A touching little gathering took place in Downing Street last week. Hosted by Harold Wilson, social democratic leaders from all over Western Europe — France, Italy and Spain, Willy Brandt of West Germany, Olaf Palme of Sweden, and others — gathered to discuss the situation in Portugal. Solidarity was the theme. But it was not solidarity with the Portuguese workers.

The same ‘leaders’ who stayed silent during the years of the Salazar/Caetano dictatorship and welcomed Portugal into NATO, were there to discuss how to crush the Portuguese Revolution in the embrace of the capitalist Common Market.

The economic sabotage of the multinational companies has already taken a terrible toll. Now these worthy gentlemen seek to turn the screw once more. By making Common Market economic aid dependent on the establishment of an acceptable ‘democracy’ in Portugal, they aim to destroy the living workers’ democracy and the embryos of workers’ power that have begun to flower in Portugal in the past seventeen months.

HYPOCRISY

All good sell-outs and with a communiqué, and this one was no exception. In characteristic Wilson doublespeak, this document was full of fine-sounding phrases about ‘the advance of Socialism’ and the need for ‘pluralist democracy’.

‘The advance to Socialism’? Well we all know the contribution Wilson and his hatchet men have made to that end in Britain: wage-cuts for everyone, 1½ million unemployed and drastic cuts in the social services.

‘Pluralist democracy’? Well again, we’ve seen the great benefits this has brought in Britain — to the labour bureauocrats and their capitalist backers, that is. Why bother with working class power if the so-called leaders of the working class can have the occasional bite at the lucrative cherry of government office? After all, there’s always the Labour-Tory knock-about — though even that’s fading in these days of coalitionist policies — to stop the workers looking too closely into the workings of the capitalist system itself.

Now was the social democratic leaders’ rhetoric exhausted in these phrases. There were others equally fine sounding about the need for a ‘coalition of labour’ and although it is not thought that Wilson and company had Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore, in mind. This fellow member of the ‘Socialist’ International has the nasty habit of throwing critical journalists in jail at four in the morning and keeping them there indefinitely.

DEFEND NATO

So what was this gathering all about? The game was given away at the subsequent press conference by ‘honest’ Willy Brandt, the chairman of this ‘Committee of Friendship with Democracy and Socialism in Portugal’. He told assembled journalists that the position of Portugal was decisive for Western Europe because of its relationship to NATO. Quite what ‘democracy and socialism’ have to do with this counter-revolutionary military alliance even he didn’t try to explain.

But if Wilson and his colleagues don’t see the need to explain this relationship, the Portuguese working class certainly does. For 25 years NATO bolstered the Salazar and Caetano dictatorships and encouraged Portuguese colonialism to continue its wars of oppression in Africa. Similarly NATO engineered the colonists’ coup in Greece in 1967 when even ‘pluralist democracy’ could not stop the workers getting revenge. And today NATO’s hand is all too clearly seen behind the anti-communist movement in the Azores — which just happens to be the key military staging post between the US and the Middle East.

SOLIDARITY

These social democrats now reckon to choke the Portuguese revolution through a co-ordinated display of capitalist solidarity. But there is another kind of solidarity which can and must stop them. That is the solidarity action of the international working class.

Portugal is in the news — often very inaccurately — because the people of Portugal are creating a socialist society. In this task they need the support of the entire British working movement and not the obstruction of those who during the long years of fascism were apologists for Britain’s oldest ally.

For this reason we urge the widest support for a mass demonstration to be held in London on Saturday, 30 September, organised by the Portuguese Workers’ Co-ordinating Committee. The main slogans of the demonstration will be those used by this committee in its solidarity campaign in recent months: No economic boycott; big business, NATO, CIA — hands off Portugal; Portugal must not become another Chile. Support the solidarity campaign with the Portuguese working class.

The demonstration will be held in Hyde Park near Speakers’ Corner, preceded by a march starting at 2.30pm. Trade union, trades council and similar banners will be welcomed. Preparatory meetings are being planned in many places, and speakers are available for those from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee ([18 Fleet Road, London, N.W.1]). The entire mobilisation cannot be achieved on goodwill alone, we urge readers and their organisations to rush donations to the committee now, and prepare their participation.

Ken Fleet
Ken Coates
Joan Maynard MP
Audrey Wince MP
Dennis Skinner MP

CHILE - Two years later  Pages 6&7  CHILE - Two years later
As the curtain came down on the 107th performance of the annual Trades Union Congress at Blackpool Opera House last Friday, tumultuous applause from the capitalist press rang out for the undoubted star of the show, Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers Union. Tears of gratitude in their eyes, many hacks are already hoping that the one year run of the ‘£6 limit’ can be extended into another ‘Mousetrap’. With 1½ million registered ‘extras’ available, critics claimed that – but for the show-stopping intrusion of pickets demanding the release of Des Warren before the clock strikes midnight – this one could have replaced the Blackpool Christmas pantomime as the tamest show on earth.

In a 9.35am meeting attended by 15,000, TUC general secretary Alan Fisher, promptly turned right after the debate and said his union would accept the £6 pay cut. ‘We have always taken the view that decisions made in Congress are binding’.

It was in the wake of the discussion on the £6 limit that Len Murray raised the question of a new national industrial plan. But rather than proposing a socialist plan to end the spiral of capitalism, all Murray wants is more collaboration between the unions, the bosses and the Government in an effort to keep capitalism going for a little bit longer. This was clearly demonstrated when Jack Jones succeeded in getting a motion to remove all three railway unions calling for an integrated transport policy and the nationalisation of all forms of transport.

In the face of Jones’ and Murray’s strategy the remaining ‘lefties’ are powerless. Unable to offer a coherent anti-capitalist strategy, they were reduced to mounting battles about ‘free collective bargaining’.

The TUC (5 September) tries to blur the issue of working class at the TUC by claiming that many aspects of the resolution for next meeting in Glasgow were similar. But the £6 limit itself was the cornerstone of the Wilson Government’s pro-capitalist policies, and so long as it exists, the trade unions will be fighting the other aspects of Wilson’s policies with one hand tied behind their backs.

Murray and Jones can go on talking about public works and selective import controls and opposing cuts in public expenditure, but Wilson knows that he has all the trump cards while the unions continue to police the pay laws.

As if to underline this point, the discussion on unemployment failed to produce a single concrete initiative apart from a motion from the printing union SLADE, which called for the legalisation of factory occupations. Hugh Scallon’s major concern seemed to be that the 158,200 unemployed school leavers – a staggering increase of 283 per cent on the figure for a year before – would flock into revolutionary organisations unless the Government got the job done.

NEW STRUGGLES

In all, it was a deeply satisfying week for Harold Wilson and his capitalist colleagues. The TUC, as most snatch-votes will now guarantee acceptance of his policies at the forthcoming elections. With the economic crisis deepening, working-class discontent will grow – and the TUC will have to call on new scores of struggle.

Drake

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The TUC bureaucrats last week managed to push through their £6 wage limit. In eight of nine month fixed wage deals, faced with a threat of picketing, employers agreed to increase wages and further increases in unemployment, which can be expected to go on increasing as the £6 limit is cut, is inevitable.

The TUC members have understood this very well and have begun their preparations. The size of the 1972 national walkouts and building workers’ strikes, mass pickets have been a large threat to the £6 limit. The Labour Party have obli- gingly attacked picket lines in Newcastle, Peterborough, Birmingham, Glasgow and New London. At the present time there are over 100 workers on trial for various charges on picket lines also remains in jail.

The response to these attacks on pickets has been far from adequate. In fact, the trade union bureaucracy has been prepared to put a thorn of the energy into defending pickets that they put into selling the £6 limit, that the working class would be in a much stronger position.

PIOUS MOTION

The TUC of course passed yet another pious resolution calling on the General Council to use the full strength of the British trade union movement to secure the release of Des Warren. Nick Mc- Gay of the NUM claimed that if Warren had been a miner he would have been already home.

Bro. McGorry, if he is serious, should show the solidarity of the Scottish miners for strike action now. It is almost certain that he would win support from miners in other areas. And given the threat of the General Council, the miners in Scotland would have been brought into such a struggle because of the savage attacks on pickets at the Chiswick works.

Moreover, the unwisdom of the TUC to organise any struggle can be seen in the effect on the morale of the large numbers of miners. The most powerful weapon the miners have is the strength of the miners’ movement.

But other trade unions have yet to call any actions to defend the pickets in Newcastle, the Cammell Laird workers in Birkenhead or the victims of the violent police attack in Glasgow.

Moreover, one trade union leader has yet to call any actions to defend the pickets in Newcastle, the Cammell Laird workers in Birkenhead, or the victims of the violent police attack in Glasgow.

So Des Warren is still in the dock at the moment, and ten lads are up on trial in Newcastle. And then there’s 76 lads up on trial in Glasgow for anti- fascist demonstrations. We’ve got to concentrate on the same sort of events and same targets we used for the Shrewsbury lads in these trials, and for the lads that are now involved in the Cammell Laird dispute.

What they’re doing now is not using conspiracy law, but once again using the criminal law. At the present time there is over a hundred people involved in law suits arising from incidents that have happened on the picket line. I don’t think the TUC have got any option other than to call for a one day stoppage. But I don’t think the TUC have got any option other than to call for a one day stoppage. But this isn’t the way to deal with the problems. The thing is to deal with the problems. The thing is to deal with the problems.

Red Books News!

SCARLLIG speaks

The latest issue of New Left Review contains an important interview with Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire minery leader. The interview, which was given before the latest Hasley statements, gives an insight into Scargill’s background and his attitude to the TUC, trade unionism and trade unionism, Labour Government, etc. It shows the political strengths and weaknesses of Scargill, and indicates some of the factors which went to make up his political formation. Other important material in this issue of NLR includes an open and comprehensive analysis of the structure of the British state expenditure, by Ian Gough; a study of the Venetian opposition to Mozia, by Greg Benton; and Lucien Goldman’s study of France.

TRADE UNIONS & INFLATION

Do Trade Unions Cause Inflation has been re-issued with a new preface by Galtier. The answer which the authors – Jackson, Turner and Williams – give is a very qualified ‘yes’, but only so the extent that they have to defend their members’ interests because of other factors. This effectively dis- pells the common bourgeois argument that the cause of high inflationate rate in recent years has been trade union action.

The book’s wealth of argumentation and statistics can be extremely useful for people engaged in propaganda work on this question. One thing becomes obvious: the Holroyd reports are really concerned with increasing the rate of exploitation and, therefore, reducing the rate of profit.
WILSON-HEALEY AXIS

The Wilson-Healey axis have no intention of implementing even Labour's woefully inadequate programme. They have deliberately emboldened a working class regime of neglect, lowering living standards, and slashing the social services. It is the only road along which they can hope to save British capitalism.

But with all this, has he failed to address himself to, how can the entire labour movement be mobilised to defeat such policies. Not once in his letter does he suggest how Labour's defence of the 50p limit. But this is the frustration of the Government's drive to make the workers pay for a crisis for which they say they should not be blamed. Does he imagine that in the unlikely event of the Labour Party Conference going on rec-ord against the Healey pay law, the Wilson Government would change course? A vote against the Healey measures at the Conference would be welcome to many, but the Government would be more likely to be strengthened if it was used as a basis for mobilising a national movement inside the working class to smash the pay laws in action.

The Wilson Healey line in general, and Healey in particular, to come out openly and campaign against these pay laws gave Gormley and the NUM right wing to win a majority inside the miners union. They cannot be trusted, and they will use them if it is going to fight for the workers' interests and challenge 'the traditional economic and industrial system' which Benning correctly says has failed.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Neither Benning nor his 'left' allies have come out and openly identified themselves with workers who have struck against the 50p maximum. The failure to do this means that the one force - the working class - which can really push back pay cuts has received no encouragement from the left.

Therefore, it is futile, as Benning seems to think, to call for the implementation of the Manifesto. What is central to the Labour Manifesto is the Social Contract, which has provided Wilson and his allies with the justification for the 50p limits. Labour cannot be trusted, and they will use them if it is going to fight for the workers' interests and challenge 'the traditional economic and industrial system' which Benning correctly says has failed.

The conclusion is that the Benning letter is a failure. It has failed to do the job of mobilising the Wilson-Healey axis, and has not been able to convince them of the need for a new approach.

The Part

The only answer to the Benning letter is to build a new movement of the working class, a movement that can challenge the Government and the Labour Party. This movement must be able to mobilise the entire working class, not just a few unions or organisations.

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BRITISH TROOPS ACT AS COVER FOR LOYALIST MURDER SQUADS

The heightened activity of Loyalist assassination squads over recent weeks is a reflection of the growing confidence of the Unionist organizations since the Ulster Workers Council strike last year.

Over the last three years some 13 Loyalists have been arrested and charged with involvement in sectarian attacks – a period in which nearly 300 Catholics have been murdered by Loyalists. UC and UDR would not make a serious effort to halt the murders. And indeed the response of the Paratroop Regiment to the murder of Tony Molloy in Maghaberry Street, Derry, last month was to come in and let a neighbour, much to the disgust of the people. That typified British Army policy.

THE UDR DEFENCE REGIMENT'S complicity with Loyalists is well known – a considerable number of Loyalist paramilitary volunteers have joined the regiment in the Ulster Defence Association or Ulster Volunteer Force.

Two incidents show how useful the UDR is to the Protestant paramilitaries: (1) the attack on the Miami Showband on 31 July when the band's van was flagged down by bizarre security forces, the musicians were ordered outside, a bomb exploded prematurely killing two UVF men, and three members of the band were machine-gunned to death. (2) the murder of two Catholics on 24 August near Newtownhamilton at a fake UDR road-block. The UDR was organised by the British Government as an attempt on the one hand to appease the Catholics by disbarring the hated B-Specials, while on the other giving the Unionists an alternative to the B-Specials (but supposedly under the direct control of the Army). The result was to provide Loyalists with the opportunity for military training and spectacular shows of raw military equipment, backed up with the steady disappearance of ultra-modern rifles in one and two.

The Northern Ireland Convention has been postponed yet again. It will now meet on Thursday 11 September, two days after the first postponement due to an official reason given for this further postponement by Sir Robert Lowry, the Chairman of the Convention, was that he had not been able to find a date to convene the Convention after the B-Specials were formed.

The situation is in many respects a matter of power-sharing between the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and the Ulster United Unionist Council of Ireland (UUUC) also known as the Ulster Unionists.

Ian Paisley, one of the triumvirates that heads the UUUC, declared in the early days of the Convention that he would take part in any Unionist party in Westminster.

In response to this statement the UDDP, whose real objective is to create a situation where there is little difference between the UUUCC and the SDLD over the last few weeks in their secret talks.

The Convention was just one more in a long line of 'British solutions to the problems of the Irish people, and its predecessor is done to failure from the start. Only last week Myles Cusack, a member of the British Army, acknowledged the point when he spoke of continuing direct rule from Westminster.

But direct rule is hardly an option that remains open to the British Government. It has been rejected by every single one of the Loyalist factions who are united in seeking an 'Ulster' solution. This can only be successful through increased repression of the Catholic minority, and on that issue there is little difference between the UUUCC and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), which bears the hallmark of the Loyalist para-military organizations) last Saturday.

The Ulster Volunteer Force have already let it be known that their battalions are engaged in widespread assassination of 'persons connected with Republican and Communist organizations'. The UVF in the past have distinguished their identity by calling themselves either as a loyalist paramilitary organization or the Irish Republican Socialist Party and the People's Democracy. The Committee organised a number of protests during the fourth anniversary of internment, and has laid plans for a further series of street protests culminating in a conference to be held in London in the autumn.

It was for this reason that the Bbuc participates in the British anti-internment Committee along with the Irish Republican Socialist Party and the People's Democracy. The Committee organised a number of protests during the fourth anniversary of internment, and has laid plans for a further series of street protests culminating in a conference to be held in London in the autumn.

Whatever the outcome, however, Irish revolutionaries have to continue their comrades in Britain to intensify their efforts in building solidarity in the British labour movement.

7 Days in the 6 Counties

JOHN MAGEE reports from Belfast

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions, declaring itself as the 'enemy of Ulster', Catholic workers at the Belfast Congress were ever so slightly at odds with the UVF, the Irish people, and the Unionists. This is the exact same position that they have outlined to the SDLD over the last few weeks in their secret talks.

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EXCUSE

The Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) is the main paramilitary organization in the province of Northern Ireland. It is a police force, but it is also a military force, and it is armed with a variety of weapons, including machine guns, automatic rifles, and pistols. It is responsible for maintaining law and order in the province, and it is also involved in the conflict with the Irish Republican Army, a paramilitary organization that is engaged in the conflict with the British government.

The UDR was formed in 1969, and it has been involved in a number of controversies. It has been accused of human rights abuses, and it has been involved in a number of violent incidents. It has also been involved in a number of protests, and it has been the target of a number of protests. It has been a controversial force, and it has been a source of tension in Northern Ireland.
The BWNIC 14 after one of their earlier court appearances.

AN MUSLIMARS
FACE CONSPIRACY
CHARGES

On 29 September, 14 supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign will appear in court in London on conspiracy charges. Other BWNIC supporters also face charges as a result of activity against the presence of British troops in Ireland.

Over the past few months a defence campaign has been mounted, to which we urge all readers to give their full support. The following information on the latest developments in the campaign is taken from the 20 August newsletter of the "Defend the 14" Campaign.

The 14 are charged with conspiring to contravene the incitement to disaffection Act (its ordinary language - wanting to try to communicate with the "enemy") and also with one or more substantive offences under the Incitement to Disaffection Act (possessing a leaflet called Some Information for Discontented Soldiers in most cases). There are also charges under the 1935 Army Act with helping soldiers who were absent without leave.

Since they were all charged last year, Andrew Lloyd, a supporter from London, has been charged with an offence under the Incitement to Disaffection Act, also now with an offence of attempting to incite civilians to incite soldiers, because of the distribution of a political leaflet to civilians. Another supporter, Alf Otten of Manchester, is charged with attempting to incite to incite too - in her case because of involvement with a complexity statement in support of the 14.

Two more people have also been summoned to appear in court to answer charges against the Army Act, concerning helping AWOLs - Howard Clark and Perry Street.

The British government are happy to use the assassinations as an excuse to back the RUC and demand their presence in all areas. The reinforcement of this force to Catholic areas would be a major step forward in the direction of giving local control back to the Catholics.

All these elements are supporting the restoration of law and order in a re-awakened Unionist regime - a Labour 'law and order' based on repression of the Catholics. It is supported by and cooperation between them, and politicians such as Paddy, who played an active part in the formation of the Unionist military groups in the late sixties. The UlUUC as a whole retains close links with the para-militaries.

VULNERABLE

And it means disarming the anti-Unionist working class, politically and militarily, leaving it open to increased harassment by the Loyalists and a continuation of the murder campaign. This makes it increasingly important to build a movement in Britain for the immediate withdrawal of troops. The Army is both acting as the protective umbrella under which the Loyalists are regrouping, and at the same time enviar who in the Catholic minority is left largely disarmed and defenceless from the Loyalists. It is a tactic, and will be used to control and counter-arrest by the Army.

The national mailing address through which to contact the defence campaign in Box 69, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1, is tel. 01-237-9794. There are open meetings of London defence campaign in the evening at the Centre, 8pm, at 6 Ealing Street, W1C. There are also local groups in many places - contact national address for details.

Meanwhile money is urgently needed for the campaign - for the welfare of defendants facing the trial, to send out information, produce leaflets, etc. Donations should be made payable to the BWNIC Defence Group.

Finally a date of events:

Monday 15 October: Andrew Lloyd's oral trial starts 9.30am at Preston Crown Court. There will be a picket of the court, which is between the ban on the market and the market (contingent at Andrew Selwood of the National Front). Public orders of each such will be going from Manchester in the meantime.

The same evening at 7.30pm there will be a labour movement meeting in Manchester. Speakers include: John Miller (TUC), John Maynard Keynes, Eric Tomlinson, Paul Foot, Wendy Butlin (defendant), Lawrence Daly (NUA), Alan Rees (ex-NUA), Jack Dromey (SSCLI), and George Anthony (AUSA).

Saturday-Sunday, 21-22 September: Liverpool weekend of action. Contact Liverpool Defence Group, Box 1934, News from Northern, 4 Manchester Street, Liverpool 2.

Tuesday 23 September: Start of committee hearing of Alf Otten. Open outside Manchester Magistrates' Court (Grace Street, off Deansgate) from 9.30am contact Manchester Defence Group (tel. 061-235-0135).

Saturday 27 September: Demonstration in Nottingham (contact Andy Fay, tel. Nottingham 53387).

The same day sees start of weekend of action in London, to include assembly at 3pm outside the Home Office in Whitehall.

Monday 29 September: Start of trial of the 14 at the Criminal Court, Old Bailey, London E.C.4. Mass picket from 9.30am; At 11.15am, the court will be opened and the case will be read. The BWNIC will have a public meeting at the Smithfield at 7.30pm.

and the voices would rasp, crack; content became a splintered shell around a vacuum of whooping. Her poem about her father striking in solidarity with the Pro testers is one of the least powerful in the book both as poetry and as political statement. Similarly another poem with an overtly political theme, "Sailing to Belfast to attack the War," does tend to fall on its face - the title alone saying more than the entire poem.

Her last poems, "Escape," is more difficult - the individual's wit is almost too strong, although the "I" tends to change from "we" when she speaks of the prisoners' union. But this choice follows the phrase:

"For freedom isn't in the heart of the land; it's in the deed, the choosing. But not all fine lines have that rhythmic sound. Some stanzas read merely like well-written prose, and again we are faced with the difficulty of separating the art from the clear, philosophical statements. That is one problem; the other is to judge the poems according to one's estimation of the writer's political acts.

Despite Jane Eastley's generally sympathetic critical review in the Morning Star, she had to end with a back-handed compliment: "impeccable and maybe even politically inept though Pat Arrowsmith's poetry is more than two lines, but sincerity is never in doubt." Which is more than can be said for the Communist Party's "tip-service" to the Irish revolution. (Currently much of it is trying to devote the "politically inappropriate" Troops Out Movement.

Besides picking working on Ireland, and her recent association with the women's liberation movement, converse Arrowsmith has in this collection made a contribution to art and human politics.

Anita Bennett
The Terrible Prize

by Gerry Hedley

* Living conditions lower than in the 1930s.
* Unemployment at over 20 per cent.
* 50,000 killed.
* Thousands detained in concentration camps.
* Over 2,000 simply 'missing'.
* The price of bread up by 140 times.
* Total sales of food down by over 25 per cent.

These are a few of the statistics that give an idea of the terrible price that the Chilean workers and peasants have had to pay for two long years since the bloody military coup of 11 September 1973. To them can be added the use of the most modern torture techniques — including the widespread torture and sexual abuse of women, the use of hammers that cram the centres of the cities, the children who die of malnutrition, and not least, the awesome atmosphere of fear that pervades the whole country. The list of the sufferings that have been imposed is seemingly never ending, and reveals in a graphic way the horrors of life in the Chile of the generals.

The junta has enacted a mighty price from those who dared to threaten the capitalist way of life in Chile. But in doing so it has begun to encounter increasingly serious problems. When it came to power it set about applying an economic policy that was designed entirely to benefit imperialism and those sections of the Chilean bourgeoisie most closely tied to imperialism. It hoped to be able to stabilise the economy, create conditions for the super-exploitation of the workforce, and on that basis to draw in foreign capital which could then be used to finance an export-oriented consumer durable goods industry.

Chile was to be a repeat of the Brazilian 'miracle', but times have changed — since the Brazilian giraffes came to power in 1964, and the junta's strategy was doomed from the start.

The first, they have not even succeeded in stabilising the economy. Inflation, for example, ran at over 527 per cent for the 12 months preceding April 1975. Secondly the world recession militates strongly against big investments in the consumer durables sector by imperialist capital — particularly in countries with raping inflation. Added to this have been other factors, such as the fall in the price of copper (the linchpin of the Chilean economy), the necessity for Chile to import 75 per cent of its oil, and the growing economic and political isolation of the regime which culminated in the refusal of most of the capitalist nations in the 'Club of Paris' to renegotiate the junta's debts.

As a result, the necessary foreign capital has not come in and the junta is left with the immediate social consequences of its policies: unemployment and mass poverty.

The failure of its economic measures has stimulated those sections of the Chilean capital who had least to gain from the junta's policies to come out into open opposition to the military. Recently the whole of the bourgeois Christian Democrat party, which represents those Chilean capitalists whose profits depend on the international market - a market which has been decimated as a consequence of the economic policies — announced that it was against the junta. A year ago only small sections of this party, which played a major role in generating the coup, were willing to oppose the regime.

NO ALTERNATIVE

But now, matter how strong the opposition and however complete the failure of its economic strategy, the junta still has one trump card to play. It claims to be the only force which can control the working class, albeit by the most brutal and sustained repression. The Brazilian bourgeoisie will not consider any alternative to the junta unless it can guarantee its ability to control the workers and peasants.

The Christian Democrats have therefore decided to approach the matter from a different angle. They have launched a campaign to win the support of the Chilean workers and peasants in which they seek to pose as the defenders of 'liberty' and 'social justice'. This has been taken up in alliance with the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and involves such things as soup kitchens where food is freely distributed, and services which denounce the torture and arbitrary arrests.

What of the organisations of the working class? How are they shaping up to the situation? Unfortunately it has to be recorded that, of the major parties only the Communist Party and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) exist even now in any real sense as organised structures inside Chile. They have been the main target of the junta's repression, especially over the last year, and has lost many courageous militants. Nonetheless, it has managed to survive and is now re-organising and regrouping.

The CP on the other hand, has set itself the task of being the best allies of the Christian Democracy. They have done this partly from the coup that the main error of the Popular Unity period was that they did not form a unity with this bourgeois party earlier (or at least with important sections of it). Evidently they have been engaged in negotiations with Frei to see if terms for a joint agreement can be reached. They have even been working hand-in-hand with the Christian Democrats in forces in their efforts to re-organise the workers' movement.

NO MISTAKES!

Outside the country, the parties of the Popular Unity all exist in exile. They met together jointly for the first time since the coup this August, and decided to constitute the Popular Unity. A statement issued after the meeting announced that the leadership were partly to blame for the defeat, but 'that in no way detracts from the general recognition of the presence of the Popular Unity'.

In other words, after two years of suffering, and in the defeat ever inflicted on the Chilean workers, the leaders of the reformist and Stalinist organisations now admit that again that they were right all along — and indeed, given half a chance, will apply again the strategy of the gradual and peaceful path to socialism.

In the meantime they argue that all democrats in Chile should unite against the junta and that the army should now seize the opportunity to liquidate (sic) the junta and take action against the generals. In this way the parties of the Popular Unity fall in behind and add their weight to the attempts of the Christian Democrat to win the support of the working class.

Revolutions must oppose these machinations. They must ensure that from the blood of the Chilean defeat the Working class will emerge which will ensure that never again does a working class have to suffer the "peaceful road" to extinction. It is now an open secret that the Front is forming a united front of the revolutionary left inside Chile — a task which our comrades of the Liga Comunista de Chile have made an important priority in their activities.

The Front would form a political pole inside Chile — a means by which revolutionary politics could stand clearly opposed to the forces of capitalism and imperialism, a means by which fresh forces from the left. Socialists, from the MAPU, even from the CP could join the revolutionary struggle.

It is important to see that the Chilean workers and peasants do not stand in isolation. The solidarity campaign that has been waged must be extended, and must increase the scale of its activities so that they can be a taken down the junta. Most vital of all is to understand that the Chilean workers and peasants don't stand in isolation from the rest of world revolution.

In Latin America this has taken a particularly dramatic form with the outbursts of the popular strikers in Argentina, while in other countries, not least among them Brazil, a rise in the mass struggle is clearly discernible. There is no doubt that these events will inevitably mean the revulsion of the Chilean workers and peasants against their military tyrants.

They receive instructions against Chile

(Poeto Nosul, 20th century Chilean poet. This prophetic poem was written in the late 1940s.)

But we have to see behind all these, there is something behind the traitors and the growling rams, an empire which sets the table, and serves up the nourishment and the bullets. They want to repeat their gains in the South of Greece, Greek playboys at the banquet, and bullets for the people in the mountains: we'll have to destroy the flight of the new Victory of Samothrace, we'll have to hang, kill, lose men, sink the murderous knife held to us from New York, we'll have to burn fire to break the spirit of the man who was emerging in all countries as if born from the earth that had been splashed with blood. We have to arm Chiang and the vicious Videla, give them money for prisoners, wings so they can bomb their own own homes, give them a hand-out, a few dollars, and they do the rest, they lie, bribe, dance on the dead bodies, and their first ladies wear the most expensive mink. The suffering of the people does not matter: copper executives need this sacrifice. The generals retire from the army and serve as vice-presidents of the Chilepetra Copper Firm, and in the nitrate works the 'chilien' general decides with his trading using how much the natives may survive when they apply for higher wages. In this way they decide from above, from the roll of dollars, in this way the dreadful traitor works his instructions: and the generals set as the police force.
ERIC HOFFER - Tasks and Lessons of Chile

Will Portugal become another Chile? That is a question that is being increasingly asked as the right-wing offensive gains momentum inside Portugal. But how valid is the comparison?

It is possible to say at once that the Chilean form of coup is completely unlike Portugal at present. The distinctive feature of the Chilean case was that during the three years of mobilisation by the working class that preceded it, the coup was totally successful in less than three days. What resistance there was, was only spasmodic and disorganised. The main reason for this was that the partisanship of Popular Unity had consistently precluded the illusion that the workers of Chile could place all their faith in Parliament and the armed forces.

In Portugal, on the other hand, the CP and the reformist organisations have not been so successful in this manoeuvre. Indeed, it has now become an important part of the strategy of thelds of large sections of the working class that the gains they have made can only be defended by the working class - gun in hand if necessary. Furthermore, the armed forces are at the moment too deeply divided to be able to carry out a Chile type coup. In addition the Portuguese bourgeoisie, still smarting from their experience in March, are not united and convinced that the next step should be a coup - and they certainly do not have the ability to initiate one.

But if a Chilean style coup is not likely in Portugal, there are still important similarities that can be drawn between both the offensive of the capitalists and the response of the workers' movement in Chile and Portugal. In this respect we can turn to the CP in Portugal. Portugal is now fighting with growing virtual any economic and throughout the period of the Popular Unity period (1970-73), a blockade was imposed on spare parts for machinery, money was poured into the black market, and the government implemented austerity measures.

The most obvious similarity can be seen in the imperialist intervention that was directed at Chile and is now focusing with full force on Chile. Chile was prevented from working virtually any economic and throughout the period of the Popular Unity period (1970-73), a blockade was imposed on spare parts for machinery, money was poured into the black market, and the government implemented austerity measures.

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THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS POWER IN PORTUGAL

Declaration by the United Secretariat of the Fourth International

The pre-revolutionary situation that opened in Portugal with the beginning of 1975 has gone through an exacerbation marked by the governmental crisis, the growing division of the Armed Forces Movement (MFA) and the fascist attacks in the North of the country, but above all by the massive emergence of the autonomous movement of the masses, as revealed by the 20 August demonstration, the impact of which has begun to make itself felt on the reformist organisations.

1. The division of the MFA, triggered by the rise of the class struggle, makes it impossible to stabilise the army, which has been profoundly shaken by the crisis of the hierarchical system and by the political debates and divisions (especially around the COPCON document and the 'document of the nine'). In the short run, this breakdown of the army, which is occurring in a context of generalised social crisis, makes it impossible to launch a reactionary coup d'état without running the risk of civil war. In the face of the MFA's incapacity to stabilise its Bonapartist function, the bourgeoisie has turned to counter-strike on several fronts: internationally, through blackmail threats of economic strangulation on the part of the European imperialist powers (whether in or without social democratic govern-ments) and through the financial and military pressure exerted by American imperialism on Portugal and the Portuguese dependences (the Azores, Madeira, Timor and Angola); nationally, through the de facto (or 'facto') junction of the terrorist attacks, the anti-communist mobilisations exploiting the discontent of the petty bourgeoisie of the North, and the civil and military political offensive combining the orientation of the CP leadership with the great manoeuvres of Mário Antunes and sections of the military hierarchy.

2. The 20 August demonstration, which drew 50,000 people, more than a thousand and of whom were soldiers, revealed the maturation of the combativity and the elevation of the level of consciousness of important sections of the working class, especially in the workers' bastions of Lisbon and the southern region. This radical character of the demands advanced by these sectors - for the expropriation of the bourgeoisie, workers' control, and the recomposition of production - objectively places on the agenda the necessity of a centralisation of the autonomous organs of the workers (workers' commissions, popular assemblies, neighbourhood commissions) in order to respond to the need for socialist planning of the economy. Nevertheless, the present geographical limitation and uneven development and functioning of these organs must be stressed.

3. The situation is thus characterised by an increased polarisation between the bourgeoi- sie and the bourgeoisie, although this does not imply that there will be an immediate split between the two fundamental classes.

With the accentuation of the economic crisis, which will provoke an intensification of workers' struggles that will run up against the Government's inability to meet the workers' demands, the possibility of the present pre-revolutionary situation being transformed into a real revolutionary crisis emerges. For this, it is important that all initiatives be taken so that the autonomous organs of the workers are developed, coordinated, and centralised, thus permitting a real response to the demands of the toiling masses and to the division of the working class that has been accentuated by the leaderships of the SP and CP. Toward this end, it is necessary that the autonomous organs take charge of the defence and generalisation of workers' control, the ex-propriation of the capitalists, the armament of the proletariat and the organisation of forces to establish a monopoly of foreign trade, to deepen the agrarian reform and to institute planning.

In face of the attempts of the 'group of nine' to re-establish discipline in the army, to put an end to the beginning of the emergence of workers' militias, and to stabilise the MFA as an instrument of the hierarchy, it becomes all the more imperative to forge links between the revolutionary soldiers and officers and the workers' commissions, neighbourhood commissions, etc., and to generalise the election of officers by assemblies of soldiers.

Likewise, it is necessary to advance adequate measures to recuperate public support, mor-atoria on debts, credit, direct liaison between consumers and small-scale producers, etc.) in order to neutralise the reaction's utilisation of lay- ers of the petty bourgeoisie, the minimumisation of the North among others.

Finally, the centralisation of the autonomous organs of the workers is necessary to carry out these tasks will take the form of the convoca- tion of a National People's Assembly composed of delegates of the workers' organisations, the neighbourhood commissions, the assemblies of military units, and the popular assemblies.

4. The essential obstacle to the realisation of this strategic objective lies in the pol- icy of the leaderships of the Socialist Party and the Communist Party.

The policy of the social democratic lead- ership, which manifestly aims at halting the rev- olutionary process, is beginning to meet the first signs of resistance from the SP's rank and file in the face of the forced mobilisation and bureaucratisation methods utilised against the SP by the CP leadership present division, the zigzag of the Stalinist leadership of the CP have provoked disorientation among the CP rank and file at a time when a revolutionary process is increasingly forcefully emerging onto the political scene.

Thus, it is not only necessary but also possible to invoke an immediate united front directed at both the SP and CP in order to consolidate a response by the working class as a whole to capital's reaction, to defend the gains of the workers, and to spur on the development of the revolutionary process. The autonomous organs of the toiling masses are the bodies that are best suited to realise this united front, for in their present form they already group together Socialist workers, Communist workers, revolutionary workers, and workers who belong to no political party.

5. The unitary accord of 26 August testifies to the shift of the relationship of forces between the workers' vanguard and the reformist apparatus.

In the present conjuncture, it was politically correct to seek a united front accord with the CP. But the accord of 26 August did not respond to the actual requirements of the situation.

(a) The accord in effect sanctioned the CP's policy of supporting the Government and maintaining the unity of the MFA, precisely at the moment that the MFA was being ripped apart by the pressure of antagonistic class forces.

(b) The accord mentioned no concrete objective that would permit the unification of the working class and the actual stimulation of workers' self-defence and self-organisation.

(c) Because of this absence, and because of the capitulation to the CP in a party that currently groups together nearly half of the proletariat), the accord sanctioned the division of the workers' movement and did not contribute to surrounding this major obstacle to the development of the revolutionary process.

(d) Furthermore, the 'unitary accord' envisaged the formation of a front in which the MFA is included on the same footing as the autonomous organs, parties, and revolu- tionary organisations of the workers' movement. This not only appeared as a stamp of approval of the CP's project of creating a 'democratic and socialist popular front', but also fell within the framework of the perspec- tive of integrating the autonomous organs in opposition to their real independence of the institutions of the bourgeois state.

(a) Thus, the accord could easily serve the purpose of the CP (as it did during the 27 August demonstration), which is to utilise the trampoline party, indispensable for the victory of the Portuguese socialist revolution, and to spur on the development of the political scene.

Now, the relationship of forces permitted revolutionary to seize this opportunity to lead the CP to a position on the implementation of the essential tasks necessary for the future progress of the revolution. Here, again, the lack of concrete objectives and the concessions made to the CP's political orientation prevent the realisation of the CP leadership and the rupture of the front being clearly shown before the masses.

6. In the workers' and people's counter-offensive based on the real dynamic of the mass movement, the Trotskyists of the LCI will stand in the front ranks of all initiatives fostering the extension, generalisation and centralisation of the autonomous organs of the workers and the self-defence of the workers.

It is through the capacity of revolutionary Marxists to fulfill these tasks that the revolu- tionary party, indispensable for the victory of the Portuguese socialist revolution, will be able to develop.

The LCF International and all its sections and sympathetic organisations will support the comrades of the LCI by all means at their disposal and will press for all mobilisations of solidarity with the revolu- tionary struggle of the Portuguese workers.

2 September, 1975

LCI APPEAL

The International Communist League (LCI - sympathising sections of the Fourth International) had barely twenty members in Portugal at the time of the overthrow of the Caetano dictatorship. Since then it has grown to several hundred militants due to the joint effort of thousands of activists opposed to the Portuguese workers and peasants movement.

But whereas the Portuguese Socialist and Com- munist Parties are receiving massive amounts of help from their well-financed organisations abroad, the LCI has to rely on the comparatively small forces of the international revolution to speak for it.

Therefore, we are launching a public appeal for money to enable the LCI to carry out still more effectively its campaign in support of the international revolution.

Please send all donations to: Red Weekly (LCI), 388 Pentonville Road, London N.1. All donations will be acknowledged.
SOUTH AFRICANS STRAFE ANGOLA

Statement by South West African People's Organisation

Our National Chairman, David Morowa, has been assassinated a year ago has disappeared.

When SWAPO and other parties have been arrested in the past, they have been subjected to inhuman torture. Our National Secretary, Austin Jhamo, was arrested in 1974. He was so brutally tortured that he attempted to commit suicide in the Windhoek police cells.

SWAPO believes that South Africa, with characteristic deceit, is pretending to be the honest broker in the Rhodesian situation, hoping that the world will not notice what 'peace-making' Vorster is up to in our country. He is continuing to occupy daybok.

South Africa is determined to hold on to Namibia at any cost — even of aggression against a neighbour. Anyone appealing to the people of Namibia to remain calm and not to react is a stooge of the Vorster regime.

Peter H. Katjivy, SWAPO Representative in the UK and Western Europe

SNEERING

We might have been forgiven for sneering at the seriousness of this resolution. If we note that, on the same day, the very same delegates rejected the World Health Charter. Audrey Pearse for the General Council of the TUC opposed the Charter demand for a minimum wage designed to restrict the low pay of the two-thirds of women who are not covered by the Equal Pay Act on the grounds that a 'national minimum wage for women' would be certain to have statutory overtones which make it unacceptable. The delegates chose the heeds of the 609 norm, this position seemed confused, to say the least. As the delegate proposed, the reason for this confusion became clearer. Such arguments provided a left cover for the real reason behind the TUC rejection of the Charter. Audrey Pearse explained to the conference that 'a noticeable minority of unions do not consider that readily available abortion facilities are an appropriate matter to be within a Charter for the whole trade union movement.'

Our summer months have seen the leadership of the working class turn back on the thousands of women who have looked to them to oppose restrictions on women's rights.

SADISTIC

This is not due to some sount of Buddhist sects which the 'leadership' gains sadistic satisfaction in (mis)leading the working class, but is due to the fact that the ‘leadership’ gains sadistic satisfaction in (mis)leading the working class to its destruction. The TUC leadership has paid the price for its support of the White Bill and travel country-wide to win others to their campaign. The TUC leadership has paid a heavy price for its support of the White Bill and travel country-wide to win others to their campaign. The TUC leadership has paid a heavy price for its support of the TUC. It is therefore towards those sections of the trade union movement which have not yet joined up to get agreement with the most reactionary members of the Select Committee, thus shorting up this body whose main function is to attack the rights of women.

These ‘left’ MPs and trade union leaders must not be given the confidence of those who have mounted up a fight for freedom's 'right to fight'. If they are allowed to say that they have fought for anti-abortion campaign that campaign will remain impotent — subordinated to the parliamentary ruling class. Of course we are in favour of uniting with them whenever they take any steps that lead to an extension of abortion and contraception facilities. This unit must however be based on the understanding that it means a fight against the policies of the Wilson Government. That Government is now spearheading a direct onslaught against the social services and the National Health Service. There can therefore be no extension of abortion and contraception facilities unless one fights the Government on its policies. The fight for free abortion and contraception on demand is an integral part of the fight for a socialist solution to the crisis. We are therefore demanding that they support this fight. We must not however rely on them to lead the campaign.

On 18 October the National Abortion Campaign will be holding a meeting to discuss the strategy of taking the campaign beyond the life of the Select Committee and important that the lesson of the Select Committee vote are understood.

SOUTH AFRICANS STRAFE ANGOLA

Angola, SWAPO National Organisation; Detelin Kasongo, SWAPO Organising Secretary and Publicity Officer; Ekipho Monja, SWAPO Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Zandlalah Kanswani, Chairman of the Namib National Liberation Front; and SWAPO’s National Secretary, David Morowa, has been assassinated.

South African military forces have now begun to attack villages and remote areas in southern Angola, according to reliable reports reaching the SWAPO in the week-end. The Africans have been subjected to inhuman torture. Our National Secretary, Austin Jhamo, was arrested in 1974. He was so brutally tortured that he attempted to commit suicide in the Windhoek police cells.

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A motion calling for a massive housebuilding programme in both the public and private sectors and an immediate return to targets and rebalancing the full resources of the construction industry was overwhelmingly carried by last week's Trades Union Congress.

Moving the motion George Smith, general secretary of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, pointed to the 30,000 registered homeless families in Britain and the 7,000 children in local authority care as a direct result of homelessness.

The building situation can be eased well over a million homes unfit for human habitation; hospital conditions that have not changed since Victorian times; and school buildings lacking essential repairs or being kept in use long after they were scheduled for demolition.

However by mid-July of this year, 166,862 construction workers were working without jobs — over 12 per cent of all building workers. More than seven in the registered unemployed (seasonally adjusted) is a building worker. The response of the Wilson Government to this superficial social need and waste of human

resources has been to introduce a £6 wage-curb which will further increase unemployment and systematically cut back public expenditure.

Sweeping

Only 10 per cent of the sweeping cuts of £1,100 million made by Tony Chalker in September 1973 were restored by the Labour Government. Since then the Health and Local Government budget has cut public expenditure by a further £230 million this financial year and the forecast for 1976—77 even more. Public expenditure is then to be slashed by another £300 million at 1974 prices (equal to more than £1,100 million at current prices).

The first crucial step to build alliances is to build working alliances between workers, health workers and other public sector workers who are also on the receiving end of the cuts, and between workers and unemployment. Any discussion about increasing the cuts and unemployment can create the necessary structures. Such bodies can provide the focus around which the whole of the working class in a particular area can unite in defiance of the game of the welfare state.

In every local government, hospital and school, investigatory committees should be set up to monitor the cuts and draw up a list of the projects required to maintain standards of services — that is the immediate action. It is only through gathering this information and the basis for drawing up a list of projects that local and national associations can develop and use them as the basis for any national action against the cuts and unemployment. It is the basis for alliances.

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SABOTAGE

A workers' plan for a wide-ranging programme of socially useful public works will meet with the bitter opposition and sabotage of the capitalist class. But if the slogan of 'public works is to be more than a hollow cry from the reformists — who don't want to lead a serious fight against unemployment because it would bring them into head-on collision with the Wilson Government — then it is such public works offers most socially useful public works that the working class needs.

MICK GOSLING

In this instance the housing crisis is recognised as the most acute, and the frequency of the National Unity and Housing Party to the forthcoming Labour Party Conference.

After noting the 'object failure of capitalism, to solve the appalling housing crisis', and calling for the Government to take the building industry into public ownership, the motion calls for the establishment of a 'National Building Corporation', and for the setting up of trade unions in the industry and tenants associations' representatives to implement a workers' plan for housing.


NHS IN DANGER!

Beds shortage brings death!

A six-year wait for a hospital bed

Labour movement conference on the fight against the cuts in the NHS

City University, London. October 11

Chaired by Jack Collins speakers include: Audrey Wise MP and health workers.

MCAPP conference gathers momentum

Building support for the conference called by the Medical Committee Against Privatisation and Cuts in the National Health Service requires a real campaign inside the movement.

A spokesperson for MCAPP explained: "This is the time to get resolutions carried in support of our demands. What is needed is a campaign to win the support of thousands of workers to fight for these demands.

"We added: 'Swansseas have set the kind of example which should be followed by other areas. Ken Price, who led the struggles of the NUPE branch at the Morrison Hospital, against private practice at the Morrison all the ancillary workers came out, on strike against the presence of one private patient in the hospital - it is meetings to do build support for the conference. 'He is speaking to shop stewards' committees and urging them to get delegations to the 11 October conference. Other local militants are working with him on this campaign. This is the way that Ken and his fellow members of the NUPE branch managed to get solidarity strike action from the South Wales miners' nurses' pay claim.

"They are also organizing a local conference following the MCAPP Conference against Government cuts in social expenditure, especially in the NHS."

Massive complex

In Cardiff and Newport she area reports: 'Activity is being organised in the massive Heath Hospital complex - one of Eutrope's largest hospitals. This is being organised by the supporters of the National Abortion Campaign」「A committee has now been set up in Sheffield which is supported by the ASPS district committee, Laycock's Shop Stewards' Committee, the Midwives Union, and other local and national members of the National Union of Students who are in its health section. The "We do not simply want to drive for delegates to Conference will organise activity in Sheffield against local cuts."

The Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards' Committee which sponsors the conference has

Fred Jarvis, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, was right for once when he said at the Trades Union Congress: 'No matter how you view it the education service is facing its biggest threat since the war. The motion put by the Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters and carried by the TGWU stresses the trade union movement to resist any attempts by local authorities to make teachers unemployed.

This will bring little comfort to the already unemployed teachers, and the teachers, school students and college students who start the new term having to face ever-worsening conditions. Almost one-third of newly-qualified teachers are still without jobs, or have to be content with part-time teaching, whilst at the same time teachers are losing their 'free' period in order to take extra classes to avoid the added expense of the much needed additional staff.

Bureaucracy

It is little wonder that motions such as this have been taken seriously when the NUT leadership has made no real attempt to fight the massive cuts which have already taken place in the education service. But what can you do from a leadership which fails to recognize that the cut-backs in education are only a part of a cut-back on the quality of life in the living standards of the whole of the working class?

Only recently the NUT leadership has shown which side of the class line it is standing by giving in to the pressure from the Healey package. Yet in the next breath these same 'leaders' were fighting the whole movement to help defend teachers' jobs. If any serious fight against unemployment is to be waged by the labour movement, it is essential that a campaign to organise the NUT in the £2.5 billion cuts and the £6 limit is waged, because these measures are designed to create unemployment.

Women's groups

In a whole series of towns, support-workers of the Conference are organizing speaking tours, addressing shop stewards' committees, trade union conferences, Labour Parties, women's groups etc. But they are doing more than just getting delegates to the Conference. They are also laying the basis for a united movement in these towns that can make a real fight against local cuts.

Some groups have been invited to the 'already impressive list are the North London Divisional Committee of the AUEW, Watford Electricity Supply Workers, Nottingham National Abortion Campaign, Women's Liberation NAC Oxford, COHSE Staffordshire, TGWU Local T965, T967 branch Norfolk, AUEW (TASS) Division No. 12 and Solihull AUEW (LE) branch have also voted to support the Conference. Amongst further organisations that have elected delegates are ASTMS Steel Branch Sheffield, both Trades Council and Charing Cross Hospital.

Red Weekly announced some weeks ago that Dr Beryl Beaumont - a member of the Medical Practitioners Union, a section of ASTMS - would be moving the resolution on abortion at the Trades Union Congress. But although the TGWU has no rule on the question of eligibility of pupils and students the ASTMS insists that only pupils with three year's membership can attend the TGWU as delegates. The committee Beaumont did not have the three year's membership membership, ASTMS refused to support her election, despite pressure from the APU that they had elected her and had every confidence in her ability to argue and present the pro-abortion case. She was therefore

As the crisis in the education system deepens, the leadership of the National Union of Teachers has retrenched on the cuts imposed by the TGWU. Next month the Socialist Teachers Conference meets for the second time to develop a strategy linking teachers with other workers to defeat the attacks on their jobs, living standards and the education system as a whole. As a run-up to the conference, Red Weekly, will be carrying a series of articles by teacher militants explaining the International Marxist Group's attitude to the conference and the issues it must take up.

The lobby of Parliament on 21 October, called by the South East Region of the TUC and supported by the NUT Executive, is a step in the right direction - but we must not stop at this. Instead, teachers should use this initiative to organise the whole trade union movement to build a campaign, similar to the Medical Committee Against Private Practice, to defend and extend the education system.

The International Marxist Group teachers will be fighting for such a campaign within the NUT and at the forthcoming Socialist Teachers Conference. At the Conference, the IMG will be arguing for discussions on how the fight against the cuts in education and Healey's measures can best be carried out.

CAROLE FISHER

SOCIALIST TEACHERS CONFERENCE, Nufield Hall, Jockey's Fields, Tichovs Road, London WC1, Saturday-Sunday, 4-5 October 1975.

Teachers fight smear campaign

Over the past few weeks, teachers at William Tyndale Junior School in Iltham have been refusing their manager access to the school. They have been forced into this action because of a sinister political campaign by Labour councillors, managers and the right-wing press accusing them of 'political indoctrination' of the children at Tyndale.

These allegations were started by a part-time teacher who produced a 'Black Paper' on the school which she distributed amongst parents, at the same time informing them that their children were being taught by 'Reds'. School managers took up these allegations and with the help of Iltham Labour councillors instigated a petition against the teaching staff.

Parents started to remove their children from the school and as a result the managers called for a special inspection into the school to 'restore public confidence in Tyndale'. They have succeeded in this request as the Chairman of the ILEA Sub-Committee, Harvey Hindu, has now had the approval of his commissi

for a General Inspection to proceed a public inquiry into the school. The panel of inspectors will be made up of four members of the Sub-Committee plus one other - possibly a legal person from the educational disciplinary Tribunal. The panel's inspection is a patently manipulative manoeuvre by the managers and the ILEA to do what they want with the school. A recommendation as a result of an 'inspection' that the school should be 'improved' will give the authorities the chance to rid the school of its radical teachers - not sack all the staff, just divide them. It could also set a precedent for carrying out the Labour-imposed cut-backs in education: teachers must go 'because they are not satisfactory' - a mood current to convince parents that a cut-back by another name will smell 'souther'..."

A campaign has been set up to support the Tyndale staff and call for a full independent inquiry into the actions of the managers over the past 18 months. Until this takes place, and until the staff have been allowed to get on with their jobs without harassment, there can be no accurate assessment of the school or its teaching staff.

MARGARET FORD

(Secretary, The Support William Tyndale Junior School Campaign)

red weekly 11 september 1975 | public sector cuts
VICIOUS FINES ON GLASGOW ANTI-FASCISTS

John Reidford, Glasgow Trades Council Secretary — £50; Hugh Wyper, Assistant Secretary — £5; Keith Stoddart, TGWU branch chairman — £30; Alex McWhir, AEA branch secretary — £25; Charlie Montgomery, former EETPU Executive candidate — £20; Norman Beam, AUEW shop steward — £20; James Brown, student activist — £20.

These fines from, totalling £121, were meted out to the first seven defendants in the continuing trial of 76 anti-fascist pikers in Glasgow. They are the first in the battery of hammerheads which the Sheriff Court plans to rain on those who dared to bat the road to the National Front at Kingston Hills on 24 May.

Far more serious than the fines themselves, however, is the judgement on which the penalties are based. For the findings of guilt were based on an interpretation of the law on breach of the peace which directly threatens the right of free demonstration. This ruling is effective today that the police have the right to arrest anyone associated with any demonstration which they dare to change in its purpose from its original objective to one which they consider creates an unlawful assembly.

How wildly the resulting prosecutions can be expected to leap out of any conviction of Charlie Montgomery. Montgomery was convicted of breach of the peace, obstructing, threatening and insulting the police, all without provocation or excuse. One of them, Cullen, identified Alex Campbell as Montgomery, and both stated that they had merely put him in a van after he was attacked by a gang of uniformed officers. Neither could state what Montgomery had been doing, and the second prosecution witness went on to say that he had been part of the crowd. Of 29 other prosecution witnesses, not one gave further testimony against Montgomery.

The credibility of the remaining 12 sergeant and constables who gave evidence ex parte is a subject that requires facts. Constable Macadam, who claimed to have arrested Hugh Wyper, is well known by many defendants to have been on duty at Green Police Station as they arrived in custody. He was seen to approach the doors of the first police van and ask: "What’s going on at Kingston Hills?" Constable MacKenzie, who was at the scene as an assistant officer for Hugh Wyper, identified John Reidford as Wyper in court.

The evidence of these three fascist witnesses can be tested by the fact that the main one was NF boss and racist demagogue Kingly Read. Sheriff-Principal Lord Wilson, however, has given the fascists a far greater time than Wednesday before judgment. For the first time in the NF’s existence, a fascist prosecution is in the verge of succeeding in the objective sought for it by the state apparatus — the strengthening of police powers and impressive legislation.

It is no precedent for these fines that the state apparatus launched police riots in defence of fascists both at Red Lion Square and at Kingston Hills. Those in the labour movement who believe such attacks can be combated merely through anti-fascist propaganda, "good" lawyers, and stiff-upper lip collections for fines, will continue to reap the whirlwind of Glasgow Sheriff Court. The campaign which is so disappointingly regarded in Glasgow today is one which organises the workers’ movement for active self-defence against the growth of the ‘strange state’ and for the defence of the citizens’ right whose activities are a "limousine test" for such moves.

Brigadier Principal Wilson made clear early in the trial that, for him, the verdict was a foregone conclusion. He interrupted defendant Hugh Wyper’s description of the events back at the station to state that he knew quite well what a packet was, and had crossed one before. He then instructed all lawyers in the case to cease reference to the mass packet as a packet. At his behest, his ally, the state, will also consider the desirability of sending slow defendants for "a period of political education".

Whether the Glasgow labour movement can meet Wilson’s "political educ- ation" he needs, whether it chooses to be hand-maiden to the mobilisation to smash the Kingston Hills gang, remains uncertain. James MacAllister

Last week the Trades Union Congress overwhelmingly carried a motion proposed by Mike McGahay (President of the Scottish Miners) calling for ‘support for those in Spain fighting for an end to Fascism and the establishment of democracy’. And hundreds of trade union delegates — including Jack Jones (Gen. Sec. TGWU), Alan Fisher (Gen Sec. NUPE), Joe Gormley (President NUM), Mick McGahay (Scottish NUM), Jack Collins (Kent NUM), Bob Weight (AUEW), and Jimmy Reid (AUEW) — signed a petition calling on the Spanish Government to grant immediate clemency and halt the planned execution of Basque militants Jose Antonio Garmanda and Angel Ortega.

As the petition pointed out, "Before a military tribunal, lasting a little over five hours, with no substantial evidence against the defendants, and one of them, as the prosecution admitted, mentally deficient because of a brain injury sustained during his arrest, their trial was a travesty of justice. Their execution would be purely political act — an attempt by the regime to intimidate all those Spaniards fighting for a free and democratic order. The petition will form the basis for a press conference next week to give a further boost to the campaign.

International action is also beginning to build up to stop the hand of Franco’s executions. Apart from protest telegrams sent by a number of governments and Socialist and Communist parties in Western Europe, there have also been mass mobilisations in a number of countries — notably in Paris, in which there has so far seen two large demonstrations organised by the Eta Free Forces collective and an occupation of Notre Dame cathedral.

Shot dead

Meanwhile the repression in Spain continues. Demonstrations against the death penalties in many places have been broken up by the police (Guardia Civil), and a young militant — Jesus Garcia Ripalda, aged 23 — was shot dead in Bilbao. At least five other demonstrators have also been shot over the past few days. Three militants never even had a ‘trial’. They were simply shot down in cold blood for demonstrating.

But even in the face of such vicious repression the Spanish workers are defiantly keeping up their fight against the dictatorship in a determined effort to free Garmanda and Ortega and thus call a halt to the regime’s wave of terror. More than 200 political prisoners in eight Spanish jails have gone on hunger strike. In Algorta, an industrial town of 15,000, more than 1,000 workers demonstrated through the streets and there are still 15,000 workers in Vizcaya province and 30,000 in Guipuzcoa province on strike.

Such courageous actions demand an international movement of solidarity on the scale of that mobilised during the Burgos trials in 1970. In London, demonstrations have been held and there has been a continuous picket of the Spanish Embassy for the last two weeks. The picket is continuing and still needs as much support as possible — particularly trade union banners etc. In York a picket was organised last Saturday of the surgery of local Labour MP Alex Lyon, who agreed to raise the matter with the Foreign Office. A large number of passers-by also signed the petition.

Many British trade unionists have pledged their solidarity with the struggle in Spain against the dictatorship — what is needed are more practical ways of showing the dictatorship what is meant by that solidarity. This means more than passing resolutions and signing petitions, valuable though these are. It means fighting for an embargo on Spanish goods. It means organising demonstrations and meetings in factories and trade unions to build a massive solidarity campaign for our brothers and sisters in Spain. Every blow struck against the fascist order in Spain and its imper-ulator bastards hastens the socialist revolution not only in the Iberian peninsula but also in the rest of Europe.

A TOUGH FIGHT

We only scrape home in August by extending the deadline. That means that we have only just dug into September and our fight to get £500 must be a real tough one.

Readers are faced with a simple choice. Without the Red Weekly, who would continue the campaign on behalf? Who would fight for revolutionary politics in the working class? Who would wage the struggle for workers’ control and raise the banner of internationalism?

The answer to those questions is very simple — no one. That is why every penny has to be put in full. Every penny you can get is needed. Your intentions are appreciated — and we know that they are socialist. But without your money they mean nothing.

All donations to 182 Pentonville Road, London N1.