

# RED WEEKLY

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# CUT ALL LINKS WITH FRANCO!



The brutal Franco regime — spawned by Hitler and Mussolini in the Civil War of the '30s — is today being rocked to its foundations by a huge wave of domestic and international protest.

A general strike called by left-wing and underground workers' organisations on Monday was reported to be 90 per cent effective in the two key Basque provinces of Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya. In the city of San Sebastian thousands took part in protests, and six demonstrators were shot by the police. Virtually all the city's traders closed their shops in sympathy with the strikes, despite police intimidation. Further mass demonstrations are taking place throughout the Basque country.

The massive tide of indignation sweeping the European working class has laid the basis for totally isolating this bloodstained regime. In many countries trade unionists have already taken steps to cut off Spanish transport and communication links. Most European Governments have been forced to re-call their ambassadors from Madrid in the face of these protests, and the Mexican Government has ordered the closing of all Spanish Government and private offices.

At the Labour Party Conference

in Blackpool, Foreign Secretary Callaghan read out a pious statement from the Executive stating its 'total abhorrence and condemnation of the death sentences'. Callaghan told the Conference: 'Let us send a simple message to the Spanish people: what you are witnessing is

the death throes of a dictatorship.'

But the Spanish people understand this only too well. What they need at this moment is practical aid in their fight to shorten this bloody death agony. On this point neither Callaghan nor the Labour Party Executive has anything to offer. Indeed, Callaghan and the Labour Government have refused to take

even the elementary first step of cutting diplomatic links with the dictatorship.

More leftist avoidance of the issue came from T&GWU General Secretary Jack Jones. He called it true, for 'maximum harassment' of the dictatorship and said this could mean 'stopping and delaying the loading and unloading of Spanish ships, the loading and unloading

of Spanish lorries, the loading and unloading of Spanish aircraft'.

But so far this, too, is just words. Will Jones now move a motion on his national executive instructing T&GWU members to take such industrial action? We very much doubt it — although we would be only too pleased to be proved wrong. But despite the refusal of Jones and Callaghan to act, the labour movement can begin to turn the words of solidarity into practical actions. Union executives must be forced to issue official instructions to their members to 'black the Franco dictatorship' and promise them the full support of the union in such action. Industrial action can be taken at the docks, in the airports, in telecommunications and the port offices.

A massive campaign of demonstrations and industrial action must now be set rolling across the country to block the movement of all Spanish goods, vessels and aircraft, and to force the Labour Government to break all ties with Franco's Spain. Steps such as these can really help to weaken the dictatorship and make it easier for the Spanish working class to deliver the death-blow which it so well deserves.

## SMASH

Franco's brutal murder of five anti-fascist militants evoked a massive wave of international protest across Europe:

In France tens of thousands gathered outside the Spanish Embassy in Paris on both Friday and Saturday nights. Both the Spanish tourist offices and the Spanish rail offices were physically wrecked. Demonstrations took place in at least 12 other cities across France, including Nantes where the Spanish consulate was destroyed.

In Italy some ten thousand demonstrators assembled outside the Spanish Embassy in Rome on Friday night to demand amnesty for the Five militants. When the executions were announced on Saturday their ranks swelled to 150,000. On Monday workers in dozens of factories all across Italy downed tools for five to ten minutes in protest at the executions.

In Holland 40,000 took part in a protest demonstration in Utrecht officially supported by the

Government and led by the Socialist Party Prime Minister. The top floor of the Spanish Embassy in the Hague was destroyed by fire.

In Portugal thousands of anti-Franco demonstrators, supported by rank-and-file soldiers, destroyed the Spanish Embassy in Lisbon.

In Greece Germany and Switzerland there were demonstrations totalling tens of thousands.

Meanwhile, European workers have begun moves to break all links with the Franco regime:

Dockers in Italy and France are blacking all Spanish ships;

Airport workers in Italy, Belgium and Sweden are refusing to handle Spanish aircraft;

Postal workers in Italy are blacking Spanish mail;

The CFDT trade union federation in France has called for 'a day of protest by the European working class' on 2 October.

## FRANCO

# Three weeks in 'free' Angola

## • What is the present military situation in Angola?

Following the Alvor agreements in February 1975, the FNLA centred its main propaganda on its military strength. The walls of Luanda are still covered with posters glorifying the ENLA (armed wing of the FNLA). But in July it attempted a coup in Luanda for the fourth time and ran up against unexpected resistance from the MPLA, followed by a vast counter-offensive which is still being pursued.

Strongly backed by the population of the *musseques* (slums), the FAPLAs (armed wing of the MPLA) have now completely rid Luanda of the FNLA and UNITA, and have continued their offensive in the East. They have recaptured in succession Dala Tando, Malange, Luso and Enrique de Carvalho, throwing back the FNLA towards the north where the front has stabilised around Caxito, 30 miles from the capital. The FNLA, heavily supported by Mobutu's tanks, holds the town; and according to a prisoner there are twelve Chinese instructors working there. The FNLA appears to be preparing a counter-offensive.

Throughout August the MPLA launched a vast offensive to capture the coastal region extending from Luanda to Mocimedeas, and is today in complete control of it. According to the latest information, it has launched an offensive from the south coast eastwards, and has occupied the Windhoek road. The fighting also continues in the highlands, and especially in Nova Lisboa.

Nevertheless one should not be too optimistic. From the strictly military point of view the balance of strength is largely in favour of the FNLA, which alone possesses heavy armaments. Since July, Soviet aid to the MPLA has increased, but it has arrived largely in the form of Kalashnikov AK-47s, machine guns and bazookas. This lack of heavy equipment, while not vital in guerrilla warfare, can be sorely missed in the field (as at Caxito).

Furthermore, the geo-political situation is very bad. Hemmed in between Mobutu's Zaire and South Africa, the Angolan liberation forces cannot count on any friendly frontier. This geographical isolation accounts for the priority given by the MPLA to control of the coastal zone.

brought together in UNTA (National Union of Angolan Workers).

The war has seen these organisations develop, even if — as some MPLA spokesmen admit — it also makes it difficult to consolidate popular power. In the face of imperialist aggression, the MPLA could only rely on the masses. Weapons were freely distributed among the population: not only to the FAPLAs, but also to the councils of popular defence (or councils of vigilance) created at that time.

These councils, made up of sections of the population and stiffened by the FAPLAs, were the decisive factor in the July battles. Despite an evident lack of discipline and organisation (most did not know how to load a bazooka or a Kalashnikov), it was these combatants, often very young, who gained the victory.

The MPLA expects a lengthy war, and training of the future combatants of the FAPLAs begins at an early age. From eight years on they are 'pioneers' and given political education, physical training and discipline. At 15, they join the 'youngsters' to receive armed training. Until 18 they will undergo an intensive training which will take them to the FAPLAs' training camps in the heart of the forest, where they will be taught everything from guerrilla warfare to anti-aircraft fire.

The young militants, amongst whom one finds as many girls as boys, are all volunteers. This greatly facilitates discipline within the camp. While male chauvinism remains rampant in daily life, it disappears totally in struggle. Women have the same responsibilities, training and discipline as the men. If, during an exercise in assembling and dismantling a Kalashnikov, a young militant is unable to carry out the exercise as fast as her comrades, the instructor will start her again until she achieves it — without any chuckling from those present.

Democracy is practised at all levels in the FAPLAs. Criticism and self-criticism are everyday matters, and it's not unusual to see a commander (the only existing rank in the armed forces) called into question by one or several of his soldiers.

The situation is different within the MPLA itself. Sorely tried before 25 April by serious internal crises (with factions led by Chipenda and Mario de Andrade), today the movement appears to have formed one unit

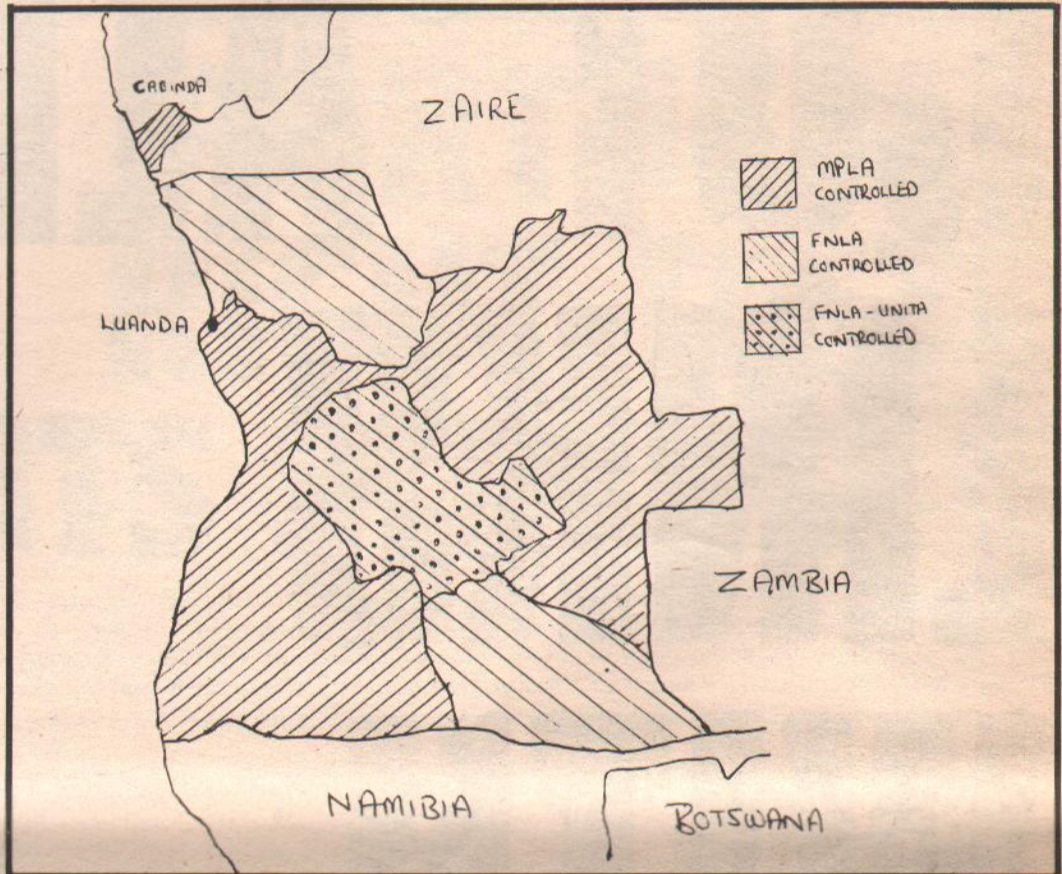
The interview below, with two comrades who recently returned from Angola after spending three weeks in the zones controlled by the MPLA, first appeared in our French sister paper *Rouge*.

## • What is the situation in the enclave of Cabinda, and what is the role of FLEC?

At the moment the situation is perfectly calm. The importance of the guerrilla war led by the MPLA before 25 April, and its long-standing implantation in the peasant masses, assures it absolute control over this enclave. Faced with this, the FNLA and UNITA carry no weight, which is why imperialism has decided to play its 'autonomy' card.

Two FLECs (Liberation Front for the Cabinda Enclave) have appeared in close succession. There is one in Gulf Oil, whose government sits in Kinshasa; and another at Elf-Erap, installed in the Congo. For the moment the two movements represent only a few families from the big bourgeoisie living outside the country, but the Cabinda problem is there and could conceivably become a danger to Angolan unity.

The return to tribalism, always brought into play in Africa by imperialism, is the main danger facing Angola. The slogan most often heard in Cabinda is: 'One people, one nation from Cabinda to Cunene' (in the extreme south). The MPLA, conscious of this serious problem, is endeavouring to forge a national consciousness in the whole country.



For example at Dala Tando, where the FNLA have just been driven out, the neighbourhood councils have requisitioned a large shop in order to turn it into a co-operative for distribution. They are at present trying to create a co-operative to harvest coffee. Militants visit the villages, either to explain the usefulness of a day nursery or an agricultural co-operative, or to give courses in political education, as in Catete.

## • What about UNITA and the FNLA — their function, their support etc?

Owing to its geographical situation and its mineral wealth, Angola is of key importance for imperialist strategy. To prevent the country from falling into the 'socialist' bloc and creating a revolutionary barrier against South Africa with Mozambique (only separated from Angola by Zambia), the US has for a long time placed its hopes on the FNLA. Using Zaire and its President Mobutu (who is the brother-in-law of FNLA leader Holden Roberto), and with the help of Chinese instructors, it has made of this 'liberation movement' the best equipped army in Angola.

Roberto is also supported by poor whites and Portuguese officers of upper rank, who handed over the Carmona air base to the FNLA on 4 August. Planes from Zaire, the US and South Africa now use it in transit. But despite its military superiority, ELNA has suffered some important reverses in the last few months. The reason is simple: created on a racist and tribalist (Bakongo) basis, the FNLA is made up largely of Zairean mercenaries, together with peasants who have been pressed into service without conviction, behaving for the most part like an army of occupation.

A circular from the FNLA headquarters is quite explicit on the danger: 'To possess a weapon is not a permit to capture, mistreat and attack the civilian population. The ELNA soldier's duty is to defend the population, because he is the representative of the armed people, and not a highwayman.'

The July coup having failed, imperialism has two options. It can either raise the stakes (for example South African intervention, delivery of Mirage jets to the FNLA) or change course and fall back on a less compromised movement such as UNITA. Under Jonas Savimbi, a charismatic and fundamentally opportunistic leader, UNITA appears to have become (since 25 April) the trump card of Franco-German interests in Angola.

In spite of this, UNITA cannot be classified as easily as the FNLA. Unlike the latter, it enjoys an important popular following which is not unresponsive to the MPLA's achievements. UNITA members who have been taken prisoner by the MPLA are well treated and receive political education. A good number join the FAPLAs. The contradictions between the existing leadership in UNITA and its radicalised base are increasingly evident. The MPLA is aware of this and is attempting to attract the progressive sections.



## • Have the FAPLAs' offensives strengthened the mass movement? What is the extent of the urban population's mobilisation and self-defence? How are their relations with the MPLA?

When the July offensive began there were already several kinds of mass organisations in the MPLA's zones (mainly in Luanda). First of all there were the 'neighbourhood councils', elected by the population with the task of solving the immediate local needs (food, literacy classes, medical care). For example, in Luanda where the road sweepers stopped work a month ago, each neighbourhood organises its own garbage removal. This presents an astonishing contrast — a city where the slums are impeccable and where the rich white neighbourhoods are swamped in garbage!

These councils are linked together by a co-ordinating body whose members are elected and recalled by mass meetings. There are also councils of action organised directly by the MPLA, and factory councils

behind Agostinho Neto. That's not to say that the internal differences have disappeared; but faced with the total warfare declared by the FNLA, a kind of holy union has been established between the different tendencies making up the MPLA.

In the areas controlled by the MPLA, and in all its dependent bodies, a great deal of propaganda is made about the revolutionary leaders, especially about the 'comrade president'. This propaganda, which is aimed at the Angolan masses rather than at the MPLA militants, occasionally takes Maoist overtones (badges and posters depicting President Neto). For the militants in the movement it's not a question of a personality cult. It is more an effort, through the MPLA and its leaders, to create a national conscience in the popular masses and avoid a return to tribalism.

Of course this is not the only propaganda put out by the MPLA. Even if at present the war makes military organisation of the masses a priority, the MPLA has undertaken another battle — that for production. In the regions under its control it organises the distribution of basic foodstuffs.

## WHAT'S ON

**WOMWN WORKERS CONFERENCE:** Sat 4 Oct., 9.30 onwards in May Place Hall, Basingstoke. Speakers from Working Women's Charter Campaign, NAC, MCAPP, Women's Aid, Gingerbread, Recreation Ground theatre group. Creche. Observers 40p.

**BIG FLAME** public meeting on Ireland, Saturday 4 October, 7.30 in the Rugby Tavern, Rugby St, off Lamb's Conduit St, London WC1. Also Big Flame pamphlet on Ireland: 'Ireland—Rising in the North', from 79c Annerley Road, London SE20.

**CFMAG CLOSING DOWN SALE:** Last chance to get posters, pamphlets, historic war communiques etc. on the liberation struggles in Guinea, Angola and Mozambique at our 'penny or not much more stall', at the ANC International Bazaar on Sat 4 October, from 11am to 4pm in Holborn Assembly Hall, Johns Mews, Holborn, WC1.

**WEST LONDON NAC:** meeting Tues 7 Oct, 7pm, in Acklam Hall, Acklam Road, W10. Speakers include a trade unionist, a member of NAC steering committee, and a hospital worker.

**ANNIVERSARY** of Mosley's defeat—meeting with Putuse Appolus, Althea Lecointe and local militants. Film, freedom songs. Sat 4 Oct, All Nations Club, 2 Martello Street, Hackney, E.8.

**WEST MIDDLESEX NAC** Working Conference, Saturday 4 Oct. at Bailey Hall, Uxbridge High Street (opp Tesco's), from 2—6pm. Speakers from NAC Steering Committee, MCAPP, and local labour movement. Nursery provided. For details contact Eve at 132 Cowley Road, Uxbridge (tel. Uxbridge 30358).

**FUND-RAISING DISCO** for the Working Women's Charter Campaign, Saturday 4 Oct at Sols Arms, Hampstead Rd, NW1. 7.30—12.30pm. Admission 50p. Men welcome.

**VICTOR GRAYSON**—public meeting Tuesday 7 October at 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC2. Admission free. Reg Groves talks about his new book on the life and mysterious disappearance of Victor Grayson, the revolutionary socialist MP, *The Strange Case of Victor Grayson* (£2) published by Pluto Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 (tel. 01-727-0141).

**LONDON SOCIALIST FORUM:** 'The Benn Manifesto—An Alternative for the Labour Party?' Tues 7 Oct, 7.30pm, Conway Hall.

**NEW NAC HEADQUARTERS:** now at 30 Camden Road, London NW1 (tel. 485 4303).

**NAC CONFERENCE:** 18-19 October at Imperial College, London. Registration £1 (50p for students, claimants, one-parent families, etc.). Write to above address for registration forms.

**NEW NEWSPAPER** published by NAC now available—price 10p each or 8p for pre-paid bulk orders of 50+. Order from above address.

**A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE/Free Abortion on Demand** badges available from 97 Caledonian Road, London N1—10p each plus s.a.e., bulk reductions on request.

**MERSEYSIDE** Association of Trades Councils International Women's Year Committee conference: 'Women's Struggle in Chile, Portugal, Ireland and Vietnam'. Speakers include Carmen Castillo (Chile), Carmen Miranda (PWCC), Ann Speed (Dublin shop steward) and Vietnamese woman. Sunday 5 Oct, 10.30am—4pm. Creche.

**SOGAT** Hall, 254 County Road, Liverpool 4. Tickets 25p and other details from: News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool.

**NEWCASTLE TEACH-IN** on Abortion, Saturday 4 Oct., Shipley Baths Community Centre, Raby Gate, Byker Wall, 2—5pm. Speakers Wendy Forest of NAC plus local NAC member. Creche provided.

**GAY WORKERS CONFERENCE:** Saturday 11 October, 10am—5pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Further details from: Gay Worker, 5 Caledonian Road, London N.1. (please enclose s.a.e.)

**'TO DIE IN MADRID':** Leeds IMG public showing of film on Spanish Civil War, Thurs 9 Oct., 7.30pm at the Students Union.



# 'SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN!'

Five thousand soldiers and sailors — many risking everything by disobeying their reactionary commanders — wrote a new page in the history of the Portuguese revolution last Thursday. Heading a demonstration of 50,000, they succeeded in freeing two of their comrades who had been jailed for distributing the manifesto of the revolutionary soldiers movement, 'Soldiers United Will Win' (SUV).

Things had been moving over the previous few days. A thousand automatic weapons disappeared from a barracks, and a fugitive army captain later announced that he had handed them over to 'revolutionary workers and peasants'. In the regi-

hood commissions they first took over the Tagus toll-bridge — allowing motorists to go through free — and then took over the State radio station to broadcast their demands.

## IMPRISONED

Meanwhile two soldiers at the infantry training school at Mafra, near Lisbon, had been imprisoned on 20 September for distributing the SUV manifesto. Their comrades had refused to parade when they heard the news, heading instead for the barracks to free them. But they had already been transferred to the Trafaria military camp.

The demonstration called by SUV

missions, supporters of the parties making up the Revolutionary United Front. Half an hour later the first soldiers and sailors started to arrive in large, disciplined groups to enthusiastic shouts of 'Portugal will not be the Chile of Europe'.

Soon the square is a sea of chanting soldiers and workers, and we eventually move off. The demonstration is routed to go past the offices of *Republica* and then Radio Renascenca, and each time the crowd voices its deafening support for the occupying workers against Government attempts to hand them back to their owners. But at the same time the march is incredibly disciplined: each time we approach a hospital the shouts die down, until all that can be heard is the tramp of feet and the quiet whistling of the 'Internationale'.

## APPLAUSE

Eventually the march arrives at the Avenue of Liberty, and the demonstrators spill out onto the surrounding banks and lawns. Huge applause greets the reading of a message of support from 40 barracks in the Italian army. Then an officer announces: Tomorrow we will liberate our two comrades who are in prison.

The response from the crowd is electric: 'Not tomorrow — right now!' But how can we do it? Comrades Victor Pinto and Figueiredo are in prison twenty miles away across the river. It doesn't take long to work out a way, however. Minutes later, we are on our way to the nearby bus depot, and soon 200 crammed double-decker buses accompanied by a huge armada of coaches and cars set off. It is now 1.30am, but the wide-eyed population roused from their beds by the noise laugh and cheer.

## NO PANIC

When we get to Trafaria, however, there is a sobering announcement that the commandos and fusiliers are on their way to defend the prison. But there is no panic. It is decided to build barricades, with

## 2. SUV platform

1. 'Soldiers United Will Win' (SUV) is a united anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist front which appears at a time when fascist reaction is once more organising, using the hesitations and divisions introduced among the workers, as well as the policy of governments which have been unable or unwilling to defend the just demands of the workers and peasants — of whom we, the soldiers, form a part.

2. On several occasions already we have made concessions to the bourgeoisie, particularly in subordinating our struggle to the alliance with the MFA, an officers' movement which as a result of its contradictions and vacillations in the past is today following a counter-revolutionary policy. This has led not only to the apathy and hostility of important layers of the population (notably our peasant brothers), but also to the demoralisation of numerous fighters in our ranks and a general sluggishness in the face of the reactionary offensive inside and outside the barracks.

The SUV has as its aim the unleashing of an independent offensive on a class basis:

soldiers from the RALQ Regiment volunteering to man the first one because 'we know the commandos well and will talk to them before they get near'. (As for the fusiliers, we later learn that they refused to leave their barracks on such a mission);

## MEGAPHONE

There is an astonishing calm as everyone waits. But meanwhile the walkie-talkies are buzzing. Carvalho, is contacted. Suddenly over the megaphones comes the announcement everyone has been waiting for: 'The commandos have turned back; Carvalho has ordered the release of our comrades!' Not that he had much choice in the matter.

Two huge ribbons of linked arms extend a quarter of a mile up the

— To struggle for democratic rights in the barracks, through ensuring the election — and democratic functioning of ADUs (Assemblies of Unit Delegates), the unrestricted circulation of the working class and popular press and propaganda, and the holding of mass meetings of soldiers on every occasion on which we demand it;

— To struggle for the establishment of soldiers commissions — organs of power of the workers in uniform in the barracks — elected and recallable at any time by mass meetings of the soldiers;

— To encourage and deepen the links between the organs of popular power (workers' commissions, village councils, neighbourhood commissions), reinforcing the power of the exploited through the popular assemblies;

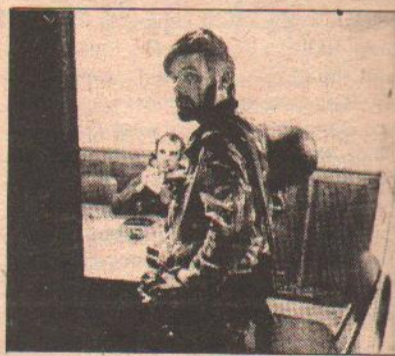
— For the expulsion of the reactionary officers;

— Against all attempts to purge the military progressives;

— For an improvement in the soldiers' living conditions (against starvation wages for free transport, for communal mess and canteen facilities, against the militarist discipline).

3. The SUV struggles with all the workers for the preparation of conditions which will permit the destruction of the bourgeois army and the creation of the armed wing of the workers' power: the people's revolutionary army. ALWAYS, ALWAYS ON THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE — THAT IS OUR SLOGAN! WORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS AND SAILORS — UNITED WE WILL WIN!

little road as the two infantrymen are released to shouts of 'SUV has won — SUV will win'. But there is no hysteria. An important victory has been won. But it is now 4am — time to rest and prepare for the huge revolutionary tasks which still have to be accomplished in the succeeding days and weeks.



# 1. MASSIVE SOLDIERS & WORKERS DEMO FREES TWO

John Weal's eye-witness report from Lisbon

ment of military police, which has been organising a campaign against the sending of any more troops to Angola, ten reactionary officers were purged after they were discovered plotting to get rid of revolutionary recruits.

At the same time a group of disabled ex-servicemen launched a campaign for welfare and pensions — they have received nothing from the Government or the Armed Forces Movement for 14 months. With support of workers' and neighbour-

for last Thursday thus promised to be a make-or-break affair. If the turn-out was small, the reactionaries would have been given a green light to go on the offensive. If it was large, it would be a tremendous step forward for the revolutionary movement.

Large it was. By 7 pm they were already beginning to assemble: workers from the Lisnave shipyards still in their boiler suits and safety helmets, groups from the different workers' and neighbourhood com-

## 3. Revolutionary soldiers' appeal

We, Portuguese workers, are today living through a particularly difficult moment in our revolutionary struggle against the bourgeoisie, capitalism and imperialism.

A year and a half after the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship, capitalist reaction has redoubled its attacks in the factories, in the countryside, in the neighbourhoods, and in the barracks. Sometimes it uses insidious demagoguery, sometimes open terrorist violence, but always with the same aim: to halt the advances of the alliance of workers, peasants, soldiers and sailors towards the establishment of workers' power; to stop at all costs the abolition of its class privileges obtained through exploitation and oppression; and to prevent its disappearance as the ruling class.

There are still powerful weapons in the hands of the bourgeoisie and the capitalists. Two are particularly dangerous if we do not understand how to deal with them in time. The first is our own disunity, our inability to take forward our own independent offensive on a real class basis. On several occasions we have made this concession to the class enemy, notably in subordinating our struggle to the alliance with the MFA — an officers' movement whose contradictions and vacillations have led to the apathy and hostility of important layers of the population, particularly in rural areas; the demoralisation of numerous fighters in our own ranks; and a general sluggishness in the face of the reactionary offensive inside and outside the barracks.

We must learn to confront this danger by organising as a class, breaking with the militarist hierarchy and challenging on a global scale the power of the bourgeois state apparatus, of which the army is an integral part. The creation of 'Soldiers United Will Win' (SUV) and the demonstration which it called in Oporto on 10 September are already an important step forward

in this direction, particularly if we realise that this impressive response by 50,000 workers (including 1,500 soldiers and sailors in uniform, despite the increasing manoeuvres and the militarist repression) took place in a region which has been the centre of the terrorist offensive and reactionary demagoguery.

The second powerful weapon in the hands of the class enemy is undoubtedly the important international support it is receiving. This is a product of the common interests which link the exploiters throughout the world. Recent history shows us that this weapon, this counter-revolutionary potential of imperialism, is both powerful and terrible. It is up to us, the workers of Europe, to determine the forms of a struggle which can only be waged through our class solidarity, through the development of our national struggles into a single fight on an international scale to meet any imperialist attack with the response it deserves: the indestructible force of the entire international workers' and popular movement.

Today it is Portugal, tomorrow it will be Spain, France, Italy and so on. Difficult struggles are on the agenda. Against the common enemy, our mutual solidarity is both necessary and urgent — we are appealing to you to give it.

LONG LIVE THE FIGHTING INTERNATIONALISM OF THE WORKING CLASS!

PORTUGAL WILL NOT BE THE CHILE OF EUROPE! WORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS AND SAILORS — UNITED WE WILL WIN!

Soldiers United Will Win — 12 September 1975



# WILLIAM TYNDALE - LABOUR & PRESS JOIN WITCH HUNT



Police go back to school

On Monday 22 September the headmaster and teaching staff at the William Tyndale Junior School in Islington, London went on strike. Accused by right-wing Labour councillors of 'politically indoctrinating' the children, and witch-hunted in the national press, the staff are demanding an independent inquiry into the managers of the school, Labour Party involvement in attacks on staff, and the role of the Inner London Education Authority in the whole affair.

The case is not simply one of victimisation of 'left' teachers. It is closely connected with a power struggle which has been going on in Islington Labour Party for some time. A petition which alleges 'deteriorating standards' at the school has been circulating in local schools and Council meetings - aided and abetted by several well known right-wing Labour councillors.

## 'Progressive'

Islington is one of the few inner London boroughs which has its own Education Advisory Committee. Such a body could be useful for developing links between the locality and the ILEA. The right, however, see it as a stepping stone to a separate education authority for Islington. They wish to see education in Islington being run along the lines proposed by Tory MP Rhodes Boyson and the reactionary authors of the Black Papers on education, as opposed to the more 'progressive' policy of the ILEA.

The same Labour councillors who

Both the 'anti-squatting' and 'anti-progressive teaching' policies of these right-wing Labour councillors pose big dangers, opening workers up to even more reactionary dogmas. In fact the housing policy of the so-called 'rebel' councillors who have resigned the Labour whip is so right-wing that the National Front has invited them to join, as their policies on housing are identical.

At William Tyndale all requests for an independent inquiry have so far been rejected. Instead the ILEA is going ahead with an inspection at the request of the managers. The inspectors went into the school on 22 September - and the teachers came out.

## Mastermind

Next day ILEA leader Eric Briault, who masterminded the attempted victimisation of militant London teachers earlier this year, warned the Tyndale teachers that not to co-operate with the inspection was contrary to the 1944 Education Act. Under the Act the teachers could be liable to a fine of £20 on first conviction, and £50 and three months imprisonment on second or subsequent conviction.

The school reopened on 24 September with 13 inspectors teaching the children, but only half of the latter attended. Despite pressure from some parents, several kids bunked off with the remark, 'we're not going to be taught by those Kojaks...'

Throughout the period leading



William Tyndale headmaster, Terry Ellis

up to the strike the National Union of Teachers executive refused to sanction any strike action and simply recommended that the teachers co-operate with the ILEA inspection. Last week Communist Party member Max Morris, executive member and former president of the NUT, went on television to attack the striking teachers.

## Campaign

Unfortunately North London Teachers Association, while backing the demands of the Tyndale teachers, has voted 110-70 against supporting the strike. A campaign must be waged to reverse this decision and demand that the NUT make the strike official.

As the strike is unofficial there

is a need for support from all workplaces - particularly as the ILEA will attempt to bring in other teachers to break the strike. Pickets will be maintained at 8.30 every morning outside the school in Upper Street, Islington N1. Donations should be sent to 12, Twisden Road, NW5. Further information can be obtained from 01-359-4545.

## SOCIALIST TEACHERS CONFERENCE

now on 25-26 October

For further details write to:  
Bernard Reagan, 24 St Agnes Close,  
London E.9.



Strikers and supporters on the picket line last week

# STUDENTS - NEW TERM, NEW ATTACKS

Students returning to their colleges at the start of another year are finding that they too face the harsh reality of continued cutbacks in education spending by the Labour Government. Cuts in building programmes and the general lack of housing will mean that many students will have nowhere to live. Those lucky enough to be in halls of residence will soon find their grant increase of £135 eaten away by rents that have gone up by as much as £100.

Perhaps the worst deal is faced by students training to be teachers. They are finding that as a group they are a bit thin on the ground these days.

Government decisions to slash teaching targets, have led to the closure of 13 Colleges of Education. Not only are less teachers being trained, but Local Education Authorities are also tightening their purse strings by cutting down on staff in the schools, forcing many young teachers into the dole queues.

Other savings that Local Education Authorities are making have led

## —by Val Coultas—

to cuts in discretionary awards and adult education courses. The knife is being dug in hard into education alongside all the other social services, at a time when finding any sort of job is becoming increasingly difficult.

Students last year put up a tough fight against education cutbacks and the low level of the grant by occupying their colleges, going on rent strike, and demonstrating for an equal grant for all students. Some gains were made - the married wo-

men's grant was abolished, some discretionary awards were made mandatory (namely the Diploma of Higher Education and the Higher National Diploma) and the grant level was raised. But the Labour Government refused to reverse the cutbacks, now reaching the £400 million mark. Instead, Wilson and company stood by and deliberately allowed student rent strikers at Lancaster and Warwick to be dealt with by the police.

The 'Broad Left' leadership of the NUS has begun to wake up to the idea that students on their own lack the economic power to reverse the policies of the Labour Government. They want students to support the initiatives that sections of the trade union bureaucracy are organising in defence of education, notably the lobby of Parliament on 21 October called by the South-East region of the TUC.

NUS areas at a local level are to back this up by forging links with trades councils in their area. Involved in the lobby is also the Council for Educational Advance, which includes the Conservative Party among its supporters - notorious defenders

of education for all!

Students should be clear about the nature of the attack on their living standards. The Labour Government is directly responsible for these attacks, having continued the policies towards the whole of the social services first set in motion by the Tory Government. The Broad Left are right to say that the attack will only be repulsed by fighting alongside the working class against these attacks, and we should welcome and build the 21 October lobby.

## Class basis

But the fight must be developed on a class basis - alliances with the Tory Party will not defend education when it has consistently argued for an all-out attack on living standards. Nor can the fight to defend education be seen in isolation from the attacks on all the social services, despite the NUT bureaucracy's wish to limit it to a defence of the teaching 'profession'.

The sort of fight that needs to be mounted has to meet the leadership of the Labour Party and its pro-capitalist policies head-on. The Broad Left will argue that the alliance we

forge with the trade unions must not 'rock the boat' in terms of the present Government. But the present Government is in fact preparing its own downfall by its attacks on working class living standards and jobs. Local government workers and workers in the NHS have already begun to challenge these policies. Newcastle and Liverpool Trades Councils are organising conferences on unemployment. Such initiatives must be given full support by all students if they wish to forge real links with workers.

But students must also be prepared to build a movement that is not afraid of rocking the boat - that fights for demands like the sliding scale of grants, of wages and for the full restoration of all the cuts as an alternative to the traitorous policies of the present Labour Government. These demands can mobilise students and workers together in an all-out fight to defend workers' wages, workers' jobs and the social services. IMG students will be fighting for these policies in the colleges as the only way in which student struggles can gain the political direction that they have lacked over the

# Vital Questions Facing Labour Conference

This week the Labour Conference meets in Blackpool. According to the press, Reg Prentice, the Tribunites and virtually every section of the Labour Party, the Conference will see a great fight between right and left. Unfortunately the truth is very different. Amidst the

greatest capitalist crisis for 40 years, the Labour Conference will not be discussing many of the vital issues at all, and even on those it does deal with, no real socialist choice will be put forward. *Red Weekly* looks at the crisis and policies necessary to deal with it.

## the fight for jobs

The shadows of the Thirties and the spectre of 1931 are hanging over the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool. The dole queues have grown at the rate of 1,000 a day since Labour took office in February 1974. One and a quarter million people are without jobs. In the last few days alone a spate of redundancies and factory closures have been announced (see box). The trend of unemployment is inexorably upwards.

The Wilson Government has chosen to turn its back on the appalling misery that 1½ million unemployed and their families will face this winter. With the nerve of a practiced con-man, Healey — flanked by Varley and 'Tribunite' Foot — announced his measures to deal with unemployment last week. At the very moment when he was claiming that the Government's total investment of £205 million would save 100,000 jobs, another Government spokesman, Lord Shepherd, was telling the House of Lords of further cuts in public expenditure which will cost at least 100,000 jobs.

As Bernard Dix, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees commented: 'By cutting public expenditure, Mr Healey is reducing employment in local government and the health services. Many public workers will suspect that [through the £5 employment subsidy for youth] he is hoping to

find jobs for 16-year-olds at the expense of 60 year olds.'

Healey felt that he had to provide some 'justification' for this window-dressing prior to Labour Party Conference — not to the millions of working class voters who voted to go 'back to work with Labour', but to the uneasy 'confidence' of big business which might consider the measures 'reflationary'.

### GUILTY

It's nothing of the sort, insisted Healey: 'If I could give you some figures, the total gross of these measures over the whole five years which are involved so far as the investment schemes are concerned, is only one-twentieth as high as the measures recently announced by the German and French Governments, and only one-hundredth as high as the measures

announced by the United States Government.'

If unemployment is, as Tony Benn recently said, the issue on which this Labour Government will be judged, then the trial is already over. Wilson and Healey — together with Benn and Foot, who continue to sit in the Cabinet — are clearly guilty: 1,249,078 times over.

Equally guilty are Jack Jones and the trade union bureaucracy, who planned and accepted the £6 limit. Ensnared in a Common Market meeting of trade union bureaucrats in Brussels, Jack Jones described Healey's pathetic palliatives as 'an important step forward.'

But while the Government butchers and the bureaucracy betray the interests of the working class, groups of workers all over the country are beginning to fight back.

For seven weeks 1,600 cycle workers occupying the Norton Villiers-Triumph works at Wolverhampton have been fighting for their jobs. Despite illusions about buying and running the plant, the workers and their action committee have resolutely opposed the closure plans of the bosses and the Government.

In the hard hit Sheffield engineering industry, workers in the 360-strong tools division at Balfour Darwin have struck and occupied the

stockroom against 28 redundancies (see back page). The Sheffield AUEW shop stewards quarterly, recognising 'the danger presented to the labour movement by the right-wing course being pursued by the Labour Government', has instructed the District Committee 'to approach other organisations in the labour movement with a view to organising a conference to discuss the most effective way to mobilise opposition to these policies and to campaign for socialist policies.'

### 'END OF THE LINE'

In Glasgow, 240 members of the AUEW and 46 staff workers at the US-owned Personna razor-blade factory have been on strike for more than a week against redundancies. There have been 112 since March, and now management wants to cut another 40 jobs. A 24-hour picket is being maintained at the factory to ensure that no orders are shipped out. Says Personna convenor Phil McBride: 'We have reached the end of the line. They are putting the boot in. Factories are shutting all over the place, and they are striking while the iron is hot.'



Marching for jobs in the Thirties — will it be the same in the Seventies?

## the fight for jobs

In Leicester, eighty delegates from all the main unions — barring Jones's T&GWU — attended a conference a fortnight ago organised by the trades council to debate and discuss action against unemployment. Unemployment is now running at 13,000 in the city, compared with 7,000 at the beginning of the year. The conference decided unanimously to fight for physical occupation of factories as the most effective means of resisting closures; for nationalisation without compensation and under workers' control of all firms threatening redundancies; for opposition to all schemes of voluntary redundancies, productivity deals and wage cuts; and for the opening of the books. The trades council is printing a monthly bulletin to popularise these policies and convening a further special conference in November.

Dundee trades council has also taken up the question of unemployment. No fewer than 267 delegates from 20 different unions met on 20 September to discuss the fight for jobs.

On Merseyside, white-collar workers from three plants in the Plessey telecommunications company voted at a mass meeting on 23 September to resist 1,000 redundancies — with industrial action if necessary. On the same day several hundred Greater London Council workers demonstrated against plans to drop services and cut 1,600 jobs; and at a mass

meeting at the Royal Free Hospital in London, workers voted to resist any cuts in services or staff.

In the last couple of weeks the following major redundancies have been announced:

- \* 5,000 at GEC by October 1976;
- \* 500 at Donaldson Textiles in Lornhill, Scotland, in the next three to four months;
- \* 500 at Pye's Dulwich factory, which is closing;
- \* 2,000 at various Plessey plants;
- \* 280 at the Bryant & May factory in Gloucester, which is closing;
- \* 300 at Fielden's electronics plant in Manchester, which is closing only 11 months after being taken over by the Swiss firm Brown Boveri;
- \* British Leyland is seeking 30,000 redundancies in its car division alone, and British Steel and the Post Office want 20,000 apiece.

The fight for jobs is on. Delegates to the Labour Party Conference must decide where they stand in this fight — with the Wilson Government, or against it.

In supporting the 26 November lobby of Parliament called by the North-West Council of the TUC on 14 September, Eddie Loyden MP said: 'The time for talking is over, what we need now is positive action.' Lobbies and

one-day strikes can be used initially to mobilise workers around an issue. But the fiasco over the Shrewsbury pickets should serve as a warning to militants that the only language this Government will understand is occupations, mass strikes and demonstrations.

The question facing delegates and militants in local parties is — will they use their organisations to support and build these actions; will they participate in local conferences to organise action against Wilson's policies, as Newham North-East Labour Party has done; will local councillors defy capitalist law to resist the cuts and serve the interests of the working class as the Clay Cross councillors have done?

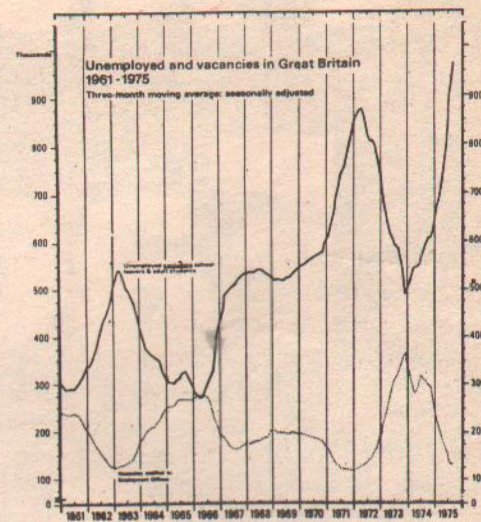
So far Benn, the 'left' Labour MPs, and Tribune have spent their time dreaming up the most beautiful 'alternatives' to the policies of the Wilson Government. But they have taken few steps to rally support for the actual struggles of the working class against this Government. Without this, their words are merely so much hot air — a left cover for Wilson.

The union bureaucrats will be using their block votes to defend the central plank of Wilson's strategy at Blackpool this week — the £6 limit. Delegates and local Labour Parties must see to it that their organisations play a leading role in the fight to drag this prop right out from under Wilson's rotten clique!

- Defend the right to work!
- For a 35-hour week!

- Nationalise without compensation all firms creating redundancies, and place them under workers' control!
- Stop the cuts in public spending — for a major programme of public works!
- Open the books of the bosses and the banks, and let the workers prepare a plan for production which defends jobs!

Mick Gosling



This graph shows the seasonally adjusted average unemployment figures rising sharply since the budget. The solid top line shows the jobless figures, excluding school leavers and adult students. The dotted bottom line indicates job vacancies.

# against the cuts!



Last week local government workers from the Greater London Council and several London boroughs picketed County Hall to protest against threatened cuts in Greater London services and staffing. The picket, organised by GLC NALGO and the '70 Group of the Staff Association, was not supported by the leadership of the Staff Association, who are refusing to campaign against the cutbacks despite representing the majority of GLC workers.

The cuts in housing, health, education and the social services will occupy much of the debate at Blackpool this week. Nearly all the resolutions tabled on this issue call for an end to the cuts and the restoration of those already made. What is singularly lacking, however, is any strategy for fighting them. Instead there are endless pleas for the Wilson Government to end their evil ways and behave like good socialists — a little like asking a tiger to give up meat.

The sort of problems that whole areas face is highlighted by the situation in Newham, East London, once the happy hunting ground of red-spotter Reg Prentice. The rundown of 'unprofitable' industry, like the docks and refin-

ing of raw materials, now coincides with a Government programme of massive cuts in the welfare services, to produce a social crisis as deep in Newham as anywhere in England: a housing waiting list that requires a 20 per cent increase in the number of council houses; an infant mortality rate that is the highest in England; a permanent education crisis; and unemployment which runs at four times the average for the South-East. The impact of all this is doubled by the Healey measures.

What makes Newham different from many areas, however, is that here the local trade unions, the Labour Party and various left organisations have started to do something about it.

On 21 September they called a conference on the theme 'Newham: Prosperity or Decline'. Despite the fact that it was a Sunday meeting more than 200 people turned up. The conference, addressed by Tribune MP Ian Mikardo and leading 'Bennite' theoretician Stuart Holland, demanded full employment, new investment in Newham, and supported the 1973 Labour Programme for Industry, complete with planning agreements.

As speakers from the International Marxist Group pointed out, while the implementation of this programme would be a step forward for the working class, it remains abstract since it doesn't give any lead on how to fight unem-

ployment and the cuts. It steers clear of the central fight to remove the right-wing leadership that is imposing the cuts.

The building of local conferences and local action committees of the labour movement against the cuts is an excellent development. More and more will appear as the effects of the 'new' social contract begin to bite home. Delegates and militants in local Labour Parties must see that they play a full role in them. Such local initiatives provide a real base from which to challenge the Wilson leadership, as opposed to the 'socialist' rhetoric of conferences and 'left' MPs.

## PROGRAMME

But in order to do this, they must base themselves squarely on the struggles of the working class. In Newham that includes supporting the East London Committee Against the Cuts — supported by more than a dozen trade union bodies, but spurned by 'left' MP Mikardo — which is organising a day of action against hospital closures on 16 October. Bound up with this is the fight for demands that unite all sections of workers against the policies of Wilson and Healey: for a massive programme of socially useful public works drawn up by the labour movement and financed by the Government; against unemployment, for nationalisation without compensation and under workers' control of all firms creating redundancies.

In Newham the first step has been taken in this direction by the local conference — although it wrongly avoided the question of the social contract like the plague. A steering committee has been elected among whose members are representatives of the Newham North-East CLP — which gave a lead to the working class by kicking out Prentice — and also the IMG. Committees like this are undoubtedly the first sign of organised united action against the policies of Wilson. By extending their basis to include delegates from all working class organisations and fighting for policies which defend the working class against the crisis, they can help mobilise the working class to defeat the cuts and remove the Wilson leadership.

## SMASH THE £6 LIMIT

The £6 pay limit, so enthusiastically advocated by Government leaders and the representatives of the capitalist class, serves one specific purpose — to drive down the living standards of the working class.

Take the case of a married man with two children who in February 1975 got a pay increase that raised his gross earnings to £50 — about the average gross earnings for male manual workers. His take-home pay after taking into account the effects of the April Budget would amount to £40.03.

Because of the 12-month ruling that is part of the Government's measures, such a worker would not be entitled to another rise until February 1976. With the annual rate of inflation likely to be still running at 20 per cent, his £40.03 would then be worth only £33.36 at February 1975 prices — giving an average real pay over the year

of £36.60.

The full £6 increase would only raise his take-home pay by £3.57 after tax and deductions, making £43.60 — £36.33 at February 1975 prices. In other words, the full £6 — and many less organised workers may well get below this — would have allowed him to get less than half way back to his real pay of a year previously.

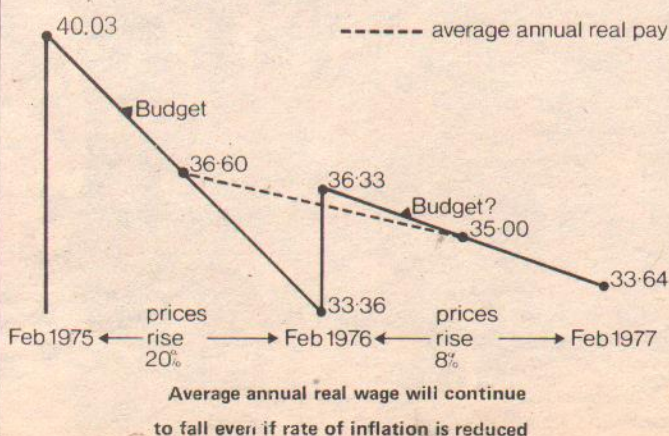
And what of the following year? Immediately his real wages would begin to fall again as inflation continued. Even if Healey by some miracle managed to get inflation down to 8 per cent by February 1977, this worker's real wage would still have been reduced to £33.64 by that time.

This would mean that his average real wage over the year would have sunk to around £35 — another 4½ per cent cut on his previous year's average of £36.60.

It is doubtful if Healey even in his most euphoric moments serious-

ly believes that inflation can be reduced to anything like 8 per cent in that period. It is far more likely that the cut in real wages for such a worker would be at least double the figures quoted.

For the low paid the situation



could be even more drastic. The commercial firm Regional Surveys says that the average pay of the lowest paid can only be maintained providing they get a 37½ per cent increase. This is the only way that this group of workers can keep up

with the 30 per cent increase in consumer prices over the last year.

The Survey spells out that in that time living standards have divided by 5½ per cent. With the £6 limit for the poorly paid being an almost impossible target — they are poorly paid because of their lack of bargaining strength — they are faced with even worse cuts.

The Labour Government is callously prepared to sacrifice the living standards of the working class in order to prop up British capitalism. Last July the Child Poverty Action Group reported 700,000 parents go to bed hungry once a fortnight so that their children can be fed.

According to Frank Field, director of the CPAG, Britain's five million poor 'eat less than the safety level for good health. It Healey's pay laws will consign these people to ever greater deprivation. Poverty, illness and suffer-

ing will grow as the result of the deliberate policies of the Wilson leadership. Furthermore these laws will swell that already alarming figure of five million to even greater proportions.

The testimony of right-wing Labour and the bankruptcy of reformism is being written in bigger slums, hungry families, social inequality and misery for ever growing sections of the working class.

This can only be fought by the labour movement struggling for a £40 minimum wage for all — pensioners, unemployed and the sick and infirm. Linked to that must be the demand that for every single one point rise in the cost of living, there should be an automatic increase of 70p on every wage.

The alternative to that is crushing defeat and suffering for millions of people. What is more, it will open the road for the return of the Tories and even more savage cuts.

# parliamentary democracy or workers democracy?

by Alan Jones

The issue of working class democracy began to dominate the Labour Party conference even before it really got underway. Prentice's red baiting outburst on 'Communist infiltration', and Wilson's claim that he could dictate how Ministers would vote on the National Executive Committee, are completely typical of the campaign that has been developing over the last months. The continual dragging of the AUEW into the courts, the vicious slander campaign against Tony Kelly and other members of the Newham North-East Labour Party, and the witch-hunt of the *Militant* and now of the Workers Revolutionary Party, are other examples of the same development.

The reasons for the mounting press campaign and the continually more blatant violations of working class democracy by Wilson and Co are clear. The impact of the economic and political crisis is convincing more and more people that capitalism, and a policy of collaboration with it, has nothing to offer the working class. Despite all the moves by the open right wing of the Labour Party, and the reformist nature of Labour's programme, an understanding of this crisis is reflected in the move to the left in the rank and file of the trade unions and the Labour Party.

The decision to remove Reg Prentice, the previous removal of Griffiths in Sheffield Brightside, and the similar moves underway in Hammersmith North and Hayes & Harlington show a new determination to challenge the old bureaucratic ways of the open right wing of the Labour Party. It would be very difficult now for the party leadership to attempt again what they did when Liverpool Exchange constituency refused in 1964 to re-adopt Bessie Braddock - to officially 'enquire' into the Constituency, to arbitrarily reinstate Braddock, to threaten to dissolve the CLP, and to demand the administering of 'loyalty oaths'. Another step forward will hopefully come this week when delegates use their democratic right to remove Healey from the NEC and Callaghan from the Party Treasurership.



Two faces of Labour. Left, David Skinner, former Clay Cross Councillor. Because he served the interests of the working class by refusing to implement rent rises under the Tory Housing Finance Act, the man from the Official Receiver's department turned up last week to assess the value of the contents of his council house.

Above, Environment Secretary Tony Crosland. He is fond of telling workers that 'the party's over'. He never served anyone's interests but his own. Below is what he describes as his Cotswolds 'cottage'. It cost close to £45,000. But our Tony's more concerned than that about the problem of housing expenditure—so he's got another one. It's in Holland Park and is valued at around £70,000.



What is more, almost no unions support the forms of organisation - strike committees, all negotiations in the hands of rank and file representatives, all agreements to be voted on at mass meetings - which are necessary for real workers democracy in struggle. Without the securing of these elementary rights it is meaningless to talk of real democracy in the workers' movement.

But, crucial as the question of trade union democracy is, there can be no doubt that the most crucial question of all is the relation of the organisations of the working class to Parliament. Which is to be the supreme power: Parliament, or the labour movement and the organisations of working class democracy which already exist and will develop to a much greater extent in the future?

The reformists, of course, claim that there is no contradiction between these two things - that it is possible to stand both for the democracy of the workers' organisations and for the sovereignty of Parliament. But at every stage this view is shown to be false.

Take the elementary demand that Labour Party conference decisions must be carried out by a Labour Government. How is this to be enforced? According to the parliamentary system, once an MP is elected he is there for five years - quite regardless of what promises he breaks, how he acts on issues which had never even arisen when he was elected, and quite independently of what the people who elected him - and worked for his election - think of

his subsequent behaviour.

There is absolutely no way under this system that someone who violates the democratic decisions of the workers' movement can be brought to task and replaced. It is this which the coalitionists and right wingers have used since time immemorial to thwart the workers' movement. Only the right of recall, something which cuts right across the whole parliamentary system, could secure control for the workers' movement over its 'representatives'.

## WORKERS DEMOCRACY

This does not mean, of course that it is not worth fighting for the demand that conference decisions should be binding on the Parliamentary Party - or for related demands, such as that the leader should be elected by the whole Party and not just by the Parliamentary Party. On the contrary, the winning of these demands would be a vital step in extending the bounds of workers' democracy. Such a fight would make it far harder for Wilson to carry through a outright betrayal such as occurred over the EEC.

It must be recognised, however, that the real democracy of the workers' movement will only be achieved when the parliamentary system itself is superceded by the mass forms of working class democracy and power - the soviets of Russia in 1917, the Councils of Action of the 1926 General Strike, the workers commis-

## NO SUPPORT TO SOARES!

For the last year the Labour Government, through its complete support for the Soares leadership of the Socialist Party, has been spearheading the international co-ordination of counter-revolutionary activity in Portugal. A resolution from the EETPU to the conference fully supports Wilson in this. Fortunately, however, there is a good amendment from York CLP which calls for the conference to 'view with alarm the build up of reactionary forces around some of the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement and the leadership of the Socialist Party. The international support afforded these people and their call for a 'pluralist' (ie. capitalist) democracy, is typified by the espousal of their cause by such champions of socialism as *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Economist*.'

This amendment should be supported by every socialist - as should the previous action of Judith Hart and others in opposing the invitation to Soares to address the conference. But it is only by linking the York resolution to actions outside Parliament - such as the demonstration a fortnight ago in London, the sending of workers delegations to Portugal, the struggle against the sabotage of the multi-nationals - that an international movement to help defeat the counter-revolutionaries in Portugal can be built.

sions and popular assemblies of Portugal today - which always develop as the working class moves towards a decisive struggle for socialism.

Unfortunately all the reformist proposals for democracy in the labour movement merely attempt to skirt around the fundamental question of Parliament. For example, the resolution to this year's Labour conference from Brightside Labour Party calls for the leader of the Party and the Cabinet to be elected by the Party conference. But then, not very surprisingly, the resolution is forced to admit that even this very modest proposal 'may not comply with the present rules of Crown and Parliamentary privilege'.

Having made this obvious point, however, the resolution does not then grasp the bull by the horns and declare that if workers' democracy conflicts with the 'rules of Crown and Parliamentary privilege', then it's just too bad for those rules. Instead the only thing which the resolution can propose is that 'a working party' is set up to look at the situation!

All such a working party will find out is that any moves for real control over representatives of the labour movement will 'conflict with the rules of Crown and Parliamentary privilege'. What then? On the logic of the 'sovereignty of Parliament' the labour movement will then have to accept that it can't have democratic control of its representatives. That is indeed what all the Prentices and Wilsons will scream. Any reformist will be helpless against their arguments - after all, aren't 'socialists' defenders of the sovereignty of Parliament?

## CLEAR ANSWER

The only real answer that can be given to the right wing on this question of workers' democracy is clear. Yes, we prefer parliamentary democracy to open dictatorship, but we also know that Parliament is a fetter on the real democracy of the working class. We openly say that we intend to replace Parliament with a system of mass workers democracy such as has begun to develop wherever there is a real struggle for socialism.

Only through this can the working class secure a government which is really under its control and which is really based on and responsible to the workers' organisations. The demands for the election of the leader by the whole Party, for the subordination of the Parliamentary Party to the Party as a whole, and for conference decisions to be binding, are only steps to this ultimate goal.

But to give such an answer is impossible for reformists who are tied to the 'sovereignty of Parliament'. It is only the revolutionaries who can be consistent fighters for workers' democracy. Only they will achieve a government which is responsible to the workers' organisations. The reformists not only will never achieve socialism, they will never even achieve democracy in their own organisations.

## DECISIVE QUESTIONS

But despite the limited advances made in selecting candidates - and even here the struggle is really only beginning - it is still obvious that the two biggest questions of working class democracy have hardly been tackled. The really decisive questions are democracy in the trade unions, and the relation of the organisations of the labour movement to Parliament and the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The centrality of the question of trade union democracy is obvious. The overwhelming number of working class struggles, including most of the decisive ones of recent years, are carried out through the trade unions. Furthermore, even inside the Labour Party itself, the constituencies only make up a tiny fraction of the votes. No matter how the constituencies are organised, without democracy in the trade unions there can be neither democracy in working class struggles nor democracy in the Labour Party.

Yet when we look at the situation today it is clear that even the present rules which apply in the constituencies are a model of democracy compared to what exists in most unions. At least there are some forms of election in the constituencies. At least some procedure exists to get rid of unwanted MPs. In most unions there are virtually no significant elections whatever. Many union bureaucrats enjoy their jobs for life - with no means of removing them.

## THE ISSUE THEY'D RATHER FORGET

Amidst all the 'internationalism' of the so-called 'left' at the Labour Party conference, there is one issue which they most decidedly do not want to take up - Ireland. There are, it is true, a series of resolutions calling for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But there is not one single resolution calling for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland. Apparently, although it is necessary to protest over the problems the British working class faces, the role of the British army in murdering, destroying and torturing to prop up the puppet sectarian state in the North of Ireland isn't worth a mention.

But Ireland won't leave the Labour left alone. The techniques being perfected in Ireland today are meant for the British workers tomorrow. By their betrayals of the Irish people, the Labour left not only fail in their elementary internationalist duty, but they cannot even defend their own working class.

# labour must support abortion!

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

**Q** Why does your union consider abortion such an important issue?

**A** We have been involved in the National Abortion Campaign right from the start because 75 to 77 per cent of our members are women. We know of situations on the shop floor where the problem of abortion is very prevalent. I think we can safely say that we have had instances where some of our women have had to use the services of back-street abortionists.

We feel this is an issue which should be taken up by trade unions because more and more women are becoming involved in the trade union movement and abortion is an issue which affects women. We feel women should have the right to choose, to decide what to do with their lives. If, in fact, pregnancy determines whether they are able to work, to lead a fulfilled life, then to have this choice is part of the concept of equality.

**Q** In your speech you said, 'the victims of any changes in the existing legislation will be working women, the poor and inarticulate'. Why is this so?

**A** Because working class women are faced with the problem that in the main they go out to work through economic necessity. It must be a tremendous strain if a working class woman finds herself pregnant and despite the economic problems her family faces, has to give up her job.

The question is choice. If the working class woman, or any woman for that matter, becomes pregnant and she wants to continue the pregnancy that is her choice. But if in fact she wishes to terminate that pregnancy because of economic difficulties, she should have the right to do so.

We see the proposed amendments to the Abortion Act restricting that right, in fact putting an added burden on working class women. We think this is a retrograde step.

**Q** Previously the TUC has refused to take a position on abortion.

**A** Yes it has, because it claimed it had a responsibility to take care of all shades of opinion. But I feel that where there is an issue which affects the majority of working women in this country then the majority vote should rule and not the minority.

**Q** The National Abortion Campaign has now asked the TUC to budget £5,000



We feel women should have the right to choose, to decide what to do with their lives'

for a campaign on abortion amongst its members. What's your opinion of this?

**A** I think we should. That's a personal opinion, but our executive has consistently supported the NAC campaign, and probably would support this. The prob-

lem is that the TUC is, like most organisations, very much dependent on affiliated membership, and whether they have that type of money available I don't know.

Last month the TUC Conference voted overwhelmingly to oppose restrictive legislation on abortion. It called on the General Council and all affiliated unions to campaign actively in the labour movement: (a) to defeat the Abortion (Amendment) Bill and any other attempts to introduce restrictive abortion legislation; (b) for the right of all women to adequate services for contraception and abortion on request, available free of charge on the NHS; and (c) to resist any changes in the 1967 Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of the women in this country. The motion was moved by TERRY MARSLAND, Deputy General Secretary of the Tobacco Workers Union. On the eve of the abortion debate at the Labour Party Conference, *Red Weekly* asked her about her union's policy on abortion.

**Q** Do you see the present anti-abortion proposals as part and parcel of the attacks being launched on the working class by the Wilson Government?

**A** No I don't. I think abortion has been traditionally an emotive issue and very much tied up with religious views. I don't see it as part of what I call the retrograde policies in general of the Labour Government in which they have not lived up to their commitment to the working class.

**Q** But there are certain aspects of Government policy, particularly cutbacks in the hospital building programme and the social services which will particularly hit working class women.

**A** In that context, yes. The whole of the social programme is being cut back but I don't see that as a deliberate attack on abortion facilities as such although it will be women workers who will suffer most from the cutbacks.

**Q** In your speech you strongly criticised Labour MPs who had been campaigning for the James White Bill. What actions do you think should be taken against these people?

**A** I think supporters of the NAC within the trade unions and Constituency Labour Parties must work to demand that the reactionary policies being supported by certain Labour MPs be stopped. I think it is only by activating this type of response amongst women and men in the CLPs and trade unions that these people will be forced to drop their reactionary stances. The NAC's marvellous demonstration, which 20,000 people attended, really shook the reactionary forces within the Labour Party.

**Q** There are several resolutions down at this week's Labour Party Conference which oppose the James White Bill and call on the Labour Party to support a woman's right to choose. How do you think delegates and Constituency Labour Parties should take up this issue?

**A** Well, I think they should obviously support any resolution which calls for resisting any meddling around with the Abortion Act. I think possibly our resolution at the TUC will help to strengthen the hand of the people who are going to speak to these resolutions.

Britain is the first West European trade union centre that has adopted abortion as part of its policy and this is a tremendous step forward. I think that

the Labour Party Conference will go along the same lines now that the TUC has laid down this policy. The women's movement has made a tremendous stride forward.

**Q** The latest report of the Select Committee, which is dominated 8 to 5 by anti-abortionists, is, in fact, unanimous in its recommendations to the DHSS to introduce certain measures, allegedly to curb abuses, which restrict the availability of abortion. What is your reaction to this?

**A** I think this is appalling, a most retrograde step. Anything that weakens the existing abortion legislation is wrong.

This business about abuses is absolute bloody nonsense. The amount of people who have benefited from the abortion act as it is, even in its limited form, overrides any possible abuses.

**Q** From 13 October NAC is organising a week of action around DHSS offices to oppose Barbara Castle accepting these recommendations. MPs can 'object' and force a debate on these recommendations, and it is possible for MPs in the new session which begins in November to 'object' to the re-establishment of the Select Committee. If enough objections are heard, the whole matter has to be debated on the floor of the House. Are you in favour of forcing all Labour MPs particularly the 'left' MPs to make their voices heard?

**A** Yes, I am. I'm a little disturbed that there has not been enough weight put into the campaign by Labour MPs, left, Tribune MPs if you like, against the James White Bill. I'm deeply concerned that it has been left virtually to the progressive women in the House to carry the whole issue on their shoulders. I feel women in the constituencies must bring pressure to bear on their MPs to stand up and be counted on this issue.

**Q** The NAC will be calling on Constituency Labour Parties, trade union branches and trades councils to support various actions against any attempts to impose further restrictions on existing abortion facilities. Will your union be supporting these?

**A** Obviously that is a decision that is to be taken by the Executive. Our union is supporting the NAC campaign in any way it can, and speaking for myself, I would absolutely urge support for these activities.

## THURSDAY tv BBC1 9.25 DAYS OF HOPE

'We're in government' - 'Aye but you're not in power!'

As an exposure of social democracy caught in the parliamentary trap, revealing its impotence, collaboration and inevitable betrayal, the third episode of Days of Hope was excellent. But in contrast to the first two programmes, the workers in full flood — mobile, intelligent, inventive and strong in the face of adversity — were never really seen. That is our chief strength, and the absence of that element was this episode's weakness, especially as it was set during the 1924 dock strike.

The first Labour Government has just been elected, carrying with it and trampling under foot all the aspirations of the workers' movement. 'It will take time, but we have planted our feet firmly on the road to socialism', says Ben's brother-in-law, Philip Hargreaves, a newly elected Labour MP. Ben, by contrast, has just emerged from prison, a fully-fledged communist, after serving 2½ years for desertion.

Much of the action takes place in Hargreaves' house and involves Ben and Joel — his mining mate from Durham, also just released from serving a jail sentence for his part in the 1921 strike — in an extended discussion about the merits of the parliamentary versus the revolutionary road to socialism. The dialogue is witty, and the humanity, confidence and moral superiority of the communists shines through. Yet the scenes are too concerned with getting over the political ideas verbally, rather than via the action and depiction of every day working class events, to make good visual television or to carry the same conviction as the first

two programmes.

If anything, the scenes in the Houses of Parliament — where Ben, Joel, and their mining comrades down from Durham get literally lost in the 'corridors of power' on their way to a party held for a Russian trade delegation — are the most telling, if only to show how the whole environment of parliament is so alien to the workers' movement.

The sub-plot, if you can call it that, is the rapid integration of Hargreaves into the parliamentary arena, coupled with his struggle of conscience when he is told by an Irish journalist that the MacDonald Government is 'up to its radical neck' in collaboration with the police and civil service should there be widespread civil disturbance. Hargreaves says about the Soviet Union: 'Russia needed Lenin. We don't because there are no cossacks here.' The journalist replies: 'The cossacks are all around you!'

### BLIND ALLEY

But still Hargreaves — 'trapped as he is by his parliamentary vision, which allows no room for the activity and intervention of the independent workers' movement — sees no way out and is reduced to impotent moral rage: 'It's so bloody unconstitutional!' he moans.

And all the time the doomed dock strike is in the background (though strangely never seen), spelling out fear and loathing for the employers and Labour Government alike. The red-baiting traitor Ernie Bevin, leader of the Transport & General Workers Union, is

spending more energy making sure he isn't upstaged by the Communist Party than actually leading the struggle of the dockers.

There are brilliantly funny scenes too, as when Joel chastises his fellow miners for going to see Buckingham Palace: 'You're a bloody disgrace to the working class.' — 'But it's a lovely building.' — 'It ought to be with the money they get off us!'

But the final impression is one of defeatism and a little despair, both at the cringing, doomed dead-end of parliamentary 'socialism' as embodied in Hargreaves and at the stubborn, trusting faith of Ben and Joel in the Communist Party, so shortly to be deformed and led off the rails by Stalin's bureaucratic misguidance. The dock strike is defeated, the Labour Government is thrown out of office and the workers in the film are given no chance to learn the lessons.

If the miners' struggle of 1921 lifted us up, 1924 really brings us down to earth with a vengeance with the stark truth about the political weakness of the British labour movement. Josiah Wedgwood preserved the strike-breaking plans passed onto him by the Tories from the scrutiny even of his Cabinet colleagues, let alone the working class. As the programme concluded: 'The plans were intact when the Conservatives resumed office a few months later. Both parliament and the people were kept in ignorance throughout. The plans were then used as the basis of the strike-breaking force in 1926.'

Carl Gardner

## Paris Festival to Build 'Daily Rouge'

Rouge, the paper of our French sister organisation, the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire (LCR — French section of the Fourth International), is going daily from January. This is an important step forward not just for the LCR and the Fourth International; it gives the whole of the revolutionary left an important new voice in the daily struggles of the workers' movement.

To help build the campaign for the daily paper, the French comrades are organising a massive international festival in Paris on 18–19 October. Among the central political debates being organised are:

- the women's movement (speakers include women from Lip and Juliet Mitchell)
- Marxism today (Lucio Colletti, Daniel Bensaid, Rossana Rossanda)
- revolutionary press (representatives from Liberation, Lotta Continua, Il Manifesto, Avanguardia Operaia)
- economic crisis
- Portugal (Portuguese revolutionary organisations, revolutionary workers

## ROUGE

hebdomadaire d'action communiste espagne



and soldiers) 'problems of everyday life'

There will also be a series of concerts and theatre shows taking place around the big hall of La Villette where the festival will be centred. Among those performing will be Paco Ibanez, Osibisa, Canned Heat, Captain Beefheart, and Dr Feelgood.

The Fourth International has invited all representative sections of the revolutionary workers' movement in the whole world to send comrades to the festival, and already there has been a big response. We hope that this will include a large contingent from Britain, although of course we urge all comrades who can get delegated to the National Abortion Campaign conference on the same weekend to regard that as a priority.

All readers who are interested in going over to Paris on 18–19 October should telephone Jo-Ann as soon as possible on 01-278 9526, in order that travel arrangements can be finalised and details of those requiring food and accommodation notified to the French organisers.



# 7 DAYS in the 6 COUNTIES

JOHN MAGEE reports from Belfast



The wave of bomb explosions over the last ten days in the Six Counties has led to a massive increase in activity by the British Army and the local security forces. This has included more road checks, screening operations and raids on houses in nationalist areas.

The Provisional IRA have claimed responsibility for the bombings and declared that they will continue. On 22 September alone, the first day of this campaign, there were 14 explosions throughout the length and breadth of the North of Ireland in Belfast, Portadown, Derry, Omagh and other centres. The explosions caused hundreds and thousands of pounds worth of damage to buildings; the targets included security posts as well as commercial buildings. Adequate warnings were given in all cases, thereby ensuring that no civilians would be hurt, and the only casualties were two RUC policemen who were seriously injured.

The Belfast Brigade of the Provisionals had in previous statements pointed out that retaliatory action would be taken if torture and harassment of the nationalist minority did not cease, and on 21 September issued a reminder that the RUC was not included in any ceasefire. Particular resentment is felt amongst the Catholic community at the torture inflicted by the RUC on over 30 young men at Castlereagh.

## INTERROGATION

One of these was 18-year-old Joe Magee, and his experiences are typical of what is happening. He was taken by Paras to North Queen Street Army post at 5.00 am on Tuesday 16 September. There he was forced to stand against a wall in the 'search' position for two hours — threatened with a rifle.

Three hours later, Joe was handed over to the RUC at Castlereagh, where he was photographed and given a medical check. He was then interrogated for over eight hours by three policemen, and during that time he was slapped about the face and beaten in the stomach. He was given some food to eat, but was afraid to eat it as his attackers had warned he would be poisoned

or drugged. Then the interrogation started afresh. Joe was made to stand with his back to the wall and his hands by his sides while he was abused and threatened that he would be shot, drowned or handed over to the UVF.

At this point Joe Magee was so terrified that he attempted suicide. He described what happened in a statement issued through one of the Provisional Sinn Fein Truce Incident Centres:

"They make for me viciously. I can't take it any more. So I dash to the window and smash it and try to cut my wrists and end it all and have peace and no more beating. No-one could stand it.

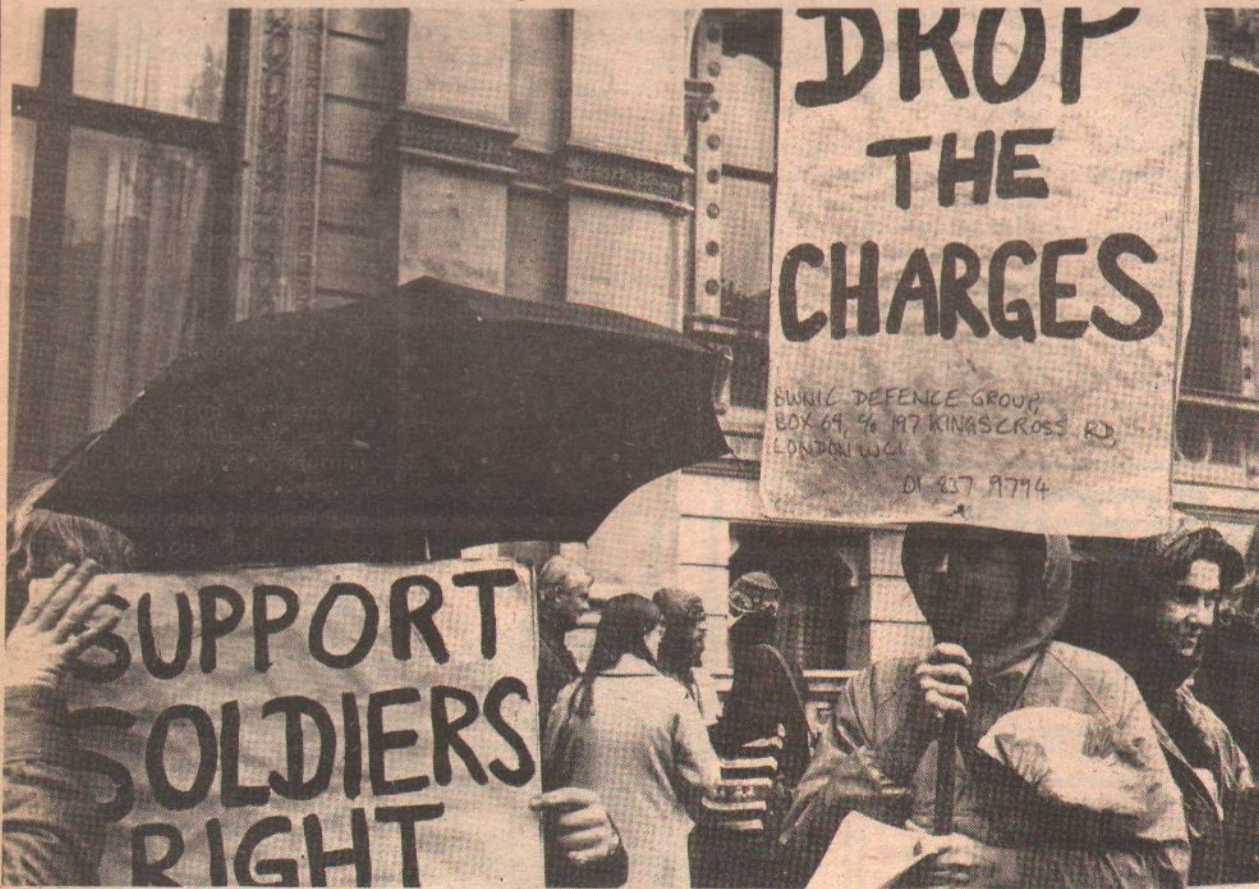
## BLEEDING

"The next I can remember they had pulled me out into the corridor and were trying to wash the blood off and stop the bleeding. They kept saying, why did you do that? I said that I had done it because they were going to kill me slowly. They seemed frightened. A crowd of them had gathered."

The RUC naturally deny that Joe Magee was ill-treated or assaulted, yet they admit that he required treatment at Dundonald Hospital while in their custody, and photographs of Joe's injuries were published in a Sunday newspaper.

Despite these events, and the bombs of the past week, the Provisionals say that the truce still holds. They are determined that they will not be forced into ending it because of Loyalist and British Army demands that it should be broken by the Labour Government. Nevertheless, Loyalist pressure is mounting, and the action of the Army in stepping up its profile over the last few days indicates that Merlyn Rees is even now moving to appease those demands.

The real question, however, is not whether the truce lasts another few days or weeks or months, but rather — how should the anti-Unionist population prepare for when it does break? To this the Provisional bombing campaign of the last few days is no answer at all.



A poster parade last Saturday outside the Home Office to draw attention to this week's trial of the BWNIC 14 (see right)

## Demo challenges 'free speech' ban

A challenge will be mounted this Sunday to the Government's restrictions on activity on the Irish issue.

A demonstration called by the British Peace Committee will be marching from Speakers Corner around Trafalgar Square to the Embankment in protest against the ban imposed since 1972 on the use of the Square for rallies on Ireland, and also against the repressive Prevention of Terrorism Act. Among the sponsors of the demonstration are six Labour MPs: Syd Bidwell, Dennis Canavan, Maureen Colquhoun, Jo Richardson, Stan Thorne, and Joan Maynard.

Such an initiative, particularly involving sections

of the Labour left, is to be welcomed. Unfortunately the way in which it has been organised — at only three weeks notice — is just not serious. That is why the IMG, while supporting the demonstration and recognising the importance of the issues involved, will only be mobilising for it in London.

What is needed is a systematic campaign — particularly around the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which comes up again for renewal at the end of November — which can draw in the widest possible forces from the labour and socialist movement. The IMG will therefore be pressing for the immediate establishment of an ad hoc committee which can do just this in the

The trial began on Monday of 14 supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign (BWNIC) on charges of conspiring to contravene the Incitement to Disaffection Act. In solidarity with the defendants, and along with a number of other left-wing papers, we print below the text of the leaflet whose distribution was the pretext for the charges.

## SOME INFORMATION FOR DISCONTENTED SOLDIERS

This information has been compiled by supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign who hope that it will be of some use to soldiers who have decided not to go to Northern Ireland. We are not recommending any particular course of action. There is no easy way out of the Army, but we hope that by one means or another you will avoid taking part in the killing in Northern Ireland.

### IF YOU ARE A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

that is, if since joining up you have developed a religious or moral objection to taking part in any war, you have a *legal right* to be discharged on these grounds.

—you are advised to contact:

The Central Board for Conscientious Objectors, c/o Endsleigh Street, London, WC1. Tel: 01-352 7906.

### IF YOU INTEND TO APPLY FOR A DISCHARGE ON OTHER GROUNDS

the following organisations may be able to help:

At Ease, c/o Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, London, W9. 'At Ease' was recently opened to deal with enquiries about all legal ways of leaving the armed forces. Counsellors (who include ex-servicemen) are available at this address every Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.30pm. 'At Ease' also deals with enquiries by post.

The National Council for Civil Liberties, 186 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1. Tel: 01-278 4575. Open daily office hours. This organisation has considerable experience in giving legal advice to servicemen and representing them to military authorities.

### IF YOU HOPE THE ARMY WILL DISCHARGE YOU

—on political grounds, you may be interested in the wide selection of peace literature available from:

The Peace Centre, 18 Moor Street Ringway, Birmingham 4. Tel: 021-643 0996; Housmans Bookshops, 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1. Tel: 01-837 4473.

—on sexual grounds, you may wish to contact:

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality, National Office, 28 Kennedy Street, Manchester 2. or their London Information Centre, 22 Great Windmill Street, London, W1. Tel: 01-437 7363. Open from 6pm.

Or phone Icebreakers, 01-274 9590 from 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

—on health grounds, we would advise you not to mutilate yourself, feign mental illness or take dangerous drugs. Some soldiers are doing so in desperation. If you have a genuine health problem, contact 'At Ease' (address above).

### IF YOU HAVE DECIDED TO GO ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE

—to Sweden, you will be pleased to know that special arrangements have been made to welcome British servicemen who go AWOL to Sweden by:

The British Deserters Support Group, c/o Bok-Cafe Morianen, Box 16037, Drottninggatan 19, 103 21 Stockholm 16, Sweden. Tel: Stockholm 106063.

If you go to Sweden, you will need your passport, your military ID card and about £30 cash (you need this to get through Passport Control as a tourist). You are advised to enter via Stockholm and avoid Malmö and Göteborg, and to enter as a tourist.

You will need to wait three weeks before going to register with the police as an applicant for political asylum. If you contact the British Deserters Support Group, they will put you in touch with a good Swedish lawyer, advise you on registration procedure, offer you accommodation with sympathetic Swedish people during the difficult three-week waiting period, and accompany you when you go to register with the police.

It is important to make it clear to the Swedish police that you were going to have to serve in Northern Ireland, otherwise you will not be considered for asylum. After you have registered, you can then go to the Swedish Social Bureau which will get you a place to stay, give you money to live on and help you to enrol in Swedish language classes.

A British AWOL soldier can apply for the type of asylum that has been granted to American and Portuguese AWOL soldiers. It amounts to the Swedish Government giving a man permission to stay on the basis of special circumstances—a type of humanitarian asylum. However, when you go to the police, you are advised to ask for political asylum so as to make sure that the Aliens Commission and not the police makes the final decision on your case.

—to Eire, you should know that this destination has proved to be dangerous for some British AWOL soldiers. Your situation may be exploited by violent extremist groups.

—to other countries you should know that groups in the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland are trying to help British AWOL soldiers but if apprehended in any of these countries, you are liable to be returned to the British authorities.

—in Britain, you may have difficulties over employment (no insurance cards) and accommodation (anyone who shelters you is liable to prosecution). You may have to keep moving to avoid arrest. If you are considering going AWOL in Britain, you should therefore plan ahead very carefully.

### IF YOU INTEND TO REFUSE TO GO TO NORTHERN IRELAND

you are likely to be court-martialled. You are entitled to be represented by a civilian lawyer if you so choose. The National Council for Civil Liberties or At Ease (addresses above) will advise on a good one who is sympathetic to your position.

If you wish your action to be publicised, so as to set an example to other soldiers, strengthening their resolve to resist the Government's policy, then please contact the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign (address below).

NOTE: If a group of soldiers made this announcement simultaneously, it would make a great impact on public opinion, both inside and outside the Army. Such an action could lead to Court Martial and imprisonment. But if you believe, as we do, that it is wrong for troops to be in Northern Ireland, we ask you to consider whether it is better to be killed for a cause you do not believe in or to be imprisoned for refusing to take part in the conflict.

The opposition of American servicemen forced partial withdrawal from the war in Indochina. The Algerian war came to an end partly because it was opposed by hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen, including soldiers, who refused to take part in it. British soldiers could save lives in Northern Ireland—not only their own lives.

The organisations listed above do not necessarily support the objectives of this Campaign and are not responsible for their inclusion in this document.

The entire responsibility for the production and distribution of this leaflet is that of

THE BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTHERN IRELAND CAMPAIGN, c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London, N1, England.

# The crisis in Ireland

## TASKS FACING

### THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT

Tremendous opportunities exist today for developing the struggle of the Irish people for self-determination. The Loyalist camp is split in the face of Labour's resistance to an immediate take-over; the Army is coming out more and more openly against the policies of Rees; and the tensions inside the Tory Party place a question mark over the continuation of 'bipartisanship'. This situation places heavy responsibilities not only on the Irish vanguard, but also on the workers' movement in Britain.

Yet the British left is beset with confusions at the very time when the possibility of building a really strong movement for 'Troops Out of Ireland' is now emerging. A number of groups have drawn the conclusion from recent developments that a civil war is just around the corner in Ireland, and that the main job in Britain is therefore to build 'relief committees' for the provision of material aid. This view is profoundly mistaken, as a glance at events over the summer will show.

The split between Craig and Paisley indicates that all is not well in the Loyalist camp. Of course, Craig's position in no sense represents anything of a 'conversion'. It is simply a manoeuvre to try to involve the SDLP politicians in a Loyalist-dominated government.

Craig told the *Sunday News* that his plan 'was the last chance for a new Stormont Parliament with all the powers of the old', and it is on this basis that he has won the backing of important Protestant organisations like the Ulster Defence Association. His idea is to get the SDLP to agree to the re-entry of the RUC into the Catholic ghettos in return for this 'concession', and then to try to win the backing of the minority for this package through a referendum.

#### 'MIDDLE GROUND'

What is important about Craig's proposals — although their chances of success are remote — is that they coincide with the efforts of British imperialism to regroup the 'middle ground' and thus keep open the door to a deal with the capitalist class in the South. Indeed, Craig's project was originally suggested by the pro-British chairman of the Convention, Sir Robert Lowry. Clearly the process set in motion by the Convention is not necessarily exhausted; on the contrary, the Loyalist forces are obviously very much divided as to how best to recreate their ascendancy when their plans don't have the backing of British imperialism.

While it is true, therefore, that an escalating confrontation between the Loyalist and anti-Unionist forces is inherent in the present situation, and that this could end up in civil war, the latter is not the most likely development.

The Labour Government naturally welcomes sectarian actions by the Loyalists which weaken the minority's will to resist — hence it has turned a blind eye to the activities of the Loyalist assassination squads. After all, any attempt to break the back of Loyalism in the present situation would strengthen the nationalist forces rather than British imperial-



ism. So the Government tends to retreat before the most determined demands of the Loyalists.

This can be seen in the British response to the recent attack on an Orange Hall in South Armagh. Rees immediately declared a veritable state of siege, flew in 650 extra troops to Ireland, started blowing up border roads again, and re-introduced 'screening' (i.e. torture) procedures. Yet such attacks take place daily in the Catholic ghettos without evoking a murmur from the British authorities.

None of this, however, amounts to a commitment by the Labour Government to hand over to the Loyalists. The Government is still far from convinced that the only option in the situation is to sanction mass Loyalist attacks on the minority and thereby the restoration of all-out Loyalist rule. The main instrument of British imperialist rule at this stage is not therefore Loyalism, but remains

#### Brian Grogan examines the implications of the latest Irish crisis

British imperialism sees this as essential if it is to have any chance at all of regrouping the middle ground. And the Provisionals have basically no alternative, either. They may let off a few bombs to keep the heat on Rees and indicate what will happen if the Army continues to violate the truce, but they are unlikely to take a deliberate decision to call it off.

This is not to say that the Loyalist threats, the shin-kicking activities of the Army, and the pressure of the Tories might not combine to produce a situation where Rees was forced to call off the truce. Indeed, his statements last week seemed to indicate that he was being driven closer and closer to such a decision. But this course of action would have deep-going effects at home.

Already the maintenance of the truce, along with the continuing impasse of imperialist policy in Ireland, has accelerated the radicalisation inside the British working class movement. The Troops Out Movement labour movement conference in May had nearly 250 delegates from the trade unions and Labour Party, although the TOM has been rather slow to capitalise on this support. And this turn-out was no flash in the pan.

#### DEMONSTRATION

The extent of this radicalisation was recently seen in the failure of the Communist Party's bureaucratic attempts to impose its Bill of Rights strategy on the London labour movement after the manipulated tour of Northern Ireland by the Greater London Association of Trades Councils. The TUC has also been forced to respond to the concern at its base, even if all this amounted to was the passing of the same resolution on a Bill of Rights that it passed two years ago. And the British Peace Committee, an organisation very much influenced by the CP, has decided to call a protest demonstration this Saturday, 5 October, against the ban on Irish activities in Trafalgar Square and for the right of free speech on Ireland.

All this indicates the timeliness of the moves by TOM to set up an ad hoc committee to build a demonstration in early December. The call for the removal of British troops as the best way of contributing to the right of the Irish people to self-determination will find an increasingly sympathetic response inside the working class as the Irish issue threatens to erupt right into the centre of the political stage.

In this situation it would be absolutely disastrous for the solidarity movement to concentrate its resources on building 'relief committees' in case of civil war. In fact, the building of a mass movement in Britain to withdraw the troops now will actually play a certain role in deciding whether or not civil war will erupt in Ireland. This must therefore be our task. All out for December!

the presence of the British troops in Ireland.

It is in this light that we welcome the maintenance of the truce. The fly in the ointment for both Rees and the Loyalists is the continuing resistance of the Catholic masses. The very existence of the truce has given a boost to the mass actions of the minority — which is why the SDLP is so reluctant to enter into a direct sell-out.

Over the summer months we saw once more the development of mass street actions in the Catholic ghettos, particularly around the anniversary of internment. These actions were of course limited by the absence of any perspective given to them by the Provisionals or, sadly, the IRSP. Nevertheless they indicate the latent forces which exist beneath the surface in the present situation.

At this stage, therefore, the most likely development — despite Rees's latest blusterings — is the continuation of the truce.

## NEW BLOW FOR GLASGOW FRAME-UP MERCHANTS

The mass frame-up of the 76 Glasgow anti-fascist pickets received another body-blow last week. Despite the suspension of the main trials at the Glasgow Sheriff Court in order to allow appeals at High Court level, the trials of 13 demonstrators went ahead at the Govan police court. The 13 had been seized from a crowd which chased the fascists out of town after their meeting.

The normal function of this court is to act as a rubber stamp for the Govan police, but on this occasion the concocted evidence has been so inconsistent that only six fines have so far been notched up by the prosecution, with one trial to go. One defendant was 'admonished', and five others received 'not proven' verdicts.

The first frame-up to be thrown out of court was that against Alan Rae, AUEW-TASS Divisional Council member and office convenor at John Brown Engineering. Veronica Kent, a fascist from Birmingham, claimed to have been assaulted by

Rae; but the magistrate commented: 'If this young woman expects me to believe her... she must think I am a very foolish man indeed.'

Kent tried on the now standard NF ploy of claiming on oath that she was no longer an NF member. She claimed that she had travelled from Birmingham to meet her fiancé, another 'former' NF member from Plymouth, and that they had discovered that the NF meeting was taking place purely by chance!

As the trials progressed, charges were thrown out in four further cases. The only defendant yet to appear is IMG member John Ford, whose trial was deferred to Tuesday 30 September. A picket of the court was being mounted by IMG and IS in an effort to clinch the tie-breaker.

The major threat to the campaign against the frame-up trials, however, now comes from among those who are supposed to be leading the defence in court. According to some of those present, the Trades Council's lawyer, Keith Bovey, has told a meeting of his defendants — largely CP members — that he may have to withdraw from the case unless certain onerous

financial conditions are met.

This has provided the cue for a direct appeal from Trades Council secretary John Reidford and vice-chairman Hugh Wyper — both defendants in the first trial that remaining defendants should change their pleas to guilty on reduced charges. Defendants have also been informed that they will have to pay their own fines. It seems that while the Trades Council Defence Fund can afford to pay out £360 legal costs to two defendants who took private legal advice, it cannot cover the £450 in fines so far incurred — although a total of £1,070 has already been collected.

Many CP defendants, furious at these manoeuvres, are intent on fighting their cases through; and the whole matter is certain to be raised from the floor at this week's Trades Council meeting. Meanwhile, all contributions to the Defence Fund (c/o Glasgow Trades Council, 83 Carlton Place, Glasgow G5) should be marked 'for payment of fines only' to ensure that they are not used simply to swell a lawyer's ward-chest.

James MacAllister



# AUNTIE BARBARA'S TREATMENT...

Last week two major unions in the National Health Service responded to Barbara Castle's proposals to phase out pay beds from NHS hospitals while allowing private practice to flourish outside. NALGO has announced its 'great reservations' about any proposals that do not abolish private practice altogether, while NUPE welcomed the proposals but urged the Labour Government to speed up the process.

Predictably, the response of the reactionary hierarchy of the medical profession was to foam at the mouth. So far seventeen organisations, ranging from the Royal Colleges to the British Medical Association, have said they are totally opposed to any moves to oust private practice from the NHS. In a statement, they threatened to sabotage the functioning of the NHS, warning of a full-scale 'confrontation between the Government and the medical and dental profession'.

It was NALGO which touched off the row now brewing over the issue of private practice. Following successful resolutions at its national conference this year, NALGO has circulated all its branches with directions for a campaign against the expansion of private practice through the planning permission procedures of Local Authorities. NALGO has also backed the Medical Committee Against Private Practice and is supporting its national conference on 11 October. As well as the total abolition of private practice, NALGO also called for all existing private health facilities to be taken into public ownership and for the nationalisation of the drugs industry.

9,000 when existing private beds in the private sector are joined by those at present in NHS hospitals.

This figure of 9,000 amounts to the equivalent of over 10 very large hospitals - all in the private sector! And of course, all these private hospitals will be staffed by NHS trained nurses and will continue to attract trained and ancillary staff away from the miserable wages and conditions of the National Health Service.

This is not the first time that private practice has been at the centre of

ical manoeuvre, presented as a minor concession for the defence of the NHS in order to head off the struggles against the real menace to the survival of the NHS - the policies of the Wilson Government. The Labour Government is prepared to cut out a few sores and leave the cancer to take its course.

Apart from the TUC, which came out against private practice in 1973 - why so silent now, Len? - NUPE, NALGO and ASTMS all took clear positions against private practice in



Barbara Castle - just what the consultant ordered!

## ...LET THE PATIENT DIE

a row affecting the vital interests of the whole working class - the future of the NHS. In 1974, on the crest of a wave of mass action by healthworkers - especially nurses - direct action was taken in several hospitals to boycott private facilities and demand the Labour Government take action. Since then, hospital workers have continued to campaign against private practice as the most obvious threat to the NHS.

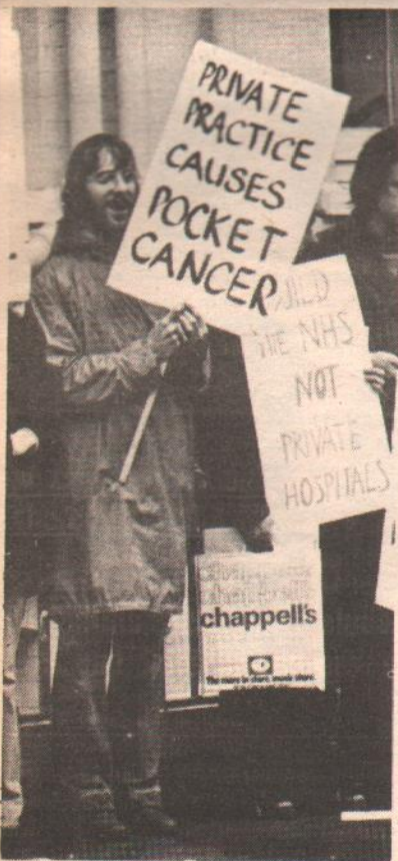
and out of the NHS at their annual conferences this year. NALGO's recent declaration against Labour's latest proposals on private practice goes even further and lays the basis for beginning a real campaign.

The Medical Committee Against Private Practice has received major

support throughout the workers' movement for its conference this month. NALGO has supported this initiative, along with the Socialist Medical Association and the Institute of Workers' Control. A united campaign against Castle's latest proposals by all of these bodies - involving conferences, demonstrations and

industrial action - could become the rallying point for a struggle to defend the National Health Service from Labour's attacks and expand it under workers' control to meet the real needs of the working class.

by Sam Boyd



Barbara Castle's proposals may be a small step forward, but in themselves they will do little to prop up an ailing Health Service. There is no deadline put on the magic words 'phase out private practice'. The excuse is obviously to avoid unnecessary provocation to the consultants by giving them time to make 'other arrangements'. Not only that, the Government is actually proposing to expand existing private practice facilities to compensate exactly for the present number of pay beds in the NHS.

### SHORT-STAY

At present in NHS hospitals there are 4,900 pay beds - used mainly for short-stay patients. The Government proposes to issue licences for private hospitals to make up for this loss. That will take the number of private short-stay beds up to a ceiling of

### TIDY PACKET

Barbara Castle's response to this pressure is to try to satisfy both the hierarchy of the profession - the consultants, who make a tidy packet out of private practice subsidised by the NHS - and healthworkers who are campaigning to defend the health service and want an end to private practice. This balancing act is what lies behind the proposals from the Department of Health and Social Security to separate private practice from NHS hospitals while giving a private health industry a safe ticket outside the NHS.

Fortunately for the workers movement as a whole, there is a good chance that the Labour Government's plans and Barbara Castle's proposals will blow up in their faces. They are going to face massive opposition not only from healthworkers but from other sections of the labour movement as well. The action of hospital nurses and other staffs against pay beds over the last year highlighted and publicised one of the biggest abuses of the NHS. But the biggest abuse of all is the massive attacks being launched on the NHS by the Labour Government itself through its cuts in social service spending.

### LOW-PAID

Now more and more healthworkers are realising that the declining number of jobs and the productivity drive hitting both workers and patients in hospitals - topped off by the Government's £6 pay norm, which will hit low-paid workers in the NHS harder than many others - are the direct result of the slow strangulation of the NHS by Labour's financial freeze. This is producing not only long waiting lists and declining standards of care, but the complete breakdown and closure of wards and hospitals all over the country.

To many in the labour movement, therefore, Barbara Castle's proposals are exposed for what they are: a cyn-

## MCAPP LATEST

The list of sponsors for the Conference 'Against the Cuts in the NHS' called by the Medical Committee Against Private Practice on 11 October shows the support that has been won for this campaign in the broad labour movement. Delegates now total 120, and the MCAPP organisers say that each day the post is bringing a new batch.

Included in last week's new delegates were two from a miners' lodge in South Wales, three from Jackson Boilers Shop Stewards Committee in Leeds, three from the Institute for Workers' Control, and a number from Labour Parties and trades councils. The London Joint Branches of NATSOPA have sent a £25 donation and asked for 2,000 conference brochures.

MCAPP again have asked us to stress to our readers the need now to make a real drive in the localities. *Red Weekly* fully endorses that call, and points out the need to visit local hospitals shop stewards committees and to make sure that MCAPP is raised in every organisation of the labour movement.

The following trade unions, shop stewards committees, trades councils, organisations and individuals have so far sponsored the MCAPP Conference:

#### TRADE UNION BRANCHES & STEWARDS COMMITTEES

- Hammersmith Hospital Joint Shop Stewards Committee
- Laycocks Engineering Joint Shop Stewards Committee (Sheffield)
- Wessex Hospitals Joint Shop Stewards Committee
- ASTMS Sheffield Divisional Council
- NALGO Gwent Health Services Branch
- COHSE 643 Oxford Branch
- NUPE St Andrews & Hellemsden Hospital Branch
- NUPE Highcroft Hospital Branch
- NUPE North Middlesex Hospital Branch
- ASTMS West London Medical Branch
- NUPE Westminster Hospital Branch
- NUPE United Manchester Hospitals Branch
- NUPE North Camden District
- NALGO Camden Branch
- ASTMS University Newcastle-on-Tyne
- NUR North London District Council
- NALGO Islington Branch
- AUEW Marylebone Engineering Branch
- AUEW Oxford No. 10 Branch
- Shell Chemical T&GWU

ASTMS Firth Brown Branch, Sheffield

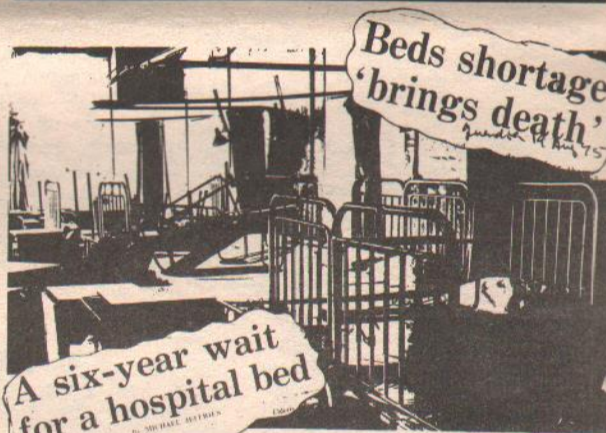
#### TRADES COUNCILS

- Southwark Trades Council
- Battersea & Wandsworth Trades Council
- Camden Trades Council
- Addlestone & District Trades Council
- Nottingham & District Trades Council
- Brent Trades Council
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne & District Trades Council
- Greenwich Trades Council
- Norwich Trades Council
- Basingstoke Trades Council
- Harrow Trades Council
- Bristol Trades Council

#### ORGANISATIONS

- Tribune Group of MPs
- Bristol Tribune Group
- Sheffield Brightside Constituency Labour Party
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne North Constituency Labour Party
- Ealing Technical College Socialist Society

## NHS IN DANGER!



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.

Organised by Medical Committee Against Private Practice 55 Bridge Lane London NW 11

Women's Report Collective  
International Marxist Group  
East London Action Committee Against the Cuts

South London Action Committee Against the Cuts  
South London Institute of Workers Control  
South London NAC

#### INDIVIDUALS

- Jack Collins (NUM Executive)
- Brian Nicholson (T&GWU Executive)
- Ernie Roberts (AUEW Asst Gen Sec)
- Steve Johnson (NALGO Health Officer)
- Mike Cooley (Secretary, Lucas Combine Committee)
- Ken Coates (IWC)
- Ken Fleet (IWC)
- Ron Pearson (NUPE Portsmouth)
- Alan Ellis (NUPE London)
- Jack Sutton (NUPE Manchester)
- Bill Geddies (NUPE London)
- Mike Taylor (NUPE Area Officer)
- Brian White (Vice-chairman T&GWU Rover 5/909 Branch)
- Stewart Hastings (NUPE full-time official, Swansea)
- Jo Richardson MP
- Audrey Wise MP

# RED WEEKLY

## SHEFFIELD SIT-IN AGAINST SACKINGS

With unemployment one of the central questions facing the labour movement today, 360 workers at the Sheffield steel and engineering factory of Balfour Darwin are now entering their third week of strike and occupation against redundancies.

This struggle is being fought in a situation where mass unemployment, mainly in the steel industry, is a growing threat to the Sheffield working class. Arthur Lee's wire factory has sacked another 50 workers, to add to 85 already made redundant. Brown Bailey, part of the Dunford Hadfield Group, is in serious financial difficulties - 300 redundancies are looming and the jobs of 3,000 are threatened.

Balfour-Darwin is the first determined fight by a section of the Sheffield labour movement to turn back the rising tide of redundancies. The sit-in is the first response to the rationalisation carried out by the Edgar Allan Group since it took over Balfour Darwin six months ago.

### MASS PICKETS

In effect it will mean the transfer of engineering work to Edgar Allan's Manchester works. During the first part of this operation - the movement of the tools packing department - 100 jobs were lost. Many workers accepted voluntary redundancies, leaving the 28 in the packing warehouse to fight for their jobs.

The building of support for the

occupation within the Sheffield labour movement, especially in the hard-hit engineering and steels sector, is vital. Financial support is needed, but militants should be ready to respond to calls for mass pickets and demonstrations to show the Darwin workers that they are not on their own. Darwin can act as a focus for a campaign against unemployment in the area through speaking tours in local factories by members of the strike committee.

### CAMPAIGN

The Sheffield District Committee of the AUEW have officially supported the action and are arranging collections, but have failed to launch a general campaign on the issue of unemployment. At a Trades Council meeting on 22 September, despite the passing of a statement of intent on unemployment, delegates only received one publicity handout each on the struggle at Balfour Darwin.

For once the Trades Council should get its hands dirty and organise a meeting, along with the AUEW District Committee of delegates from all workplaces and factories to discuss ways of supporting the occupation and fighting unemployment. The AUEW District Committee has already expressed alarm at the right-wing course of the Labour Government and the need to organise against Wilson in the fight for socialist policies - now's the chance to put their call for a local labour movement conference into action.

Ernie Flynn

## Tell it to the marines!

Last week Franco's sister Pilar announced to the Spanish press that her brother would step down on 16 October, which is the Spanish Fiesta of Nuestra Senora de Pilar. The regime has denied this.

So guess what? On 6 November half of the American Mediterranean Fleet will be arriving in Barcelona. The fleet will consist of some ten boats including helicopter carriers and four thousand marines.

During the abortive Spinola coup in Portugal, 7,000 American marines were standing by in the submarine base at Rota. An editor of a local newspaper who pointed out the presence of marines in Rota is still in prison. During their stay in Barcelona, approximately seven days, the marines will be wearing civilian clothes so as not to 'alarm' the population.

Unlike the Franco dictatorship and other reactionary forces, Red Weekly can't call in the marines when we're in trouble. The internationalism we believe in is the solidarity of the international working class against capitalism. In order to fight for that we need £500 a month in our Fund Drive to cover the day to day running losses on the paper.

Last week we had a windfall. A hospital worker who's just been sacked gave us £200 of his redundancy money. But we still only just reached the £500 target. So help get the October fund drive off to a really good start. Rush donations to 182 Pentonville Road, London N.1. - and perhaps we can help to stop the marines from calling here too!



# PORTUGAL - RIGHT TESTS ITS STRENGTH

The occupation of all Portuguese radio and TV stations by troops is the latest step in the reactionary campaign of the Sixth Provisional Government. The suppression of news and communications once more shows how hollow is the claim of the Portuguese Socialist Party, which dominates the Azevedo Government, that its reactionary campaign of the last months was carried out to establish 'freedom of speech'. By occupying the worker-controlled stations such as Radio Renascenca, the SP shows that it stands for freedom of speech for the capitalists but suppression for the workers.

The reason for the Government's action is clear. More and more, the soldiers of the Portuguese army are beginning to act independently of their officers. The huge demonstration called last week by 'Soldiers United Will Win' (SUV) united 5,000 soldiers and 45,000 workers on the streets of Lisbon. The demonstrations of disabled war veterans have also attracted huge sympathy and solidarity. Furthermore, whole regiments - for example, the marines - have refused to be drafted into the new internal security force established by the Government. It is also clear that a large number of soldiers joined in the burning of the Spanish Embassy after the executions ordered by Franco.

The workers at Republica - who brought out an emergency issue of the paper on Monday morning to help organise protests against the Government's action - have also taken an excellent step in promoting international solidarity with the Portuguese revolution. They have got in touch with striking French printworkers at Caron-Ozanne in Caen, who have been occupying their plant since the beginning of June, and arranged for them to produce a special issue of Republica in French. This is now being distributed through the channels of the workers' movement in France as part of the campaign against the bosses' international boycott.

The Government attempt to seize the radio and TV stations is just part of an attempted clampdown to silence the means of workers' propaganda - which have been a key weapon in building these actions and in carrying on the campaign against the capitalists and against the hierarchy of the army. It comes after the first attempt at censorship, the press law against reporting events in the army, had collapsed.

As we go to press the outcome of the struggle against the Government's new censorship moves is not clear. The first signs are good however. The soldiers occupying Radio Club Portugues refused to evict the workers and the radio station was used to broadcast calls for a general strike. The soldiers occupying Radio Renascenca issued an ultimatum to the Copcon chiefs to justify their action or else the occupation would be abandoned.

General Carvalho, the Copcon commander whose units carried out the occupation, was forced to attend a meeting with the co-ordinating committee of the Lisbon workers' commissions in order to attempt to justify his action. The Revolutionary United Front, which

includes the LCI (Portuguese section of the Fourth International), has joined with the largest Maoist organisation - the UDP - in calling a mass demonstration in opposition to the Government's act.

But despite the response of the workers, it is also clear that the new Government move is an important test of strength by the Portuguese right. It is being aided in its policy of repression by the Portuguese Communist Party - whose leader Cunhal stated in a speech on Sunday that the Government had an acceptable programme and called for the consolidation of authority and discipline in the army. Apparently Cunhal does intend to make Portugal the Chile of Europe.

## Discipline

If the workers cannot smash the rightist move, the fascist right will be encouraged to pursue its offensive. But if the Government's action is defeated, however, this will further break up capitalist discipline in the army.

Whatever the outcome of the present struggle, the coming weeks will be vital in Portugal. The extreme and fascist right has consolidated itself in important areas of the North of the country. The Socialist Party has fronted for the campaign to isolate the vanguard of the working class in Lisbon - but so far it has not succeeded. Now the struggle to consolidate and extend the rights won by the workers and soldiers can provide a crucial way to further end any isolations of the vanguard and break the hold of the SP and CP leaders over the mass of the working class.

Already, even apart from the massive participation of soldiers in demonstra-

tions, the first crack has come in the Socialist Party with its approach to the Revolutionary United Front for a joint

On 21 August a chartered plane at Vienna airport was loading up with cases officially containing machine parts. The 'official' destination was Prague. The customs officer, however, discovered the presence in the cases of 400 machine rifles.

When questioned, the pilots and mechanics - all American - admitted that the arms were destined for Portugal and came from an Austrian arms factory. When asked for whom they were intended, the answer was: 'A former member of the Portuguese army under Caetano.'

Despite the secrecy of this business, it was discovered that the company which hired the plane was nothing but a PO Box in the US, and that this same ghost company had apparently hired a plane from the same charter company in 1967. The destination? Greece....

campaign against the repression in Spain. In addition, the workers' commissions in the factories are further consolidating their position and revolutionaries are able to play a crucial role in an increasing number of struggles - notably the protest strike of 250,000 metal workers which took place last week.

With the certainty that the Spanish proletariat will soon be adding its colossal weight to the revolutionary upsurge in Southern Europe, the Portuguese workers have every chance of defeating the latest test of strength by the right and of defeating the escalating fascist plots. The struggle in Portugal is getting harder, but the Portuguese workers, with international solidarity, have every chance of victory.

Page 3: Report on the SUV demonstration.

## Help Iberian Trotskyists

Last week saw a sudden escalation in the level of struggle in Spain; it also emphasised the increased inter-dependence of events in Portugal and Spain. For this reason we are now extending our fund to assist the Portuguese comrades of the LCI, to include also the Spanish Trotskyists of the LCR-ETA(VI).

Both the LCI and the LCR-ETA (VI) can put to good use every penny our readers can collect. The LCI, one of the groups making up the Revolutionary United Front, has played an important part in building the recent soldiers' and workers' demonstrations in Portugal. The LCR-ETA (VI) has played a leading role, particularly in the Basque country,

in organising the movement against the Franco regime - during the last general strike it was able to put out a daily bulletin in both Spanish and Basque.

Please help us all you can to build the Fourth International in Iberia and carry forward the present struggles to a successful socialist revolution. Last week's contributions have already given us a big boost - our thanks to: Mike Rees £25, J. Williams £5, C. van Gelderen £5, 'A Trotskyist' £5, Callum Tod £1. That makes a total so far of £59.34.

Please send all donations to Red Weekly (Iberia), 182 Pentonville Road, London N.1. Please indicate if you wish your contribution to go specifically to either the LCI or LCR-ETA (VI).



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