

# Socialist Challenge

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# WORKERS TO PAY FOR TORY WAR

'National honour can rarely be redeemed on the cheap. There is a price in blood and a price in honour'. So spoke Tory caveman John Biffen, leader of the House of Commons.

The blood referred to is more than that of British soldiers. The lives of many of the 8000 Argentines defending Port Stanley against the British are also going to be sacrificed on the altar of 'British honour'. The Argentines will not surrender. They are fighting for what is rightfully theirs. So Britain will run amok.

Britain has already been responsible for major atrocities in its invasion of the Malvinas-Falklands. It has tried to cover this up by its hypocritical cries of horror over Argentine possession of napalm. Yet Britain has been massively using the outlawed anti-personnel 'cluster' bombs which are built to inflict the most horrifying wounds. It has also been using phosphorous bombs - more deadly, if anything, than napalm. It is the use of these bombs which explains the disproportionate number of casualties inflicted on the Argentines.

But whatever happens in the battle for Port Stanley, Argentina is unlikely to give up its claim to the Malvinas. The pressure of its own people is too great. Britain is therefore in for a prolonged war. As Labour MP Tom Dalyell has pointed out 'there is a hideous prospect of a British Vietnam in the South Atlantic'.

Britain's war is by no means confined to the Malvinas-Falklands and the surrounding sea. It has already begun operations on the Argentine mainland. As Jon Snow reported on News at Ten, British commandos operating from a base in Chile have blown up 5 super Etenard jets at Punta Arenas in southern Argentina. Britain is only waiting for the right moment to extend its area of action.

Thatcher expected that the combination of financial, economic, diplomatic and military pressure would quickly bring Argentina to its knees. This is not how things are turning out. The determination of the Argentine people, the solidarity of the rest of Latin America has created a much more serious foe. World opinion is moving against Britain. As EP Thompson pointed out on Sunday's mammoth CND demo, 'in the space of five or six weeks, Mrs Thatcher has succeeded in turning world opinion right around so that Britain was now the pariah not Argentina.'

It is British workers that are going to have to pay for this Tory war, which has already cost £1000m. John Biffen has warned of the Tory plans for a war tax to pay for this mad adventure. Unfortunately, the right wing Labour leadership, lead by whimpering Michael Foot, are totally complicit in this.

Their argument that such support was necessary in order to



maintain electoral credibility received its come-uppance in last Thursday's by-election when this most unpopular of governments took a Labour seat. The magnifi-

cent CND demonstration and the unprecedented solidarity with the health workers show that an alternative force exists. A force, which if given a lead, could turn That-

cher out of office. The fight against Thatchers war is also a fight to remove Foot and other right wing leaders. Battle must now be joined in earnest.

# Miners strike for health workers

In the war on the home front, Britain's half a million healthworkers gave Thatcher a kick in the teeth with their magnificent response to the second one day strike action on Tuesday 8 June. In some areas, the complete frustration they feel led some of the ambulance workers to remove even emergency cover. The two-to-one rejection of the measly 6.4 per cent offer to nurses by the traditionally conservative Royal College of Nurses reveals the depths of anger that has been reached.

Support for the health workers is overwhelming. In a magnificent display of working class solidarity, miners in Yorkshire and Lancashire and

seafarers in Liverpool struck in solidarity. The Yorkshire mines were totally shut down.

In a further demonstration of support, the entire executive of Britain's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers Union joined the picket line outside London's Westminster Hospital.

The spread of solidarity action to the miners, seafarers and many other workers not directly involved in the fight for the 12 per cent shows a tremendous spirit that will be unleashed when Tebbit tries to force new anti-union laws down the throat of the labour movement.

The action taken in support of the health workers was in

direct contravention of the 1980 Employment Act which prohibits secondary picketing.

The health service unions and the TUC must now respond to the call from the National Union of Public Employees to go on all-out strike with accident and emergency cover only.

We say NAME THE DATE NOW! The solidarity already shown will only gather more strength if the healthworkers leadership take the bull by the horns and give their total commitment to the fight for the 12 per cent. The health service unions have never ever been so united. Let's build on that unity and strike now while the iron is hot.

# Editorial

PO Box 50, London N1 2XP  
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## Foot must go Why Labour's conference should oppose the war

OVER A hundred resolutions critical of Labour's front bench's stand on the war are estimated to have been sent to Party headquarters. Several major unions — including the construction union UCATT and the traindrivers' union ASLEF — have also opposed the war.

'This branch expresses our total opposition to the war with Argentina and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the British task force,' says a resolution from Newham North West CLP, typical of the many we have received. 'Trade unionists have no interest in a war which can only strengthen the most vicious anti-union government seen in Britain since the 1930s.'

Newham went on to call for a 'massive show of opposition to the warmongers, Thatcher and Reagan, on the national CND demonstration on 6 June and the picket of the American embassy on 7 June,' and resolved to 'lobby for LP policy to be in line with this resolution.'

'We finally demand,' it concludes, 'that our MP votes according to the above policy in any parliamentary division.'

What should be the next step in dealing with Thatcher's warmongering? Foot's atrocious behaviour has let her off the hook. Now she is running into trouble — even Reagan recognises that she cannot fight the whole of Latin America — Labour is not in a position to reap the benefits of a policy of consistent opposition. Only if Labour commits itself to complete withdrawal and starts to build a mass movement on the issue, can this disaster be reversed.

Foot's leadership should be challenged and the issue taken to conference. Resolutions to conference should call for

- support to those MPs who voted against the war
- condemnation of the front bench's stand
- complete withdrawal from the South Atlantic

It is this issue above all others on which the present leadership of the labour movement should be called to account.

Foot and Healey don't fight for a socialist alternative to Thatcher at home because they won't oppose her class's dirty work abroad: this is the message we should try to get over. Across the board, in the election of delegates, in the formulation of policy for the coming Labour Party conference, in reselection of MPs and in the NEC elections, the question of the war should take priority.

This is an issue the left can win. Foot's betrayal — which was inevitable — has obscured the real gains which have come from Tony Benn's stand. On what other question in recent months has the front bench split, and Andrew Faulds voted with Tony Benn?

Union opposition to the war shows that the battle would not boil down to a straight 'constituency party versus the block vote' dispute; on the contrary, it should be taken up throughout the length and breadth of the labour movement — to build a new and secure foundation for the Labour left, based for the first time on socialist principles in foreign policy.

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## PAY THE HEALTHWORKERS

# All out strike needed

By Pat Hickey

WHILE the Tory government spends £3.5bn to wage war in the South Atlantic, it 'can't afford' the £6m needed to pay the health workers the 12 per cent claim. The offer of 4 per cent is in fact a wage cut for 500,000 of the lowest paid workers in the country. All out strike action is necessary now to win their demands.

More than 400,000 health workers are earning less than £82 per week — the official poverty line for a married person with two children. Under the new offer a cleaner would be 79p a week better off after deductions, a porter 85p and a staff nurse £2.34. With inflation at 10 per cent this represents a substantial wage cut.

Thatcher wants to use the health service to prepare another round of wage cuts for the public sector and to set the pace for the private sector as well. Because the health service workers are primarily women and black workers she feels she has an 'easy target'.

But the health workers are fighting back. After six years of incomes policy they have had enough. The support for the two days of action on 4 and 8 June is a clear warning to Thatcher that the health workers are prepared to fight.

## Nurses take the lead

By Eve Turner, St Bernards Hospital  
West London

MILITANT nurses in the health service union, COHSE, showed the way as they began their 24-hour strike at Ealing Hospital in West London on 4 June as part of the national one day action in support of the 12% pay claim.

Joined on the picket line by National Union of Public Employees members they kept a lively picket going on all day with numbers of up to 100.

At 1pm the nurses organised a demonstration and marched in uniform through the streets shouting slogans like 'we're not angels, we are workers' and 'we demand 12 per cent now'. Albert Spanswick, general secretary of COHSE, joined them.

Tony and Ginny Bieszley, nurses on the picket line, explained that while nurses were new at taking industrial action this was the beginning: 'we are expecting an even bigger turnout on Tuesday. We're determined to win.'

3000 miners have already taken action in support of the health workers and the Welsh miners have voted overwhelmingly to do the same along with the water and transport workers; this could become a major test of strength with the Tories.

Not only will they be challenged on the pay front, but their anti-union laws will be tested. Secondary picketing is already illegal under the '80 law and sympathy action will soon be outlawed under the latest round of anti-union legislation.

The response of health workers and other sections shows that many workers are prepared to take on the Tories. The main obstacle to this is the trade union leadership. Within the NHS unions only NUPE has declared for all out action COHSE and others are holding back.

It is clear that all out action with essential services under workers' control is the only way to win. A number of one day stoppages can be useful in building up support and preparing for all out strike. But one day stoppages will not win the claim, and in the end will waste the energies of the members and lead to demoralisation.

When the TUC Health Services Committee meets on 9 June it should set the date for all out action.

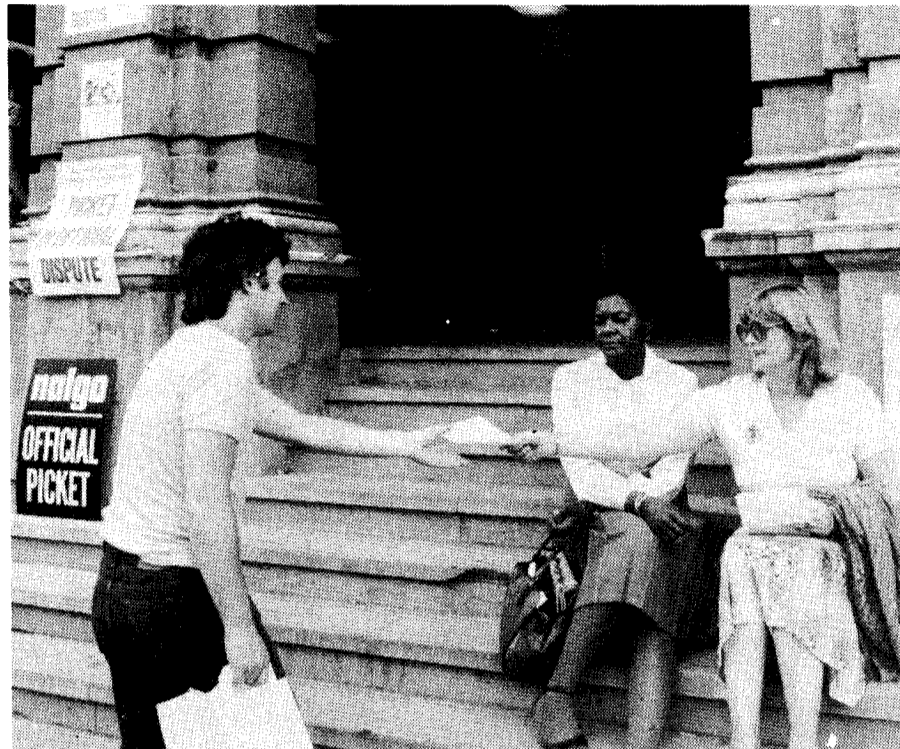


Photo: GM COOKSON

The trade union leaders will try to get themselves off the hook by appealing to the Tories to send the dispute to arbitration. This should also be opposed. All health workers have ever had from arbitration is inadequate percentage awards, differentiated according to grade.

It is essential now in the service to build the joint union committees to organise the rank and file against the weakness and hesitation of the officials.

Action is essential if health workers are to build on the support that other workers have offered. This support is based on the understanding that the NHS is a big gain for the working class and must be defended.

Starvation wages in the health service are driving vitally needed skills to the private sector. This suits the Tories very well — they have been systematically destroying the NHS in order to build private medicine.

Moreover, a long drawn out strike will further damage the service with even longer waiting lists. Basing themselves on action, health workers can take these arguments to the rest of the working class and win support.

Militants should be bringing the NHS struggle to the attention of other workers. In particular, they should be getting delegations to the picket lines, raising cash, and inviting speakers to their branches and work-places.

Health workers are providing a national focus for the struggle against the Tories. This opportunity to build opposition to them should not be missed.

The Labour Party also should be giving a lead on this issue, getting speakers on party platforms, to branch and general management committees, and organising public events to mobilise support.

The Labour Party NEC should be pressed to call a national demonstration as soon as possible. With a lead coming from workers in struggle this would be a big focus for anti-Tory feeling in the working class and an important part of winning the healthworkers' demands.

## 5000 march in Edinburgh against government

By Duncan Smith

5000 HEALTH service workers from all over Scotland marched through the centre of Edinburgh on Friday 4 May in opposition to the government four per cent pay offer.

Pride of place at the head of the march was reserved for the members of the National Union of Public Employees' South Hospitals branch who have been on strike for a fortnight.

A contingent of miners was also present and Eric Clarke general secretary of the Scottish area miners' union explained at the following rally that pit head collections were underway to keep the hospital workers out.

Referring to the war in the South Atlantic Clarke attacked the 'militaristic idiots in parliament who can find 'millions of pounds for death but not for life.'

Defence of the NHS is a class issue, he said and every trade unionist should support the health workers.

So far the Scottish TUC, TUC and union leaderships have done next to nothing in support of the Edinburgh strikers.

STUC general secretary Jimmy Milne told the rally that a

delegation of trade union leaders was going to see the Tory Secretary of State George Younger but had little else to offer his audience and was frequently interrupted by calls for concrete action.

On Monday 7 June strikers at the City Hospital voted to stay out until Wednesday 9 June and strikers at the infirmary are staying out until the 10th.

The infirmary workers also rejected an offer of £5 an hour to shift the pile of three weeks dirty laundry which has accumulated.

'If we do that one striker told us, then we wouldn't be on strike.'

Pickets from the infirmary said they'd been let down by the national union officials. They had been hoping for some constructive proposals for spreading industrial action but had heard none so far. They emphasised that the strike was now at a turning point.

The two Edinburgh hospitals could not stay out much longer unless other hospitals around Britain followed their example. Their message to the rest of the health service is that all out strike action can win the claim.



## CND MARCH DEALS BLOW TO THATCHER AND REAGAN

# Quarter of a million say: 'Stop the war mongers'

By Steve Potter

**AN ASTOUNDING** quarter of a million people took the streets of London last Sunday in massive protest against the Tories' war drive. In an international week of action they joined nearly a million protesters in Western Europe and the USA, protesting against Reagan's war drive.

Sunday's demonstration converged from north, south and west following the shape of the CND symbol as it converged on its rallying point in Hyde Park. The demonstrators, predominantly youth, marched through London streets, declaring that day a 'nuclear free zone' by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council.

Also prominent on the demonstration were contingents from the Transport and General Workers Union, the Fire Brigades Union, the Yorkshire miners, healthworkers who chanted 'Jobs not Bombs! Pay the NHS!', and local Labour Party branches.

The size of the demonstration was an undoubted blow for the Thatcher government, which saw the 'Falklands effect' as a way not only of boosting their electoral popularity, but also of demonstrating the impotence of the anti-missiles movement to stop war.

The Tories' South Atlantic War was at the centre of the demonstrator's concerns, as was evident both from the slogans and the speeches of the main speakers.

Tony Benn concentrated his speech on the lessons of the Falklands crisis, warning the crowd in Hyde Park that the adventure would be used to justify a massively increased arms budget. He also accused the press of being 'the mouthpiece of the military'.

Arthur Scargill, the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, also roasted the 'slimy Sun and the 'dirty Mail' who justified the huge amounts



Revolution and Socialist Challenge contingent drew applause from the CND crowd as it entered the park chanting: 'Malvinas, El Salvador, Stop the Bosses' War'

spent in prosecuting the war while carrying out another campaign of propaganda against the healthworkers. He finished by urging a campaign of civil disobedience.

EP Thompson repeated his charges that the media was lying on the war in the South Atlantic.

The organisers of the demonstration, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, had been able to maintain the momentum of the movement against the missiles by giving support to the succession of

demonstrations against the war in the South Atlantic that had preceded Sunday's monster march.

It was CND which initiated the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Falklands which, while calling for observance of the Tory-proposed Security Council resolution 502 which based itself on British sovereignty, nevertheless also demanded the immediate withdrawal of the fleet.

Thus CND avoided the possible error explained earlier in the week by EP Thompson at a Socialist

Society Teach-in against the War, who explained that a peace movement which did not fight against actual war did not deserve the name.

The strength of the international movement of which CND is a part was demonstrated by the 300,000 people who gathered in the Piazza del Popolo in Rome to demand an end to the building of a new nuclear missile base in Sicily. The most popular chants included: 'Italy out of NATO, NATO out of

Italy'.

Anti-Reagan protests also shook Paris on Saturday where, despite a boycott by the Socialist Party and Communist Party leaders, a demonstration called by Central American solidarity committees, and the two Trotskyist organisations, the Ligue Communiste Revolutionnaire and Lutte Ouvriere drew some 20,000 people.

Ten thousand marched in Dublin against nuclear weapons, and thousands more in both Copenhagen

and Antwerp. A demonstration as big as those in London and Rome is expected this Thursday in West Germany when Reagan arrives there on Thursday of this week.

In an attempt to

upstage the left, the Christian Democrats in Bonn and Munich called demonstrations welcoming Reagan, but press reports pointed out that these were considerably smaller than the anti-nuclear weapons demonstrations called last year, and that the largely middle-aged participants applauded with equal vigour statements praising Reagan and good beer.

In London a right wing campaign called Coalition for Peace through Security demonstrated their weakness by flying slogans on barrage balloons and playing Land of Hope and Glory from a roof, seven stories above passing demonstrators.

### Youth

The overwhelming message throughout Western Europe has been opposition to Reagan and Thatcher's war drive. And this weekend when Reagan arrives back in the United States a major demonstration is planned against his warmongering nuclear and Central American policies.

We should build on this mainstream sentiment, to build up CND in this country, particularly amongst the youth and labour movement, turning the eyes of its supporters towards the wars that are being fought now; wars which open up the possibility of the nuclear war that CND is pledged to prevent.

### Youth contingent a highlight of Sunday's demonstration

**As the end of the southern leg of Sunday's demonstration entered Hyde Park on Sunday, cheers broke out from the vast crowd.**

The reason? Thousands of youth determined to make their voice heard. Chanting 'Ban the Bomb', 'Withdraw the Fleet' and 'Malvinas, El Salvador; Stop the Bosses War!' opposition to imperialist war was at the centre of the youth's concerns.

Prominent in the youth contingent, which included many branches of Youth CND, Schools Against the Bomb and Labour Party Young Socialist branches, was a 1000-strong contingent of Revolution and Socialist Challenge supporters.

Open letters were distributed to LPYS members urging them to bring their leadership to order, since the Militant tendency which leads the LPYS has consistently refused to raise the clear demand of the withdrawal of the fleet from the South Atlantic.

Over 200 copies of Revolution were sold on the contingent, as well as 250 copies of Socialist Challenge.

**Will all Socialist Challenge supporters who took extra papers at the weekend's events please return the monies as quickly as possible to:**

SCD, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

**FIVE thousand people assembled near the American embassy on Monday evening 7 June to protest Reagan's arrival in Britain. They were moved hundreds of yards away from the embassy by thousands of police swamping the area.**

The protesters moved off for a march to County Hall, home of Labour's GLC. The largest contingent on the march was organised by Revolution and Socialist Challenge. Seven hundred marched behind our banners chanting: 'Ronald Reagan, he's no good, send him back to Hollywood, Malvinas, El Salvador, Stop the Bosses' War' and 'Ronald Reagan, he can't win, we remember Ho Chi Minh'.

The protest was called by the Reagan Reception Committee, backed by over 50 Labour MPs, Ernie Roberts, MP for Hackney North, told the crowd: 'Reagan, we want you to go home'.



# EP Thompson exposes British atrocities



By Phil Hearse

'A GIGANTIC cover-up operation is being organised' declared Edward Thompson at a huge rally organised against the war in the Malvinas last Thursday. Thompson was one of the key speakers at the meeting organised by the Socialist Society, which brought together speakers as diverse as Thompson, Peter Jenkins of the Guardian (and the SDP), Tam Dalyell MP, Ernie Roberts MP, Mary Kaldor, Hilary Wainwright and Robin Blackburn.

Thompson alleged that a gigantic covert military operation was being organised by British forces operating from Chile, which had involved an SAS raid into Argentina to blow up Super Entarde planes.

He also exposed the way in which the media is using alleged Argentinian 'atrocities' to cover up the real atrocities of the British. A big fuss was being made, he said, about



The Daily Star had the sheer hypocrisy to use this famous picture of a Vietnamese child fleeing from napalm to attack the Argentinians. British media, and successive Tory and Labour governments never condemned its use by the Americans in Vietnam.

the fact that the Argentinians had napalm bombs on the island.

But the British were using the type of anti-personnel cluster bombs used by the US in Viet-

nam, which accounted for the large number of serious operations and amputations being carried out on the hospital ships.

Moreover, British forces are using

phosphorus shells which inflict appalling burns on their victims.

Many speakers denounced the war as being 'out of all proportion' to the defence of what Bernard Crick called 'these two lousy islands'. But Fred Halliday from the *New Left Review* answered this by pointing out that the war was not 'out of proportion' to the needs of Thatcher to create a reactionary national consensus, to defend British imperialist interests, and 'blaze a trail' — making it easier for imperialist powers like the US to intervene in the 'third world' — especially Central America and the Middle East.

Tam Dalyell exposed the Tories' claims to the 'sovereignty' of the islands, and alleged that foreign secretary Lord Carrington had resigned because he had loyally operated the Tory consensus of giving up sovereignty of the islands and had subsequently been 'double crossed'.

For pointing out these truths and voting against the war, Dalyell has been sacked as a Labour front bench spokesperson by self-proclaimed 'peace monger' Michael Foot.

Perhaps the most important and eloquent remarks of the evening, warmly received by the audience, were those of Edward Thompson on the tasks of the peace movement. A peace movement which didn't stand up and fight when a war was taking place, said Thompson, was worthless. He urged the meetings' participants to make the CND demonstration on 6 June a mighty mobilisation against Thatcher's war.

Light relief highlight of the evening was the contribution by Paul Foot who pointed out to SDP champion Peter Jenkins that although Jenkins had opposed the war from the beginning, precisely *nought per cent* of the SDP MPs had voted against the war. Jenkins sadly nodded his agreement.

EP Thompson speaking at last year's CND rally

## Open letter to LPYS Stop Thatcher's war Bring back the fleet

REVOLUTION supporters in the Labour Party Young Socialists have written an open letter to the LPYS. The YS leadership, dominated by Militant, has opposed action which calls for the withdrawal of the fleet from the South Atlantic and in so doing has tried to separate the YS off from youth mobilising against the war. Socialist Challenge reprints some extracts from the June issue of the LPYS paper, Socialist Youth, and from Revolution's open letter.

### Socialist Youth

In the months before the invasion, opposition to the junta was growing and coming to a head.

Only days before the invasion there were mass demonstrations against Galtieri organised by the illegal trade unions.

It was to derail this opposition to his policies at home that Galtieri launched the invasion of the Falklands.

The invasion initially increased the popularity of the junta. A euphoric mood of nationalism swept Argentina when 'the Malvinas' were liberated.

**REVOLUTION**  
SOCIALIST PAPER FOR YOUTH

It would be mad to accuse people who oppose this war of supporting the junta in Argentina. It may well be the case that General Galtieri launched the attack in the Malvinas to divert the struggle of the workers against the Junta. But this move has not paid

off. Why? Because the Argentinian workers believe that rightly the Malvinas belong to them, and that the islands were taken by the British. There was a demonstration of over 200,000 workers in Argentina — their slogans were 'Malvinas Yes, Junta No' and 'Down with Britain, Down with the Junta'. The Argentinian trade unions have also taken this position.

### Socialist Youth

The downfall of Galtieri would open the floodgates of revolution in Argentina; that is the last thing the Tories and their big business backers want.

**REVOLUTION**  
SOCIALIST PAPER FOR YOUTH

The struggle against imperialism in Latin America would be strengthened by a defeat for Britain — that's why the

FMLN opposition in El Salvador and the Sandinista government in Nicaragua stand with the Argentinian people in this war. A defeat for Thatcher would be a defeat for Reagan's war-plans, and that's why Reagan is providing arms for the British Task Force.

### Socialist Youth

The demand 'Withdraw the Fleet' has also been raised. Leaving aside the fact that amongst many workers 'with drawal' now takes on the meaning of 'giving in to the junta, to the dictators'.

You have only to ask HOW could the task force be withdrawn to see how meaningless this demand is.

Appeals to the Tories to withdraw the fleet would fall on deaf ears.

Socialist in all countries must have a consistent position. In Britain we demand a general election and the coming to power of a Labour government on a socialist programme as a means of appealing to Argentine workers and soldiers — an appeal for class solidarity.

**REVOLUTION**  
SOCIALIST PAPER FOR YOUTH

What has been the response of our so called leaders? Michael Foot, that well known pacifist,

has come out in full support of the bloody war. The Militant-dominated leadership of the Labour Party Young Socialists, while busy criticising other socialists in the labour movement, fear that active opposition to the war will cut us off from the working class.

Therefore they oppose all demands like 'Bring back the fleet' which aim to mobilise youth against the war. They argue the only answer to the problem is a general election and a 'socialist' Labour government. The problem is, however, that by supporting Thatcher's war Foot and Healey are helping the Tories to win back support at the polls.

We don't beg the Tories to stop the war. We demand that the labour movement opposes the war — by calling for withdrawal of the fleet now. Such a campaign is part and parcel of the fight to kick out the Tories. Without taking up this issue, talk of 'Labour to power on a socialist programme' is pie in the sky.

The Tory war in the South Atlantic is the biggest test socialists have had to face in many years — the leadership of our organisation, the Militant, is failing this test.

## Rail Broad Left calls for withdrawal of fleet

By Hazel MacPherson, Paddington NUR

A MEETING of over 60 railworkers attending a Broad Left Conference last Saturday, adopted a hard hitting resolution opposing Thatcher's war in the Malvinas/Falklands.

'This conference of the Broad Left Rail workers calls upon the NEC of the NUR to oppose Thatcher's war in the Malvinas (Falklands).

This means campaigning for

1. Immediate recall of the British fleet.
2. Complete withdrawal of all British troops.
3. Re-opening of negotiations with Argentina
4. Argentine political refugees to be allowed to settle in Britain.
5. The TUC to invite the CGT (Argentinian TUC) to come to Britain and meet them, in line with the CGT's appeal to British labour movement. To this end, we demand that the paper of the NUR, *Transport Review* and the *Broad Left Lines*, publish the appeal of the CGT and open up discussion on the war.'

## LEFT LINES

JOURNAL OF THE BROAD LEFT FOR RAILWAY WORKERS No. 1. 10p

The resolution was only adopted after a sharp argument with Militant supporters who attempted to delete all the demands for withdrawal of British forces. They argued that our resolution supported the Argentine junta. This has been the refrain of papers like the *Daily Star* and *Sun* against opponents of the war like Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill. Thatcher is not fighting the junta, but the Argentine people. Opposing Thatcher is not supporting the junta but the Argentine people, particularly the Argentine labour movement as our resolution made clear.

### Inaccurate

Militant also put forward the argument that you can't force the Tories to withdraw the fleet — only a Labour government can do that. This is not only historically inaccurate; such a position gives comfort to the Tories themselves.

A mass movement forced the Tories to withdraw from Suez, the United States had to withdraw its troops from Vietnam because of both the resistance of the Vietnamese and the mass

movement which developed throughout the world and particularly in America itself.

### Scandalous

Militant's final argument that such a resolution would 'alienate us from the working class' is a scandalous reaction from a tendency which calls itself Marxist.

Workers have not swallowed Thatcher's arguments 'hook, line and sinker'. Many are prepared to go along with the propaganda of the popular press, but virtually none are prepared to make any sacrifice in favour of the war.

The task of socialists is to provide the working class with an alternative which is independent from class collaboration. We may have to go against the stream, especially as in the present situation, when the Labour leadership works hand in glove with Thatcher.

The majority of the conference did not agree with Militant's social chauvinist approach (socialist in words, but supporting the ruling class in deeds). Militant's attempt to amend the resolution was defeated by 18 votes to 24.

# Malvinas/Falklands

# Non Aligned Movement backs Argentina

By Mary Alice Waters in Havana, Cuba

THE MINISTERIAL meeting of the coordinating bureau of the movement of non-aligned countries came to a close here on 5 June. Agreement was reached on a strongly worded statement that deplored 'military operation in the South Atlantic by powerful military forces of the United Kingdom aided and assisted by the United States'.

High level delegations from the governments of more than 90 countries demanded an end to military operations to 'end all acts of conflict and hostility to Argentina'.

The meeting also demanded 'an immediate end to US support for military assistance' to Britain while 'renewing their support and solidarity with Argentina's constant struggle to eliminate the colonial presence in the Malvinas Islands'.

ment was playing a central role in US imperialism's war against the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean. Today that same military junta is being forced to turn to the oppressed and exploited the world over including Cuba and Nicaragua to appeal for support and solidarity against a powerful Anglo-US economic and military aggression.

Argentine military advisors have been pulled out of Central America and



Mendez stated that Argentina stood before the conference of non-aligned nations 'confronting quite exceptional circumstances in its life, in order to reaffirm the principles and fundamental aims of this movement'.

that nations such as Algeria, India, Cuba, Vietnam and so many others fought long struggles for their liberation and their full rights to an independent life. It is this struggle as well that the peoples of South Africa are engaged in today against the odious apartheid system.

by Castro in his remarks to the press. 'This struggle has given rise to Latin American nationalist and patriotic sentiment such as I have never seen before,' Fidel stated 'All of Latin Americans have felt the Argentine cause to be our own,' Fidel went on, 'we have suffered the dead and the fallen in Argentina as if they were our own. Argentina's victory is our victory. Argentine defeat would be our own defeat.' But I am sure that it will not be the Argentines that will be defeated. Even if the aggressors achieve partial success they have created a very serious conflict with disastrous implications. In my opinion Argentine determination is the key that will provide the victory.'

Cuba's foreign minister addressed the ministerial conference 'the next stage of this process of alignment of Latin American nations is against extra-hemispheric attack. The Monroe doctrine, the inter-American mutual assistance treaty, and the Organisation of American states, are dead, needing only a funeral oration to be laid away for ever.'

The Havana conference discussed at length and adopted positions on struggles going on elsewhere but it was this advance of anti-imperialist struggle throughout all Latin America that more than anything else dominated the deliberations of the delegates.

Grenada's foreign minister Unison Whiteman took note of this fact on the floor of the conference, saying that the non-aligned movement is today gaining 'new strength and respect.' This is due he asserted, more than anything else to the political course for the non-aligned being charted under the chairmanship of the revolutionary government of Cuba.

## Costa Mendez paid tribute to Cuba as 'the pride of the Caribbean'

He traced the history of British colonial possession of the Malvinas and the acts of aggression against Argentina that proceeded the 2 April occupation of the islands by Argentina. Costa Mendez made a stirring appeal to the anti-colonialist, anti-imperialist struggles that are the common cause of the peoples of the non-aligned countries:

'colonialism is an act of force; it is ongoing aggression; it is the opposite of true peace today. Many peoples, many nations in our movement can testify, often painfully, this truth ... The international community has declared that the maintenance of colonialism is a crime. This movement, the movement of non-aligned countries, has, as one of its historic purposes, one of its fundamental principles, the fight against colonialism, neo-colonialism and all other forms of world domination.

That is why we are here today telling you our truth ... The struggle against colonial domination continues to unfold as a legitimate reaction from the people to the system of international relations aimed at perpetuating the status quo that benefits only the colonialist and imperialist powers. Force has served to maintain this status quo.

The great majority of the countries that are part of this movement gained their independence through struggle similar to the one we are carrying on for the Malvinas. This is also the way the Argentine republic and other countries of the Americas gained their own independence — through an heroic liberating effort. Nor can I fail to recall

the Argentine government which was previously training counter revolutionary terrorists in Honduras has now donated 7000 tons of wheat to flood ravished Nicaragua.

The Anglo-US war to seize the Malvinas Islands was a political focus of the entire conference here in Havana, the high point of which was the address of the Argentine foreign minister.

Costa Mendez, the representative of the Argentine military junta, was forced to emphasise Argentina's common bond with the other semi-colonial countries and the common interest of the oppressed nations in opposing Imperialism's ban-

ditry. This was the only way that Argentina could successfully appeal to the forces in the non-aligned movement, a fact that must have been made clear to Costa Mendez shortly after his arrival, when he met with the heads of some Asian and African delegations.

Costa Mendez' uncompromising speech made it nearly impossible for these delegations which were resisting adoption of a critical, anti-imperialist stance, to hide behind the excuse of the Argentine junta's reactionary pro-imperialist policies.

After playing tribute to Cuba as 'the pride of the Caribbean' and recalling the close economic political and cultural links between Cuba and Argentina that exists between the two countries, Costa

## The Argentine government which was previously training counter-revolutionary terrorists in Honduras has now donated 7000 tons of wheat to flood ravished Nicaragua

The final declaration was adopted despite an attempt at diplomatic efforts led by the delegations of Jamaica and a number of other former British colonies that are today part of the British Commonwealth.

This constituted a significant blow to the Anglo-US campaign to win support for British imperialist aggression against Argentina.

Since there is every indication that the confrontation over the Malvinas will not end even if the British are successful in militarily taking the islands, the declaration assumes even greater importance as a stumbling block in the path of the imperialists.

## The stand taken by the ministerial conference was a victory for the forces within the non-aligned movement led by Cuba.

The stand taken by the ministerial conference was a victory for the forces within the non-aligned movement led by Cuba that are waging a struggle to maximise the anti-imperialist unity of the block of nations whose populations comprise the majority of humanity.

As Fidel Castro, president of the movement of non-aligned countries, explained to the 34th session of the United Nations General Assembly in October 1979 that what bonds the non-aligned together, what is common to them all is their position as oppressed nations suffering from imperialist domination.

Nothing brings this reality home more forcefully than the fate of Argentina. Ten months ago its military govern-

## To all our readers

THE EVENTS of the weekend have shown that the opposition to Thatcher's war in the South Atlantic and the war against the unions is gathering strength.

The size of Sunday's CND demonstration surprised everyone; giving confidence and inspiration to those who have fought the uphill battle against the war against Argentina from the day it began. Hundreds of thousands of youth have told Thatcher that they reject the hateful jingoism spewing from the pages of the popular press.

At home, the magnificent class solidarity of miners and transport workers behind the health workers has laid the foundations for a united struggle of the whole labour movement against the attacks on the unions.

The action by these powerful sections of the working class has again nailed the lies of the yellow press who present industrial workers as self-centred and lacking in social responsibility.

In fact it is the Tories and their Fleet Street lickspittles who are prepared to sacrifice the National Health Service, education, home-building and other welfare spending to the needs of a bloody military campaign. Now the Tories are planning to make British workers pay for the war.

Our paper Socialist Challenge can claim to have played a significant role in opposing the war and in supporting workers' struggles at home. For that we reason we have no hesitation in asking you, our readers, to support us financially. Unlike the Tories we use our money to support workers, not kill and maim them.

From the beginning Socialist Challenge has called for the withdrawal of the fleet — and for the defeat of British imperialism's bloody project in the South Atlantic.

We've taken the message into CND groups, Reagan Reception Committees and into the labour movement as a whole up and down the country, encouraging the growth of a current against imperialist war.

As a result of this and other campaign's carried out by the left, CND has been able to respond to the war drive of Thatcher in a more and more effective way.

We've also called for a strategy of support for the health workers from industrial workers and the Labour Party. Socialist Challenge has explained that the Tories want to isolate the healthworkers from the rest of the working class with usual cant about the 'heartless' nurses, auxiliaries and porters who run our hospitals.

The necessity for a battle plan for the British labour movement becomes more and more urgent.

That's why after this weekend we feel strengthened in our conviction that Socialist Challenge is key to advancing such a perspective.

Our paper has built for the events of the weekend for three months. The demonstration on Saturday for a women's right to work, turned into a demonstration in support of the healthworkers — women in the front line — thanks to the placards and banners carried by our supporters.

Our contingent of 1000 youth on the CND demonstration carried high the banner of revolutionary internationalism.

Neither would have been possible without our newspaper which has been maintained over these last weeks solely by the magnificent response to our 'Weeks Wages for Socialist Challenge' campaign. The fund launched as a result of mounting debts and a quadrupling of the rent on our offices, has now reached £6849.

But we have to do much more to secure our existence. By next Thursday we must have reached the £10,000 mark in order to meet all our commitments.

From our experience of the last month we know that our readers will respond. The Editor

Rush all monies to: 'Weeks Wages Campaign', Socialist Challenge, PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

Quarterly fund-drive	
Mansfield	£61.25
Southampton	30.00
A. Howard	5.00
M. Gallart	1.00
O. W. L.	26.60
O. W. L. Fair	188.00
Cardiff	4.50
Bristol	12.00
Elderly person, with love	10.00
Anon	1.75
Camden	5.00
Anon	5.00
R. Marlow	5.00
Oxford	5.50
Ealing	58.50
Middlesborough	45.00
Liverpool	30.00
K. Hendry	5.00
Brent	200.00
Islington	60.50
Nottingham	57.00
Standing Orders	37.00
Exeter	27.00
Lewisham	50.00
Burnley	55.50
Total	£6849.35

### Week's Wages Campaign

W. London	£598.00
E. London	493.00
N. London	415.00
S. London	310.00
Brent	888.00
Birmingham	587.00
M. CR	837.55
S. Wales	625.00
S. West	167.00
Oxford	105.00
Scotland	278.80
N. East	205.00
Yorkshire	250.00
E. Midlands	270.00
Coventry	50.00
Individuals	770.00
Total	£6849.35

## Labour's new programme

LAST WEEK Socialist Challenge published a summary and extracts from the draft programme now being discussed by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. The programme, which will be submitted to October's annual conference, is likely to be the basis for the next manifesto.

Over the next three months Socialist Challenge will be publishing a series of articles on aspects of the programme. This week ALAN FREEMAN introduces the series and discusses the approach socialists should take in the current policy debates in the Labour Party.

If Labour published this programme, which is several hundred pages long, in accessible form, it would probably be very popular. 'Unlike a manifesto ... our programme must take a longer view,' we are told. 'We have to ask not just how we can put back together what the Tories have torn apart, but what kind of future do we want to build?'

Brave words: the programme replies to its own question with a definition which could take British socialism a long way: 'The broadest definition of our socialist objectives might simply be emancipation — the freedom from oppression, whether economic, sexual, racial; the oppression of poverty or ill health; the oppression of unaccountable power in government or industry.'

Most important of all, having freed itself from the heavy shackles of expediency, the programme does — amidst all the verbiage — lay down some clearcut commitments. 'We are committed to full employment of both men and women, social equality and democratic control of the economy,' it explains.

And 'The next Labour government will ensure that no one is out of work for more than 12 months without receiving an offer of a job or training place.' The programme defends a 'woman's right to paid employment' and a 'right to equal pay for work of equal value'; and a right to training or work for school leavers.

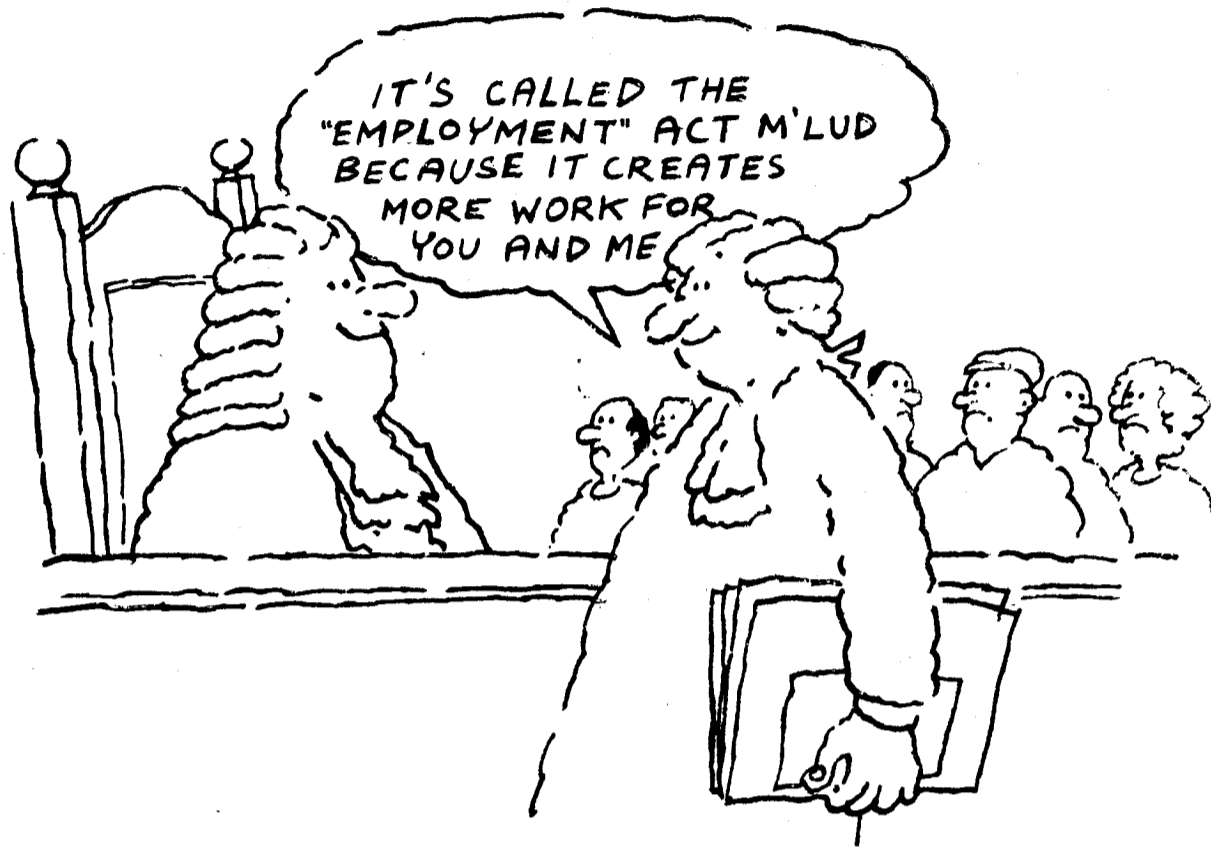
Such commitments are more important than vague promises to 'cut dole queues'; they can inspire working people to struggle for their own emancipation.

For millions of people under daily threat of redundancy, such a commitment is proof that there is an alternative, that unemployment is not inevitable and that they are right to fight back.

Definite demands on employers are promised to enforce these rights: for example, a statutory duty to provide youth training. From here it is a short — but vital — step to demand trade union enforcement of these duties, instead of relying on a class-ridden civil service and judiciary.

The programme is much less definite on what a future government will do. It will implement the TUC plan for public spending, nationalise one or more clearing banks, and 'take a stake in each major sector of industry'.

But most of its detailed argument is spent, not on spelling out these commitments, but on discussing an enormous number of special government bodies which will implement them.



**Labour has to take the lead to organise the fight back against the Tories. It should be initiating and supporting industrial action against the Tories' anti-union laws — not just promising to repeal them when it gets into office**

The idea behind this — which is an initiative from the left — is to try and tie down the right wing in a future Labour cabinet so that it cannot betray as it did before.

But it would create the perfect circumstances for betrayal by drowning clear commitments in a sea of committees. The programme is not specific in the right direction. Instead of naming companies and

banks to be nationalised — which would allow workers to prepare for nationalisation — it lists the new boards it will create. It tries to solve, by constitutional fiddling in Whitehall's upper reaches, what ought to be solved by rallying the labour movement for extraparliamentary battle.

Let us just take one example: planning agree-

ments. These never even took off under the last Labour government, because the employers would have nothing to do with them. Hardly surprising: their need for profit is in direct conflict with social needs, which determine planning priorities.

The answer should be obvious: the government should propose a *statutory trade union right of veto*

over employers' investment and production decisions to ensure they comply with social needs. This could be enforced by *industrial action with government backing*, with the threat of nationalisation without compensation as a reserve weapon.

This type of measure would both prevent employers' sabotage of Labour's plans, and prepare workers to take

over industry altogether.

Instead the programme proposes something absurd: employers will be 'required to agree'. Either they agree, or they don't. If they don't — and they won't — some mean of enforcement is needed. If Labour doesn't face this fundamental problem, it won't get past day one in office.

Socialist Challenge believes that the most important aspect to concentrate our attention on inside the Labour Party is the means by which Labour's positive commitments will be implemented. The most important means at our disposal are extraparliamentary.

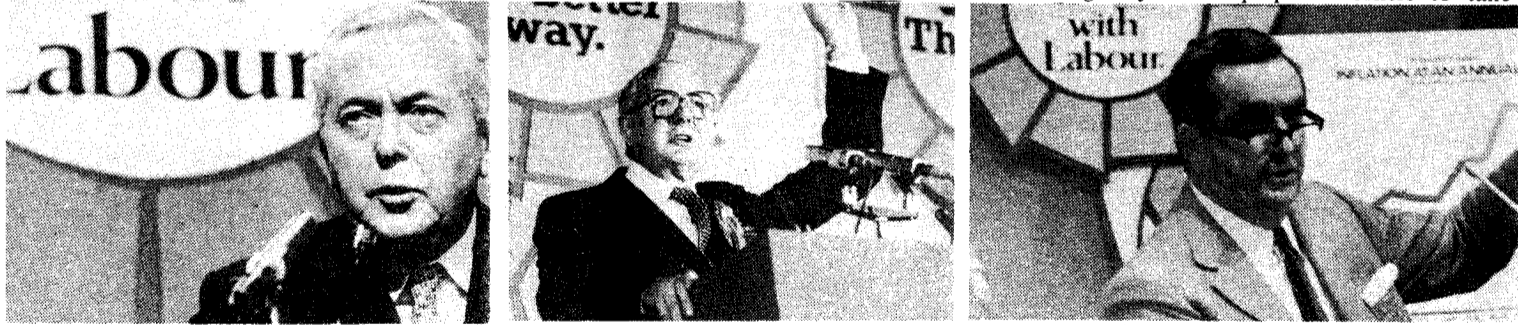
What we need from the next conference is not a series of elaborate reorganisation of Whitehall, but proposals as to how the unions and party, at every level, can get together to fight the bosses.

It is not enough to say, as the Socialist Workers party does, that the only thing that matters is workers in action. A prerequisite for unity in action is knowing what goals to aim for.

When the Labour Party votes to ban the bomb or reaffirms the right to work, it has an impact on workers' struggles, even though the Party leadership does not have an action orientation.

On the other hand, debate on policy alone is not the answer. The *Militant* everything will be solved if the Party agrees to nationalise 250 monopolies. The Bennite leadership is prone to this too.

Fight them now: by organising to defeat Tebbit, support redundancy struggles, fight for women's rights and the rights of YOPs employees, and so on; and prepare battle plans to impose a genuine socialist plan, against the resistance of the employers and their Civil Service, when Labour comes to office. This is the way to win.



**Labour's manifesto has to convince the working class that the next Labour government won't be like the last**

## Wales Labour Party in conference

By Helen Slyomovics, Cardiff North

THE Wales Labour Party conference last month took place at a time of mounting international and national tension. Central to the debates was the issue of the Malvinas and the role of the Labour Party in this colonial war.

The Labour Coordinating Committee (LCC) delegates on the executive agreed to a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, mutual withdrawal with UN intervention, plus economic sanctions. The conference referred this back to the executive. The resolution replacing it called for an immediate ceasefire with UN intervention and was much weaker with the omission of Britain relinquishing sovereignty.

Nothing was said about Foot and Healy tailoring the Tories and it

was only Joan Maynard bringing greetings from the National Executive who spoke clearly for British withdrawal.

In the dramatic witch-hunt debate, lack of organisation around clear socialist policies helped to bring about a defeat for the left. The green light has been given for the right to attack the left.

Instead of arguing for the transport unions to follow national policy and support the miners and public employees' motion against the witch-hunt, the left agreed to the withdrawal of the resolutions.

When the General and Municipal Workers Union refused to remove resolution calling for an investigation into 'the various groups within the party' the left was caught

with its politics down. The outcome was a considerable defeat for the left with the GMWU and the engineers union voting for proscriptions and witch-hunts, and the TGWU abstaining.

The miners union had more success with Tebbit's proposals. Emlyn Williams, Wales NUM president, forcefully put the miners to the forefront of this fight in the South Wales labour movement.

'With this bill,' said Williams, 'the government intends first to shackle the trade unions and then destroy them. The first attacks will be on the weakest link in the chain; any other trade union which is attacked will receive our immediate support. As long as we are organised and united, we need not fear this bill.'

The Cardiff North proposal calling upon the Wales LP 'to support extraparliamentary action in addition to parliamentary action as a means of fighting for jobs' was included in a composite resolution on unemployment in Wales. This has implications for the struggle against Tebbit, as Joan Maynard pointed out.

'Extra-parliamentary action will be necessary to get rid of the Tebbit bill. Many of our rights have been won by extraparliamentary action; it is complementary and not opposed to parliamentary activity. There are only two sides in society and you have to decide which side you are on. The Tories don't preach class war, they're much too busy practising it.'

Despite resolutions supporting unilateral disarmament for a 'campaign for the closure of all British and American nuclear bases in Wales,' the blatantly undemocratic nature of the conference was a real obstacle to debate.

The LCC, in total disarray, played by the right's rule book even when all democratic principles were being tampered on. It did not politically organise itself at conference, as support for a future incomes policy under Labour showed.

The result was a foregone conclusion. The LCC has hardly any representation on the Wales LP executive and has to rebuild itself with stronger trade union roots.

### London Labour Briefing Conference Running London Our Way

Saturday 19 June 11am to 5pm  
County Hall

It is hoped to set up an 'association of Socialist councillors in London' to provide a London-wide means through which the pressures and demands of the activists can be brought to bear on our councillors, and through which the councillors in turn can organise across borough boundaries, and call on the help of the movement as required.  
Credentials from Jim Ring, 55 Stonard Rd, London N13, Price £1.  
A crèche is available.

## Military attack Wujek mine

Below is an abridged version of a report on the military attack on the Wujek mine in Silesia last December. The report was provided by the Solidarnosc trade union working group in London.

The strike action began on 13 December with a sit-in strike at 2pm. Solidarity leader Kudliczak was arrested. At first, only two MO (uniformed police) officers arrived. Kudliczak refused to open the door. But later fifty ZOMO (motorised riot police) officers arrived. They were drunk and under the influence of drugs. Following another refusal to open the door, they broke through it with axes. Those who had come to help Kudliczak were beaten unconscious.

thousand people were in the mine: 1,500 miners from Wujek, about 500 from other mines, as well as a number of Solidarity leaders and activists. They were armed with gasoline bottles, truncheons, dynamite and spears. The strikers announced that they would blow themselves up if force was used against them.

The day before, a concentration of troops had gathered around the Wujek mine. There was a total of about forty tanks, armoured assault vehicles and armoured per-

sonnel transport trucks. At 10am the entrance to the mine was blocked off. Four minutes later, the first attack took place. One tank broke through a wall and then withdrew. Under the cover of tear-gas, ZOMO launched a direct attack, which was repulsed.

In the second attack, the ZOMO fired rubber bullets from machine guns. During this attack, a crowd of civilians — men, women, children and some miners who were not on the mine's grounds — threw bottles and stones, forcing the ZOMO to split their formation. During the second attack, helicopters dropped bombs with paralysing gas, dispersing the crowd. Information from hospitals

indicates that live ammunition was used throughout.

The crowd remained silent. It defended itself against ZOMO's charge with red-hot metal rods which were used to pierce the police helmets. The metal went through them as if through wax, killing two of the attackers. Another was killed when heavy objects were thrown from the roof of the building.

The miners and the crowd were in a state of extreme despair. A doctor and nurse were beaten during the attack while attempting to administer first aid to the miners. The nurse was taken to a hospital in Ochojec with a completely crushed skull. The

medical staff were horrified at the amount of blood and the number of bullet wounds.

Some of the arrested miners were reportedly taken to ZOMO's barracks. The casualties on ZOMO's side were 4 killed and 41 wounded; on the miners' side, 7 killed and 28 wounded. The attack ended in the late evening. Firehoses were also used. There were some cases of firing on doctors who refused to take away wounded ZOMO officers if a miner happened to be in the ambulance.

The ZOMO officers were under the influence of drugs and died immediately after general anaesthesia was administered to them. This was confirmed by doctors from several hospitals.

### What you can do to help Solidarnosc

- Contact the Solidarnosc trade union working group for Solidarnosc speakers and lists of prisoners to adopt. Solidarnosc working group, 64 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5. Ring 01-373 3492.

- Build support for the autumn labour movement conference to support Solidarnosc, organised by the Manchester solidarity committee, c/o Jon Silberman, 51 Montrose House, Crete St, Oldham, Lancs. Ring 061-620 2885.

- Campaign in the Labour Party and the unions for a joint Labour Party/TUC demonstration in December to mark one year of martial law.

# Welsh miners condemn Polish repression

STEFAN PALKA, a Solidarnosc miners' leader from Silesia in Poland, is in Britain this week. He is due to speak to the Nottingham gala this weekend, the Derbyshire Area Executive meeting, and other mining areas. BARRY WILKINS reports on the discussion among the South Wales miners on supporting Solidarnosc.

WHEN General Jaruzelski led the military takeover of Poland in December 1981, and reports reached Britain of the shooting of resisting miners in the Silesia coalfield, the Area leadership of the South Wales miners took an excellent initiative.

They visited the Polish Embassy in London and demanded that the authorities allow a delegation of South Wales miners to visit mining areas in Poland to discover first hand what had happened since martial law.

The request was, of course, refused and has still not been granted. The South Wales Area leadership stated: 'We, the South Wales miners, declare our total opposition to the military takeover in Poland, whilst at the same time recognising the situation that existed there.'

The Executive Council report presented to the May

Annual Conference of the South Wales miners reports that the Area leadership told the Polish Ambassador of its 'deep concern at the military takeover'. Further it states: 'That the South Wales miners and their leadership were of the opinion that socialism could not be achieved or maintained at the point of a gun.'

These statements are valuable, but limited. The area leadership still has to give direct support to the trade union and democratic rights of Solidarnosc, or to recognise Solidarnosc's leading role in the struggles of the Polish people for greater freedom and democracy within the Polish workers' state.

This contrasts with the warm welcome given by South Wales rank and file miners to Piotr Kozlowski, Solidarnosc convenor at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw, during his successful week-long tour of the South Wales labour movement in April.



Mike Griffin, secretary of Penrhwiweiber Lodge

Piotr spoke to miners at Tower, Penrhwiweiber, Brynlliw, Tymawr and Lewis Merthyr pits, and won many pledges of support. Tyrone

O'Sullivan, secretary of the Aberdare and Rhondda joint lodges committee, invited Piotr back to speak at their May Day celebrations.

But, unfortunately, a request for the area leadership of the South Wales miners to meet Piotr was brushed aside, and Piotr was therefore unable to appeal directly to them for their support.

At the South Wales miners' annual conference, Mike Griffin, secretary of Penrhwiweiber lodge, criticised the area leadership for their 'muted approach'. He called on them to be more positive in their support and to defend Solidarnosc's right to exist and function as an independent trade union: 'The Solidarity trade union achieved some marvellous things in Poland on behalf of Polish workers. There was a new feeling that workers were now represented in a free and democratic manner.'

Mike explained that at Penrhwiweiber Kozlowski had addressed a meeting of rank and file miners just before they went down the pit. Piotr was well received because he had explained that Solidarnosc was not an anti-socialist organisation, but was fighting for socialism with freedom and democracy.

Piotr had told how the official trade union movement in Poland was just an arm of the state, and that Solidarnosc and Polish workers were fighting for an independent trade union movement.

Mike explained that his lodge had decided to twin with Ziemowit colliery where many miners had been imprisoned, and to adopt some imprisoned miners there. Finally, he commented that there had been some embarrassment among the area leadership at Piotr's presence on the platform at the Aberdare miners May Day celebration. 'We can't forget that miners have died in the struggle for an independent trade union', he commented.

Emlyn Williams, President of the South Wales miners, replied that he had not been embarrassed by Piotr's presence on the platform. He had spoken to Piotr and the interpreter 'as friends'. He repeated the South Wales leadership's desire to send a delegation to Poland: 'We wanted to go straight away, to see for ourselves, before the cracks were papered over.'

Williams said that he was very disappointed not to have been able to go. He had told the Ambassador that they had no option but to believe that miners had been killed unless they could go and check for themselves.

'Mike Griffin is right, or we would have been allowed to go out there.' He concluded.

'We do deplore the suppression of freedom which took place in Poland, and we have no reservations about this. Our conscience is clear, we do condemn what has taken place in Poland. We will pursue this, because what happened in Poland can start to happen here in Britain with the Tebbit Bill.'

This positive response to the cause of democratic rights in Poland and the work of the lodges in support can only be welcomed. But this still falls short of the area leadership coming out clearly in support of the right of Solidarnosc to exist and function as an independent trade union.

Solidarnosc will continue to look to the South Wales miners for this support, both at lodge and area leadership level. The visit of the Polish miners and Solidarnosc leader Stefan Palka to British coalfields this month provides another opportunity for this support to be given.

Palka, who comes from the Silesia coalfield where resisting miners were killed last December, has already received invitations to speak at the Aberdare and Rhondda joint lodges committee, and other lodges.

## Workers' occupation at De Lorean car plant

By Piers Mostyn

**THE workers' occupation of the De Lorean sports car factory in nationalist West Belfast has now entered its third week. The occupation began after a mass meeting of the 1,500 workers on the 26 May. Shop stewards report that 80 per cent of the (mainly ATGWU) workforce voted in favour. A rota of 20 workers a day was established and the movement of all parts and spares has been blocked.**

In February this year, 1000 of the original 2500 workers were made redundant. Since then, most of the rest have been working a one day week. And the announcement of the closure could lead to the loss of another 1000 jobs in Northern Ireland in suppliers' firms and a further 2000 jobs in Britain.

Already the official unemployment figures in Northern Ireland have crept up to 20 per cent (at 112,978) with the loss of nearly 1100 jobs in May. This was before the De Lorean closures. Of course in the mainly Catholic nationalist areas, joblessness runs at more than double the rate for the whole six counties.

The De Lorean project was started in August 1978, at the time when the Labour government was heralding its

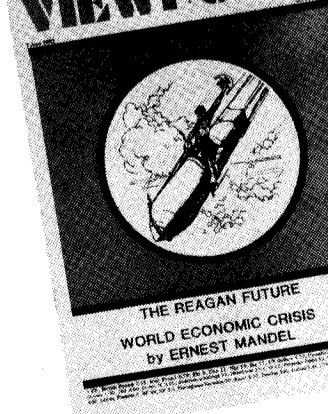
'victory' over the nationalist people. Political status had been withdrawn from people imprisoned as a result of the war, and Roy Mason, Northern Ireland Minister, was trying hard to claim that the RUC, the local paramilitary police force, would soon be able to handle 'security'. He was keen to buy a few jobs in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the nationalist working class.

John De Lorean asked for £53m and promised to create 9000 jobs in all. Six months ago, as a prelude to this summer's final result, De Lorean's board awarded him a \$100,000 'performance bonus' for his skill in ripping off £87m from British taxpayers. This figure greatly exceeds that credited to IRA fundraising through US supporters and bank raids. De Lorean, though, didn't have to suffer torture and incarceration for his troubles.

Meanwhile, the US Internal Revenue Service is investigating a Swiss-based Panamanian company which received £2.8m in British government cash in 1978 as financing for the De Lorean project.

**Write to People's Democracy, Connolly Bookshop, Avoca Park, Andersonstown, Belfast 11 with messages of support to the De Lorean shop stewards committee and for more information.**

### INTERNATIONAL VIEWPOINT



Ernest Mandel on World Economic Crisis in latest issue of *International Viewpoint*, fortnightly news review of the Fourth International. Just 65p per copy or subscribe for £16 a year. Send cheques etc made out to 'PEC', to In-

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# CENTRAL AMERICA



Women of the FSLN militia in Nicaragua

# NEW STATE OF THE

Sergio Rodriguez, a leader of the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT — Revolutionary Workers Party, Mexican section of the Fourth International), gave the following interview to Gerry Foley in Paris in mid-May. The text has been translated and edited by International Viewpoint.

**In Mexico, what is your estimate of the situation in El Salvador following the March 7 elections?**

The situation facing the Salvadoran people and the other peoples in the region is in many ways more dangerous after the election. However, we do not think that direct U.S. intervention is as immediate a threat as it was before. The elections and developments following them have shown that the U.S. still has cards in the zone that it can play.

A direct intervention is its last card, and it would be an extremely costly one to play, not only because of the impact on Latin America but in the U.S. itself.

The vote in the elections was higher than ex-

pected, in particular in the regions along the border with Honduras. That seems to reflect a certain beginning of demoralisation among sections of the population in the face of the violence of the conflict.

Of course, there was a high level of intimidation. In the cities, for example, workers had to show proof that they had voted or lose their jobs.

At the same time, the elections showed both a disillusion with the government among sectors that still do not support the revolutionists and a sharper class polarisation.

The Christian Democrats were in fact defeated, and this meant the failure of the whole project to reestablish bourgeois rule in El

# CIA's plans to destabilise

Interview with Philip Agee, former agent of the CIA

**PHILIP AGEE is a former agent of the CIA who has exposed its activities in his famous Penguin book Inside the Company. After pressure from the US administration he was expelled from Britain in 1978 by the last Labour government. He now lives in West Germany.**

**The Reagan administration has set aside a fund of 19 million dollars for a destabilisation programme against Nicaragua. For what kind of plan will this money be used?**

The press says that the money will be used for the training of Latin American mercenaries stationed in Honduras, to prepare for future attacks against targets in Nicaragua, including the Cuban presence in that country. This means attacks on economic targets and against Cuban advisors.

In August 1979 — several weeks after the fall of Somoza — I wrote an article entitled 'The CIA's plans for Nicaragua', in which I tried to indicate all the sectors in which the CIA were likely to intervene to try to prevent the consolidation of the power of the Sandinistas and the carrying through of their projects. These include propaganda, political action, terrorism and attempts to isolate Nicaragua diplomatically.

From 1980 until the present day the propaganda has developed principally through the paper *La Prensa*, which plays in Nicaragua a comparable



Philip Agee

role to that played by the paper *Mercurio* in Chile and the *Daily Gleaner* in Jamaica in the 1970s.

It is notoriously well-known that *Mercurio* received millions of dollars from the CIA for its destabilisation programme against the Allende government.

There is also no doubt that the *Daily Gleaner*

received subsidies for its campaign against the social democratic government of Michael Manley, from his election on 2 March 1972. The parallel between *La Prensa* and the other two papers is very obvious.

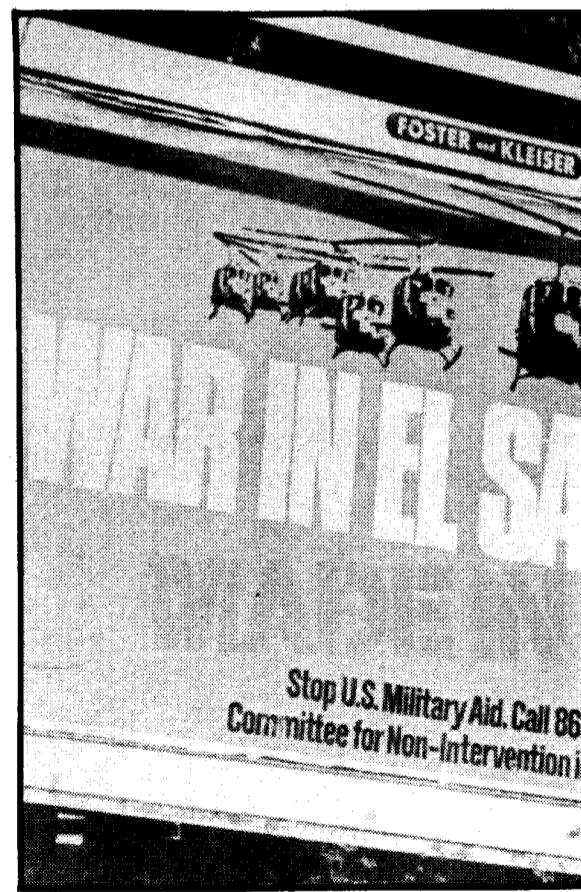
Another theme of the destabilisation campaign is in relation to the Miskito Indians on the Atlantic Coast. After the fall of the Somoza dictatorship on 16 July 1979, the Sandinistas made several serious mistakes which they themselves recognise.

They tried to incorporate the Miskitos into the revolutionary process too quickly, and as a consequence alienated some of them and their leaders. That region of the country has never really been fully integrated into the mainstream of the economic and political life of the country.

Steadman Fagoth, a notorious agent of Somoza before the Sandinista victory, has set up a radio station in Honduras which broadcasts to the Miskitos in their own language.

The aim of these broadcasts is to create a fear of the revolution, by trying to get them to believe that they will lose their lands and cultural identity by being integrated into the revolutionary process. The result is that 5,000 Miskitos — out of a total of 130,000 — have crossed into Honduras and established camps on that side of the border.

When I was in



Nicaragua I learned that the camps organised by Steadman are used for military training and that any Miskitos who want to go back to Nicaragua are transferred to concentration camps where they are kept virtual prisoners.

Since November, these raids have claimed a hundred victims in the Nicaraguan army and popular militias.

The Nicaraguans have

proposed to Honduras that they constitute common patrols along the frontier to prevent their incursions and to prevent — if they exist — the entry of arms in El Salvador.

Steadman Fagoth doesn't himself have the means to finance the radio station and the camps in Honduras. In December 1981 he was injured in an accident in an Honduran military vehicle which was

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# AGE REVOLUTION

Salvador by means of reforms. The rightist parties linked to the traditional oligarchy now have a majority in the national assembly, and the reversal of the Christian Democrats' reforms, especially the Agrarian Reform — which did hurt the interests of the oligarchy to some extent — is now posed.

We now have an undisguised civil war regime.

**What sort of base does the regime for stepping up the counter-revolutionary war?**

The rightist parties are linked to terrorist gangs. These formations are now more tightly intertwined with the government. For example, many of the military officers who were sent to Miami for training are known to be linked to Orden or to ARENA. That is, they are not simply military men but rightist activists.

So, the regime has a base, although still a small one for confrontation with the revolutionists.

**How has the turn to a more violent civil war been shown since the elections?**

There has been a very brutal offensive by the army against precisely those areas where the revolutionists are strongest, such as Morazan and San Vicente. The new government needs quick successes; it needs to crush some revolutionary centres. This is an all-out offensive, which means decisive battles in the coming months in El Salvador.

The first groups of rightists that were sent to the U.S. for military training have just returned. The government is pinning its hopes to a large extent on them. In the offensive against Morazan last January, such elite troops carried out large-scale atrocities and massacres. The expansion of the rightist elite units threatens still more massive outrages.

**What about the situation in the cities?**

Starting before the elec-

tions, the Salvadoran revolutionary groups started to make a correction with respect to work in the urban areas. They decided to relaunch the mass revolutionary fronts, to reestablish their links with the unions, to try to regain the influence that they had lost over sectors of the masses.

But the turn toward more repressive government is a blow to this process. Almost the same day Mejia was put into the presidency, it was decided to extend the process of the militarization to the unions, and they jailed a number of the trade unionists, including leaders of a union as important as the electricians.

There will be much more repression. The government is one of the rightist murder gangs. That is what the 'counterinsurgency' policy of the U.S. has led to. The Christian Democrats are only a cover that the imperialists use for international purposes.

## se Nicaragua

**Nicaragua. This state of emergency was widely supported by the bourgeois opposition in Nicaragua. Isn't there a contradiction between this and saying that there is a link-up between the USA's intervention and La Prensa?**

I don't think there's any contradiction in the support of the private sector for the state of emergency. I think that Alfonso Robelo himself (leader of the bourgeois opposition MNR — SC) criticised certain aggressive declarations from Washington because they in fact helped to strengthen the Sandinistas.

There is also, to be sure, the national question. How can a Nicaraguan not oppose an American intervention given the history of America's support for Somoza and the other US interventions this century (1912, 1927)?

Whatever their disagreements with the revolutionary programme of the Sandinistas, I think that all Nicaraguans are united against any American intervention.

That doesn't mean that the bosses' federation the COSEP, doesn't accept money from the CIA. It certainly accepts millions of dollars of American aid.

There is still between 60 and 70 per cent of the economy in the hands of the private sector, and that will continue in the

foreseeable future, insofar as the Sandinistas have always asserted that they are making a pluralist revolution.

They have authorised political parties and the opposition press. They certainly intend to preserve the private sector.

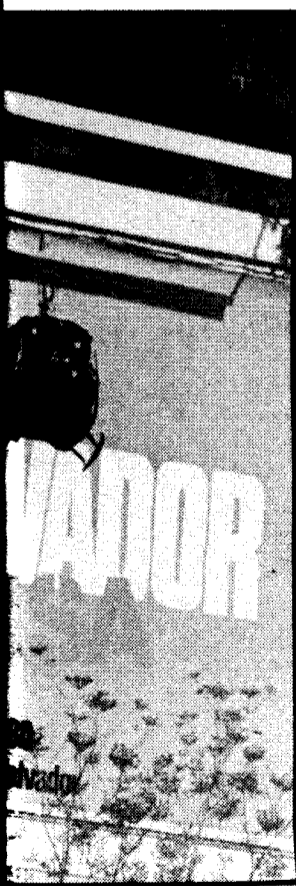
**Recently the situation in El Salvador has undergone dramatic developments. The military forces of the revolutionary opposition have grown. The USA is intervening at many levels, military and political, and gave their support to the recent elections. Can you indicate the main features of that intervention?**

The Reagan administration has difficulties with Congress and public opinion. The opposition to support for the military in El Salvador has been growing in the past year. The key to pursuing the American intervention has been to succeed in demonstrating a pretended process of democratic development and reform.

And to justify intervention the campaign aimed at public opinion must also show the Salvadorean revolutionary movement as supported and controlled from outside — by the Nicaraguans, the Cubans, the Soviet Union and even by the Ethiopians and the Vietnamese.



Fighters of the El Salvador FMLN



also carrying the Honduran military commander of Puerto Lempira — proof of the close working relations between the Honduran military and the counter-revolutionaries.

**On 15 March the government of Nicaragua declared a state of emergency to respond to the external aggression against**

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# Under Review

# missing

By Phil Hearse

**'DON'T go down to Santiago' says the US navy officer to Charles Horman. 'They're running sweep and destroy operations down there just like Vietnam - there are bodies everywhere'. It's the day after the military coup in Chile in 1973. The US navy officer is one of the American military team in Vina del Mar who helped to plan the coup. 31-year-old American journalist Charles Horman is about to die.**

and a devout Christian Scientist. He staunchly believes in 'the American way of life'. Together with Beth he attempts to use the US embassy officials - who naturally have excellent contacts with the Chilean military - to find out the fate of his son. But he meets only evasion, non-co-operation and cover stories - 'most likely he's gone into hiding'.



*Missing* tells the true story of the disappearance of Charles Horman and the desperate attempt by his father (played by Jack Lemmon) and his wife Beth (played by Oscar-winning Sissy Spacek) to find him. The director of the film is Costa-Gavras who made *Z* and *State of Siege*.

Thousands are taken for interrogation, torture and execution at the national stadium.

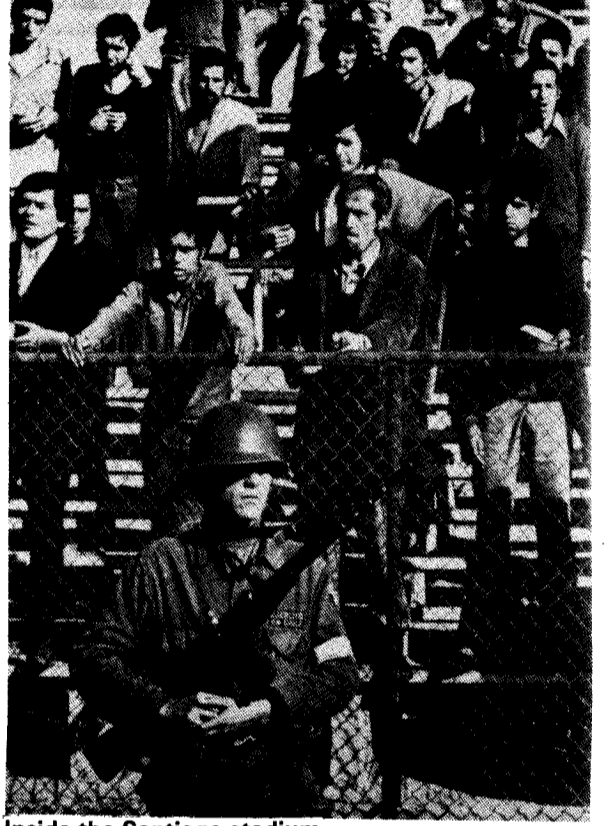
Like Costa-Gavras' other films, *Missing* is a political thriller. It tells its story in a direct and dramatic way without recourse to obscure and super-political propaganda and polemic.

On the contrary Costa-Gavras' new film, which is playing to record audiences in the United States, will be accessible to tens of thousands who have never heard of Allende or the coup in Chile, and who would never attend a left wing meeting to discuss the 'lessons of Chile'.

It is the day after the coup in central Santiago. Soldiers are on every street corner, stopping and searching everyone, raiding houses and burning books in the streets.

The city is gripped by fear. Women are pulled out of bus queues by soldiers and their trousers slashed - 'from now on women in Chile wear dresses'.

Night falls and a siren signals the curfew. Throughout the hours of darkness the city reverberates with the sound of gunfire. The left is being massacred.



Inside the Santiago stadium

Costa-Gavras re-creates the atmosphere of fear and panic in a frighteningly real way.

Charles Horman goes back to Santiago to find his wife and disappears.

Ed Horman, Charles' father, is a middle class, middle aged businessman

Ed launches his own investigation which becomes a voyage of discovery. He discovers that the US officials, far from being 'neutral' are deeply involved in the coup and its aftermath.

He discovers that his son, in adult life, is someone he doesn't know or

understand - but in the course of the investigation begins to understand. And he also discovers the fate of his son, the circumstances of his death and the complicity of US officials in ordering his execution.

suit charging sixteen US officials, including the US ambassador in Chile and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with complicity and negligence in his son's death.

The State Department refused to release their documents on the case to the court, because they involved matters of 'state security'. The case was dismissed. The junta took seven months to return Charles Horman's body.

In the United States *Missing* has caused a furore. In an unprecedented step the State Department has put out official denials - but still refuses to publish the relevant documents. The parallels between US involvement in Chile and their involvement in El Salvador are too close for comfort.

Jack Lemmon is best known for his comic romps with Walter Matthau. But *Missing* reveals him as a great dramatic actor. See *Missing* for his performance. And see it because you'll never see a more accurate or moving political thriller.

*Missing is being shown at selected London cinemas. Whether it will get on general release is not yet known. Thomas Hauser's book on which Missing is based is published by Penguin at £1.75*

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**CONFERENCE: Immigrants and the welfare state** on three separate Thursdays, 27 May and 3, 17 June. Africa Centre, 38 King St, London WC2.

Sponsored by the Joint Committee for the Welfare of Immigrants and the Law Centre Federation. Details and booking forms please write to: Jami Hasan, Camden Community Law Centre, 146 Kentish Town Rd, London NW1 or ring 01-485 6672.

### Socialist Challenge Events

**London transport fraction:** Sun 27 June 11-3, national centre.

**Rail fraction:** Sun 20 June 1pm, national centre.

**Public meeting:** 'The political situation in Sri Lanka'. Speaker T U Cooray (RMP - Sri Lanka section of the Fourth International). Fri 11 June 7.30pm. Polytechnic of North London, Holloway Rd, N7. Organised by Asian Solidarity Society.



Day one of the Chilean coup INSERT: Kissinger, Nixon, Ford and Haig - they know Charles Horman's fate

# International Cuban foreign policy

**TWO WEEKS AGO** we carried the first article in a two-part series on Cuban foreign policy by **JEAN-PIERRE BEAUVAIS**, who works for the French revolutionary newspaper *Rouge*. It analysed the internationalist dimension of recent mass mobilisations in Cuba: their deep identification with revolutionary struggles in Central America, and the need to reply to any American aggression against Cuba.

The article discussed the fears of Cuban leaders concerning a possible military adventure by the Reagan administration, in the framework of its counter-revolutionary offensive in Central America and the Caribbean.

It also discussed their worries concerning the many problems of the socialist camp: economic problems, Afghanistan, Poland. It stressed the striving for new emphasis given, in the leadership's official positions, to Cuba's need for 'its own foreign policy' to avoid being 'subordinated to the policies of other socialist states.'

In the second article, Jean-Pierre discusses the possible content of what such a policy might be, and asks whether any substantial divergence with the Soviet Union — whose massive aid and military support have been a determining factor in guaranteeing survival in the face of imperialist aggression — is excluded.



*The USA is responding to the rising tide of Central American revolution with renewed military threats against Cuba*

CASTROIST foreign policy has for a long time been marked by a profound contradiction.

The Cuban revolution is one of the advanced outposts in the fight against imperialism. In giving birth to the first Latin American workers' state, ninety miles from the US mainland, it became a special target for the USA.

For twenty years it has survived economic blockade, invasion attempts, and repeated aggression by means of an extraordinary mass mobilisation, by a people prepared for the greatest possible sacrifices to defend their victories and gains. It has survived thanks to considerable military and economic assistance from the Soviet Union and its allies.

These realities have conditioned the Cuban leadership's vision of the world situation. According to them, this has to be analysed by starting from the confrontation between two fundamental camps: imperialism and 'the socialist camp'.

Logically, they conclude that the struggle against imperialism cannot be efficiently pursued without allying oneself, in one way or another with the 'socialist camp'.

## Collective

Any 'third road', they say, is illusory and dangerous. This is stressed in the international theses adopted by the Second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party: 'Unity in action is needed between the three great currents of our epoch: the world socialist system, the world workers' movement, and the movement of national liberation. Any threat to the unity of these three great currents, for whatever reason, objectively plays imperialism's game.'

This analysis is reinforced by the conviction that any effective struggle against imperialism cannot avoid, sooner or later, leading to a struggle for socialism. Such a struggle, within the framework of this analysis, is confused with the struggle for the reinforcement and extension of the 'socialist camp'.

A policy which assimilates the interests of the world proletariat into the interests of the 'socialist camp', as it now exists, leads inevitably to a subordination of this proletariat's interests and of these oppressed peoples to those of the bureaucracies now in power in the workers' states, essentially to the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy.

'All the more so because the

cost of real sacrifices and serious political risks for the Cuban workers' state.

It is considered as a 'sacred' duty, as is often said in Cuba, a duty towards the struggling peoples of Central America and also towards the Cuban people themselves because 'new revolutionary victories in Central America are decisive for the reinforcement of our revolution.'

from the situation in Cuba, to take maximum advantage of growing inter-imperialist contradictions — notably those arising from Reagan's counter-revolutionary offensive — are,

narrow the margin for manoeuvre is.

The force of the rise of the Central American revolution has made it possible for Cuba

— and also the logic of some of their own ideas, such as the division of the world into two camps — still cut down the possibilities for the affirmation of 'their own independent



*Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev: in 1961 Russian military aid helped Cuba defeat the USA's invasion attempts*

Cuban communists see the 'socialist camp' as a homogeneous entity whose unity cannot be threatened. Any contrary position, here also, can only 'objectively play imperialism's game'.

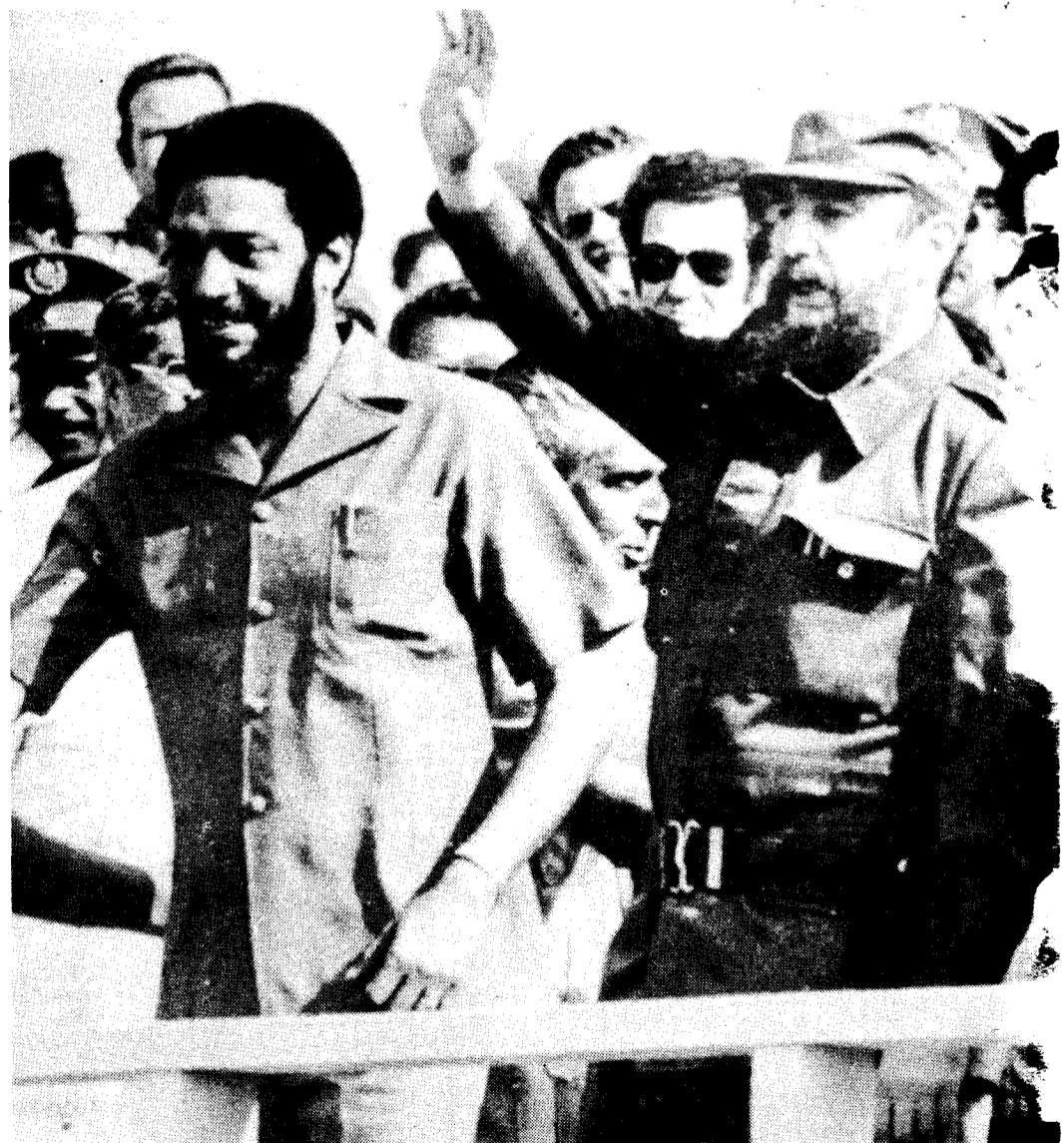
We can now understand the positions which Castro has defended since the last conference of the Non-aligned Movement; likewise the official declarations on Poland.

But at the same time, above and beyond tactical and conjunctural positions, the Cuban leaders have never ceased to defend the Latin American revolution. The victory of the Nicaraguan revolution in Central America followed by the rise of revolution in Central America have, in this sense, constituted tests of the greatest possible importance: the Cubans have, as far as they have been able, actively aided the revolutionary process at the

Since the 'Great turn' — the term which Castro applies to the new situation in Central America, this has been the main axis of Cuban foreign policy. The revolutionary and internationalist conception underlying it are in contradiction with a subordination to the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy which is expressed in a conception of peaceful coexistence, which does not call into question the *status quo* in imperialism's strongholds.

More than their worries about 'the accumulation of problems in the socialist camp', it is their policy towards the Central American revolution with the decisive importance attributed to it, and the problems to which it gives rise, which lie behind the Cuban leadership's call for 'Cuba's own foreign policy'.

The attempts, beginning towards the Cubans,



*Castro with Grenada's President Maurice Bishop. 'Cubans have actively aided the revolutionary process in Central America at the cost of real sacrifices'*

another confirmation of their desire to elaborate 'their own policy'. As is the interest they express in social democracy's initiatives in Latin America, analysed as a particular expression of inter-imperialist contradictions in the continent.

However, we can see how to put forward a specific policy

in the region which, in the present international conjuncture, would enter into direct conflict with the politics of the USSR.

But the objective weight of Soviet influence on the Cuban economy and its society, the limits imposed by the Cuban leaders because of this reality policy' in the full sense of the

term. Important and significant though the new insistence on this objective may be, it is not today of such a character as to resolve the old and profound contradiction of Cuban foreign policy in an international environment which remains its own.

# Iran victory hits imperialism

By Brian Grogan



Refugees from Iraqi aggression in Khuzestan Province, anticipating return home.

**THE RECAPTURE** of Khuninshar (City of Blood) — previously Khoramshar — by the Iranians marks the definitive breakthrough in Iran's efforts to repulse the 21-month long Iraqi invasion. Iraq continues to occupy some parts of Iran further to the north and is keeping up the shelling of Iranian territory. Nonetheless, this breakthrough signifies the defeat of the imperialist-inspired attempt to overthrow the Khomeini regime and turn back the gains of the Iranian revolution.

The Iranian victory is sending shudders down the backs of reactionary Arab regimes. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is tottering.

Reports from Iraqi Kurdistan suggest that a popular uprising is beginning. Mass demonstrations and strikes are reported to have affected all major cities in Iraqi Kurdistan.

All indications are that this could spread to other parts of Iraq.

The Iranian government has issued a warning to the Iraqi regime and other reactionary Arab states in the region to break from servility to imperialism or suffer the consequences at the hands of their own people.

It is also asking for \$150bn in reparation for the destruction of towns and oil installations by the unprovoked Iraqi attack.

The Iraqi regime was bankrolled in its aggression by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Jordan. It had no difficulty in procuring the most sophisticated armaments for use against Iran. It was responsible for killing upwards of 70,000 people in the war and displacing one and a half million people from the territory which they occupied.

Meanwhile Iran has had to suffer the consequences of an imperialist economic and arms embargo. The problem of the refugees only served to worsen the economic dislocation caused by the blockade. Rationing had to be imposed.

Iran's victory was almost exclusively a result of the difference in morale. The Iraqi soldiers had no interest in the war and surrendered whenever they got the opportunity.

Iran by contrast saw a major popular mobilisation to expel the Iraqi invader. Regular troops were joined by tens of thousands of volunteer

revolutionary guards (the Pasdarans). Auxiliary volunteer organisation followed the troops helping reconstruct roads, bridges and homes destroyed by the Iraqis.

Such popular support in Iran gives the lie to those that had written off the Iranian revolution; to those who spoke of Iran as a 'new despotism' and Khomeini as a 'new Shah'.

It is true, of course, that Khomeini's capitalist regime has attempted to undermine and destroy many of the gains of the revolution. In its response to the Mujahedin bombing and assassination campaign aimed at leading personnel of the regime, the IRP government took the opportunity to attack democratic rights on a broad scale. Moreover, it has failed to take decisive measures against the local capitalist class. It has stalled the radical land reform.

Nonetheless, there is a world of difference between what the regime would like and what it can do. The reality is that its attempts to displace the workers councils (shorahs) in the factories by Islamic workers' associations has been unsuccessful.



Without exception they are now facing a decline in membership and workers' support. Meanwhile the shorahs movement is penetrating the countryside, as the peasants come up against the government's defence of the landlords and its attempts to break their land occupations.

Even amongst women, the militancy and combativity built up in their massive participation in the battle to overthrow the Shah has not been liquidated. While the government's campaign is centred around the compulsory wearing of the veil, more and more women are raising their own demands. The questions raised range from the need for women ministers in the government, the right to participate in military action, equal pay, equal access to training and equal rights in family law, childcare measures and so on.

Iranian workers mobilised for the war because they had still a lot to defend. The victory which they had made possible will create more favourable conditions for them to push forward their demands. While the regime will undoubtedly continue to resist this, new more favourable possibilities now emerge.

Imperialism is now preparing to step up its intervention as it weighs the impact of the Iranian revolution and the Iraqi defeat on the class struggle throughout the region. Socialists and other supporters of the Iranian revolution have therefore to prepare to step up their activity to force 'Imperialist Hands Off Iran!'

## Defend the Iranian Revolution!

The International Executive Committee of the Fourth International stands with the millions of toilers, among the peoples of Iran who have mobilised in the streets over the past several days to hail the defeat of the Iraqi invading army and the retaking of the city of Korramshahr by Iran. At the very outset of the war, twenty months ago young Iranian fighters, joined by the Arab population of that region put up a heroic but unsuccessful resistance to the Iraqi occupation of their city. This led the people of Iran to rename it Khoninshahr, 'City of Blood'. Although not all Iraqi forces have yet been expelled from Iranian territory, the victory at Khoninshahr not only has the tremendous symbolic significance for the Iranian masses but also goes a long way towards breaking the back of the war by imperialism and the Iraqi regime against the Iranian revolution.

In response to these decisive military advances in Iran, the spokespersons for imperialism and pro-imperialist regimes such as those in Egypt and Saudi Arabia are warning Iran of the consequences of any move by Iranian forces into Iraqi territory in order to ensure Iran's borders and prevent shelling of Iranian territory. They are strengthening a counter-revolutionary front aimed against the Iranian revolution.

What they actually fear is the impact which the revolution and the defeat of the counter-revolutionary Iraqi aggression will have on the class struggle throughout the region. It is for this reason that Washington and other imperialist powers, behind a smokescreen of 'neutrality', have stood behind the invasion from the outset; they viewed it as a key front in their battle to crush the revolution of the workers and peasants of Iran. As Secretary of State Alexander Haig put it this week, expressing Washington's worries over the Iraqi retreat, US 'Neutrality' in the war was not the same as 'indifference'.

The imperialists fear that further advances by Iran to expel the Iraqi army and secure its borders will set off a crisis for the Saddam regime, and stimulate the mobilisation of the workers and peasants of Iraq. They fear the destabilisation of the reactionary pro-imperialist rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan. They fear the inspiration that will be drawn by the Palestinian people on the West Bank, in southern Lebanon and inside the 1948 borders against Zionist repression and Israel's drive toward war.

The imperialist-backed Iraqi war brought tremendous death and destruction in its wake. Thousands of Iranian fighters were killed or maimed and there are nearly 1.5 million Iranian war refugees. In conducting this reactionary war, the Saddam regime sent thousands of Iraqi youths to their deaths. Massive destruction was rained on the cities, villages, oil fields and port facilities of Iran. This destruction, combined with the drain of resources to conduct the defensive war, and the imperialist economic boycott of Iran, has seriously exacerbated the living conditions of the Iranian workers and peasants. The Iranian masses responded to this attack on their revolution by repeatedly pouring into the streets, supporting the war effort and demanding actions against the hoarders, capitalists, and officials who impeded this effort. The workers and peasants have continued the fight for their own economic social and democratic demands against the policies of the current government.

Although the imperialists have been dealt a setback, the defeat of Iraq will cause them to step up attacks on other fronts against the Iranian revolution. Including their effort to topple the current government, they will continue the economic boycott of Iran and escalate military aid and cooperation with counterrevolutionary forces. In the fight against this counterrevolutionary front and for their own demands, the Iranian masses, through their independent mobilisations will advance along the line of march towards a workers and farmers government.

When the Iraqi invasion was launched in late 1980, the October meeting of the United Secretariat adopted a statement entitled 'Defend Iran against Iraq and imperialist attacks!' At that time, the Iraqi invasion had already stalled following initial success. The October statement concluded:

'The initial hopes of both Baghdad and imperialism for a swift victory were thwarted, thanks largely to the mobilisation of the Iranian masses against the Iraqi attack. The designs of imperialism in the region can be countered by urgently raising as widely as possible the demands:

**Iraqi Troops Out Now!**  
**Imperialist Hands Off Iran!**  
**Full Support for the Efforts of the Iranian Masses to Defeat the Hands of Reaction! Defend the Iranian Revolution!**

Two years later, the International Executive Committee reaffirms these demands in hailing the victory over Iraq at Khoninshahr.

## Free HKE leaders

**Two leaders of Iran's Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE), Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammad Bagher Falsafi, are still being held without charges in Evin prison in Teheran.**

Atai, a member of HKE's Political Bureau, has been held since March 29. He was detained at that time by the Teheran Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office. Three weeks after the HKE's weekly newspaper, Kargar, had published an extensive interview with Atai detailing his experience during a previous term of imprisonment at Evin.

After the interview with Atai was published, the authorities stepped up harassment of Kargar and the HKE. On 15 March, Falsafi, who is responsible for printing the newspaper, was arrested by officials of the Prosecutor's Office. On 26 March, the newspaper's publication was suspended on the orders of the same office. Other

publications of the Iranian workers' movement have come under attack, for example, the weekly newspaper of the pro-Moscow Tudeh party was forced to shut down.

The process of appealing the suspension of the paper on the part of the HKE campaign to republish the newspaper has reached the stage of open dialogue between the Judicial Prosecutor's Office and HKE in all the daily papers. This is the preface to a public trial on the HKE's right to publication and the cases of the two imprisoned members of HKE.

Efforts by those who support the revolution in Iran and oppose US-backed military occupation by Saddam's regime can help to free Atai and Falsafi.

The HKE is presently preparing a public Tribunal presided over by international supporters of the Iranian revolution and anti-imperialist struggles in Iran to build solidarity with the two imprisoned HKE leaders.

\*Supporters of the Iranian revolution can help in the campaign to free Ali Atai and Mohammad Bagher Falsafi by sending telegrams such as the following: 'As a supporter of the Iranian revolution and opponent of the US government's threats against it, I urge you to release the anti-Shah and anti-imperialist fighters, and supporters of the Iranian revolution, Bahram Ali Atai and Mohammad Bagher Falsafi who are being held without charges at Evin Prison in Teheran'.



### INTERNATIONAL

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## The right to join a union

### Kigass, Leamington

**EIGHTY WOMEN** have now been on strike for nine weeks at Kigass in Leamington and Abex in Warwick. The strike is over union recognition. Socialist Challenge spoke to Ann, one of the pickets, last week.

'We are more determined now than when the strike began. The management has tried all sorts of tricks to break the strike but we have learnt if we stick together we feel a lot stronger. The first thing management did was to give the people who are still working a pay rise of £8 a week.

'Part of the question of union recognition is to get the low pay here up to engineering employers' rates. Some of us only take home £40 a week.

'Most drivers from other firms don't cross the picket lines but the ones from this place have driven at us, sworn at us and have been really nasty. Two

weeks ago, the forklift truck came out to unload the lorry and a local Labour councillor, who was chatting to us, stood in the way. The driver edged right up to him and was actually touching him with the forks.

'The manager, Wardman, came out and insisted the councillor moved. It's a public footpath, so they had no right to move him. A couple of the girls joined him and the lorry drove off without being unloaded.

'Management don't want a union. We felt at the beginning of the strike we needed a few men because we were a bit nervous about picketing. The support we received from local unionists and shop stewards has really helped. We are learning that it is up to us to do the negotiating.

'We have had a meeting with Wardman and the local engineering union official came with

us. He hardly said a word and meekly asked us what we wanted to do with management's terms. They were unacceptable, so we're staying out.

'Many of us are family breadwinners; if only more people realised that. Women need jobs more than ever now because so many are supporting families. We know we will win this strike because workers at other firms are blacking Kigass' work.

'We have all moved a lot since we've been on strike. We've heard comments from people saying if it had been men on strike it would have been over by now. But I don't see how it could have. It's going to be us who wins the strike. It's going to be us who'll negotiate with management and it's us who'll get a proper wage and decent conditions.'

Send donations and messages of support to Mrs E Stanord, 77 St Helens Rd, Leamington Spa, Warks.



Photo: SOCIALIST WORKER

### Sandhar & Kang, Birmingham

**MR BALJINDER** worked for Sandhar and Kang, a small wholesalers in the back streets of Digbeth in Birmingham. On 14 May he was sacked for supposedly not having the right takings in his till.

The real reason, as he explained, was that the all black workforce had decided to organise a union to defend them against the super exploitation of this company. Every

other worker was sacked the following week when they decided to strike in his support. Now scabs have been taken on at £2 an hour.

Valerie Coultas spoke to the pickets outside.

'The conditions in the factory are really very bad here. Sometimes there's no water in the toilet for weeks,' explained Robina Talat.

'The toilet and the basins are broken; the toilets are only cleaned once a week; there's no toilet paper. I'd only use them if I was desperate.'

'In the appalling weather there was no heating whatsoever. If you ask them to put the central heating on they'd put it on for about five minutes — we're just asking for better conditions.'

'The highest person here, the foreman is paid £1.45 per hour. There's only two and they have to do everything. It's 80p an hour for the warehouse assistants.'

'A couple of years back

we heard someone was sacked for trying to organise a union. One of the boys said that we work as hard as we can — sometimes up to 62 hours a week — taking home £45!

Mr Baljinder explained how he came to be sacked. 'We joined the union about four months ago — secretly. On 14 February our union official J Partidge sent a letter to management saying that the majority of workers had joined and that he wanted to discuss conditions and wages. Then they started to find out who was the trouble maker.'

'After the letter from the union the management gave me a warning that the money was short in the till. I'd not had a warning in three years. The next week they gave me a final warning. The same day they gave me another warning. Next day they said, 'don't collect your card — enough is enough — we don't want to lose more money.'

'The same day, the union called a meeting.

'Don't strike' but management refused to talk. They said 'if you call them out we will sack them.' Mr Partidge tried again to make them talk. They refused. Then everybody came out. A day's takings in this place is £80,000, a week's revenue is £500,000. They've got one Mercedes each and firms in Coventry and Wolverhampton.'

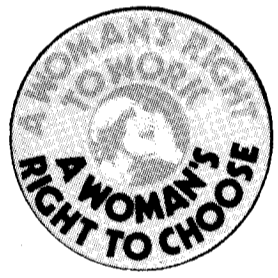
Robina Talat: 'They think they can get cheap labour because of unemployment and they're taking advantage. One young lady is a cashier. He said her till was £50 short. She saw that £10 notes had been put with £5 notes and that it was an error with the machine, so they make it seem that people are taking money when they are not.'

'You can't go to toilet when you want to. Dinner is only half an hour. I'm a checkout worker; we work over 60 hours a week £1.15 an hour or less.'

Send messages of support and donations to S&K fund, TGWU, 211 Broad St, Birmingham 15.



Photo: J HARRIS



Woman's Right to Work/Choose badge 25p plus 15p p&hp; 20p for 10 or more; 15p for 100 or more post free. Cheques payable to Cardinal Enterprises c/o Badges, PO Box 50, London N1.

## Labour Party Women's Festival

The Labour Party organised a festival for women's rights last Saturday. But it failed to mobilise the tens of thousands of women who are under attack from this Tory government: health workers, other women in struggle, black women, women in the home unable to work through lack of jobs and child care facilities and so on.

The platform had very few speakers from women in the front line, although speakers like Anwar Ditta were enthusiastically received.

The Action Committee for a Woman's

Right to Work organised a 4000 strong demonstration to the festival which the Labour Party tried to ignore. But the people on the march made up the bulk of those at the festival. The Labour Party has a long way to go if it is to win the support and confidence of the mass of women.

Michael Foot's reception, when he was booed, was an indication that, for many women the party leadership has nothing to offer them. The poor turn out has to be laid squarely at the door of the Labour Party which is only prepared to pay lip service to women's rights.



Photo: PETE GRANT



Photo: PETE GRANT

## Labour councils launch women's committees

By Judith Arkwright

The Greater London Council has launched a women's committee. It will have the same status as other council committees with a budget and full time officers. Islington, Camden and Southwark borough councils are following suit.

These committees will be empowered to look at all the council's policies to ensure women are not discriminated against. They will initiate policy. The GLC, for example, will ensure that firms with contracts with the councils have codes of conduct which include equal pay and equal employment opportunities for women.

The potential is tremendous: the GLC is also directly responsible for London Transport and the London Fire Brigade. It has already initiated an anti-discrimination campaign to ensure that black people are taken on as firefighters. This should now be extended to women. The exploitative and sexist adverts in London's underground should also come under the control of this committee.

This potential should be fully utilised. Women and Labour Party activists should be demanding such committees be set up by their local councils and insisting that they actively campaign for nurseries, battered women refuges, and positive action in employment. Such a campaign will confront the Tory government head on and be part and parcel of the fight against Tory cuts and rising unemployment. This means organising in the local community and the labour movement.

The GLC has already taken a good initiative in calling a meeting of women's organisations and campaigns to organise around the committee. Now this has to be taken up in the unions, local Labour Parties, tenants and community organisations — women should be organising at every level. Labour councils, too, should take initiatives — and not leave everything to the women's committees — to campaign for a women's right to work and a women's right to choose. These initiatives, like the women's committees, are not extras added onto Labour's policies. They have to become an essential part in the fight against the Tories.

# British Rail backs off

By Hazel MacPherson, NUR

THE KEY aspect of the Tories' programme for the rail industry is the selling off of its most profitable sectors. The deferment of total engineering workshop closures should be seen in that light and should be set against reports that the cabinet is ready to back British Rail in the total closure of the rail network in the event of further disputes.

The deferment is a manoeuvre designed to avoid an open confrontation with the National Union of Railwaymen at this time. As the *Sunday Times* said on 6 June: 'If British Rail is to head off a country-wide confrontation it has to find a way of placating Weighell so that pressure can be brought directly on ASLEF'.

Union representatives from the workshops meet British Rail Engineering management Tuesday 8 June and while the union officials will be relieved by the postponement they will be asked to co-operate

by urging voluntary redundancies; they will also learn that the workshops' future will depend on the results of an inquiry and increased export orders. The axe has just been lifted a few inches from their heads.

The rail Broad Left which met this weekend discussed the workshop issue and agreed to prioritise a propaganda campaign around it linking it to pay and productivity.

A London rally is planned with speakers from the workshop action committees, the unions in the Tri-

ple Alliance of the rail, steel and miners' unions and the Labour Party.

'Privatisation is a key political issue for us,' said Rose Knight, a guard from London, 'the future of the workshops should depend not on export orders but upon the restocking of British Rail.'

Meanwhile the board's derisory pay offer of five per cent from 6 September linked to productivity lies on the table. All railworkers including the workshop employees must campaign through the unions for a decent rise with no strings.

The NUR leadership must be told loud and clear that national strike action is the only way to win it and that through such action the workshops and the communities that depend on them will ultimately be saved.



## 5000 march in Shildon against closure

By John Shutt

5000 TRADE unionists and supporters marched through Shildon, Co Durham to stop the threatened closure of the local British Rail engineering works. Shildon is an old style 'company town' with the works accounting for 86 per cent of male manufacturing jobs in the town with many more employed in servicing and commerce.

Unlike the steel plant Consett, which was the last major closure in the North East, there has been immediate liaison between the various official unions and local Labour Party. This gives the campaign both strength and weakness.

It enables Shildon to become the centre of a much larger anti-Tory movement but it also means the movement becomes hampered by the deadweight of 'official-

dom'. For example, at the first rally on 13 May Sid Weighell, railworkers leader, spoke of mobilising the 'triple alliance' along with the miners and steelworkers and gave British Rail just two weeks to respond.

But on 29 May Weighell wasn't present at all and none of the NUR spokespeople mentioned any specific action.

Albert Booth, Labour's spokesperson on

transport, concentrated entirely on how profitable the works were and could be if only greater investment was forthcoming.

This was exactly the line taken by the Consett campaign with the result that direct action became submerged in an argument about facts and figures.

Messages and support can be sent to: John Priestly c/o BREL, Shildon, Shildon Works, Co Durham.

## London Transport — what next?

By Martin Eady, vice-president of the London District Transport Council and NUR

Reprinted from *London Labour Briefing*

WITH the apparent failure of the Jay Bill to restore the legal position between the GLC and London Transport, it is time to draw a balance sheet of our Labour GLC's campaign to improve LT.

An inauspicious start was made in summer '81 with the wrangling over the underground pay deal. The buses had settled for 6 per cent in April (under the Tories). Eventually the underground got 11 per cent as a result of the settlement on British Rail.

The productivity strings were avoided by virtue of the increased patronage brought by the fares reduction of October '81. Still, we almost went on strike against our GLC. Now, we have pay negotiations again. LT's offer of 5 per cent plus a massive productivity package which might bring a little

more money, has been rejected and once more we are on collision course.

But this time the cheap fares policy is outlawed and cutbacks in jobs and services are the order of the day.

Now, the policy of the trade union leaders on LT is clear. Their campaign against the Law Lords and the cuts is linked to the pay negotiations. They do not believe that LT workers will go into action on a 'political' issue such as the Law Lord's decision — which explains their extraordinary delays in starting the campaign.

Also, they adhere to the traditional labourist

division of labour — politics is not their 'department' — it is the preserve of the politicians.

I believe they are wrong in this, but it is the reality we have to face, so people look to the Labour-led GLC for a political lead. Do they get one? No!

The GLC leaders had all their discussions with those same union bureaucrats. When they failed to act (as it was obvious they would) the GLC should have gone over their heads to organise a campaign among the shop stewards and the mass of the workers.

This, and this alone, could have forced the Labour right on the GLC to line up behind them in a campaign aimed at the Tory government in Westminster.

While it was correct and necessary to sponsor and support the Jay Bill in parliament, we all know

(or should know) that parliament never does anything for the workers without them forcing it by extra-parliamentary action — in this case, industrial action.

Instead of leading and building this, the GLC built dangerous illusions in parliamentarism by concentrating on letters to MPs and very little else. Industrial action for political ends is difficult but not impossible to build.

With the Labour GLC leading we would have had a good chance. With them telling us that the bureaucrats were our own problem and refusing to link up with the rank-and-file in that fight, the Labour GLC compromised themselves and gave credibility to the union leaders.

What now? The unions are organising and continuing a campaign of leaflets and possibly industrial

## Organising against the witch-hunt in rail

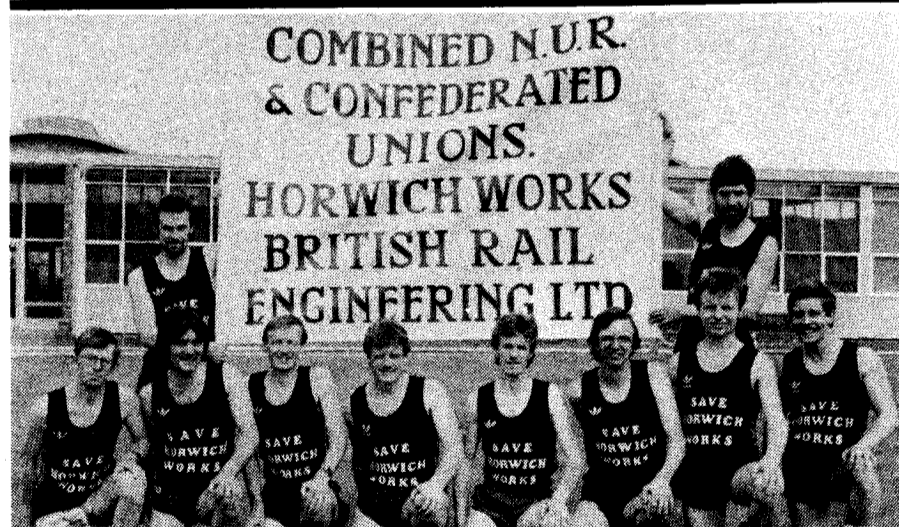
By David Oliver

THE Broad Left within the NUR strengthened its position by holding its second annual conference on 5 June. Despite attempts by right wing NUR leader Sid Weighell to introduce a witch-hunt against activists there was a general mood of op-

timism over the prospects for the left inside the union.

Over the last year the Broad Left has produced two copies of its paper *Left Lines* and established support all over Britain. Members from over 30 branches were confident that by actively campaigning against redundancies

and the wholesale run-down of the railway industry, we could win wide support for the policies of the Broad Left. Weighell has already acknowledged the potential of the Broad Left in a backhanded manner through an attempt to victimise its leading members.



10 HORWICH workers ran relay to London on the night of 2/3 June to publicise the campaign to stop British Rail closures of their engineering workshop. They delivered a petition of thousands of signatures, calling for the workshop to be kept open, to No 10 Downing Street. The Horwich Action Committee has produced a pamphlet which explains what is happening to the rail industry, comparing British Rail to other European systems and outlining how to fight the government and BR's plans.

Messages of support, donations and orders of the pamphlet can be sent to: Joint Action Committee, Horwich Loco Works, Chorley New Road, Horwich. Cheques should be made out to 'Horwich loco works joint action committee.'

action. Cutbacks are being resisted.

Although this campaign is not as effective as it should be, it is better than nothing. The GLC must join us in this fight against the Tory government — but this means repudiating the budget which demands cuts in jobs and services and a 5 per cent pay rise at maximum.

If they don't do this we could find ourselves on strike against them — poor advertisement indeed for socialism. Whether in power or not, GLC councillors ought to be supporting workers in struggle — if they don't they'll have no chance of defeating the right wingers, and we will be entitled to ask what use it is having them on the GLC at all. It should be remembered that the GLC

was the 'platform' from which socialism was to be advanced.

In this sense, the argument about disengagement is a bit of a red herring. Disengagement would be nothing more than a means of saving face after a disastrous defeat. Has it really come to that, or is there still a chance to turn the fight round and defeat the Tory Government?

## BRADFORD 12

# 'Defence is part of everyday life'

By Paul Hutchinson  
in Leeds

WITH morale lifted by the acquittal of Jayesh Amin and the dropping of the first charge — manufacture of explosives — against Sabir and Saeed Hussein, the case for the defence of the Bradford 12 has finished and the verdict expected by 11 June.

Evidence from Chief Inspector Holland who was in overall charge of the investigation rounded off the prosecution case.

Attempting to justify his refusal to allow the defendants to have visitors following their arrest last July, Holland claimed he feared that 'messages would get out to the community and hinder the investigation'.

Defence counsel, Mike Mansfield, drew out the racist bias of the police with a statement from the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedures which said, 'Police officers must be prejudiced and discriminatory to do their job... Searching West Indian youths wearing tea cosy hats and loitering in city centres could detect mugging offences.'

'Subordinate officers are expected to act in a discriminating way; that is against these people who by their conduct, mode of life, dress, associates, and transport are most likely to be criminals.'

Opening the case for the defence, Mansfield told the jury that the defendants' role in making petrol bombs is not in dispute. The question is whether or not they were made with intent to endanger life or property.

Tarlochan Gate-Aura, one of the defendants,

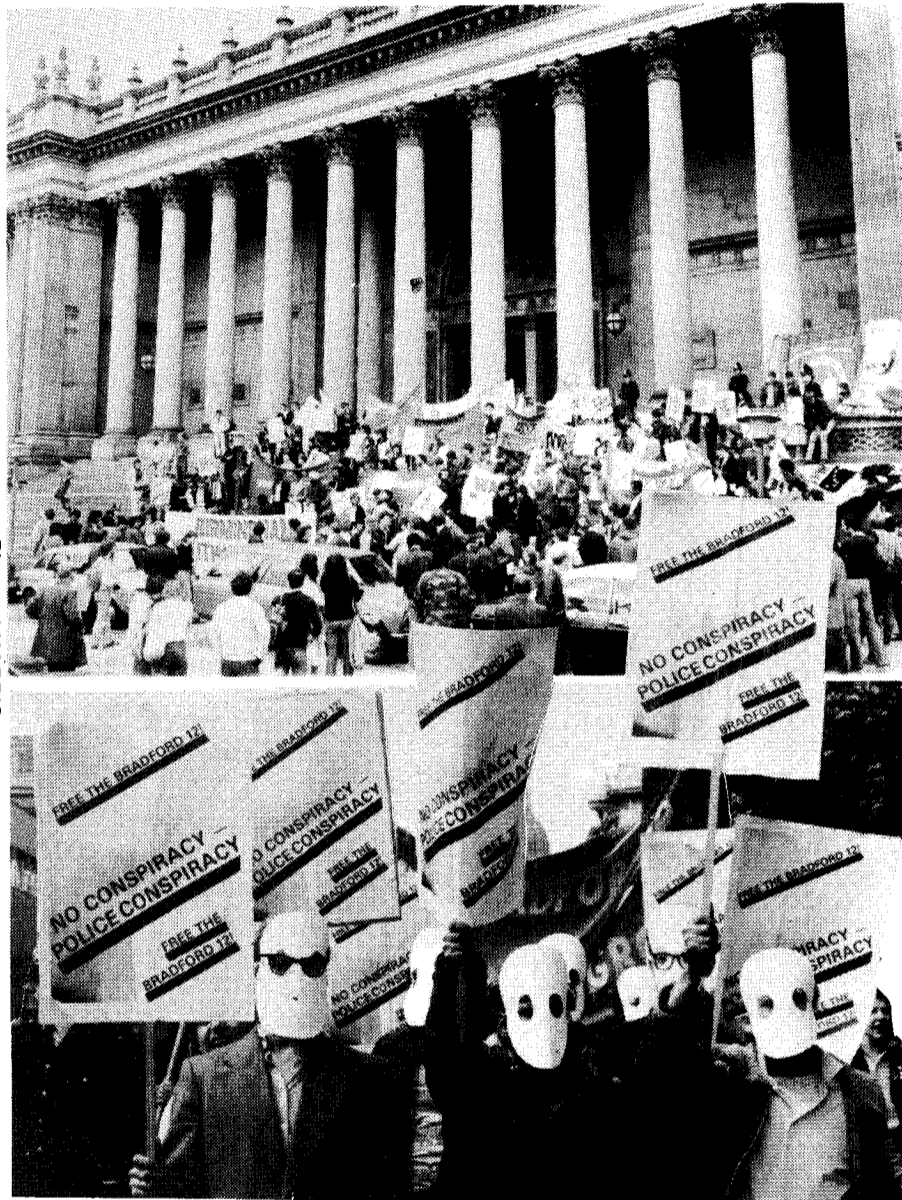


Photo: J HARRIS

Scenes from mobilisations to defend Bradford 12. Top Leeds Crown Court bottom, march through Leeds on first day of trial.

described how the deaths from firebomb attacks on black homes, the fascist attack on Southall and attacks in Bradford and other places all contributed to the state of panic he felt on 11 July hearing about coachloads

of skinheads coming to Bradford.

It was in these circumstances that he met with some of the other defendants and argued that petrol bombs should

be used but only as a last resort.

He explained: 'The purpose of the devices was to erect a shield of fire to deter any attackers from coming into black areas.'

He took complete respon-

sibility for the decision to make the petrol bombs and there was no intent to endanger life or property.

cept Ishaq Kasi challenged this so-called voluntary ed the so-called voluntary statements made in police custody which said that the petrol bombs were for use against the police or property.

Ishaq's brother made a statement on his behalf which simply described his family and social background.

Tariq Ali spoke of the influence of 'Paki-bashing' and his work in Brick Lane in East London a few years ago where there was 'a community under seige' and Southall last year — 'defence so far as I am concerned is part of everyday life, our life and breath'.

A great number of defence witnesses spoke of the number and ferocity of racist attacks throughout Britain.

Peter Nicholls, a London fireman told of the Walthamstow fire where a woman and three children died. He had prepared an official report for the Fire Brigades Union which suspected arson attacks in that area with 13 Asian homes attacked and seven killed. Two firemen had died fighting those fires.

The final words this week go to a supporter who wrote to the Bradford 12 campaign: 'It was really sick when those two policemen got off recently for murdering David Moore in Toxteth... We can't forget our treatment at the hands of the police, the way our families are divided and our communities attacked. That is why we, my family and friends, support the Bradford 12. There is no other choice.'

## Newton Rose Framed For Murder

Police Must Not Get Away With It



Newton Rose, a black youth from North London was convicted of the murder of a white youth connected with the NF. He denied his guilt and in February his conviction was quashed. The police appeal against the quashing will be heard on 14 June and if the court grants it then Newton will have to face retrial. Contact the Newton Rose Action Committee c/o 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4. Tel 01-272 4889.

## 500 engineers occupy in Scotland

By M Ritchie

ON FRIDAY 23 April the management of Wallacetown Engineering Co Ltd, a subsidiary of GEC, informed the factory's unions that they were going to make 40 workers redundant. Management claimed that they were only reorganising work sections and that there was a 'reduced demand for products and services'. It was clear to the unions, in particular the engineering union the AUEW, this was not true as there were outstanding orders for £6m or four and a half months work.

The Joint Shop Stewards Committee rather than being forced to accept compulsory redundancies asked its members to volunteer instead, and 16 did. However management would only accept six of these, and on 29 April named 19 compulsory redundancies, one of them Alex Baird, the shop stewards' convenor with 14 years service.

It was clear to the workers that the motive of management was 'blatant victimisation'. The following day, 500 AUEW members occupied the plant, staffing it 24 hours a day and refusing the management entry.

Management did not reckon on the solidarity action of the refusemen of Kyle and Carrick District

Council who blacked the bosses' operation centre at a local hotel by refusing to move its rubbish.

Ayr is a town with a male unemployment rate of 19.5 per cent, which is higher than the Scottish average of 17.1 per cent and the UK average of 14.8 per cent, so it is not surprising that support is readily forthcoming. Support for the workers has already come from the STUC and local MPs Willie McKelvey, David Lambie, George Foulkes, and the District Committee and NEC of the AUEW have made the occupation official.

Donations and messages of support to: A McGarva, Treasurer, Wallacetown Dispute Fund, 119 Oswald Road, Ayr, Scotland.

## Kent miners to strike over jobs



ON SATURDAY 19 June, Kent miners will go on indefinite strike unless the National Coal Board removes its threat to close down the Snowdon Colliery.

Miners at three local pits have already gone out on token 24-hour stoppages holding mass meetings to discuss further action.

A special team of 10 miners from the area is to travel throughout Britain immediately to explain their strike decision and to call on other areas for support.

## South Wales miners strike call

By Celia Pugh

THE South Wales miners' conference in May voted to campaign in the area NUM lodges for a day's strike to support the health workers. Last week the lodges agreed to back this call for action.

DAI DAVIES, a miner at Penrhiwceiber pit and a member of the South Wales Area Executive, explained their decision to Socialist Challenge.

The response from the lodges was tremendous. There is overwhelming support for the one-day strike. And we don't want our members to sit at home on the day. We're expecting them to be out on the streets to demonstrate.

Our Executive meeting on Tuesday 8 June will consider what action is ap-

propriate — the most likely is a Cardiff demonstration and a strike on 16 June.

The importance of our support was brought home to me when I demonstrated at the Caerphilly miners hospital. This was founded by miners when our forefathers fought for pro-

per hospital care. We don't want to be served by workers in these hospitals who live on slave wages.

The more politically minded miners who'll be out on the day see this as more than just support for the health workers. The health workers are taking on the same government who are attacking us too with pit closures.

The Kent miners are approaching the South Wales coal field to support them if they strike against the closure of the Snowdon pit.

We recognise that such support and solidarity action for the health workers is a challenge to Tebbit's proposals.

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# Socialist Challenge

# HOLOCAUST IN LEBANON



Bombs explode in West Beirut

SEVEN WEEKS ago in Socialist Challenge we wrote: 'The Israeli army is on the verge of a massive onslaught against Lebanon. The aim of the invasion will be to smash the Palestinian strongholds and deal a decisive blow to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)'. Our prediction has come true — with a vengeance.

At the time of writing the Israeli army is only 17 miles from Beirut. The Israeli airforce is launching a campaign of slaughter from the air against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, bombing civilian areas in Tyre, Sidon and Beirut, hundreds of Israeli tanks have crossed the border into Lebanon.

There can be no doubt about the objective of the Israeli attack — a crushing defeat of the Palestinians and the Lebanese left, from which they will not be able to recover.

But the Israeli invasion far from demonstrating the strength and security of the Zionist state reveals its weakness and crisis.

Founded on the expulsion of the majority of the native Palestinians, and the subjugation of those Palestinians who remain, the Zionist state has always acted in the region as the policeman for world imperialism. Its very existence is due to the patronage and finance of the United States.

But the attempt by Israel to secure peace with Egypt at the expense of the Palestinians has led to complete failure. The whole 'peace process' initiated by the Camp David accord — signed by Sadat and Begin under the watchful eye of President Carter — has collapsed as the Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 have refused to play the passive role laid out for them in the Camp David script.

Since the middle of March there have been a

series of determined demonstrations against Israeli occupation in these territories. Tens of thousands of young Palestinians have taken part in mobilisation which have been met with vicious repression by the Israeli army — fifteen young Palestinians have been killed and many more wounded.

Israel has responded to the failure of Camp David by deciding simultaneously to permanently annex the occupied territories and to deal a crushing blow to the Palestinian resistance.

The Golan heights have already been annexed by Israel — an annexation which has been met with a prolonged general strike by the Druze Arabs who live there. The resistance to the annexation policy has also included for the first time a number of solidarity strikes by Arab workers in Israel itself.

Only about ten per cent of the Palestinians live in

Lebanon. But it is the centre of the military resistance to Israel and the headquarters of the PLO.

The aim of the Israeli invasion is to take out the military core of Palestinian resistance, demoralising and demobilising all the Palestinians who resist Israel's expansionist policies.

The final aim of the attack will be to push the Israeli border twenty or thirty miles northwards — to give Israel control of the water from the Litani river and a more 'secure' border, preventing military incursions from the Palestinian guerrillas.

By making the choice for yet another military adventure to solve its problems, the Israeli economy is in chaos, as the world economic recession makes US financial support more difficult. The peoples of the occupied territories are not going to lie down and surrender.

Israel is going to end up with more hostile opponents to police, more borders to defend, and a population at home which is less and less willing to accept economic deprivation to support a massive military machine.

There is no future for the Jewish people in the Middle East without accepting and upholding the national rights of the Palestinian people. Marx's saying that 'a people which oppresses another can never itself be free' has never been more apt.

A socialist solution to the struggle in the Middle East would recognise the right of the Jewish people to remain — there can be no question of capitulating to anti-semitic racism and imagining that the Jewish people could be expelled from the Middle East.

But neither can there be any just solution which brings peace in the region without the destruction of the colonial-settler Zionist state.

In the West the memory of the Nazi holocaust against the Jewish people creates confusion and sympathy with the Zionist state.

But the real holocaust today is the holocaust being vented on the people of Palestine and Lebanon, the high explosive bombs smashing into the refugee camps and working class districts in Sidon, Tyre, and Beirut. The real holocaust is the wrecked houses and smashed bodies which the Israeli airforce dishes out without a second thought.

Here and now every socialist worth the name will condemn the gutless nationalist leaders of the Arab states who despite their brave words will not lift a finger to help the Palestinians.

And every socialist worth the name will be in solidarity with the heroic Palestinian and Lebanese leftist fighters.

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Destruction in the streets of Tyre