

UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS. STUDENTS. APPRENTICES.
UNEMPLOYED. IMMIGRANT AND SCHOOL YOUTH

KEEP LEFT

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS YOUTH
SECTION OF THE WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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The facts facing school leavers

- 19,938 youth already on the dole
- over 550,000 now leaving school



Young Socialists say

**Demand the right to work!
Oppose Labour's 10% pay freeze!
Join the Young Socialists to fight for revolutionary
policies to answer the crisis!**

KEEP LEFT SAYS

Struggle to defend wages sharpens

THOUSANDS of workers all over Britain have in the last week given their answer to the Labour government's 10 per cent pay freeze plans—they have rejected any attempt to hold down wages while inflation soars.

This week the powerful miners' union met in Scarborough to decide its policy for wages and living standards in the coming year.

Already the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers has made it clear they will fight for £100 a week and nothing less. Big support for this policy has come from other sections of miners.

They have been backed up by shipyard workers in Southampton and Portsmouth and in Tyneside who have struck work this week in defence of wages.

Stampede

The Labour government, the TUC and the right-wing in the NUM itself have done everything in their power to stampede the conference into accepting Chancellor Healey's wage freeze proposals.

NUM President Joe Gormley has become the darling of the capitalist Press for his attacks on

the Yorkshire delegates, calling it 'madness' to demand £100 a week.

And Gormley was backed up by Harold Wilson whose speech to the conference on Monday afternoon threatened mass unemployment for miners if they refused to accept the government's proposals.

But observers pointed out that neither of these gentlemen received a very warm response from the miners' delegates.

Laws

Meanwhile Wilson, the TUC and the bosses are preparing to introduce their laws to limit all wage increases to 10 per cent.

As Keep Left pointed out last week these proposals are the most savage attack yet mounted on the wages of the working class.

But it is not only wages which are today threatened. Britain's 559,000 school leavers who are starting to look for jobs this week and next week or who have already finished school face a worse position than in 1972 when 16-year-olds made up 15 per cent of the country's jobless.

Figures published already show that in some towns as many as 200 young people will be chasing one job.

Junior hospital doctors and consultants in London have warned that the National Health Service is facing possible

collapse in the near future.

And the Chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, Mr Walpole Lewin, has said that the NHS is now so fragile it cannot withstand any big cuts in expenditure.

On every front workers and young people are finding their future

threatened as never before.

The time for decisive action to defend our future, wages, living standards and jobs is here. The Labour government and trade union leaders have shown themselves totally incapable of leading any fight against the plans of the bankers and the

bosses.

In fact, it is the Labour government with the backing of the majority of the TUC who are today leading the attempts to impose the burden of capitalist slump on the backs of the working class.

Only the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party

stand for the policy of building the alternative revolutionary leadership to fight to end this corrupt and bankrupt system and replace it with socialism.

We appeal to all youth — join the Young Socialists now! Don't lose any time in joining the fight to defend your right to a future!



Yorkshire miners lobby the NUM conference as it opened in Scarborough last Monday.

Education department proposes Savage cuts in spending



Students march against cuts early this year.

EDUCATION spending will be slashed by £520m—if Ministers agree to cuts proposed to them in the next few weeks.

The proposed cuts are the biggest ever in the history of education and include the total demolition of the nursery school programme proposed three years ago.

Drop

In addition, there will be major cuts in the numbers of trainee teachers and a sharp drop in places available at colleges and universities in Britain.

The £520m cut, predicted in an article in this week's 'Times Higher Education Supplement', will mean that

for the first time since the second world war, there will be no growth in education spending and most likely a fall overall.

The budget for next year has already been cut by £76m in England and Wales, which will bring the total spent down to £4,670m.

University and college budgets will drop by £80m. By 1979 teacher training places will be slashed by 15,000.

According to the 'Times Higher Education Supplement' estimation a standstill in education spending over the next four years will mean even bigger reductions of £190m in 1977-1978 and £330m in 1978-1979.

Teachers' union leaders have reacted angrily to the proposals from the

Department of Education and Science.

Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers said that if the report proved true the 'savage cuts would be a threat to the fabric of the education system'.

Drastic

The union would be 'appalled', he said, and he failed to see how it could be implemented without a further drastic cut-back in staffing.

Mr Henry Clothier, secretary of the Council for Education Advance, said: 'We would deplore any such short-sighted policy. It would be an act of criminal folly.'

BY A
KEEP LEFT
CORRESPONDENT

KEEP Left interviewed two young workers from the hosiery factories in Nottingham.

Sandra (17) works as a cutter, making T-shirts.

'I'm on a four-day week. Almost all the hosiery factories in Nottingham are on short time now.'

'We get hardly any orders. We sit there and wait most of the time. The most you can take home after four days is £17 — you can't really live on that.'

Julie (16) works as an overlooker. She started at Easter this year.

'I was looking forward to going to work, but now I don't like it that much.'

Boring

'The hours are too long. You do the same thing all day long. It is very boring.'

'I come out with £15 a week which is not bad for a trainee.'

Asked what they thought about the economic crisis, growing unemployment and the Labour government Julie said:

'The retiring age should be put down so that school leavers can get jobs.'

'If a boss wants to pull out of the business because he cannot make the profit any more, he should leave the factory to the workers.'

'I don't think the Labour government is a workers' government. These leaders are all in it for themselves.'

Short-time working, low wages and boring jobs

'We can't live on what we get'

—say young hosiery workers



Julie (left) and Sandra.

Labour's 10 per cent laws are wage cut in face of

The great price rise hike

HAS Chancellor Denis Healey bought a portion of chips lately?

Many chip shops using new potatoes have bumped their price up from 10p to 15p per portion.

Ministers in the government may not be too worried about the price of chips—they are putting in for a £1,000 a year pay increase. Possibly they prefer more exotic dishes anyway.

Last Tuesday Chancellor Healey announced, for the Labour government, plans to hold wage increases at 10 per cent.

These plans will be fought by every section of the working class. The miners are the first, others will follow.

Staggering

The reason is common knowledge. Price increases are higher than ever. Each price increase is more staggering than the one before.

Last month they rose at a rate that over a year amounts to 60 per cent. But it will not stop

there. The full effects of the fall in value of the pound have not yet been felt.

Keep Left looked at some examples of the sort of increases we've had to pay in the last few weeks.

● Buses: Earlier in the year most fares went up 1p or 2p. On many services they will shortly increase by the same amount again.

● Hairspray. Most popular brands were 26p until the end of June. They are now 31p.

● Razor blades have recently increased from 25p to 31p. They will be going up again in the near future as steel prices rise.

To go with your blades why not a shaving brush—four years ago six shillings, now a snip at £2.70!

To do the job properly you might lash out on a badger bristle brush—a mere £7.

● Potatoes. Before entry into the Common Market they could be found for as little as two old pence per pound. Now the price fluctuates somewhere above 17p per pound.

● Cigarettes. Embassy were 26½p last year; they were 33p in January. After the last

budget they rose to 40½p; they now cost 41½p.

● Petrol, for a cigarette lighter has risen from 15p to 18p recently.

● Chocolate cigarettes are obviously the answer. Well, maybe. They have quadrupled in price in the last year—from four a penny to one a penny.

● Soft Drinks. The recommended price jumped from 10p to 11p in January and from 11p to 12p last month. Many shops charge more. If its chilled you might well pay 15p or 16p.

● Electricity increased by six per cent on July 1. This brought the total increases so far this year to 46 per cent.

Only 16 per cent of this figure comes from higher fuel costs: 28.5 per cent resulted from Chancellor Healey's November budget decision to permit nationalized industries to charge 'realistic' prices.

● House prices. Rising again. Over the first three months of the year they went up on average three per cent.

This is slower than the rise in 1972 and 1973 but twice

the rate for last year as a whole.

Price increases for the three months up to the end of February amounted to £70 for every man, woman and child in Britain.

Subsidies that hid the real increases in prices are being phased out as part of the government's measures to cut spending.

In 1968 the price of a loaf of bread was 7p, by early 1974 it was 12½p.

The government began to subsidize the industry. In April this year the companies announced their intention to raise the price once more—to 16.5p.

Now the price is 18p or more.

Some shops have stopped selling carrots. The price went up four times in three weeks and shops just stopped buying.

These are just a few examples. These increases will be dwarfed by the rises now coming in the pipe line.

They mean that not a single worker can afford to accept Healey's 10 per cent. Huge pay struggles must now develop that challenge the Labour government and its pro-capitalist policies.

Report warns

School leavers largest category of unemployed by winter

YOUNG people most of whom are leaving school in the next two weeks will be the largest category of unemployed by the winter, according to the Manpower Services Commission.

Training

The Commission has announced a scheme to get more school leavers to take a one-year craft and technical training course.

Of the 559,000 school leavers who finish school this month, 300,000 will have no training.

The MSC scheme has been allocated a mere £15m from the £50m for employment and training programmes allowed in the Labour government's last Budget.

This scheme involves paying 7,000 young people about £15 a week while they are trained for a year.

How they are expected to live on this sum is open to speculation. No job is guaranteed at the end of the course—and there will be hundreds of thousands more youth with nothing at all.

Another report published by the Training Services Agency calls for 'gateway' courses in school to help young people decide on the types of career education they could pursue after leaving school.

It says this could be followed by training off the job in craft and technical skills.

The TSA, however, makes no suggestion where the money for such a programme would come from. It could cost in the region of £150m and the government allocation is a mere £50m for youth and adults alike.

No hope

These schemes have no hope whatever of solving the desperate situation facing youth all over Britain this summer.

Chiesmans workers demand official backing for pay fight

YOUNG workers at Chiesmans department store, south-east London, want official backing for their pay struggle from the shop-workers union USDAW.

The 148 union members at Chiesmans, Lewisham, held a one-day strike last month on the first day of the sales. They are demanding that management should negotiate pay scales with the newly-formed USDAW branch.

Chairman of Chiesmans, Mr G. R. De Castro, says there is no agreement to negotiate pay with USDAW.

Management have said they will award pay increases next week—but they will not consult the union or tell them how much money is involved.

The Chiesmans workers are not satisfied with this. They say that some workers at the store—which employs many youth, women workers and part-time labour, should be earning up to £15 a week more.

Official

All eyes are now on Lord Alf Allen and the national executive of USDAW, Britain's sixth-biggest union, who have been called upon to give official support to the Chiesmans fight.

USDAW divisional organizer Mr Hutchinson has written to Lord Allen asking for official backing in future.

Chiesmans USDAW branch secretary Dave Walker phoned Lord Allen last Monday but he was not available. He reported to a meeting of the Chiesmans branch the same day that the

'This company has got to be told to negotiate a wage structure'

BY SIMON PIRANI



national executive would be considering the matter.

The feeling of the meeting was for an official strike. One young worker said:

'At my last job I earned £35 basic plus £2.50 threshold pay. Now I get £27 a week.

'The cost of living is

ridiculous. I give my mum £8—she has to look after two young children and gets £14 social security.

'What I'd like to know is why don't we make it an official strike and demand the money we want.'

Some members felt that the majority of Chiesmans staff who have not joined the union would only do so when the pay fight got official backing.

Another young worker commented: 'People are only interested when they hear you are going to strike. They don't want to know when they hear you are just talking about money.'

One of the women workers thought that more should be done by the official leadership of the union. 'We want someone from higher-up in the union to do something—it is the sixth-biggest union in the country.'

Structure

Dave Walker, branch secretary, told Keep Left:

'This company has got to be told to negotiate a wage structure.'

Commenting on Lord Allen, he said: 'I'd like to go up and see him myself—the union leaders should be more aware of the situation.'

The meeting was addressed by Doug Smith of the Lewisham and Deptford Trades Council and the branch voted to affiliate to the Trades Council.

NAME

ADDRESS

I AM INTERESTED IN (tick where applicable):

<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOS	<input type="checkbox"/> MEETINGS
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<input type="checkbox"/> NETBALL	<input type="checkbox"/> COACH TRIPS

Post to: YS national secretary, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG



Victims of the My Lai massacre—a whole village wiped out

'AMERICAN capitalism is seeking world domination. It wants to establish American autocracy over our planet. This is what it wants.'

—Europe and America
by Leon Trotsky.

THE Central Intelligence Agency or CIA is one of the largest and most corrupt of the vast network of agencies and sub-cells which are interwoven into the capitalist machinery of US government.

The CIA is the murder machine of the ruling class and its imperialist aims.

Whether it is carrying out the slaughter of millions in tiny agrarian nations, organizing counter-revolutionary tactics on its homeground or spying on other nations, it is reflecting the desires of the capitalist class and its anti-socialist policies.

American capitalism and its corrupt system is truly reflected in the CIA. In this article I hope to show you that America is not the picture it is painted to be.

Saga

The CIA was born out of the holocaust of the Second World War — an apt beginning for the CIA saga.

After the war, the Office of Strategic Services was disbanded and the Agency took its place in 1947 under the direction of Walter Bedell Smith.

Under his leadership the CIA became a unified and efficient structure. In 1948 the Office of Special Operations (later known as the 'Department of Dirty Tricks') was merged into the CIA forming the Directorate of Plans.

From the time the agency came into being it has directed strategic covert military operations against socialist states.

In the late 1940s, the CIA tried to establish urban counter-revolutionary guerrilla movements in Albania and the Ukraine. Fortunately these plans were soon found out and terminated.

In 1951, Alan Dulles was appointed Deputy-Director of the CIA. Under him the

CIA expanded its secret operations and its bloody coup d'etats of foreign governments.

The first of these was in Iran where the CIA organized and directed the 1953 coup that overthrew Premier Mohammed Mossadegh and put Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi on the throne.

For this the CIA chose General Fazollah Zahedi, Minister of the Interior when Mossadegh became premier in 1951.

Crime

Mossadegh's crime was that he nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and then took control of the Abadan refinery on the Persian Gulf.

The capitalists then went into action. After years of slave labour, poor working conditions and fat profits from the toil of the poor Iranian working class, it was outrageous that all this was stopped in a sudden socialist seizure.

So they connived with other nations to boycott Iran's oil, thus forcing the main artery of employment to a stop. Thousands of workers were thrown out of their jobs.

Washington and London feared that a secret deal was being arranged with Moscow that would give Iran's rich oil reserves to the Soviets. This was too much, Mossadegh's head had to roll!

The CIA imported one of its top troublemakers — Kim Roosevelt, grandson to Theodore Roosevelt (it's all in the family) to engineer the plot. MI5 also gave tactical and personnel assistance.

The plan was to direct public opinion against Premier Mossadegh and to oust him and instal the Shah as head of state.

On August 15, the Shah signed a decree dismissing Mossadegh and naming Zahedi as premier. Naturally, Mossadegh understood what was going on and refused to obey the decree.

Confer

He also had Zahedi arrested. The Shah got panicky and fled to Baghdad and then to Rome, where Dulles went to confer with him.

Meanwhile back in Iran, socialist movements and the people were rejoicing at the departure of the Shah.

Then suddenly the CIA went into action. With

colossal pay offs it bought demonstrators to undermine Mossadegh and consolidate an anti-socialist clique that smashed and beat up the socialist elements.

It also bought the right-wing element in the armed forces led by Zahedi.

Early on August 19, Roosevelt gave orders for the round-up of the Communists and socialists. By mid-morning the tide had turned — Zahedi came out of hiding and took control.

Mossadegh was slung into a concentration camp while the socialists and communists were executed.

The Shah returned and the bloody and tyrannical regime began which continues to torture, kill and terrorize people today.

This is just one coup engineered by the CIA to stop the victory of socialism that succeeded.

One that did not succeed was the 'Bay of Pigs' fiasco which humiliated the Kennedy regime and America.

Invasion

This was the intended invasion of Cuba by the CIA. For this the CIA choose Cuban exiles who had hard right-wing and fascist leanings.

The CIA trained those exiles in secret on Guatemalan soil, using the most sophisticated planes and weapons.

The exiles were schooled in every conceivable sector of aerial warfare and urban guerrilla movements. The sudden attack system was used — where the victim is caught totally defenceless and hence rendered defenceless.

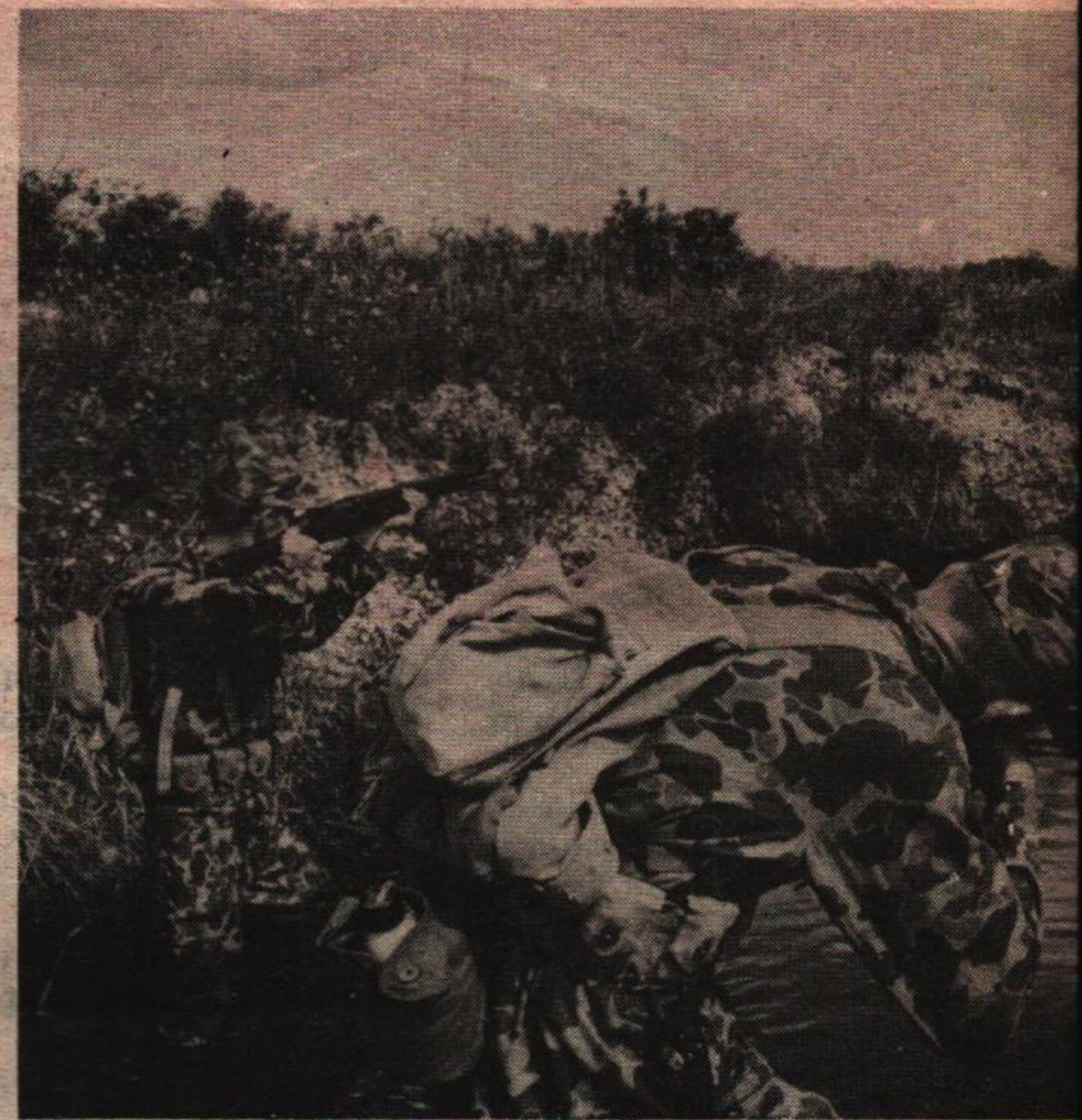
Attack

The attack was divided into two sections. Section one was put into operation on April 15, 1961. At 1.40 a.m. Mario Zuniga took off. His destination was Miami International Airport. His plane bore the markings and ensign of Fidel Castro's air force — 'Fuerza Aerea Revolucionaria'.

But he was not a Castro pilot. He was a CIA operator on a fantastic mission.

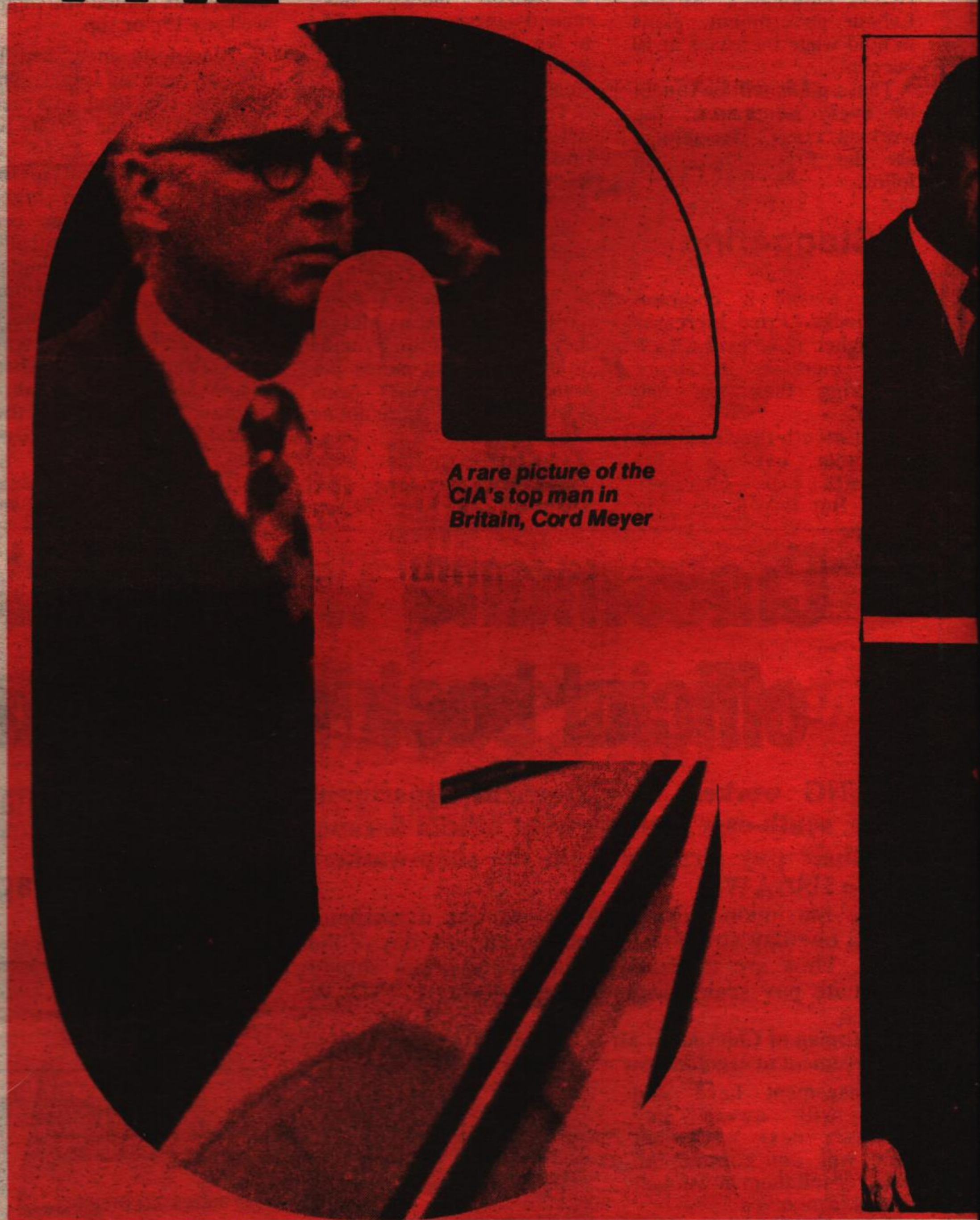
At the same time as Zuniga was heading towards Miami, eight CIA B26s carrying 300lb bombs were roaring towards Cuba. Their mission was to smash Castro's Air Force and hence pave the way for ground shock-troops.

Zuniga, when he landed in Miami was to tell the story



CIA forces in training for the disastrous invasion attempt in

THE



A rare picture of the CIA's top man in Britain, Cord Meyer

By Jonathan Fry

AND ITS TERROR

that the attack had been carried out by defectors within Castro's airforce. In fact, all the planes took off from 'Happy Valley' in Nicaragua.

As this was going on, section two of the attack was in operation. An invasion fleet of half a dozen ships was steering towards Cuba under the escort of US warships.

At 6 a.m. the B26s started to split and tail off into teams to bomb the airfields and airports. This was done although a few planes were damaged by anti-aircraft guns.

They pulled out but complications arose as some planes that were hit could not make it back to base camp and had to land in British territory.

Holes

At 8.21 a.m. Zuniga landed at Miami, his plane pock-marked with bullet holes—in fact fired by the CIA before he took off.

Next morning right across America the story was front page news. Next morning Zuniga issued his fake statement to the world

Press. Not until 9 a.m. did Radio Cuba announce the bombings.

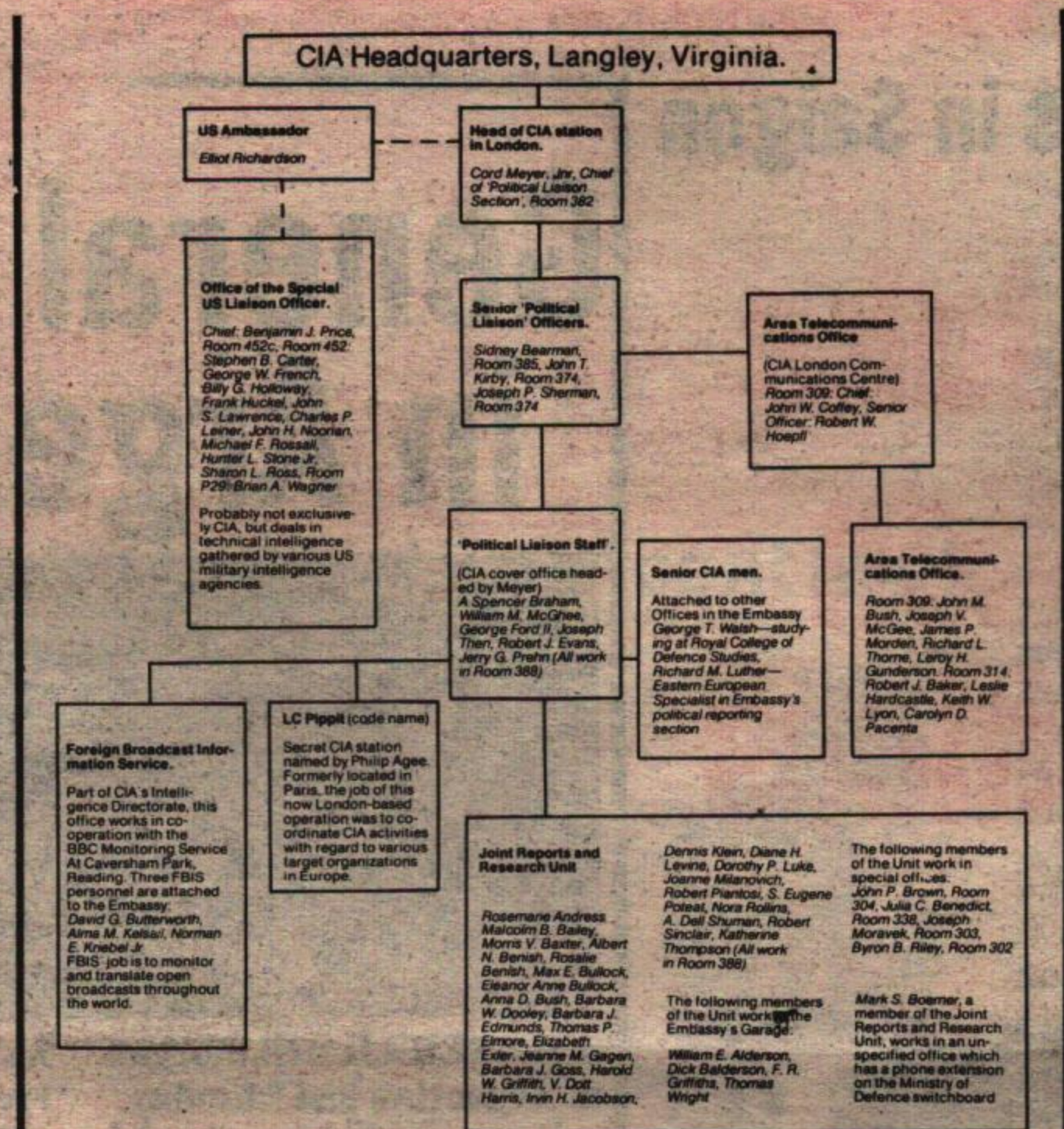
Castro had meanwhile put the country on a war footing. But Zuniga's cover story was foundering and it was announced that two pilots were dead and three planes landed on British territory as a result of the bombings.

On Sunday April 16 the invasion began. The CIA issued a statement that the 'oppressed people of Cuba had risen to smash international Marxism'—of this not one word was true.

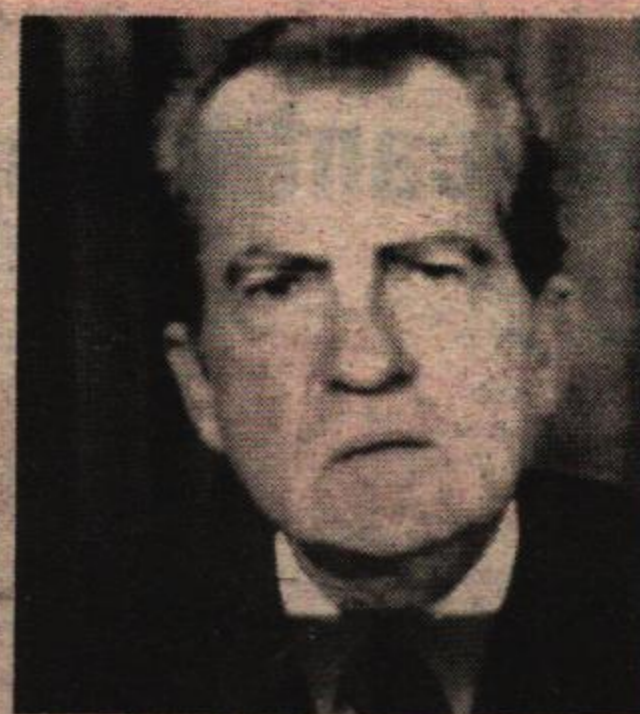
By dawn Castro's air force was taking heavy toll of the invasion fleet. The



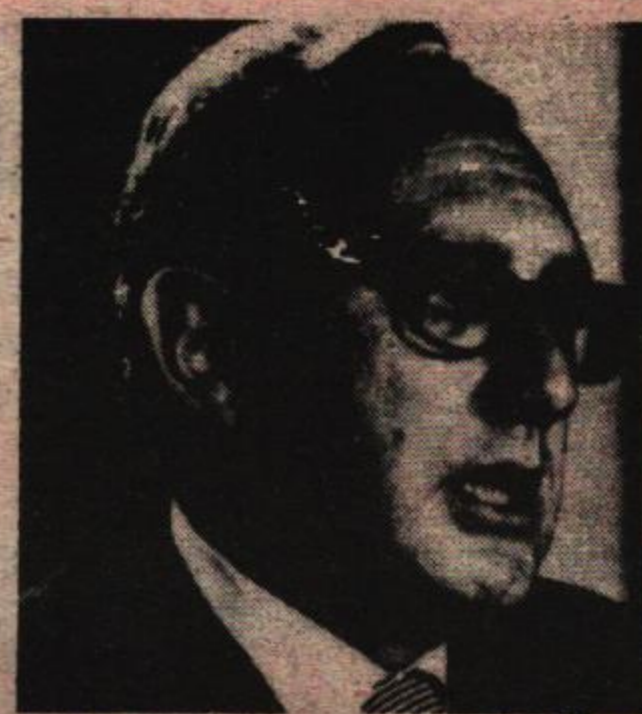
Cuba



The CIA's chain of command and how it relates to its operations in Britain



Nixon



Kissinger



Rockefeller



The aftermath of the coup in Chile in 1973 which installed a fascist dictatorship and overthrew the Allende Popular Front government—aided by the CIA



Former CIA director, Helms and (below) present spy chief, Colby



The CIA headquarters deep in woods in Langley, Virginia

OR TENTACLES

'Houston', the mother ship was knocked out by an incendiary bomb and began to sink.

For three days the invasion forces fought, flying sorties and supplies out for the capitalist insurgents. Due to the spirit of the Cuban forces, however, the CIA were driven back and captured.

By 5.30 p.m. the invasion was over. The next day the White House admitted that they had been supplying 'patriots' in Cuba. This was one of the times the CIA failed.

But it has been in numerous other coups—in

Guatemala, Suez, Cyprus, Chile, Greece—the list is endless.

Torture

This installing and deposing of governments is only one section of the CIA's devious work. Another is the extermination and torture of innocents, as practised in Vietnam under the code name of Phoenix.

William Colby, the director of the CIA in the late 1960s, devised this programme to attack the Vietnam Communists and

Liberation Fighters of the NLF.

This was based on the assumption that if someone was suspected of being Communist or Socialist he was reported to the local provincial centre where he or she was executed.

Sometimes whole villages and everyone in them was wiped off the map—remember Mai Lai

This was the most brutal and bloody concept of the ruling class because as capitalism was being driven back by the courageous Vietnamese working class, the CIA in its mad lust for

blood was slaughtering thousands of innocents.

In fact even Colby said that so many 'executions' could have been mistakes.

Of course, this is just one facet out of many that American imperialism and its Intelligence Agency imposed on the tiny nation, who finally, against all odds, kicked the US out of south east Asia.

The CIA today is housed in Langley, Virginia. The headquarters are set in deep woods, this is the nerve centre of the organization.

Home

Not all CIA operations are carried out overseas. Some are conducted on homeground, such as the infiltration of various socialist organizations in the US and the penetration of unions which the CIA finances with its money to counteract any socialist views workers might fight for.

But the working class in America had not been duped in the way the CIA would like.

After the now legendary Watergate scandal and the character-smearing lists drawn up by Nixon before he was quietly packed off to his mansion to let things cool down, the working class saw for the first time what sort of men were running America.

Upsurge

In a vain attempt to counteract the upsurge in the working class against the CIA and the invisible government of spy networks and assassination departments, the ruling class

set up the Rockefeller Commission.

But the Rockefeller Commission did not realize it was going to drag some pretty 'hot' stuff from the murky past of the CIA like the death list of foreign heads of state.

Some were so 'hot' that it was not even disclosed to the public and was 'hushed up'.

So all the Commission did was to throw a few tit-bits of information to the people and concealed the more nefarious exploits of the CIA.

In fact the CIA can operate as it always has done with the same unlimited powers as before. So what of the future?

The CIA is trying, as it already has done in France, Italy, Germany, to penetrate the unions and government in Britain, buy MPs to carry out right-wing policies.

Judging from revelations over the past few months this is not as fantastic as it seems.

Agents

The CIA is trying to place as many of its agents as it can within the trade union movement to try to undermine any attempt at a fight for socialist policies.

In this article I hope I have shown you what we are up against. This is of course just a minute fraction of what goes on and is going on right now.

The CIA has done many other things which it would take whole volumes to tell.

The CIA is not the only American secret agency. The biggest is the National

Security Agency (NSA) and the other is the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), both bigger and more secretive, so secret in fact that no one quite knows what both do.

The CIA is the tip of the iceberg.

So we ask youth everywhere in all walks of life to join the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party because we are the only movement that fights for socialist policies and the defeat of capitalism and to expose the CIA activities in Britain.

Vietnam

And we understand clearly the implications of the defeat of all these agencies by the forces of the working class and peasantry in Vietnam.

If these people can smash the US imperialists and their agencies, then the way is wide open for the working class in Britain to end this capitalist system and prepare for the smashing of imperialism the world over.

That is why the building of revolutionary leadership is so vitally urgent in Britain today. Only a leadership which bases itself on Marxist philosophy and the fight for revolutionary politics can unite the working class and young people to defeat capitalism and its counter-revolutionary forces.

The fact that the CIA has been exposed for what it is, is a part of the new stage of the struggle which is now on the agenda to destroy all these forces once and for all.

Handwritten notes: 26, 100, 7-100, 9/11

People's Revolutionary Committees take over administration of factories and offices

The most significant changes in Saigon

TWO months after the victory of the South Vietnamese revolutionary forces the Provisional Revolutionary Government has started the enormous task of reorganizing the capital of Saigon.

For a start the city's once 'sizzling' nightlife under the Americans and Thieu's regime has been cleaned up.

'Prostitutes and drug addicts,' reports a Reuter correspondent, 'have been rounded up and released after being told why they should abandon "the dark and hopeless road" which the Americans and their lackeys forced upon them.'

All bars and discotheques have either been closed or converted into popular restaurants. Pornographic literature has disappeared.

Life style

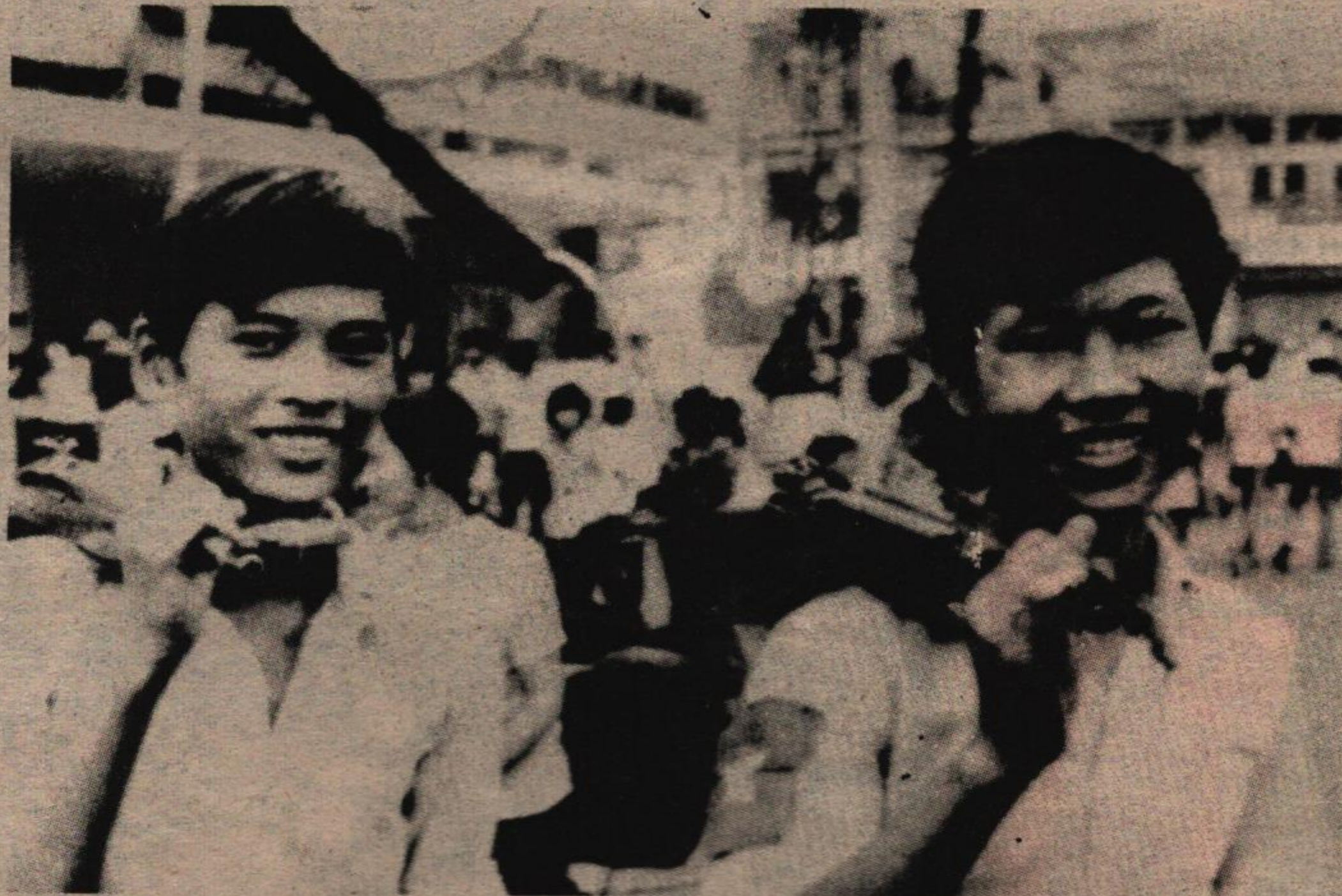
A new lifestyle is clearly emerging. Most high government officials, with the exception of ministers, now walk or cycle to their offices.

Clothes are simple. Members of the liberation army stick to their green uniforms and pith helmets and the standard wear for other officials is a white bush shirt, cotton trousers and plastic sandals.

Government officials eat the same sort of meals as the Liberation Army soldiers—rice, vegetables, dried fish and shreds of meat.

Gone are the dozens of jewellery shops in fashionable centres of the city. Along with night-clubs they have been converted into popular restaurants selling soft drinks and cheap noodle soup.

On the pavements, stalls are selling 'Ho Chi Minh' sandals—these are cut out of



Young members of the Liberation Army in Saigon

rejected tyres and have come to symbolize the simplicity and thrift of the Liberation Army soldiers who marched and fought so determinedly in such footwear.

The city's petrol stations have been closed—part of the austerity measures—and only public transport companies are allocated generous amounts of diesel oil.

Private cars are now a rare sight—instead people cycle most places.

It was announced last week that South and North Vietnam are soon to be linked by a combined rail and bus service.

The newspaper, 'Liberated Saigon', has reported that starting this month, the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi and the north-

eastern coastal city of Da Nang will have a train and bus service to satisfy the travel needs of cadres, workers and of people who have relatives in the South.

Another feature of life in Saigon is the official campaign against 'depraved and reactionary' literature.

Lives

Some of Saigon's cinemas have replaced their once habitual diet of Westerns with films on the lives of liberation fighters.

At the end of the first phase of the campaign against reactionary literature, launched by the Student and Youth Association, figures revealed that over half a million reactionary books and 27,000 tapes of

reactionary music have been handed over.

After initial steep prices immediately after the liberation victory, rice is now selling at its original price and the cost of other essential household items have been stabilized.

But one of the big problems which still remains is a shortage of cash—there is no scarcity of goods.

Meanwhile thousands of Vietnamese have begun preparations to return to their native villages to take up farming. They have sold radios, television sets and refrigerators to raise cash for agricultural equipment.

Significant

But, as Reuter correspondent Nayan Chanda, reports:

General strike in Argentina

A GENERAL strike began in Argentina last Monday.

It was called by the 3.5 million strong General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and was planned to last for two days.

Last minute talks and the resignation of the cabinet failed to stop the strike taking place.

All rail road and sea transport has been halted and International telephone services were cut.

The CGT is allowing skeleton crews to maintain water, electricity and gas supplies and hospitals will continue to provide emergency treatment.

The CGT's stoppage defies a strike ban under the state of siege, imposed last November.

On June 27, 70,000 workers rallied in the central Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires demanding the dismissal of the economy minister Celestino Rodrigo and the Welfare minister

Jose Lopez Rega, the President's top adviser.

Rodrigo brought in an 'austerity package' of emergency economic measures on June 4.

This included the devaluation of the currency by 50 per cent and the ending of price controls.

These measures immediately pushed up the cost of all goods and services between 100 and 200 per cent.

Señora Peron has vetoed all the recently negotiated wage agreements many of which were over 100 per cent.

Instead she has ordered an all round increase of 50 per cent with further rises of 15 per cent in October and January.

The announcement of these decisions provoked an unprecedented general strike, mass protests in Buenos Aires and the resignation of Labour Minister Ricardo Otero.

'The most significant changes in Saigon are not as evident as the quiet, empty roads, deserted hotels and closed nightclubs.

'They are taking place in hundreds of meetings in factories and offices—where people are being told about the crimes committed by the United States and the previous government.

'People attending such meetings are being asked to take the administrations of their factories and offices into their own hands.

'Peoples Revolutionary

Committees are being set up everywhere to ensure security and public hygiene, administer the distribution of free rice for the needy, organize cultural activity, or arrange the departure of people willing to return to the countryside.

Break

'This "politicization" of the people and its increasing association with civic administration may prove the most significant break from the past.'

Virtual dictatorship in India

A VIRTUAL dictatorship has been imposed in India.

The ruling Congress Party led by Mrs Gandhi has locked up all leading political opponents.

A state of emergency has been declared and a new ordinance has been issued that frees the government from giving reasons for arrests made under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

Over 700 hundred oppositionists were arrested in the pre-dawn raids on June 26. The number being held in detention now is 'obviously much higher' according to a government spokesman.

Indian newspapers may now print only news that is favourable to government.

Mrs Gandhi has made

Press and radio statements saying that there was a conspiracy being prepared to topple the government and that 'democracy has given too much licence to people'.

Crisis

The truth is that Congress is in great crisis and has taken on dictatorial powers because of the insoluble economic crisis that faces India.

The Congress Party has ruled without challenge since independence in 1947. Last month it suffered an unprecedented defeat in the Gujerat state elections.

At the same time Gandhi herself suffered equally unprecedented setback. The courts disbarred her from office for six years for corrupt activities carried out in the 1971 elections.



Gandhi

The opposition groups, mainly right wingers that successfully united to defeat Congress in Gujerat and backed the court action against Gandhi, launched a new drive for her removal.

Gandhi decided not to wait for the outcome of the campaign.

The employers and

aristocrats that back Gandhi feared that the 'passive resistance' might lead to the independent action of the Indian masses and revolution.

Half the population of India now live below the official poverty line.

Prices have doubled every year for the last three years.

Chronic

Unemployment, already chronic, has risen to even higher levels over the last year of world recession.

After the election defeat at Gujerat, Gandhi launched a whirlwind tour of the country. Meetings and mass demonstrations using every demagogic and emotional trick she knew.

The promises she made

fell on deaf ears. So now Gandhi has struck with savage ferocity, exposing the claims of the Congress that they were building democracy and 'socialism'.

The only party left untouched by the sweeping wave of arrests is the Stalinist Communist Party of India. They have given popular front support to the Gandhi regime for a number of years.

The Soviet Union declared immediate support for Gandhi's dictatorial powers. Press censorship and widespread arrests for 'foiling the plans of reaction'.

The Soviet Stalinists welcome Gandhi's new powers 'aimed to protect the countries progressive achievements'.

The Communist Party of

India has betrayed the masses by its popular front collaboration with the ruling class.

This reached a high point with last year's railway strike which the Stalinists broke up after the government had arrested thousands of railmen.

Slump

The Congress hierarchy and Gandhi clique are part of the capitalist system which is plunging India into deeper slump and economic catastrophe.

The task confronting Indian workers is the construction of revolutionary leadership around the politics and programme of the Fourth International.



Fight against Healey's 10 per cent law!

HEALEY'S 10 per cent pay measures must affect everybody. I think we should fight back to keep our wages the same.

Every time prices are increased wages should be increased because they're making life more difficult for the working class.

The Labour

government should not be carrying out these policies. They are no good.

I think we should build a new party. Nothing should be happening behind closed doors as they do now—things should be put clearly to workers.

Justin, Hackney YS.



Healey

The old system must go!

THIS is a great disco. I think we should hold more in the near future.

I am beginning to understand what the Young Socialists is fighting for.

It is fighting for the demolition of the old government and putting in its place a new one—the sort of government that will do what we say and not try to con us.

The present

government is trying to con us. Prices go up every day but they say we should have 10 per cent wage increases.

Prices will hit the roof, eventually we would starve. The rich would be the only ones who could afford to eat.

The present government doesn't want to admit that it's the whole system that's at fault.

The old system must go and we must replace it, or it will destroy itself and us with it.

So we the people have still got time to build something to replace the old government.

That's what the Young Socialists is all about.

Ralph, Clapham YS.

KEEP LEFT Young Socialists must fight racialism

LAST night as we were sitting on 149 bus two or three blokes got hold of a coloured bloke and twisted his arms behind his back and then started kicking him.

About 30 seconds later two cop cars pulled up and three policemen all jumped on this coloured kid and twisted his arms while holding his legs. This was about 100 yards from the police station in Tottenham.

Even though I am not a black person (I know a load of coloured kids), I know that the cops never treat white kids like that. It's just that the police are racialist.

The coppers just take their temper out on any black person they see and that just gets me going.

Young Socialists should learn to hate racialism. They should be taught to fight against the rich upper class and learn to fight against racialism too.

Nick, Edmonton YS.

Letter of the week

I WORK as a labourer on the Thames Barrier site. At the moment we work from 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

It costs me about 60p a day for fares and 46p for breakfast and I get stopped a lot for tax.

The working conditions are terrible. Soon we'll be working 40 feet down and we'll have to wear masks.

The work on the barrier is nine months behind and now the management want us to work a 12-hour shift from 7 in the morning to 7 at night at the ordinary rate.

That's no good — we want 16 hours' wages for that kind of shift.

We've just been on strike for two weeks for extra money. About a month ago we were on strike for a week as well.

UCATT wouldn't make the strike official so we have lost two weeks' pay and got behind on our bonuses. We go back to work on Monday without getting the rise.

The shop stewards just say the management won't pay us the money, but if they can afford to

THE FIGHT FOR WAGES AND CONDITIONS IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

hire expensive plant they can afford to pay us more.

We haven't even got the £6 rise from last November and now there's a 10 per cent wage freeze we'll only get £2.50.

The union stewards won't fight for better wages and conditions. They just keep telling us we'll get it sooner or later but I don't

think we will.

I think that Jenkins and all the others in the Labour Party who want a 10 per cent wage freeze are no good. They should be kicked out.

With prices going up so fast, by the time we get our wage rise it won't be worth anything.

John, New Cross YS

CAN YOUR BRANCH write the letter of the week? Send your views to Post-bag, 186a Clapham High St. London, SW4 7UG, or phone 01-720 5661-2.

What's on where

COACH TRIPS

Outing to **KESWICK**
Sunday July 20
North East YS
East Midlands YS
Outing to **TRENT, STAFFS**
Sunday July 20
Cambridge & Norwich YS
Outing to **YARMOUTH**
Sunday July 20
South Wales YS
Outing to **PORTHCAWL**
Sunday July 27
Tickets £1.20 — coaches leaving 8 a.m. from all branches.

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL RALLIES

EAST LONDON YS
Football tournament, tennis, cricket, netball and other sports
Sunday July 20
Kick-off 3 p.m.
Rainsford School Chelmsford
RALLY AND DANCE in the evening

KENT REGION YS
Sunday July 20
Kick-off 3 p.m.
Stour Centre Ashford
RALLY AND DANCE in the evening

REGIONAL SPORTS DAYS

NORTH LONDON YS
Sunday July 27
New River Sports Centre White Hart Lane N22
DISCO in the evening at Wood Green youth club

SOUTH LONDON YS
Sunday July 27
Tooting Common Sports Track Tooting, SW17
DISCO in the evening at The Foresters Arms Mitcham Road, SW17

SOUTHERN REGION YS
Sunday July 27
Crawley Sports Centre Starts 2 p.m.
RALLY & DISCO in the evening
Tickets 30p

SWIMMING GALA

EASTERN REGION YS
Sunday July 27
Starts 6.30 p.m.
Cambridge Leys

School Leachefield Road Cambridge
DISCO afterwards

For more details about all events ring 01-622 7029.

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'An Introduction to Marxist Philosophy'

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Introduction to Marxist Philosophy

Birmingham college occupation

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS at Birmingham's Fircroft College have taken over the building in a fight against its closure.

The students — who are almost entirely trade unionists — took over the college on Tuesday in opposition to the authority's threats to close it down.

Fircroft students first struck on March 10 this year in a dispute over the College authorities' refusal to allow teaching staff to contribute to discussion at an open education meeting.

'Community activity' was formerly a much emphasized part of life at Fircroft.

The students demanded that freedom of speech be

guaranteed at education meetings.

After a break down in negotiations between the college Principal, the students' union, and members of the white collar union ASTMS, threats were issued that the college would be closed.

New topics

Since March 10, the Fircroft students have thrown out the old education programme and introduced a number of new topics into their course, including Marxism, a project on the General Strike, short courses on Irish Labour history and in general have turned their course towards a history of the working class.

The students had already

decided they would consider occupying the college if the closure threats were not lifted by July 12.

Fircroft College was founded by the Cadbury family in 1909. Today its finance goes through a trust — yet over 90 per cent of the cash comes from the Department of Education and Science.

It is in fact state financed, but not state controlled.

Chairman of the Fircroft governors is Sir Alan Hudson Davies, a director of the Pilkington glass company.

Files

When the students occupied the building last week they found files of documents containing

against closure threat —

Public inquiry demanded on political files

political investigations of the background of students.

They are demanding that a public inquiry be launched into the activities of the authorities.

Earlier school leaving date

THE May spring bank holiday may become the single school leaving date for all 16-year-olds from next year, Labour Secretary of State for Education, Mr Fred Mulley has announced.

The Easter and summer leaving dates are likely to be abolished.

The decision has been welcomed by the three main teachers' unions.

But the date of leaving school will do nothing for the prospects of school leavers.

Mulley's announcement has no proposal to provide any training for young people coming out of school to enable them to have a better chance of a job when they leave.

Another suggestion has

been that the earlier leaving date would end the boredom felt by large numbers of pupils towards the end of the summer term.

Boredom would be ended more effectively throughout the school year by a full programme of subjects and the hiring of enough teachers to ensure it is carried out.

Yet the first move in the Department of Education and Science since Mr Mulley took on the job has been to propose a £520m cut in education spending.

This can only lead to more 'boredom' and slashing cuts in education facilities.

Under the present conditions for school leavers, all the proposal does is transfer 16-year-olds a little earlier from the 'boredom' of the classroom to the boredom of the dole

Coach trips for London YS

CUFFLEY in the Hertfordshire countryside was the scene of the North London YS coach outing last Sunday. Highlights of the day were a bar-b-que and disco in the evening. And new members were

recruited in the nearby town of Cheshunt where the region is planning to open a new branch soon.

West London YS travelled to Southsea, near Portsmouth for their day

out. The local funfair and just lying on the beach were the favourite pastimes. The return journey was broken for a visit to a pub. It was voted a very successful day.

SOUTH London and Southern Regions of the YS went on a coachtrip to Margate last Sunday.

Everyone found plenty to do around the seafront and in 'Dreamland' the funfair.

Many members paid out half a dollar to watch the motor cyclists on the wall of death.

Others, with less money and sharper ears, found a free lunchtime disco on the seafront.

On the coaches new members were signed up to the YS and plans for building the YS in the region were discussed.

It was a great day out and on the way back there was a disco, with C&B playing the sounds, in the Crypt in Brixton.

Big Sound in Eastern region

IPSWICH YS disco 'King Tom' is now becoming a big draw throughout the Eastern region activities. Below, members of Ipswich YS and 'King Tom' travel to Norwich for a disco at the University of East Anglia. It was a great night—200 people attended.

For more details of all YS activities fill in the form on p. 3

KEEP LEFT £200 MONTHLY FUND

COMRADES, our fund this month so far stands at £55.75. This means we are a long way behind schedule for raising these funds that are vital for the development of the paper.

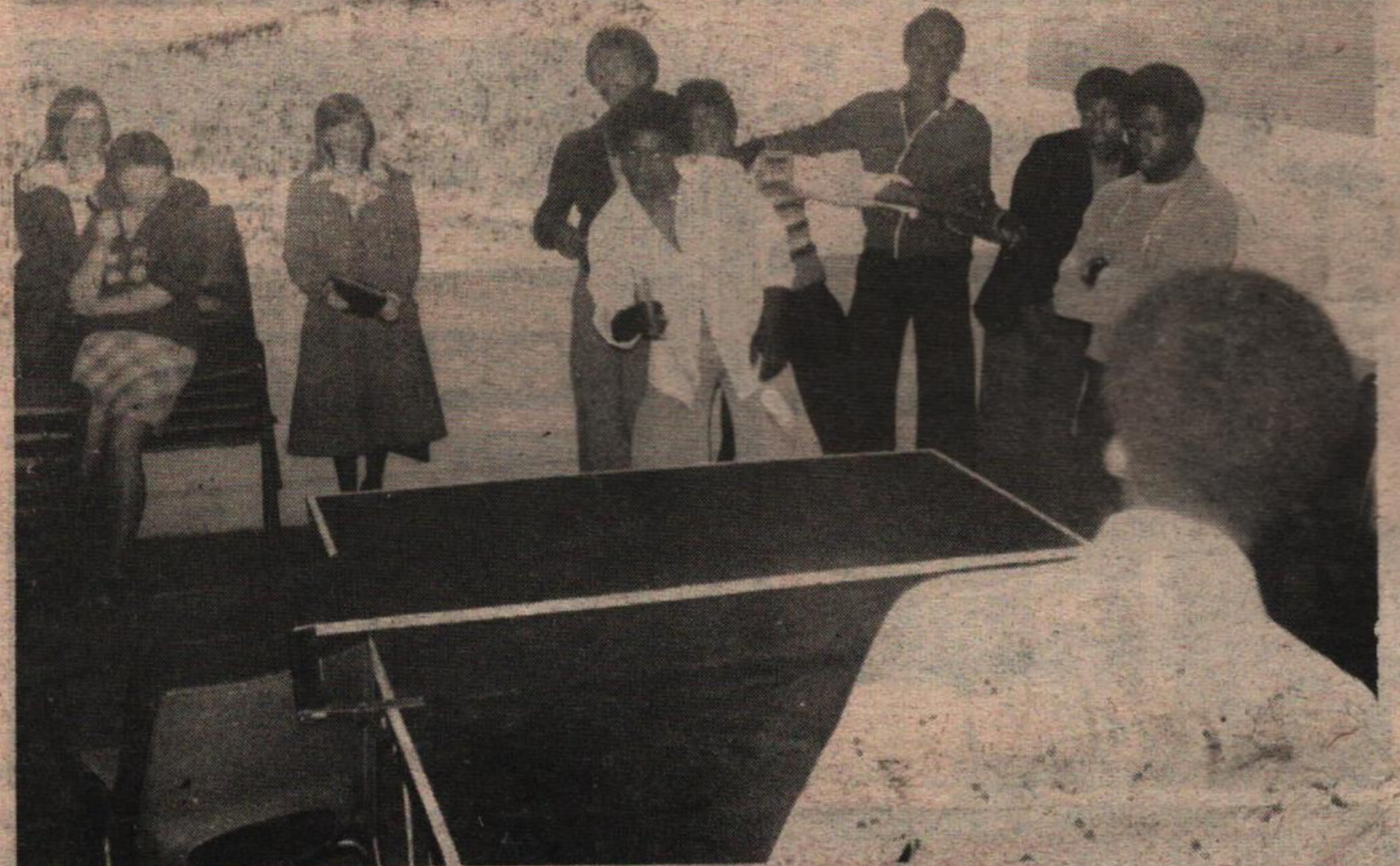
The explosive nature of the political situation, the Labour government's declaration of war on living standards and jobs and the growing opposition of the working class mean we cannot waste a moment in raising this money.

Don't wait till the end of the month. Post all donations immediately to:

Keep Left Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG



C & B sounds at a recent YS disco



Lively social programme for Nottingham YS

NOTTINGHAM YS weekly disco at St Catherine's Church Hall has become a lively feature of the branch activities. The 'Scorpion Sound' provides the music. But not everyone

spends the whole evening dancing — Delroy and Fenton (above) fight it out in a table tennis match which attracts keen interest.

● See Nottingham hosiery girls interviews, p. 2.

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