sell the paper And also and articles. Sell the paper. And also raise ancure money to can continue to publish 'Class Struggle' on a regular basis.

February and March saw a good start to the RCL's fund-raising campaign. But in April and May, we have not even reached the modest targets set. The total amount collected to date is £456 as opposed to the target amount of £575. We know that it is not easy to raise money at the present time, but call on all our readers to do what they can to ensure that in June we catch up and reach our target. Any donation,

 $\triangle \triangle \triangle \triangle \triangle \triangle$

FEBRUARY £150 MARCH RUGGLE £150 **APRIL** £75 MAY 'C,S.' JUNE JULY

Political Paper of the Revolutionary Communist Lea SUBSCRIPTION RATES Britain: £2.60 - 6 issues £5.20 - 12 issues.

Overseas: £4.00 - 6 issues £8.00 - 12 issues. I wish to subscribe to 'Class Struggle':

(Please make our cheques to 'New Age' and send to 'Class Struggle', c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4 3NG.)



THE POLITICAL AND THEORETICAL THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE Issue No.3 contains:

RCL Policy Statement adopted at pre-Congress Conference Critique of RCG's 'Racism, Imperialism and the Working Class'

Interview with Maqbool Butt pub. in English for the first time.

'October' No.3 costs 70p (plus 25p P&P) from New Era Books. It will appear more regularly from now on.

but communists must be organised and organising to raise the political level as the inevitable class confrontation does not give rise to spontaneous recognition of class interest, class unity and collective resistance. Those lessons are resistance. Those lessons are a protracted struggle. We must fight for the greatest resistance to attacks upon the working class and national minorities while recognising that a general offensive is not feasible right

In our activity, we draw lines demarcation between the theory and practice of others, and concretely show the limit-We are ations of reformism. in a period of revolutionary education, that must be combined wherever possible with mass consolidating action, winning the few to a conscious class position.

> CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS AND TRADE UNION CONSCIOUSNESS

Defence of union rights go handin-hand with attempts to trans-form unions, to build up rank and file pressure and accountability. Communists cannot be bureaucratic cog-wheels in unions, sucked into procedure politics, but must use the unions, its activities and failings, to educate, agitate and organise. Ours is a period of limited gains, few victories: a period of preparation and building, not a period of offensives. That can only come with a change in the working class - not wishful Perpetuating the thinking. existing compromise and defeatism is not the task of communists in any organisation. Challenging the cynics, those who offer undermining Labour's pie-in-the-sky electorpromises, encouraging the spirit of resistance, educating those most receptive. limited but necessary tasks take place within the existing trade union movement, warts and all. As February's editorial states: "Until class consciousness replaces trade union conscious-ness, whether it is 'militant' or 'moderate' the working class has no real weapons to fight

A London reader:

JOBS ON THE LINE (CONT,D.)

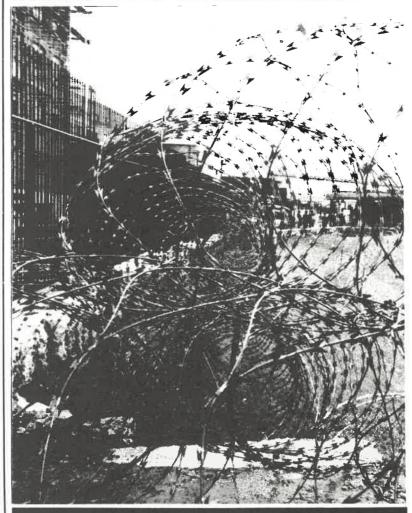
from the leaders of other trade unions who denounced them, or dithered, or sent messages of support and donations, but did virtually nothing to build real solidarity.

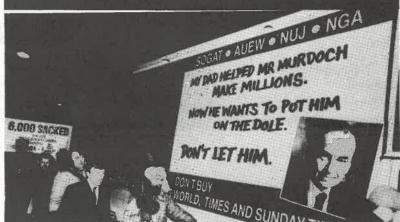
Does it not show that the printworkers sacked by Murdoch have no choice but to continue the most active resistance to the vicious attacks that they face?

However no section of the class can take on and win this fight in isolation. There needs to be a united response to take on not only their own boss, whether it is Rupert Murdoch, the National Coal Board or British Rail but also to fight for the interests of the whole class to make the rich - the banks, the big companies and boards and their supporters pay for their crisis.



WAPPING





'Class Struggle' correspondent.

Fierce confrontations took place at Wapping every Saturday in May as police violence against pickets grew. The violence did not just take place on the picket lines either. Eyewitnesses at the pickets on May 3rd, when nearly a hundred people were arrested, say that they saw many of those taken by the police in good shape at Wapping, yet when they arrived at Central London police stations, they were bleeding and had been badly beaten.

Many people have made comparisons between this struggle and the miners' strike. The most obvious similarities lie in the behaviour and tactics of the police, in the rallying of many local people in support of the workers in dispute with News International and in the determination of thousands of sacked printworkers to go on fighting for their jobs month in and month out.

But there are also important differences. The great majority of support groups are localised in London, so that the campaign to urge people all over Britain not to buy Murdoch's publications has hardly reached many areas. There is less public support for the printworkers than there was for the miners, because many progressive people feel less prepared to give their backing to workers who have printed the kind of racist, sexist, anti-working class rubbish which appears in 'The Sun' every day and got paid well for it.

The leaders of the print unions have proved less determined to fight and win than the National Union of Mineworkers leadership was. Finally, Murdoch's News International is a real international monopoly which has great resources in other countries, especially Australia, to draw upon in order to sit out the struggle here.

OVERCOMING DISADVANTAGES

Some of these problems can be tackled to a certain extent now. For example, printworkers have done a lot to spread action against Murdoch themselves by means of organising pickets at various depots outside London from which News International papers are distributed, and by means such as leafletting passengers going through the major London stations on their way to other areas.

problems highlight the need for longer term changes in working class organisation.

The print unions' leaders have put up something of a fight. But they have a real social democratic tendency to compromise when the pressure is on, even though their members are ready to stand firm. SOGAT has purged its contempt of court to get its funds released which involved withdrawing its call to members to refuse to distribute Murdoch papers; yet at the same time, it is still distributing leaflets calling on the public not to buy those papers. In the long run, the building of an independent class struggle wing in the unions is needed which will fight the right, rally the militants and unite with the union leaderships to the extent that they fight for their members' interests and those of the working class in general, and struggle with them to the extent that they do not.

The dispute also shows the need for a revolutionary party of the working class, which can take account of the reservations some have expressed about this struggle, but point to the necessity of all those who are oppressed and exploited in this system rallying around those sectors in struggle: that's the way to build a spirit of solidarity for the future and to strike at the common enemy

Miners in Belgium, as here, have a long history of struggle.
Most recently, in November of
last year, a three day strike
took place to protest against government plans to close pits.

At that time, the government made a concession and temporarily withdrew their plans while talks took place.

Men at four of the pits Waterschei, Winterslag, Zolder and Beringen came out on strike on April 18th. They set up a strike committee which formulated their demands:

1. 20,000 jobs to be kept. 2. No closures, no redundancies,

no loss of jobs. 3. A new pit to be built at Waterschei.

4. No new nuclear power station but a new coal-fired station. 5. Work for the 75,000 unemployed of Limbourg.

In Britain, we have, not surprisingly, heard nothing about this strike. There are several important points to be made about it.

SOLIDARITY WITH BRITISH COAL STRIKE

Throughout the coal strike here. miners and their families received strong support from miners and others in Belgium.

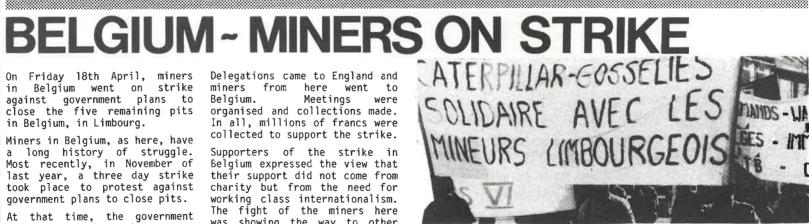
collected to support the strike.

Supporters of the strike in Belgium expressed the view that their support did not come from charity but from the need for working class internationalism. The fight of the miners here was showing the way to other workers in Europe, in the mines and other workplaces.

MASS STRUGGLE

The recent strike in Limbourg marked by was character. The strike was eventually recognised by the unions and given their support. Harry Posikata, President of the Strike Committee, explained: "From the first day, we have the problem that the union leadership did not support the strike. We had to organise the strike ourselves, solidly round the demands of the miners. ...Now that the great majority of miners have supported the strike, we hope that the unions will work with us to strengthen it.'

Actions taken by miners in the early days of the strike included picketing out miners at the fifth pit, Zolder; delegations to other workplaces, schools and colleges; occupations of various places including railway



PARTY OF LABOUR OF BELGIUM

Good links have been built with other sectors of the people, both students and other workers. This unity did not come simply from a need to support the miners' struggle against pit closures but from the conscious understanding of the need for the working class to unite in its struggle, in particular against the massive cuts and monetarist policies of the government in Belgium.

The miners demands have been linked to a one-day strike on May 6th which marked the start of a movement by public sector workers against government policies. The demand for a The demand for a General Strike of the whole working class has also been raised.

The last month has seen action by many different sectors of workers, including railway workers who have paralysed all railways in the south of Belgium for most of the month.

The miners in Belgium have now gone back to work however goes on. Although it has much in common with the struggle of miners and other workers here, the specific and conscious political direction and organisation can be attributed to the role of the Party of Labour of Belgium (PTB/PVDA).

In their paper 'Solidaire', Kris Hertogen explained: "Everyone knows that this struggle (the miners': Ed) is taking place because of our work... Since 30th January, the PTB has given out 20 different leaflets at the mines Everyone reads them. We have become the party of the miners. We began our organising work here on 11th December, 1969. For the last 16 years, there has not been a week when the PTB has not been at the side of the miners, in the mines, at the gates or in the union. result..." Today we see the

Did She Fall - or Was She **Pushed?**



On May 8th, voters around Britain registered a massive rejection of the Conservative government and its policies. That was the main significance of the voting in the local government elections and the by-elections in Ryedale and West Derbyshire.

The Conservatives lost over 700 seats, as well as control of 29 local councils. Labour gained most from the widespread discontent with government policies, but the SDP/Liberal alliance was able to register significant gains, and in Scotland and Wales, the Nationalist parties increased their support.

Naturally, Labour supporters were overjoyed at the results and are optimistic about Labour forming the next government. But an examination of the results suggests that, while Labour has increased its voterappeal, the main factor in the results was certainly public repulsion from the Tories, repulsion from the Tories, rather than attraction to Labour. That explains why, in areas where the strongest alternative to the Tories was some other party than Labour, they made the biggest gains - like the SDP/Liberal alliance in many southern English areas, or the Anti-Tory in Tayside. feeling did not automatically translate into a vote for

LABOUR: A CAPITALIST PARTY

The outcome of these elections confirms an analysis of trends in politics in Britain which has been put forward over the past few months in 'Class Struggle'. As far as most of the British ruling class is concerned, Neil Kinnock and his allies are in firm control in the Labour Party, and the Labour 'left' has been tamed, which is why the Labour leadership is receiving increasingly favourable coverage in the media. Labour can safely be trusted with administering Britain in the interests of British capitalism.



The Thatcher government, by contrast, is steadily losing favour within the ruling class. By attacking the unions, cutting the social services, and reduc-ing the real social wage of the working people, the present government has done the job it

was meant to do. But there is concern in the ruling class that the Tories' policies, not least because of the level of unemployment they have produced, are damanging the fabric of British society and pushing a significant minority away from parliamentary politics. Labour's role is to rally many of them safely into the socialdemocratic fold, to draw the teeth from their protests and make subordinate all other considerations to that of getting rid of the Tories at the next general election.

The major part of the ruling class wants a Labour or a Labour/Alliance government. That explains the Westlands and BL, and there'll no doubt be more scandals to come, which will get extensive media coverage. When, as seems increasingly likely, Thatcher and her cronies lose office at the next election, the old detective story question: "Did she fall, or was she pushed?" will be an important one.

If, as we have suggested, there will be a significant amount of pushing from sections of the ruling class to get Thatcher out and a Labour or Labour/ Alliance government in, that should tell every person fighting for real progress for the mass of the people all they need to know about the nature of the incoming government. That is they must fight on, regardless of the change at 10, Downing Street.



WHAT THE ELECTORS THINK:

In order of popularity:

- "They're all the same" (2 out of 3 voters)
- 2. Labour
- 3. Tories 4. Alliance

On the basis of the votes not cast, 'Class Struggle' therefore declares that the overwhelming view of the electorate is that local "democracy" is a farce.

entry to the school. On the

of the meeting, only one



BROADWATER FARM.



WHAT REALLY **HAPPENED?**

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

Stafford Scott, a worker with Broadwater Farm Youth Association, has given the independent inquiry into the events on the Farm on October 6th last year, a first-hand account of the conflict that night. The following report is taken from a bulletin issued by the inquiry. It has been slightly shortened:

The police decision to keep the Broadwater Farm youth on the estate and not allow them out last October's disturbances, the Inquiry heard.



According to Stafford Scott, police in riot clothes collected bricks and bottles and threw them at the youths in the opening minutes of the disturbances.

He described how youths had been angered at reports that Mrs Cynthia Jarrett had died during a police raid: "The youths had seen people being manhandled by the police in the past," said Stafford. "They were thinking it could easily have been their They were sickened mothers. by what had happened."

He said the youths marched out of a meeting at the Youth Association on the estate intending to continue a demonoutside Tottenham stration Police Station.

As nearly 100 people came to the exit of the estate, they were confronted with several police vans, all staffed by officers in riot uniforms.

He said one armoured van turned around and drove into the crowd.

"I'm not alleging it was trying to knock people down," he said. "Five or six people attacked the van: they went up to it and started to bang it. All hell broke loose. Simultaneously broke loose. Simultaneously the whole area was full of a sea of police vans and flashing lights."

LIGHTS

"The officers were hitting people with truncheons and telling them to get back into the estate. There was a torrent of racial abuse from the police. I was hit by a truncheon.

The police pushed the youths down the hill into the estate, and then, according to Mr Scott, used a tactic of advancing 50 yards, allowing officers to collect debris which had been thrown, whereupon the police lines would then retreat.

"It was as if this was the only tactic they knew," he said.
"I heard a lot of truncheons banging on shields and cries of 'here coons, here we are'. People's reaction was to get out of the estate. Some resisted but most went to get ou

"People were throwing bricks and bottles at police. were no petrol bombs. When the police had surged forward and taken their position, officers picked up the bricks and used them to pelt the crowd. People were in fear of their lives. The police never attempted to arrest people.

"They attacked created a sig people and created a situation they couldn't handle. It was the actions of the police which triggered the riot. If we had gone to the police station you would not have had a dead police officer and all the injuries."

Up to April 21st, 354 people had been arrested on the estate, of whom 161 have been charged. 271 premises have been searched, of which 18 were damaged. Trials of those arrested are continuing and will carry on throughout this year.

No Entry to Fascists

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

On Saturday May 3rd, the British National Party (BNP) held an "election meeting" at John Scurr school in Tower Hamlets, having won a high court injunction allowing them to do so.

Before the meeting, the police attacked a crowd of counterdemonstrators outside the gates of the school, making a number of arrests. They then forced an entrance at the rear of the school to allow the BNP to occupy the school hall.

The police then allowed thirty members of the public into the hall. There was room for about another hundred, but they were not permitted to enter. Shortly after the meeting started,

the fascists in the hall attacked and severely assaulted the members of the public in the hall. The police response to this was to exclude the public from the "election meeting". They refused to make arrests arising out of these assaults. The police did arrest more counter-demonstrators during and after the meeting. At the end of the day, the police had arrested sixteen members of the public (including teachers and parents) and just two of

AUTHORITY FAILS TO IMPLEMENT ANTI-RACIST POLICY

Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) were not prepared to offer contempt to the court by refusing the fascists

junior officer of the authority and one member were present. The following day, the Authority sent a photographer to record the damange done by the fascists in the school. (This included the defacement of an Anna Frank exhibition in the school in direct violation of the conditions governing meetings".) Ten da "public Ten days later, the Authority saw fit to send an officer to discuss the meeting and related events with the teachers in the school. As usual, teachers, parents and students were left on their own to implement the anti-racist policies of the ILEA and to defend their school against fascist attack and defacement. The Authority has informed the at John Scurr school that staff their legal department is collecting evidence and deciding on what course of action to

We say there is already sufficient evidence to demand that the Authority pays for the defence of those arrested that day and mounts a prosecution of the BNP.

The Inner London Teachers Association already has policy of no cooperation with the metropolitan police. call on all parents, teachers, community and trade union groups to adopt and enforce this policy and to call on the ILEA to adopt a No Police In Schools policy part of their anti-racist

NO TO RACISM AND FASCISM!

POLICE OUT OF SCHOOLS!

★ CONFERENCE ★

on Schools, the Community & the Police

To discuss how to implement the policy of: "Police Out of Schools"

Open to teachers, students, parents and members of the community

SATURDAY 14th JUNE 10.30-4.30

NorthWest School, Penfold St. LONDON N.W.1

Organised by All London Teachers Against Racism and Fascism

The Birmingham Women's Workshop is supposed to be a collective and was set up with funding from the Economic Development Unit (EDU) and the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide black and working class women with training skills in non-traditional areas. The Workshop opened in the summer of 1985. Since then, three black women and five white women have been employed there supposedly as "equal workers in a collective". Yet, in reality the situation was very different. The white co-ordinator of the Workshop was totally domineering and con-trolled all the activities without consulting any of the workers. The workers were always informed of decisions after she had made them. April 1986, seven out of eight workers had left the Workshop.

In spite of their so-called anti-racist and feminist stance, the black women workers have been forced to leave because of the extreme racism they have suffered and the lack of recognition they have received.

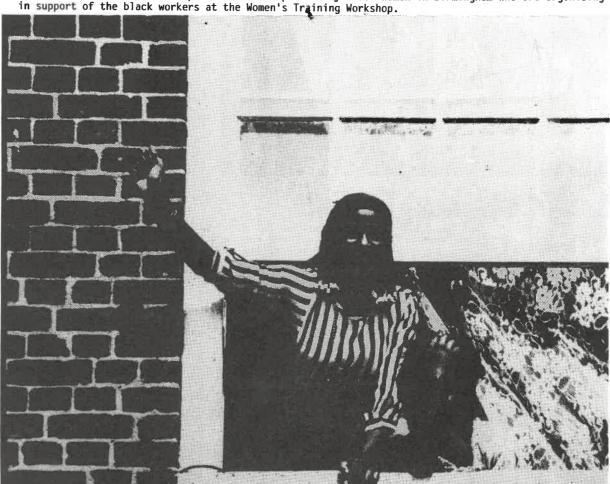
PRESENT SITUATION

Black workers are systematically denied their basic rights: the working conditions were appalling: women were not given lunch breaks; often the workers were forced to stay till ten o'clock, two or three times a week for various meetings and were not given time off in lieu, so women often worked a fifty hour week.

The white coordinator used divide and rule tactics against

FIGHT RACISM

This article is taken from a press statement put out by black women in Birmingham who are organising in support of the black workers at the Women's Training Workshop



and tried to split the meeting by holding separate talks with individual management and workshop members. When we refused to follow their plan, they went so far as to call the police and threatened to evict us from "their" Council house. Is it not crystal clear whose side they are or?

The coordinator continued her usual tricks such as stipulating that the City Council should be present at any such meeting, disappearing during the meeting or making snide side remarks rather than speaking directly to the black workers. She refused totally to recognise her racism and was defended by the three management committee members and Labour Councillors etc. At the end of the meeting, it was overheard by us all that she was adamantly refusing to resign. The meeting ended by black women walking cut fully confirmed of the racism of all the organisations and people

THE INVOLVEMENT OF NALGO - OR LACK OF IT!

The two black workers who were the latest to resign had contacted the union in April, but they didn't even respond and yet hastily managed to send a representative to support the coordinator. The NALGO representative even refused to recognise the black women as members of NALGO. Then, why were they receiving the union's monthly mailout?

at Birmingham Women's Workshop

the workers, so that their confidence was shattered. She would try and set up one worker against another by criticising them behind their backs and so causing an atmosphere of mistrust. Almost every week there was some conflict or other between the workers and the coordinator.

She would monopolise skills; she would prevent women from using the equipment such as the typewriter and the computer; she was the only one to go on the management course and use her managerial skills against the workers; she would build contact for her own individual career and not for the benefit of the workshop.

She was totally unsupportive of black women with other responsibilities; she would be inconsiderate to the needs of women workers with children; she even disbelieved that women could fall ill; she refused to accept the women workers sick notes.

ROLE OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The all white management committee have shown their racist colours by ignoring the plight of black workers when

they should have been aware of the situation. Even when complaints were made to them they took no action and in fact chose to believe the coordinator thus colluding with her racism.

HOW WE ORGANISED -AND THEIR RESPONSE

At the beginning of April 1986, conditions became so stressful that the two black workers were forced to take sick leave. The workers felt the only way they could gain effective support to resolve the problem was to seek the help of the local black organisations.

Various attempts were made by black women to meet the management committee and the coordinator. Finally, a meeting was agreed for 21st April, solely due to the determination of black women to have their voice heard on their own terms. On the day, only one management committee member turned up and informed the 50 black women present that no one else was willing to attend. Apparently the thought of facing so many black women was frightening to them - perhaps their real fear was hearing the truth!

LADY SINGS THE BLUES

Billie Holiday's Life 1915-1959

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

"I've been told that nobody sings the word 'hunger' like I do. Or the word 'love'.

"Maybe, I remember what those words are all about. Maybe I'm proud enough to want to remember Baltimore and Welfare Island, the Catholic Institution and the Jefferson Market Court, the Sheriff in front of our place in Harlem and the towns from coast to coast where I got my lumps and my scars, Philly and Alderson, Hollywood and San Francisco - every damn bit of

Mom was thirteen when Billie was born. Her early life was

no start for any child. It was to haunt her sleep. She woke from sleeping in her gran's arms to find her gran had died; she was raped twice before the age of eleven; she was locked in overnight with a dead child by nuns and looked after by an aunt who beat her. 'Lady Sings the Blues' is an apt title for Billie Holiday's memoirs.

STRANGE FRUIT

Racism permeates her entire story. It was a fact of life to be coped with, and her indignation was expressed in resistance. Unlike Paul At this blatantly racist denial to acknowledge us, out of anger and frustration, some of us decided to go to the coordinator's house to demand her reasons for not attending. Despite malicious lies that have been spread, there was no physical harassment. The coordinator was not even at home! A picket of the Workshop was called on Monday, April 28th, to inform the trainees of the racism at the Workshop. In order to block our publicity, the commencement of the trainees course was conveniently put off!

As a result of the picket, a meeting was called by us on 6th May. This was an opportunity for management to listen to the grievances of the black workers. That is, if they were really serious about the issue of racism.

Instead, the coordinator decided to invite the following representatives from the City Council. These included Albert Bore, Chairperson of the EDU and his wife, Councillor Najma Hafeez from the Race Relations Unit, Jim Cocker, the funder for the project and a member from the Women's Unit. Despite

this obvious collusion, the City Council insisted that they were neutral arbiters!

THE MEETING

The hall was packed with 60 supporters of the black workers facing only a few management supporters from the EDU.

Before black women even had a chance to voice their grievances, the Councillors and funders started to disrupt the meeting by questioning our rights to organise ourselves. They tried to create an impression of neutrality as if they were the judge and juries, listening to two sides instead their one-sidedness became clear to all, when Councillor Najma insisted that she should chair which was accepted, of course, by the management.

With their arrogance and their insensitivity, they wasted l½ hours, just discussing Chair and Agenda, which we had already elected and prepared for: the issue of racism being our only agenda. They continued to humiliate the black workers and supporters by walking out when they weren't allowed to chair

WHAT ARE OUR DEMANDS?

- 1. The resignation of the coordinator.
- 2. A black woman be appointed in her place.
- 3. The resignation of the racist management.
- 4. Full compensation for the workers.

5. A boycott of the Workshop and the black workers' jobs which have already been readvertised; no trainees to receive training there.

We refuse to comply with the EDU's suggestion of an independent inquiry.

SUPPORT US!

Weekly pickets are being held at the Women's Training Workshop, Unit 9, Whitworth Industrial Park, Tilton Road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

Ring and jam the phonelines at the workshop - 021-773-5511 and voice your protest and disgust.

For more information, contact:
Birmingham Black Sisters,
7 Frederick Street,
Birmingham Bl 3HE.

Robeson, Billie Holiday was no political activist. She turned to private solutions for public problems and above all, expressed her feelings in her music. Her memoirs end around 1954 in another drugs bust. But Billie Holiday was not indifferent. There are few more powerful musical indictments than what she called "my personal protest" - 'Strange Fruit' with its tale of lynchings of black people in the South: "blood on the leaves and blood at the roots", "black bodies swinging from the trees" and "burning flesh". She writes: "It reminds me how Pop died. But I have to keep

singing it, not only because people ask for it but because

twenty years after Pop died,

the things that killed him are

still happening in the South.

"I'VE LIVED SONGS LIKE THAT"

As she so lyrically describes through her songs, Billie Holiday was exploited by the men in her life. She seems an unlikely feminist. But in her cwn words: "I'd fought my whole life from being somebody's damn maid." She struggled with life, drawing upon depths of energy and reserve to face challenges alone, especially her harrowing struggle with heroin addiction. And if you listen to her sing, you know that few could sing with such power and presence. She was an artist of great achievement, a painter of moods, emotions and individuaĺ experience which summed up the suffering of countless other black women.

The image of a much put-upon woman lingers after reading her memoir. But there is no trace of pity in her words. Despite the sadness that she recalls, and remaining financially precarious, receiving no royalties until the mid-forties, there is joy:

"Singing songs like 'The Man I Love' or 'Porgy' is no more work than sitting down and eating Chinese roast duck, and I love roast duck. I've lived songs like that. When I sing them, I live them again and I love them."

(Billie Holiday's autobiography, 'Lady Sings The Blues' is published by Penguin at £2.95, available from New Era Books.)



Mugabe Condemns Apartheid Regime

Following is the full text of a statement made by the Prime Minister Hon. Robert Mugabe at a press conference on May 19th, 1986:

The South African racist and apartheid regime carried out a midnight attack against the sovereign state of Zimbabwe on ANC targets located at two places in Harare.

The barbarous acts were perpetrated at 16 Angwa Street in the city and at 19 St Eve's Crescent in Ashdown Park. At 16 Angwa Street, the racists caused damage to a public building used partly as a restaurant and hairdressing salon and partly as executive offices. There was injury to a private security guard.

At St Eve's Crescent, no-one was injured as the former ANC house was not occupied. At both places, the racists in panic left various equipment including communication items, vehicles and explosives when security forces reacted to the attacks.

In follow-up operations, security forces have arrested three, and $\, I \,$ believe the number now

is four suspects, who are now helping police with investigations. More information will be released as soon as this investigation is completed.

COWARDLY AND UNPROVOKED ATTACKS

The two cowardly and unprovoked attacks are clearly aimed at Zimbabwe as one of the front line states. The racist south African regime has, by these acts of wanton aggression against the front line states, clearly become a terrorist organisation which unleashes without any moral restraint the barbaric attacks against its neighbours in defence and justification of the evil and inhuman system it advocates.

The barbaric racist regime in Pretoria has obviously failed to stem the tide of the revolution in South Africa or to satisfy the just demands of its oppressed majority and deliberately chooses to blame neighbouring independent states for its internal problems.

We refuse to accept responsibility for the internal strife in South Africa. The racists blame and attack us as well as others for supporting the just struggle in South Africa and for giving shelter and assistance to refugees fleeing from the wrath of the racists.

POLITICAL, MATERIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

Zimbabwe will not be deterred from rendering assistance to the Liberation movements of South Africa in the form of political, material and moral support in the context of the Organisation of African Unity charter.

Today's military wanton aggression underlines two related factors. One, that the South African regime has adopted state terrorism as a policy that is bound to lead to a dangerous security situation in the region because we who are the victims of such a policy, will have to defend ourselves. Two, in order to guarantee peace and security in the region, the international community should take immediate steps to isolate the South African regime by imposing comprehensive mandatory economic

International Notes

PHILIPPINE SUPPORT CONFERENCE:

The two highlights of this year's Philippines Support Group Conference on May 3rd, were speeches by Basilio Propongo, Chair of the Philippine Peasants Movement (KMP) in the Visayas area of the country, and by Jenny Webber, who was one of the women who went to the Philippines to take part in an event organised around International Women's Day on March 8th.

Basilio said that for most of the farmers, things have gone from bad to worse. 88% of the rural population are malnourished. The problem of land ownership being monopolised by a small number of exploiters began under Spanish colonialism and continued under US domination. Today, seven out of ten farmers do not own the land they till.

"We are at the mercy of landlords and usurers. Some 75% of our produce goes to pay land rent. Farmers can never get out of debt."

As the peasants' poverty grows, big foreign corporations, mainly US, are expanding their landholdings in the Philippines.

The KMP upholds the farmers' interests. It has six urgent demands:

 Implement land reform
 Uphold national self-reliance and a scientific agricultural orientation

3. Roll back prices of imports needed by the farmers and ensure just prices for their produce 4. Implement support programmes

for agriculture
5. Uphold the democratic right of self organisation

6. Justice and indemnification for victims of militarisation

for victims of militarisation

Basilio said that two representatives of the organisation are

sitting on the executive board of the Ministry of Agriculture for a trial period of six months. If no meaningful moves are made to meet the farmers' demands, then they'll withdraw and denounce the Ministry. They are not optimistic, as most members of the cabinet are big landowners.

The women's delegation from Britain went with the KMK, the main organisation representing working women, on visits to picket lines at workplaces where most workers were female. They heard how the pickets at Royal Foods were attacked practically every night by company goons and troops, visited Sama Kana which organises women in the areas where they live, and met women at Smokey Mountain, Manila's main rubbish tip, which is the only home some people have.

The delegation travelled outside Manila to Negros, scene of intense struggles and brutal military repression in the recent past. The KMK has 67 chapters there. They found that people are actually starving on Negros. The main product is sugar, and the delegation spoke to people working on the plantations. They were told that women can generally only get about two days paid work a week: as the pay is only about 50p a day, they cannot look after themselves and their families with their income.

The KMK has launched some basic projects. They are fighting for women to be given some land from the big plantations for their own use. They also have a piglet project: the KMK buys piglets, gives them to women to raise, and they can later sell them or breed more from them to give them a bit of money.

Boycott Movement Strengthens

'Class Struggle' correspondent.

Following the example of the Dunnes' strikers in Dublin, the shopworkers union, USDAW, voted at the end of April to boycott South African goods. Delegates at the union's annual conference passed a resolution committing the union to support any member who was victimised for refusing to handle South African produce. It was also agreed to donate a large sum to the Dunnes' strikers as a measure of solidarity.

Sooner or later, a test case is bound to arise, and the union's commitment will be tried. But if it stands firm, that will strike a strong blow in solidarity with the Azanian people's struggle.

At the next TUC conference in September, there will be calls for the TUC to call a general boycott of South African goods by all trade unionists. Such a move would be long overdue, and far less than the liberation movements have a right to demand, but would at least be a step in the right direction.

ACTORS' AND MUSICIANS' BOYCOTT

Another recent success for the boycott movement was the vote in Equity, the actors' union, to ban members from performing in South Africa. Although the decision was made in a national ballot of all Equity members, Derek Bond, the union's president, resigned rather than accept it and went on to campaign for members to ignore the ban. But the general mood is clearly one of opposition to performing in the racist state.

This move in Britain followed others in the entertainment world, especially in the USA, where black people have built up a lot of pressure against

deals with South Africa. Lorrimar Productions have refused further sales of "Dallas" to South African television, and Tyne Daly, of the series "Cagney and Lacey", has persuaded fellow actors in the series and members of the production crew to donate part of their pay to the African National Congress,

Last year, Pat Benatar, Ruben Blades, Jackson Browne, Jimmy Cliff, Miles Davis, Peter Gabriel, Bob Geldorf, Daryl Hall, Linton Kwesi Johnson, John Oates, Joey Ramone, Lou Reid, Keith Richards, Gil Scott-Heron, Bruce Springstein and Ringo Starr, were among the "Artists Against Apartheid" who made the record "Sun City". They declared their refusal to perform in the Bophuthatswana bantustan's Sun City, which caters to white South Africans in search of gambling and prostitution.

PERFORMERS AGAINST RACISM

Performers Against Racism campaigned for the Equity vote here.
Among those taking part are
Lenny Henry, Julie Christie,
Maggie Steed and Charlotte
Cornwell.

BARCLAYS

This year's 'Barclays Shadow Report' - the sixth in the series of alternative annual reports on the bank's operations in South Africa and Namibia - showed that the campaign to get people in Britain to pull their money out of Barclays was meeting increasing success.

Since the 'State of Emergency' was imposed last July, a number of organisations have withdrawn their accounts from Barclays, including Oxfam, Shelter, the mental health charity MIND, the British Association of Social

Workers and four Oxford colleges.

Activists working in solidarity with the Azanian people have also kept the pressure up in some areas by spray painting boycott slogans on branches of Barclays, super-glueing its locks and putting up 'Boycott Apartheid' stickers.

While all the major British banks have interests in South Africa, Barclays is the most deeply involved. It has added insult to injury by making a special pitch in its advertising for the accounts of soldiers serving in the South African army against freedom fighters in Namibia, Angola and Azania itself.



MAY DAY IN AZANIA

A widespread strike took place in Azania (South Africa), on May Day this year. Workers were demanding that May Day be made a public holiday, with pay.



All three main trade union federations representing the black working class participated in the strike - Confederation of South African Trade Unions, Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions and the Council of Unions of South Africa.

25 YEARSOF STRUGGLE IN ERITREA:

On May 9th, a very successful evening of solidarity with Eritrea, was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, central London. About 300 people attended the event, and saw several bands, had plates of delicious Eritrean food, and saw a video of popular dances and songs from different areas of Ethiopia and from Eritrea, performed by a cultural troupe of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

The event is one of a number being organised to mark the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Eritrean revolution, which started in September 1961.

Anyone wishing to be kept informed of what's going on in Eritrea and to participate in solidarity work, should join the Eritrea Support Committee (UK). Membership is £6.00 per year (£3 unwaged).Subscriptions can be sent to the committee's secretary at 68a Shepherds Bush, London W12 8NU.



THATCHER IN SOUTH KOREA:

At the beginning of May, Mrs Thatcher paid a return call to south Korean dictator, Chun Du Hwan. She arrived as demonstrations for constitutional reform and free presidential elections were reaching a new pitch.

The anti-Chun movement was given a boost by the downfall of the Philippines' dictator, Marcos. Many commentators speculated that south Korea would be "the next Philippines" and the Chun regime's apologists showed that they believed that too, by hastening.to deny it!

In the week before Thatcher's visit, there were huge demon-

strations in south Korea's capital, Seoul, Pusan, Inchon and Taegu. The biggest protest was in Kwangju, where 50,000 took to the streets. Six years ago, the south Korean regime killed 65 people in recapturing Kwangju from its citizens, who had revolted and seized control of the city.

Naturally, Thatcher ignored the popular protests. She had friendly talks with the dictator and made a flying visit to the fortifications which the south Korean regime, backed by the USA, has built along the 1953 ceasefire line to reinforce the partition of Korea.

CHERNOBYL NO NUKE IS GOOD NUKE

by 'Class Struggle' correspondent.

As we watched the weather men calmly plot the path of the radioactive cloud over the Ukraine and Europe to our own backyards, the frightening reality of nuclear power hit us all between the eyes. The disaster at Chernobyl painfully unfolded in front of us: an explosion causing a raging fire and huge escape of radioactivity; evacuation of nearby homes; likely crop and milk bans extending over 300 kilometres from the site of the accident for at least one year. What if it hadn't been controlled? What if it had been nuclear bomb?

RADIATION EFFECTS

People in the immediate vicinity of the plant have died from the explosion or severe burns. Others are now dying from severe bone marrow damage which makes you desperately anaemic and unable to fight off infections. People who had a lower dose will soon be developing the diarrhoea and vomiting from radiation to the guts and stomach.

the public of any problem. Journalists finally broke the story. The Russian atomic authorities play a full role in all the international atomic affairs and have identical radiation standards to the UK. Lack of information on the nuclear industry is a world-wide policy.

ARE RUSSIAN REACTORS DIFFERENT?

The second main line of argument



West German firemen washing down a truck after finding radioactive contamination when it arrived at the border between East and West Germany.

Pregnant women having that dose are likely to miscarry their babies. At a lower dose still, the damage from the radioactivity may not become obvious for several years. Then it will be in the form of an increased risk of leukaemia, cancer of the thyroid, bone, lung and other sites. British, Swedish and US experts are now suggesting at least 10,000 extra lung cancers in the surrounding area 1,500-1,000 square kilometres. Even more long term is the increase in genetic abnormalities over many generations to come.

Let us not forget that we know these details partly due to direct experience. Hiroshima and Nagasaki residents suffered from radiation a hundred times over, and large parts of the Pacific Ocean is contaminated from US nuclear tests. In the Pacific region, islands have suffered dreadfully from loss of homeland and radioactive diseases following US tests on the Marshall Islands. Others have suffered similarly in Australia from UK tests.

MEDIA AND STATE LIES

The reaction of the media and the authorities was just as sickening as the accident itself. Firstly, all we heard was condemnation of the Soviet Union for its secrecy. Whilst this was certainly bad, the record of the West is even worse. Details of the Windscale fire in 1957 were not released until 20 years later and at the time, a decision was made not to tell the Irish government that the radioactivity was being blown over Ireland.

In the Three Mile Island accident in the USA, radiation levels had reached over 100 times normal and the temperature in the core over 2,000 degrees centigrade and yet public officials had still not informed

from the authorities was that "the kind of accident that happened in Russia is not conceivable with UK reactor types". (Mr William Waldegrave, Environment Minister). After all, the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker has said in a press release as recently as March 17th, that "nuclear power is the safest form of energy known to man". (Has he asked the Namibian uranium miners?)

The authorities claimed that. the design of UK reactors was totally different from Chernobyl and that Chernobyl failed because of lack of secondary containment and because of the use of a graphite moderator. Only later was it admitted (after pressure from Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth) that UK Magnox and AGR reactors do not have secondary containment and that the Magnox uses a graphite moderator! The proposed fast breeder reactors for Europe include a French design which totally eliminates second ary containment and slashes 40% of the costs.

If you sift through all the technical jargon, there is only one honest conclusion - that all nuclear reactors contain huge amounts of radioactive materials, are run at very high temperatures and have a long history of minor faults. What matters about a nuclear accident is not the likelihood of it happening but the consequences of its occurrence. Were the people of Chernobyl saved by knowing that they hit a supposed one in a million jackpot?

COMPLETE MELTDOWN

One other point on the recent disaster worth stressing - as it most certainly was not by the media here - is that Chernobyl was very close to a complete meltdown which would have made the first explosion

seem like a sparkler. After the reactor had been buried with firefighting materials, the core temperature continued to rise with the imminent danger of the whole contents exploding into the atmosphere and down to the water table. This was confirmed by Professor Velikhov, the Kremlin's chief science advisor.

SPREAD OF NUCLEAR POWER

In Britain, the government in 1979 pledged to build 10 new reactors by 1990 but totally underestimated the problems and the cost and has yet to build any. At present, it is spending fl million a day building the new reprocessing plant at Dounreay, which is a necessary dustbin for the European fast breeder reactor programme. If the Sizewell PWR reactor goes ahead, it is planned to build three more of these at three other sites.

France has a kuge oversupply of electricity from a hugely expensive nuclear power programme and is at present exporting some to CEGB via underwater cables. (As a result, the CEGB has put several oil-fired stations into mothballs.) The EEC as a whole has a huge projected growth in nuclear power and the USA at present has 30% more capability than it needs. Since the Three Mile Island accident, the USA has not built or planned any new nuclear power stations.

Western companies have been attempting to solve their overproduction problems and at the same time, make huge profits by exporting to the Third World. One notorious example is the Westinghouse reactor recently shelved by President Aquino. Nuclear power now makes up 4% of the energy supply in the Third World.

ENERGY POLICY IN BRITAIN

Perhaps the most important question to answer, is do we need nuclear power? Or are there alternative and better energy options?

The facts above have demonstrated the general oversupply of energy in Western countries. Alongside this, is the fall off in increase of demand due to economic recession. Both our own government and the EEC have been investigating how energy can be conserved and optimised and have come up with some quite startling figures. An EEC study showed that by using the three conservative measures of residential insulation, district heating and heat exchangers, a big cut could be made in demand and hundreds of thousands

breeder reactor in Britain will be £5.1 billion!

WHY NUCLEAR POWER?

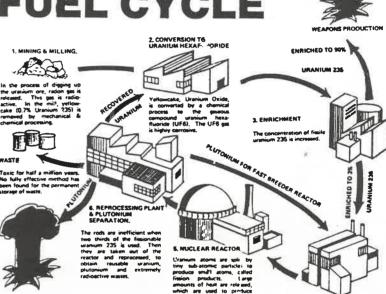
The key to answering "Why Nuclear Power?" is the relationship between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. The first nuclear reactor was built to make the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and since then "civilian" reactors have produced material, mainly plutonium, for the escalating nuclear arms race. Research and development is rarely atoms for peace, and mainly atoms for war.

The nuclear fuel cycle is described in the diagram below:

on the UK to provide more plutonium to the USA. At present, the American military relies on military reactors at Hanford, Washington State, which are almost identical in design to Chernobyl. With President Reagan's commitment to almost double the capacity of its current nuclear stockpile by adding another 26,000 warheads.. it is Downing Street's phone which will be ringing!

It is noteworthy that the USSR plans to reopen the three other reactors at Chernobyl as soon as possible and continue with its plans to build two more identical in design. Like Hanford they are primarily plutonium factories.





The mining of uranium is dangerous work at present mainly carried out illegally in occupied Namibia and also in Australia on land stolen from the Aboriginal people. Uranium enrichment and reprocessing occurs in such places as Sellafield and the planned Dounreay plant. The cycle involves transporting various radioactive materials all around the world.

The three end products of the nuclear cycle are:

a) energyb) plutonium, which may be used for weapons production;c) nuclear wastes, which at

c) nuclear wastes, which at present are indestructible and accumulating at an alarming daily rate.

NUCLEAR POWER? NO THANKS!

In the last seven years, two reactors have had the accidents that the nuclear industry claim to be next to impossible. The dangers of nuclear power production have been laid bare. By spending money and providing jobs in energy conservation and alternative energy sources, a viable energy policy could undoubtedly be built without nuclear power. However, the real reason for nuclear power is not energy production, but its links with nuclear weapons. This explains why it is very political business, big frequently corrupt, stinking and dangerous. And above all



of new jobs created. Besides these conservation methods, there are many forms of energy which at present are largely untapped - water (especially tidal), sun and wind. These energy forms have been starved of research and development money and facilities. Nuclear power is ruinously expensive. In 1984, the Select Committee on Energy said (re Dounreay) that the price in research and development, construction and reprocessing for the first fast

Details of most of these processes are secret, and the Atomic Energy Authority is all powerful. Lord Marshall, Chairman of CEGB, admitted in a recent TV Eye programme that plutonium from the Berkely and Bradwell stations, in their early years, was used for American military purposes. In addition, it was revealed at the Sizewell enquiry that 6,670 kilograms of weapons grade plutonium was sent then. The effect of the Chernobyl disaster will be to increase the pressure

Nuclear power, like nuclear weapons, can have no part to play in the future we build for ourselves, our children and our children's children. To rid ourselves of its dangers will require direct action (None of the big political parties are committed, or able, to stop it), on the whole nuclear issue and against British and American imperialism. It is a hard struggle but one that huge numbers of people will join.



FREEDOM FOR IRELAND

TRIAL BY MEDIA

are held.

Below we reprint a statement by the Irish Prisoners Appeal. Although it will inevitably be dated by the time of publication it is important in that yet again there is a vivid decription of the discrimination Irish people face in the

TRIED BY MEDIA ... FOUND GUILTY

Here are the facts which you will not have read in the press in the last week since the beginning of the Ola Bailey trial which we are picketing today:

Ella O'Dwyer, Martina Anderson, Gerry McDonnel, Peter Sherry, are accused of conspiracy to cause explosions along with Patrick Magee who is also charged with murder related to the Brighton bombing; selected newspapers were fed information on their arrests a year ago, both about their personal background and any police records, which has since been sensationalised ty the media with strong suggestions of their guilt.

the first day at the Old Bailey last week, severance -a separate trial - was denied to those defendants not accused the Brighton bombing, and strenuous efforts by defence barristers to control press and TV coverage have not prevented the media from continuing to link the separate cases. this way all the defendants appear guilty by association with each other.

prosecution continually makes the same links and is not restrained by the judge.

On the third day, the defence asked for the jury to be changed because of this coverage which was affecting their impartiality and even the prosecution did not object. But the judge who had seen the coverage, refused to dismiss the jury and the case continued.

The judge is contributing further to false connections



ound Guilty

between the cases by ensuring that Patrick Magee, accused of the Brighton bombing, is always in the dock with most and at least one, of the other defendants.

Even when these links are not made, press coverage, through sexist and racist stereotyping - suggests that all the accused are guilty.

TREATMENT OF DEFENDANTS

Strip searching continues at the same excessive levels as were suffered by Ella and Martina while on remand - all defendants are strip searched before and after court appearances, Monday to Friday, and and after relatives' before visits on Saturdays, even though they never leave the custody of prison warders. A minimum of 12 strip searches a week.

Martina Anderson, who suffers from migraine, is ill and has been vomiting in the closed prison van going to and from court - an independent doctor prescribed several hours recovery time daily for her, which she is not being allowed.

The Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions has said, in a particular case in May 1984, that unjustified strip searching amounts to assault. However, in the week before this trial began, a High Court judge ruled that the court "had no jurisdiction to interfere with the Governor's exercise of power under the Prison Rules". These rules are secret and therefore cannot be challenged, allowing Governors to continue to harass remand prisoners who supposed to be innocent until proven guilty.

SILENCING OF PROTEST

On the first day of the trial, Tuesday 6th May, this picket was disbanded by the City of London police under the threat instant arrest. We have expressed our wish to cooperate with the police, and our intention to exercise our right to peacefully demonstrate and

REMEMBER

- * Provision by police of selectinformation to selected
- * The media presentation of this trial and of the accused
- * The treatment of the defendants and disregard of medical evidence.
- * The judicial refusal to control either the media or the prison authorities.
- attempts to silence peaceful protest.

AND DECIDE

Is this a fair trial? Are you supporting it by failing to protest?

The Irish Prisoners Appeal can be contacted c/o Lambeth IBRG, 245a Coldharbour Lane, London SW9, 01-737-4144.

SATURDAY JUNE 7th

DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER BILL

LONDON

lp.m. join non-stop Picket of South Africa House

Evening: support Wapping Printworkers march

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11th

PUBLIC MEETING ON ANGLO-IRISH DEAL What's it all about?

Speaker from Sinn Fein

LEEDS

Leeds Trades Club, Savile Mt, Leeds 7. 8p.m. Organised by Troops Out Movement.

TUESDAY JUNE 17th

MASS LOBBY FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID

LONDON 2.30 p.m. onwards: lobby at

Houses of Parliament. Organised by Lobby for South Africa Sanctions.

SATURDAY JUNE 21st

RALLY TO COMMEMORATE IRISH HUNGER STRIKERS BIRMINGHAM

2 p.m. Assembly Hall, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham City Centre.

THURSDAY JUNE 26th

COMMEMORATE SOWETO UPRISING PICKET SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE

Organised by Black Consciousness Movement (Details to be announced)

SATURDAY JUNE 28th

MARCH FOR FREEDOM IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA!

LONDON Rally Hyde Park 11-12 Festival Clapham Common 3 pm Anti-Apartheid Movement

WAKEFIELD PRISON

Oppressive conditions exposed

A Chara,

neadlines in the past for its brutal treatment of prisoners - the operation of a control unit in the early \70s, the death of Frank Stagg on Hunger Strike, the solitary incarceration of Irish Republican Prisoners in the prison's 'F' wing for periods ranging from 6 to 12 months.

Another feature of this policy used against Irish POW's relates to visiting arrangements. Our families already under the strain and ourden of having to travel hundreds of miles to see us, have on seeing us to undergo a humiliating and intimidating experience because of the visiting arrangements.

The visits are held in a small room, 12 ft by 10 ft, two tables end to end are in the middle of the room, chairs are bolted to the floor at either

end of the tables. The visitor must sit at one end and the Wakefield Prison has hit the prisoner at the other end. No physical contact during the visit - (an embrace is allowed at the beginning and the end of the visit). through the visit two prison officers are in the rcom, one sits behind the visitor and the other sits behind the prisoner. Before and after the visit the prisoner is strip searched.

> We view these visits as an attempt to prevent normal communication between prisoner and visitor (man and wife on many occasions). We are told that these visits are the result of a directive from the Home Office. However, the directive from the Home Office states that certain prisoners (Republicans, Palestinians, Libyans) are to have "supervised visits" i.e. visits within the sight and hearing of at least one prison officer. The visiting arrangements in this prison are peculiar to this prison. Visiting



There are other Irish POW's in mainland British jails. shows a picket held outside Long Lartin Prison in April, 1986.

Open letter from Paul Norney, PRO Republican Prisoners, Wakefield Prison, April 1986.

Paul Norney, 863532. HM Prison, Love Lane. WAKEFIELD WF2 9AG.

top security prisons all adhere to the Home Office directive arrangement neither humiliating or intimidating nor has there been a breach in their security as a result of visits.

We see the visiting arrangements here as designed to isolate Republican Prisoners from their families by making normal communication impossible. We see this as part of a continual policy adopted by the British Home Office over 13 years ago. However, we also recognise that the visiting arrangements are peculiar to this prison and must therefore be regarded as an indication of the vehement anti-Republican attitude prevalent amongst prison officers at this establishment. We are refusing to accept these visiting arrangements but we have informed the governor that we will not go without our visits.