

ISSUE 30 OCTOBER 1998 * 20P

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

IT'S MARKET
MADNESS!!!

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

**YOUR JOBS!
YOUR EDUCATION!
YOUR PROSPECTS!
YOUR FUTURE!**

or we could just...

**GET RID OF
CAPITALISM**

**INSIDE: Economic Crisis: Why won't Labour do something?
Plus Stephen Lawrence Enquiry, Kosovo, Royal Parasites, Students & more**

THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

Torture, sexual violence against prisoners, women made into sex slaves, raped by prison guards and then sold by them to male inmates.

This is not about conventional practices in Nigerian, Pakistan, not even Iranian prisons.

This is about prisons in the richest, most technologically advanced, self declared most democratic country in the world: USA.

In the "Rights for all" report, Amnesty International exposes the deep institutionalised racism of a penal system that is moving "away from rehabilitation towards incapacitation and punishment".

Prison guards regularly beat prisoners and rape women inmates, referring to them as "scum", "sex slaves" and "punching bags", just as the police do, who shoot and kick suspects not resisting arrest. Clinton's "three strikes and

you are out" initiative has hit mostly racial minorities and women, those who due to their miserable economic and social position are more likely to conflict with the "law". As any "cleaning up" solution (clean up the filth - the redneck translates blacks, Hispanics etc.) produced by a corrupt and racist capitalist system it intends to lock up whoever is not collaborating and refuses to be exploited.

Institutional Racism

Amnesty reports, 60 percent of the prisoners in USA are from racial minorities, although they are a minority of the whole population, and women now comprise 10 percent of the jail population. In 1995 5.4 million americans were in "institutional supervision", just about 5% of all male Americans over 18 years, and 20% of all male black Americans. The training of prison guards is the most costly of all government activities during the last decade, according to the US Census Bureau.

OLDHAM FIGHTS BACK!

The large Asian community in Oldham has had to put up with racism for years. Gangs of youths throw bricks at Asian shops or smash the windows of their houses, trying to drive Asian families off "whites-only" estates. Asian taxi drivers driving onto the estates are attacked, and kids can't play in the local parks because white racists set their dogs on them.

The police as usual do nothing, arriving hours after a complaint and never bothering to catch anyone, though the racists live locally. So Asian youth have begun to take action into their own hands and organise self-defence. As a result 90 of the 125 racial attacks recorded by Oldham police in the last year have been of Asians attacking whites. The cops say this is "lawless vigilantism".

But the cops admit that ethnic minorities distrust the police and so "under-report" attacks by whites, notifying police only 1 out of 15 times! And the police don't differentiate between legitimate self-defence, or sorting out locally known racists and gangs, and racist attacks by whites. So the cops may whinge about it but Revo says good going and keep it up till racism in Oldham is well and truly smashed.

Sorting out racists and fascists is no crime, and black self-defence, whether against the racists or the racist cops, is a right. We need to link these hit-squads and patrols up to elected neighbourhood committees and other local working class organisations, such as trade unions, to give them power, accountability, and to protect them from police repression.

Self-defence is no offence!



Women prisoners on a gang chain

IS THE USA POLICE RACIST?

Amnesty International reports that 23 black undercover detectives have been shot by their colleagues after being mistaken for suspects. Say no more.

WHO ARE THE DRUG DEALERS?

Detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-corruption squad set a cannabis trap to catch former colleagues: two former and one operating Flying Squad officers were filmed breaking into a house and stealing 80 kilograms of the drug.

TICKETMASTER SCUM

Workers at the UK's largest ticket agency Ticketmaster have just been forced to take a pay cut of 75p an hour. Why? Because the new Working Times Directive which came into force on October 1st supposedly guaranteed every employee 3 weeks paid annual leave. The tight arse bosses at Ticketmaster decided that the best way to fund this would be to force through a cut in the basic rate of pay for all call centre

staff. This short fall would then be made up by a new 'holiday advance'. So that when staff actually take a holiday they will have been deemed to have taken their holiday pay already. Bosses were able to get away with this scam so easily because like many other workplaces Ticketmaster is non-unionised. Employees, despite their widespread anger and resentment felt that they was little that they

could do. One revolution member at Ticketmaster called for an immediate walkout and strike because the ability to withhold their labour is a workers strongest weapon against the greed of the bosses. Unless workers are organised in advance they will be vulnerable to ever increasing attacks every time that the profits of the sharp suited businessmen are threatened.

WANKER of the MONTH

Bob Geldof was asked "When you pass homeless people, do you give them money?" "Sometimes", the **Wanker of the month** answers, "I find that a kind but firm talking to, with a spirited upbeat message, serves them better in the long run. And d'ja know something? They usually really appreciate it too".



REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS REVO NEWS

OZONE?

... not for long

The ozone gap is bigger than ever, according to a report from the World Meteorological Organisation.

The gap in the earth's protective shield allows high levels of ultraviolet rays through the atmosphere, causing much higher incidence of lethal skin cancers.

The ozone hole is caused by man-made gases called CFCs which are used in fridges and aerosol sprays.

Big businesses have known about the dangers of CFCs for years. But it would cost them billions to switch to other propellents.

The health of the world's population and even the survival of the human species counts less than profit in the books of the big money-men.

LABOUR KEEPS YOU IN THE DARK...

The labour government is backtracking on the promise in its election manifesto to bring in a Freedom of Information law. This would commit the government to allowing everyone access to state information. Now Jack Straw, minister in charge of the police and secret services, says the law will be watered down and will not be brought in until 2001. The law was supposed to be introduced this month.

Straw says there is no chance that the law will allow the public to examine what the police are up to. This comes as the racism of the police is being exposed at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. The security services are to be fully exempt from the law, too. Their files are stuffed with the facts about their dodgy dealings around the world, from secret arms deals and coup d'etats in third world countries to covert and illegal acts

against progressive struggles here in Britain.

Just last week a new book was published using MI6 files to prove that the British secret service tried to assassinate Lenin and Trotsky in 1918, as a way of beheading the leadership of the Russian Revolution and stopping the revolution spreading to the rest of Europe after the First World War. Even now MI6 is trying to stop the documents that the author used from being released. If they're that paranoid about files from 1918, you can imagine what's in the more recent ones! The actions of the ruling class and their army of spooks and spies should be brought into the light of day. We need a Freedom of Information law now with no area of the state closed to us. And we should just abolish MI5, MI6 and all the secret services they use against the working class here and abroad.

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Reclaim the Media!

Once upon a time the media was good. It was a valid source of information put out by people who cared for people who cared. It was a tool for honest democracy giving its readership important news and even if it was biased, there were so many different papers that by reading a few you would know what was going on. This is because the people owned the means of producing the news. Today, it's not run and owned by the people, but by those in power for the benefit of (surprisingly) those in power.

We only have to look at Rupert Murdoch's News International media empire (The Sun, The Times, B Sky B, News of the World, Harper Collins to name just his British companies) to know that the information that we receive today is controlled. The major problem with corporate ownership of the media is that the priority of news reporting is profitability rather than reliability. By profitability, we do not mean just the amount of newspapers sold or new programmes watched; we mean protection of the advertising and shareholding companies by ensuring they and their interests always get a good press. It would be bad for any business truth to get out into the public eye which would infringe on the profit margins of companies owning the paper.

Newspapers and television companies do not get their capital from selling their products; they get most of their revenue from advertisers. And who would pay a newspaper to promote a product if it was going to write an article damning it?

To ensure that the media get their money from advertisers, they will not report anything bad about them.

When you censor news stories about the dangers of nuclear power because one of your major



Not only does the media protect the interests of its individual sponsors, but it protects the interests of the entire ruling class who own it...

the people of Kuwait. The oil angle was never mentioned.

The point is that privatised and polarised corporate media is not about information. It is about keeping us, the public, docile and brainwashed by capitalist ideology, so they can lie and kill in the name of their profits, send us off to fight and die for their profits.

We need to reclaim the media for ourselves. To quote Jello Biafra: "Don't hate the media, become the media!". We need people to be exposed to the truth of corporate crime. The only way we can do that and destroy the fake consciousness is by telling them about it ourselves!

shareholders is General Electric who produces turbines for nuclear reactors and power plants (as is the case with TV and radio company NBC in the USA) then you have a real problem.

Not only does the media protect the interests of its individual sponsors, but it protects the interests of the entire ruling class who own it.

A good example is the war in Iraq. Sadaam Hussein was played up in the media to be a big evil threat - a murderous madman (which, granted, he is) - BUT America had been supporting Hussein (who was

just as murderous then) in the war against Iran. America was content to turn a blind eye to these murders until Sadaam threatened to take away US access to Iraqi oil. After the US coerced an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the war was on.

The background wasn't reported in the mass media because that would be too shocking: government and oil companies fighting hand in hand to protect their economic interests.

No. We only heard about the 'evil' Sadaam Hussein who was killing

Stephen Lawrence enquiry proves it... PAUL CONDON MUST GO!

Paul Condon, head of the Metro-politan Police, recently attended the Stephen Lawrence enquiry. Stephen was murdered by a gang of 5 white youths in 1993. The cops knew who they were but didn't arrest them, and attacked the Lawrence family in the press when they began to demand justice for their son. Condon went to the enquiry because he saw it as the only way of defusing the widespread anger against himself and the Met. But then he used the event to deny once again that racism was responsible for the police failing to investigate the murder properly, and then covering up their tracks. He also refused to admit that the Met was shot through with institutionalised racism- there were just a few bad cops that needed to be sacked.

We think Paul Condon needs to be sacked. Five years on and the Met's verdict, straight from the mouth of it's chief, is completely unchanged: our racism isn't to blame for letting Stephen's murderers off the hook. Stephen's mother, Doreen Lawrence, called it "a PR job. The public have no confidence in the police and don't believe a word he is saying. The public have no confidence in him. I

think he should go." The police refused to bring the murderers to justice, and have obstructed every investigation into their own role in the case. Officers who arrived on the scene of the murder refused to accept it was a race attack despite the evidence immediately given by Stephen's friend Duwayne. They assumed Stephen was some sort of criminal who had somehow brought it on himself. They wouldn't even touch his body to stop the bleeding and save his life because they didn't want to get black blood on their hands- that's how deep their racism is!

The Met was told the day after the murder by an informer who the murderers were. Another local reported seeing them cleaning blood off their clothes, but they still refused to pick them up. Only under pressure from the Lawrence's did they begin to investigate, too little and too late. Later the Met organised an enquiry into their own shoddy investigation and (of course) found they'd done a sterling job. Condon rubber-stamped this. From the beginning the police, including Condon, have attacked the Lawrences as "anti-police" and said that their quest for justice

and against police racism has set back police relations with the black community!

Only pressure from the family has ensured that the issue won't go away. They are right. The Met is racist through and through: They murder black people themselves (Ibrahima Sey, Brian Douglas) on top of the day-to-day racist harassment, searches, stopping black men in cars and arrests for no reason. Paul Condon is a racist - he launched Operation Eagle Eye in 1995 claiming (with no evidence) that most muggers were black. He has been in charge of the Met throughout the whole Stephen Lawrence investigation and has defended the police that sabotaged it. He must be sacked.

But while that will be a victory, it won't stop the brutal repression the police hand out to black people every day on the streets of Britain. We don't just want to pick out a few bad apples. We want to kick over the whole rotten barrel.

Police off our streets!

30 issues of revolution!



We've been producing an



alternative media! - thirty issues of the

ONLY revolutionary youth newspaper written by and for

studying, working and unemployed youth themselves.

Help us produce another thirty- send in contributions, letters, art, cartoons, whatever and we'll put it in. You've seen the rest, now agitate with the best. Get in touch on

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**GLOBAL
CAPITALIST
CRISIS**

Labour has

All around the world working class people are starting to take action to stop the crisis of the market system from destroying their jobs and their lives.

In Russia an unofficial general strike is sweeping across from the far eastern port of Vladivostok to the gates of the Kremlin in Moscow. Millions of workers have been without pay for months and are now marching with just one slogan: "Yeltsin Out!". The days of the pro-capitalist drunk are almost over.

In Korea, car workers have launched mass strikes to stop the bosses of Hyundai sacking thousands. They've occupied plants and taken up clubs to protect themselves against riot police. In Malaysia mass demonstrations have begun against the dictatorship of Mahathir Mohamed, who is trying to make working class people pay for the economic crisis which is devastating the economy.

Europe shifts left

In one country after another the majority of the people have kicked out the old conservative parties that ran Europe in the 80s and early 90s. In Britain the Tories had their worst defeat since the early 19th century. In France the

right-wing coalition was turfed out in favour of the Socialist party of Lionel Jospin. And last month in Germany the right-wing Christian Democrats of Helmut Kohl saw their 16 year rule ended by the SPD and its leader Gerhard Schröder.

The most important countries in Europe have all moved left. Millions voted for Labour, the Socialist party and the SPD because they want to stop Tory-type parties wrecking their health services, closing their schools, axing their jobs and reducing living standards.

In Britain, Blair likes to pretend that class divisions are a thing of the past and that New Labour is a party of "the whole people". But it was in working class areas that last year's Labour vote was at its highest. The reason was simple: Labour promised a minimum wage, shorter hospital waiting lists and better schools and training for everyone. In Germany, Schröder promised to bring back sick pay and lower unemployment. In France Jospin promised a maximum working week of 35 hours, hundreds of thousands of new jobs for youth and a higher minimum wage.

But it would be a terrible mistake to think that Labour-style governments will deliver on their promises and protect working class people from the economic crisis that is just starting to sweep the world.

closing in Britain. German banks - which are knee deep in the dying Russian market - are planning to cut investments abroad and at home, which will mean more bosses trying to sack workers. Already unemployment stands at 4 million (11%). School student protests are rocking France over the terrible cuts in their schools.

What do the Labour, SPD and Socialist Parties offer?

Blair summed it up at this year's Labour Party conference. He said: "We have to tell people that this is the

**The
REVOLUTIONARY
ALTERNATIVE...**

Despite what Blair says something can be done. There are millions more of us than there are of them. Without the working class nothing, absolutely nothing, gets done. Without the capitalists, everything could be sorted out rationally.

Instead of market chaos we could plan the economy democratically, to match production to need. Inequality could be steadily overcome - wealth and power could be shared so evenly that the very words would become meaningless.

But that's communism isn't it? Damn right it is. REVOLUTION are fighting for this action programme to solve the crisis: get organised and fight alongside us....

Jobs for all! - production for need not for greed!

The bosses claim there are too many products in the world market and that is why they have to shut their factories. There are millions of people in need of food, homes, heating, clothes, electricity. Labour should be putting people to work, not throwing them on the dole. We fight for:

- 35 hour week maximum, no loss of pay
- £6 hour minimum wage, no exemptions.
- Work or full pay - restore all axed benefits.

Fight the closures!

When the bosses try and shut down production to save their skins we should take direct action to save our jobs and livelihoods. If the bosses say they are broke and really can't afford to keep business open then we

we
musn't
blame the
bosses

We
musn't blame
the government

Well
don't look at
me, I'm just the
chancellor!!



Feel no crisis...see no crisis...speak no crisis

The crisis is going to get worse. Already factories are

no Answers

always be safe in their hands.

There is only one answer. We need new parties of workers,

global market. We can't insulate you." Whenever Labour promises any-thing to the majority of the people, it adds a get-out-clause: "providing economic circumstances allow". This means that if the rich refuse to pay for a Labour policy, it will be toned down, post-poned, and eventually scrapped altogether.

Blair refuses to raise taxes on the rich. But his government cut benefits to single mothers. And now his economic minister

Gordon Brown says the world crisis might mean having to break promises to spend more on hospitals. Already waiting lists have lengthened since Labour got elected in May last year.

In Britain, France and Germany, the new governments are run by parties that support the rich bosses, but are supported by the workers. They are all led by cynical careerists who defend the right of the rich to own and control property and people. The system of market madness will

unemployed and youth that have no links to the millionaires and no stake in their system. These parties need to be linked up internationally, to co-ordinate resistance to the crisis, and convert it into a revolutionary offensive. That way we can break up the police and secret services that exist to protect the rich minority from the poor majority, and build a democratically planned Socialist United States of Europe and a world socialist federation.

demand Labour expropriate their property and put it in the control of the workers who know how to run it. We shouldn't pay a penny in compensation to them. They've already made millions out of our exploitation, why give them more?

Stop privatisation - drive the market out of public services.

These bastards would privatise the air if they could make a profit out of it. The bosses use privatisation to cut services, drive down wages and make super profits for themselves - just look at public transport, electricity and water. We demand that the Labour government nationalise these services, without compensation and under the control of the workers and consumers. Under our control we would subsidise prices, saving youth and workers millions in transport and fuel costs. A massive injection of public money could be used to create more jobs and vastly improve the quality of these services.

Nationalisation

The rich and their governments tell us they can't spend their ill-gotten billions keeping vital factories open and saving thousands of workers from the dole. Hmmm ...

• Last week a combine of the biggest banks in the world spent £1 billion propping up a company called Long Term Capital Management. This shady outfit produces nothing. It is a "hedge fund", which is just a gigantic bookie for the rich, placing multi-million dollar

bets on rises and falls in currency values.

• The Japanese Finance Minister, who has made his career arguing against state ownership and for the free market, now says that Tokyo bank LTCB should be nationalised. Why? Otherwise it could collapse, threatening even more chaos in the world financial system.

We say: nationalise all the banks, and put their trillions under the control of ordinary working class people. We wouldn't blow it at the bookies.

And we wouldn't spend a penny on the military defence of this capitalist system. Instead the billions the bosses spend on weapons of mass destruction could be spent on health, education, food for the starving, homes for the homeless and useful, well-paid jobs for all. We could wipe out poverty. We would cancel the third world debt, immediately alleviating the suffering of millions in Africa, Asian and Latin America who are forced to pay back billions of debt to Western banks, rather than spend the money on what people need.

Don't let union or Labour leaders sell you out - build action committees !

Labour, Blair and the union leaders will only listen to us if we make them listen. We need to force the unions to fight closures and defend working class interests. In every workplace, school, college and housing estate, we need to set up **action committees** that can co-ordinate resistance to the bosses plans. By building our own

grass root, rank and file organisations under our control we make it harder for the union leaders to do deals and sell us out. Direct action works! the Glacier workers in Scotland stopped the closure of their factory by occupying the plant. We need strikes, marches and occupations to stop the bosses in their tracks.

Organise our own defence !

The police are racist anti-working class bigots who will always be used by the state to break our strikes, smash up our occupations and attack our demonstrations. That is why we must have our own defence to protect our actions from police violence.

It will take a revolution.....

The government will never be neutral in a confrontation between the bosses and the workers. In the past they have used the courts, the media and eventually the brute force of the police and the army to put down resistance. That is why a serious struggle against capitalism will mean a serious military battle between the workers and the full force of the capitalist state. It will take a revolution to defeat capitalism. Only mass workers defence (militias) based upon democratic workers organisations (workers councils) have a chance of winning. It is also on the basis of these organisations that we could run society democratically in the interests of the majority of workers and youth..

End Student Poverty!

Students are screwed. We've got no grant from next year, tuition fees to pay, increasing rent, and to top it all off no decent wages at work.

The £1,000 maximum grant this year is immediately cancelled out by the tuition fees. The cost of living has to be paid by working part time and borrowing money. Students have to borrow from banks, loans companies, student union funds, families and friends. Debts will rise to around £20,000 by the end of a degree. And the option of working part time is little help as well. Young workers are paid appalling wages. 72% of under 21 year olds in this country are paid under £4.00 an hour. In Manchester its 79%, Mersyside 82% and in **South Yorkshire,**

nobody under 21 gets more than £4.00 an hour!

Yet more and more students in full time education have to work. There are over 750,000 16 - 20 year olds currently in work at the same time as studying on a full time course. That's nearly half of all students.

But the jobs students take - the 'McJobs' - are the worst paid, and most boring. If you're lucky enough to work for Kwiksave when you're 17, for example, you only get £2.54 an hour!

Labour has done nothing but make our lives worse. After taking away our right to higher education, they've decided that isn't enough. Now they've chosen to exclude young workers under 18 from the minimum wage. If you're between 18 - 21 you're only guaranteed £3.00 an hour!

So for students and youth life gets harder and harder. But the bosses are raking in massive profits and awarding themselves bigger and bigger bonuses. Its those rich bastards that should be forking to pay for free education.



Blair is going to give everyone under 21 a lower minimum wage (£3 an hour- oh, cheers!) and if you're under 18 the new law will give you no minimum wage at all!

That's disgusting- we're the lowest paid workers and in terms of workplace bullying, harassment, and serious accidents we work in the dodgiest workplaces around, the government's own statistics show that. So why are they discriminating against young workers, when they should be doing more for us? Don't let them get away with it, get active with Equalize! It's our minimum wage, we've got to fight for it ourselves.

**Fight for
your rights!**

United for Free Education - National Demonstration

**Wednesday 18th November
Assemble; Malet Street ULU,
1.00pm**

**Grants not fees!
Education is a right!**

**Lobby
Peter**

**Mandelson
MINISTER FOR LOW PAY**

**An Equal minimum wage for
youth!**

**Wed 25th November
5pm DTI building, Victoria St.
London**

Movement against the Monarchy (Ma'm)

"Fuck the Monarchy!" is the slogan for the demo on the 31st October, organised by Movement against the Monarchy (Ma'm). Come and join this public display of contempt for a parasitic family that has stolen from the British workers for centuries. The Aristocracy still owns 40% of all land in Britain. The Queen happens to be the largest landowner of them all.

We subsidise the Royal Family with around £50 million of tax payers' money each year, and that doesn't include the perks and bonuses they get all the time.

Does the monarchy deserve all this wealth? No, they're just a long line of thugs on horseback turned parasites who stole it from us over the centuries.


On top of that, the Monarchy still has a political role that flies in the face of

anything resembling democracy.

The Crown is the symbol of the state, and when high up politicians exercise power "in the name of the Crown" they are using old rights evolved from feudalism. The Queen gets to "ask" the largest party to form a government... the armed forces swear allegiance to the Crown, not Parliament... War can be declared "in the name of the Crown" without any need for debate in parliament...and so on...

And they're just the tip of the iceberg- the House of Lords, the judges, the police and army, the civil service chiefs

and the fatcats in the boardrooms, all of them make decisions affecting all of our lives and none of them are elected. That's why it'll take more than voting to bring real change.



**MARCH ON
BUCKINGHAM
PALACE - bring your
own Guillotine
Assemble: Hyde Park,
London
Saturday 31st October,
2.00 pm**

KOSOVO

Should we support the struggle for independence?

Marcus argues that we should support the armed resistance of the Kosovo Albanians...

In the late 1980's Yugoslavia's Stalinist command-economy was stagnating. Falling standards of living in Serbia created unrest. Slobodan Milosevic was the Serbian president and his solution to the crisis was to divert Serbians' anger by using hysterical chauvinism. The result was war with Croatia and Bosnia, and within Serbia a clampdown on national minorities such as the Albanians who make up 90% of the population in the province of Kosovo. In 1989 he abolished Kosovo's autonomy. Ethnic Albanians were sacked from all jobs in the government, education, and management in the state owned industry in Kosovo, while in the schools and universities the Albanian language was banned. The police force is Serbian.

But the Kosovars fought back. They conducted their own referendum and voted unanimously for separation and independence. In 1992 and again in 1998 they elected a parliament and voted overwhelmingly for parties that support separation from Yugoslavia. Since late 1997 there has been a mass movement for independence, with large demonstrations gassed and beaten up by the

Serb police. As a result of the crack down, the KLA began a guerilla campaign against the repression. The Serbs have moved 50,000 troops into Kosovo to crush all

opposition. The BSBK, a Kosovan trade union, has tried to organise two general strikes against the Serbian occupation. The KLA, the only organisation being seen to do



Kosovar Albanians under Serbian "police"

anything to fight the repression, has gained in support from the Kosovan masses.

The Serbs have sent in an army of 50,000 troops, including artillery and aircraft to crush the KLA. All summer they fought a dirty war, using the same tactics of massacring civilians and destroying villages that were used in Bosnia, in a deliberate attempt to cleanse Albanian civilians from Kosovo.

As revolutionary socialists, we have an elementary duty to support their democratic right to separate if they want to, and to fight for that right with guns, besides taking up guns to defend themselves from Serb oppression.

This does not mean that we should

be completely uncritical of the KLA's politics, such as ignoring the nationalist or racist character of some of the KLA's actions (including some reported massacres by them of Serb civilians). We should condemn any massacres by the Albanian side: such actions will do nothing to achieve freedom from Serbian rule, only drive the Serbs of Kosovo into the arms of Milosevic.

The point is that the Kosovo Albanians have decided that they want to end their oppression by complete independence from Serbia. It is their right to decide, in their majority, whether they will unite with Albania, or form an independent state of Kosovo, or

adopt an 'enhanced' status in Yugoslavia (the solution that the West has tried to foist onto them), or whatever other solution you could think of. This right does not belong to the Yugoslav army, to Milosevic, to the airforces and politicians of the NATO countries or to

the diplomats in the United Nations.

-Arms for the Kosovo Albanians!

-For the right of Kosovo to independence!

NATO: no to mili

The US, Britain, Germany and the other imperialist powers in NATO are using the Kosovan crisis to impose stability in the Balkans. They want to make sure conflicts in the former Yugoslavia don't spread East and South into Greece and Turkey, which is a powderkeg waiting to go off. And if stability allows American and European multinationals to operate there and make profits exploiting those countries, so much the better. To

Hauke argues against supporting the KLA and the independence struggle:

"We now have to turn the international spotlight to Kosovo to help the people there." Klaus Kinkel, German foreign minister 1990-1998

The European powers failure to militarily resolve the Yugoslavian war had further damaged the credibility of their aspirations to counterpose US global dominance. Looking for another cause, with which to assert themselves, they duly began to 'discover' the oppression of the people in Kosovo.

The 'people' were not the inhabitants but the 'ethnic Albanians' - their liberators the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). 'Sure of Western support' promised by the Kinkels of Europe, the KLA started its war claiming to free the Albanian people from the oppression of the Serbs.

KLA leader Jasup Krasnicki in an interview in the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* said:

"We speak the only language that the Serbian leadership understands: violence... Freedom

has got the flavour of blood and soil... He, who defends his soil with his blood, has the

ary intervention

the imperialists stability means a world safe for their multinationals and banks to make a profit.

We don't need some fake 'stability' that just increases the domination of the imperialist countries. We want a revolutionary solution to the conflicts and crises that international capitalism generates, with a socialist outcome that fulfills the needs of the workers of those countries, not the bankers, shareholders and

YES or NO?

right to determine its destiny..."

Spiegel: "Why does the the KLA murder peaceful Albanians?"

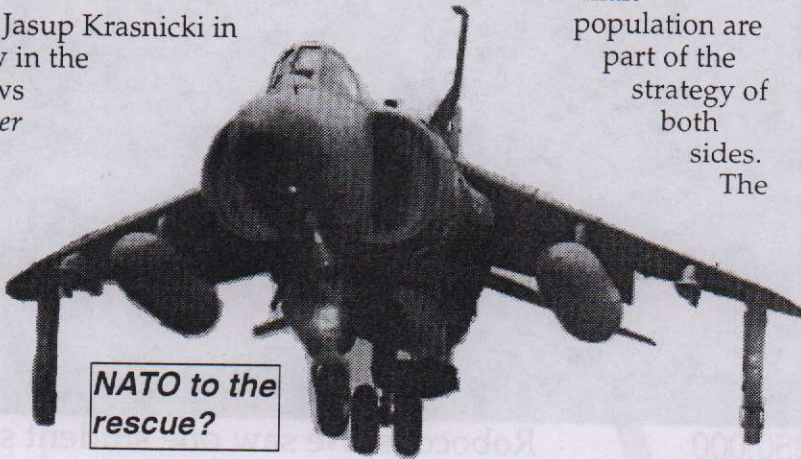
Krasnicki: "Collaborators are warned. We will kill them if they proceed on the wrong path..."

The Serbian army moved in to crush the KLA, which portrayed itself as liberators of blood and soil, as perpetrators of violence against Serbs and false Albanians alike. The Serbian army were not fighting a war against all ethnic Albanians or trying to cleanse 90% of Kosovo's population, as this has been misrepresented in the media which adopted the KLA's ethnic interpretation of the conflict. They are fighting a guerilla war in order to maintain control over a significant part of their territory and its natural resources. This is a war in which atrocities against the

civilian

population are part of the strategy of both sides.

The



NATO to the rescue?

war of the Serbian army in Kosovo, however is not a specifically ethnic one.

The KLA, its concepts and aims, our position

This is not to deny that there has been discrimination on ethnic grounds. It is obvious that nobody should be murdered or discriminated against for speaking the Albanian language. However, the people who speak this language do not constitute a homogeneous group as implied by the KLA and the term 'ethnic Albanian'.

Homogeneous groups constructed on bloodlines, culture or ethnicity, which is a mixture of both, are racist concepts obscuring the class

nature of society.

The Kosovans inclination to self-perception as an ethnic group, to self-ethnification as a reaction to (equally reactionary) ethnically motivated oppression, does not alter the mythological, reactionary nature of this concept.

If we back the KLA, which espouses racist concepts with similarities to fascist blood and soil myths, we also approve of these concepts and do nothing to liberate people's consciousness from such ideas. The fight against oppression is inseparable from the ideas and concepts fought for.

The progressiveness of a struggle is solely determined by its social aims. Not every armed gang claiming to fight oppression is progressive.

For example, we could distinguish three types of national liberation movements in recent history - all fighting oppression but with different concepts and goals:

- those based on concepts of blood, soil, culture or religion such as the KLA, ETA or the Taliban;
- republican movements like the IRA, whose goal is to establish formal equality, and where is membership determined territorially rather than ethnically, an idea

originating in the French Revolution;

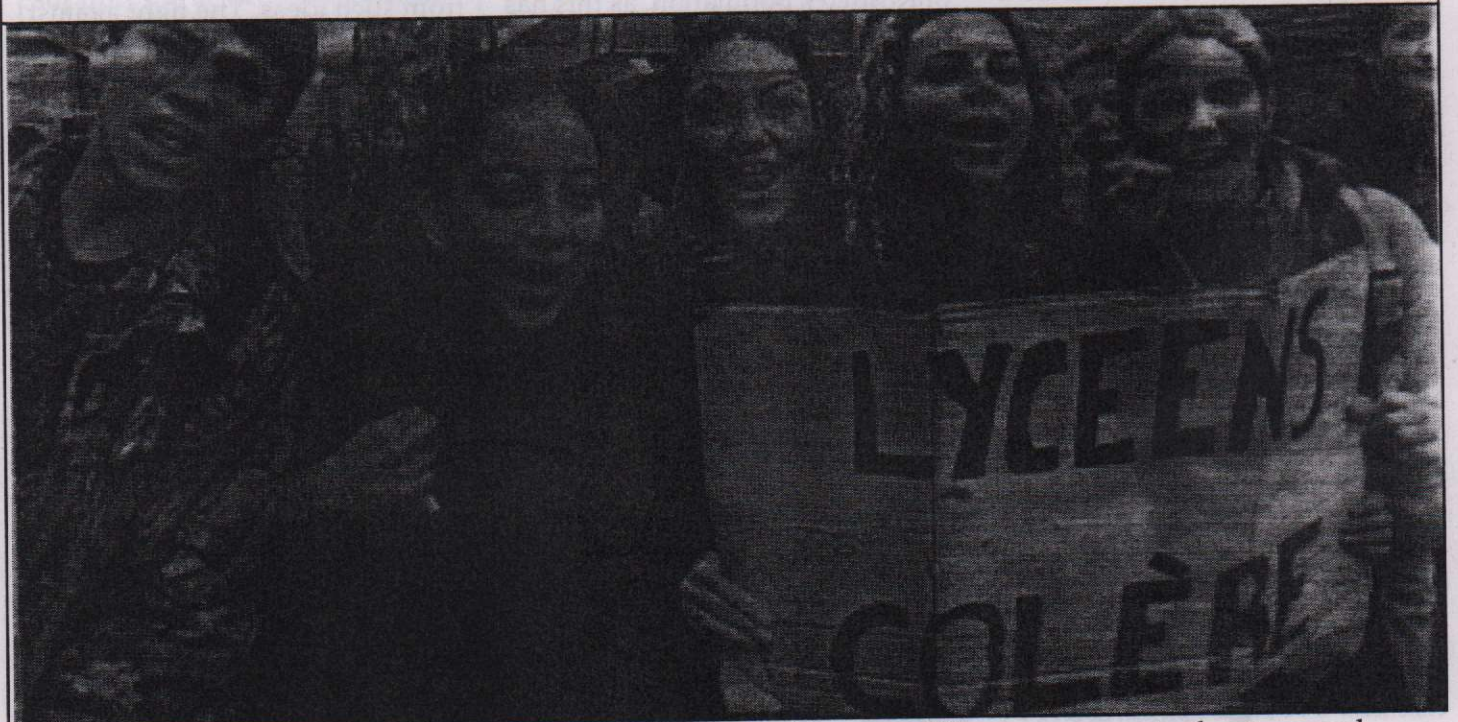
- socialist movements such as the Tupamaru in Ecuador or the EZLN in Mexico who in their struggle against impoverishment demand not so much formal bourgeois equality but material equality.

Revolutionaries should support and point to struggles based on the concept of class not ethnicity, and at the same time expose reactionary ideas for what they are rather than to call for their support. In the words of Bertolt Brecht: "Therefore we must extinguish the stupidity [of nationalism], for it makes those who encounter Her stupid."

REVOLUTION

THE FIGHTING PAPER FOR WORKING CLASS YOUTH

French students take to the streets!



REVOLUTION joined over 350,000 French high school students in October, to demand the "Socialist" government puts an end to misery in the classrooms: for more qualified teachers, no class sizes bigger than 25 and decent equipment.

The strikes have been building up for weeks – international solidarity was called for.

We travelled on the overnight ferry and raced down to Paris just in time for the national demonstration. The French REVO comrades were there to meet us.

So too were the famous CRS riot police who were tooled up to look like

Robocops. We saw one student saved from arrest by forceful argument!

The REVO leaflet was well received. We argued for the schools to be occupied over the holidays (which threaten to break the momentum of the strikes) and for mass meetings and elected and recallable leaders to control all negotiations.

One of the chants went: "Dans les greves, il y a des rêves!" – "In strikes, there are dreams!" Our schools are just as bad. So let's get dreaming over here!

We also invited French REVO to come to Britain – so if you want to hear more, contact us and we'll fix it up.