The huge press campaign over the trials of Anatoli Shcharansky and Alexander Ginsburg, and the statements about "human rights" from Jimmy Carter, James Callaghan and other leading imperialists, amounted to the most naked hypocrisy.

Only last week a 16-year-old youth was shot dead by Callaghan's army of torturers, thugs and murderers in Ireland.

In Long Kesh concentration camp 300 Republican and socialist prisoners, branded "criminals" for their resistance to British imperialism, are subjected to the most barbaric treatment for demanding their status as political prisoners.

In September, Audrey, Barry and Campbell face a firing squad under the Official Secrets Act in which each faces jail sentences of up to 14 years for the "crime" of defending the freedom of the press to collect information about the state's military apparatus.

Agee deported

Philip Agee, the former agent who set out to prove that the CIA carries out, was deported from Britain by Callaghan's government and is now being hounded out of the rest of Western Europe because he insists on his right to free speech.

In the USA itself, the Smithsonian 10 along with hundreds and thousands of Black activists and victims of racially biased court language in the jails that witnessed the brutal murder of George Jackson.

DEFEND USSR!
NO TO THE TRIALS.

...particularly those in Africa - are becoming harder to control, this section of the bourgeoisie is using a more direct line, such as the direct use of imperialist troops in Zaire, and a return to the tactics of the Cold War.

Carter's "human rights" charade is connected with this pressure, and in no way a move towards any form of liberalisation.

US prisoners

Indeed as soon as US ambassador Andrew Young, an advocate of more developed collaboration with the Kremlin bureaucracy, let slip a remark on thousands of political prisoners in the USA, Carter immediately called for their release.

But while the imperialists are struggling to control the working class, the trials are an indication that within the Soviet Union itself the Stalinist bureaucracy feels that the workers' movement is threatening its power and privileges.

Recognising that the struggles of workers and peasants internationally -

The dangers in this situation are very real. It is important to see that in the current economic crisis of imperialism it is no longer sufficient for the US capitalist class to take steps to avoid any more Vietnam-type defeats. Desperate for markets and for workers to exploit, they are drawn towards the idea of recuperating the lost territory in Russia, Eastern Europe, Cuba and Asia.

They want to end the nationalised property relations in those countries and reintroduce exploitation, through private enterprise.

As Trotskyists we begin from the historical groundwork of the working class. The greatest of these gains was the October Revolution in Russia which drove out the capitalist exploiters.

Isolation

But defending the Soviet Union against imperialism means when we defend the actions of the Stalinist bureaucracy which entered in the harsh period of isolation that followed the Civil War and the death of Lenin.

This bureaucracy usurped political control from the working class in Russia, and ensured in the post-war period that the working class was held back from the seizure of power even in those states where capitalist property relations were overturned.

Dangers

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Counter-revolutionary

While this bureaucracy's power rests on its administration of the nationalized economy of a workers' state, its actions internationally are thoroughly counter-revolutionary, aiming simply at preserving 'peaceful coexistence' with imperialism.

We call for a political revolution to overthrow this bureaucracy and for the building of workers councils to reestablish Soviet democracy.

The show trials of Shcharansky and Ginsburg do nothing to defend the Soviet Union.

They have a propaganda weapon to the most anti-Soviet sections of the imperialists, and further the name of corruption in the eyes of the international workers movement.

It is even jeopardises the collaborationist policy of detente, so much loved by the Kremlin leaders.

This would certainly be a heavy price to pay if the trials were simply aimed at punishing Shcharansky and Ginsburg, who both hold right wing views and are part of a group set up to assist imperialism to monitor the Helsinki agreement.

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Continued on Page 2

GRUNWICK - THE FINAL BLOW

After 690 days of bureaucratic sabotage by TUC officials, the valiant struggle of the Grunwick strikers for union recognition was given the death blow last week by leaders of their union APEX.

Socialist Press stemmed from the earliest days of the strike that the crucial point was trade union action to force the APEX leaders to demand that the TUC blacklist all services to Grunwick, including postal services, refusal of couriers, and the like.

It was obvious straight away that such policies would be rejected by the right wing. But they were headed off into the left by the "left"talking points such as Jack Dromey who claimed to be leading the Grunwick struggle.

As a result, even at the height of the picketing and the influence of the Strike Committee there were no calls for mass mobilisations against the TUC bureaucracy to force them to implement blinding.

And when the strike's hunger strike on the steps of the TUC was broken up by fines and suspensions imposed by APEX leaders, there was no campaign by the strike committee against this action.

Meanwhile, after attacks by APEX and TUC bureaucrats, handed over the whole of the initiation to ACAS, whose task of defusing and demobilising struggles was successfully carried through.

Eight weeks ago a conference on Grunwick did no more than to warn the strike in the past tense.

No proposals for ending the action were allowed to be put forward. Dromey announced the TUC was going to walk out of this dispute with their "heads held high.

While the Grunwick battle has turned out to be a defeat, the lesson it has to offer is to support right wing and "left" talking bureaucracy in the unions must be taken seriously.

Jack Dromey has already begun to play his distinctive role, helping to head off independent struggles to win the Gamers Steak House strike.

How can we stop this line in on the East London dockers' action committees, set up to fight the closure of the Royal group of docks?

The lesson of Grunwick must be learned by these workers if they are not to face a similar fate.

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More on Yugoslav Politics

The conflict over which opportunistic tactic to adopt is therefore inevitable. Home Minister Singh’s aim has been to utilise the Maoist base amongst the peasant by arguing for the development of village crafts as against large-scale industry and to follow up this outlook of Gandhi on a large scale by the show trial of his opponents for the crime of ‘treason’. Conflict over which opportunistic tactic to adopt is therefore inevitable. Home Minister Singh’s aim has been to utilise the Maoist base amongst the peasant by arguing for the development of village crafts as against large-scale industry and to follow up this outlook of Gandhi on a large scale by the show trial of his opponents for the crime of ‘treason’.

The last month’s coup d’eet in South Yemen was brought to power the most pro-Soviet section of the National Liberation Front led by Ali Nasser, appears to be encouraged by the withdrawal of US and even military attack from imperialist and its agents.

At the beginning of last week the new South Yemen government announced that aircraft from North Yemen had been shot down by a group of missiles fired by planes belonging to the National Revolutionary Movement.

The Aden government said definitively it would protect ‘every grain of sand of its national territory’. Two days later the South Yemenis were reported as saying that the North Yemenis were invaders had been repulsed.

Whatever the truth of these events it is clear from well attested statements of the government and its reactionary friends in North Yemen that there will be no quarters in trying to destroy the South Yemeni government and install an imperialist puppet in its place.

Fifteen members of the Arab League (meeting in the absence of Libya, Iraq and the other members of the ‘rejection front’) decided to “freeze” all relations with South Yemen and cut all economic and diplomatic ties with what the North Yemenis describe as a “league of bandits Marxists in Arabia”. The labour movement most likely to suffer, however, is the massive support of solidarity are possible to assist the masses of South Yemenis who are threatened with imperialist invasion.

The curtain has been dropped at the end of another farcical scene in the bloody, protracted, but apparently protracted, controversy over Italian parliamentary politics.

When President Leone was for a short time detained by the massive bribery and with a racket for which Italian blackmail was a loss.

The obvious candidate, Aldo Moro, was well out of the running, unfortunately, and his former role and the example of an unashamedly fascist caste is a feature of the South Yemen scene.

But, willing or (more likely) not willing to remove all their obstacles, the officers will advance the data of the operation.

An aged veteran of the Socialist Party, Pertini has a long history of opposition to fascism followed by long imprisonment in the Chamber of Deputies.

This year gives him ideal credentials to preside over the expected ‘February’s mis’ between the Christian Democrats and the Socialists.

But this savage face has been, in part, by the excess of the Italian working class.

The presidential crisis has been simply a grotesque reflection of the entire crisis of capitalism in this society—the inability of the bourgeoisie to maintain their ‘democratic’ dictatorship without the support of the large workers, and the determination of those large workers to attack the working class in order to defend the capitalist order. A ‘socialist’ President of the bourgeois state will not bring any advance for the working class but act rather as a screen to cover the government’s and other representatives of the oppressors of the people who are not to preserve their rule and exploit their own profit.

DEFEND USSR-from front page elements through a show trial, in which Ginsburg was accused of having

Financed the hoard activities of the Fascist parties and elements including professors, intellectuals and branch of the German fascists who took part in major hoarding during the war.

None of these ‘criminal activities’ was named. But the Fascist politicians were publicly denounced by the official news agency TASS.

Viscount O’Himlin tells you these two circles on the one hand themselves, and in their other position, that the one motive for such hoarding activities was the continuing anxiety of the Fascist state to head off growing opposition to its working class inside the Soviet Union, which it had been watching with concern.

They destroyed the Stalinist secret police and ended bureaucratic privileges.

The full might of the Russian army was needed to crush the rising.

And only recently food riots and strikes in Poland have shown that the same forces remain as a threat to the bureaucracy.

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Fourth International to provide conscious leadership of the working class both in the capitalist state in the struggle to end capitalist exploitation and for revolution.

As part of this we demand the rehabilitation of all the victims of the 1930 frame-up Moscow Trials, through which Stalin liquidated his and the Bolsheviks that had led the October Revolution.

But our fight has nothing in common with the ‘Eurocommunist’ parties. Even while these CP leaders are fighting to save their own skins, they themselves are lining up with capitalist parties against Popular Front formations—Italy even supporting the Tory Christian Democrats in office.

Meeting with Vance

And in their criticisms they line up with the imperialists themselves. Mrs. Schurman went from French CP demonstration straight to a meeting with Italian CP leader Bellinger US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance!

US

National Guarnisons are being called to scale up a strike of 600 firemen in St Louis, Kentucky. The firemen are fighting for a wage claim and have only been offered 5.5%.

Workers strike municipal workers in Philadelphia, 19,600 blue collar, clerical and professional workers are out over pay and as-a-frame.

The background to both these strikes is the attempt to cut back on state expendi- ture as a measure to help solve the economic crisis of the US capitalism. This will be the subject of an extended article in the next issue of Socialist Press.

Nasser Headlines

Coup leads to ceasefire

The declarations of the new regime in Mauritania have already shown the force of the differences with the governor who wrecked these new Bonapartist regimes. The new regime will be dominated by wealthy northern African states.

For the last two years, Mauritania has been controlled by French-supported regimes, and for the latter part of the country, the French troops of the Free French. Mauritania was reoccupied.

Mauritania has been colonial in proportion to the defeat of the war and it has also increased its population of 1.5 million. 83% of Mauritania’s revenue comes from iron ore. This has been its chief export commodity in world demand, caused by the crisis of steel production in Germany.

Movement expenditure has been colossal in proportion to the defeat of the war. The government has been grossly mismanaged, at least in relation to the steel producing country.

These taxes amount to 10% of the country’s entire budget. The burden of the war has been intolerable due to the vast amount of funds to offset the catastrophic, producing prices of agricultural production.

Mass starvation

Despite all the efforts to starve and harvest has combined to result in mass starvation, and a huge exodus to countries around the North African Front on the mining and transport installations of the iron ore has added further crippling blows.

Restricted

The Mauritanian government which holds these mining installations is a government which is committed to the Mauritanian revolution.

The coup d’etat was the product of the northern sections of the country. It is opposed to the small number of capitalists who exiled into the Mauritanian capitalists and who face an immediate future where repressive measures will give birth to the growth of fascism and the menace of its ‘fascist’ regime.

The fight to destroy these capitalist regimes has been delayed too long. The tasks which lie before the proletariat of India are clear. If they are not taken up, general repression and savage attacks on the methods by which the bourgeoisie secures its class dictatorship.

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Eritrea’s historic liberation struggle

David Whitfield traces the history of the struggle of the Eritrean people for self-determination against both the imperialist powers and a succession of repressive regimes in Ethiopia, the latest of which is now backed up by military support from Cuba and the USSR.

PART FOUR

It would be naive to expect that the Stalinist bureaucracy would act with the same less self-interested, with any less cynicism, or any less hostility to the people in the case of Eritrea than in any other area of the world.

Although the Soviet delegation to the UN proclaimed in 1950 that the USSR had ‘consistently supported the principle of national autonomy to be granted independence’, this was a blatant lie.

In earlier negotiations, Soviet representatives had proposed at different times a ‘trusteeship’ (i.e. colonial rule mandated by a legal fiction) of US, British or Italian occupation, or finally a collective international trusteeship.

Twists and turns

Proletarian internationalism was not the principle that directed the Stalinists’ twists and turns.

Alarmed by the arrogant international demands of their demands, the Menshevik leaders and the latest Proletarian Party united with six smaller organisations to form the Independent Bloc in 1947.

The Bloc tried to claim to represent the aspirations of the majority of the workers.

At the United Nations its leader, Bokan, declared that Eritrea’s ‘refuse to respect any form of annexation, dismemberment or a return to the hands of the administrators of what type it would be, whatever the form it takes or from which direction it comes’.

Defeated

But in the General Assembly debate of 1950, motions from the USSR and Poland, proposing Eritrean independence, were defeated.

The imperialist powers saw their interests and rallied behind a motion proposing that Eritrea should become a autonomous state federated with Ethiopia under the leadership of the Ethiopian Crown.

In 1951, the UN sent its Commissioner to Asmara, the capital city. For 19 months he laboured in Eritrea with the British colonial administration.

Their aim was first to ‘pacify’ the country and break all resistance to ‘federation’.

Autonomy

Elections were held in an Assembly in 1952. The Unionists won 32 of the 68 seats. The short-lived Independence Bloc had split by this time, with the majority forming themselves into the Democratic Bloc, which gained 18 seats.

The Modern League, once again standing independently, won 15 seats. It was an alliance of the Modern League and the Unionists which approved the draft constitution.

This provided on paper for Eritrean autonomy and considerable restrictions on the power of Haile Selassie. It was a constitution that the Ethiopian emperor had no intention of observing, that the imperialist powers never intended to enforce.

The Federation began its official existence on 15 September 1952, and the British troops and administration withdrew. On 22 May 1953, a Mutual Defence Pact was signed between the US and Eritrean governments.

Under this agreement, the US established what was (until its closure in 1977) its largest military base in Africa—at Kagnaw, in Eritrea.

Later, the US, also constructed a naval base at Decembar cres, again in Eritrea, and the Zionist state was allowed facilities on the Eritrean coast for its international nautical network.

But this military exploitation by the imperialist powers reveals only one aspect of the oppression of the Eritrean masses.

Unionisation

Many elements of the supposed constitution were simply never implemented. Those that were, met not the same fate over the next ten years.

The country became in theory the community elders. This meant in practice, an Assembly that would offer not the slightest resistance to the advance of Ethiopian oppression.

Strikes and demonstrations in protest were viciously repressed by the police, and the labour laws repealed.

Later that year, Voice of Eritrea, the paper of the Democratic Bloc, was banned and its editors imprisoned. By 1954 all political parties, trade unions, professional associations and independent newspapers had been banned.

The direct repression went alongside mounting Ethiopian abuse of the Eritrean constitution.

In 1953 the Eritrean courts and legal system had been subordinated to Ethiopian authority. Three years later the Chief Executive, representing Ethiopian interests, in Eritrea, moved to suspend the electoral laws and revive the procedures of the British colonial period.

The Supreme Court ruled that any assembly formed by these methods would be unconstitutional and unrepresentative.

The judges were promptly replaced!

The deputies to the new Assembly were elected in theory by the community elders. This meant in practice, an Assembly that would offer not the slightest resistance to the advance of Ethiopian oppression.

The colonial rulers reacted with furious violence. 88 Eritreans were killed in Amara alone, with hundreds more injured and thousands imprisoned throughout the whole of Eritrea.

As the Ethiopian regime pressed on in its determination to subjugate Eritrea entirely, so the momentum of the liberation struggle was gathering pace.

As soon as the government’s plan to ‘Pacify’ the country and ensure that not even a single person was left unharmed was revealed, it was denounced to the status of an ‘Asiatic colony’.

After the crushing of the general strike, there was no mass resistance to these blows for some ten years.

Student and teachers’ demonstrations with increasing frequency to fight the new development was to emerge beyond the Adminstration.

On 14 November 1962, the ‘federation’ was ended in its entirety, with the decision to bring the whole town moved into the session of the Assembly.

4th province

The Eritrean government made a hasty and luminous decision that Eritrea would receive the same status as the province of the Ethiopian Federation.

But by this stage the Eritrean masses had no illusions about the government’s intentions, in the power of the armed struggle had already begun.

The Eritrean Liberation Front had been formed on 1 September 1961—a group of 13 fighters led by Haile Idris Awate and equipped only with old British rifles.

By 1963 the ELF numbered 350. Its tactics were those of guerrilla—attacks on government buildings and officials, raids on small military and police outposts, ambushes captured in these incidents were seized by deserters from the police.

Violent conflict

In the next year, the ELF engaged directly with the Ethiopian regular soldiers for the first time. The Eritrean Liberation troops were heavily defeated at Togoga.

At the scale of the guerrilla war, rapidly escalated, it became more than necessary for the ELF to forge with a clear political programme to mobilise the masses in civil war.

Under this pressure, violent conflict developed within the ELF and were to lead to its splitting.

To be continued
Dear Editor,

As a postscript to your article on the role of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) at Spike (Socialist Press 108) let me add a few words.

Two years ago in October 1976, the leadership of the South Liverpool branch of the SWP, acting in a most bureaucratic manner because we refused to hand over the keys of the Spike to organisation members, expelled the right to work marchers from the building. This was to be the last 😄

Delegated bodies

The SWP’s cynical role on the Right to Work March from London to Brighton.

We had sent one member only to the march—he being the only unemployed member—and for this we were accused of sabotaging the Right to Work Campaign.

We had felt that since we were all employed, our main contribution should be devoted to organizing resistance to closure and publicity cuts from within the organized labour movement.

They rubbed their hands with glee as they contemplated the many recruits they would now have for their funeral procession to London!

"Public" meeting

While it gives me no great satisfaction to have to recount all this I feel I must also mention the "public" Right to Work meeting which they held in the Victoria Hotel a few weeks prior to the main march which my wife and I attended.

As we entered the meeting room our way was barred by the bony shape of the Mersyside SWP "organiser" who informed us that "we were not invited to the meeting".

Pushing him aside we entered the room and called over to Tony Ryan, the only SWP member at the meeting, who had told us about the meeting the previous day.

After Ryan had explained to the bemused demonstrators that he had invited us and that I was from the laboratory, he received a stunned apology and were begrudgingly allowed into the meeting.

Throughout the meeting John Deacon, Secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, never made the attempt—whenever limitations—draw to such an extent that his argument, which was against imperialist war, was lost.

In the "Block of the Long

Kashmir campaign" over 3000 Republican supporters remained hale in conditions of extreme heat and brutality as a result of their non-violent and determined status.

May of this year the entire officer board of Socialist Press backed by all the workers in the production line and charged with conspiracy, and promoting subversion was unseated. The SWP member who printed Republicat News has been imprisoned "in remand"—the right of the tribunal to place a person in custody is an essential part of the British legal system.

The man who laid the foundation of the Irish Press—paper Socialism Press—to which I was a member—was arrested on the same basis as a Republican.

Support demand

Last weekend 2000 workers and youth marched in solid support of Republican Ireland, in support of the demand of the Republican leaders to end British war and to give the Irish people the right to decide their own fate.

Now each of these marches must continue, and the struggle must continue to force the withdrawal of British soldiers and to achieve self-determination of the Irish people.
"I agree with Tariq"

Labour 'left' Neil Kinnock and 'Trotskyist' Tariq Ali made a fitting couple on the platform of the Cardiff anti-racist Carnival last Saturday.

2,000 joined the march, which was called by the Cardiff Committee against Racism and (obviously backed by the Anti Nazi League).

Its stated aim was to provide a peaceful show of solidarity and opposition to racism as well as to have a good time.

The march started in the working class area of Póke and was joined by many of the black and white youth who live there, some with their whole families.

Trade union banners included the NUM, NALGO, CPSA, AUPW and NUPE plus the Cardiff Trades Union Council and Welsh TUC.

No politics was of course the aim of the organisers and both a steel band and a jazz band were drafted in.

Whenever the music stopped, in fact, the spontaneous shouts of "Shame the National Front!" were generally drowned out by "One Race, the Human Race" or "Equally from the stewards.

All at the rally which launched the Carnival proper, Ali, fresh from the Richard Barry chat秀 in the earlier in the week and Neil Kinnock added his non-political comments.

Although all did mention that the principal problem was capitalism in crisis—at which Kinnock, chair, drew the conclusion that what was needed were more carnivals all over the country, that the ANL had been "condemned" and were partly responsible for the decrease in the racist vote.

The other people Ali saw as partly responsible were the Tories who were propping the racist vote.

Kinnock was a happy man when he got to his feet. No speaker—least of Tariq Ali—had highlighted the Labour government's responsibility for maintaining the conditions that bred fascism.

"I agree with Tariq", began Kinnock, before going on to blather about mobilising "beauty, joy and equality" against the forces of ugliness which of course were alien to the "British people".

Judging by the smiles, laughs and claps Kinnock was getting from his fellow platform speaker, Tariq agreed with him too.

Nothing was said against the Labour leader or his "left" assistants; not a word was breathed about workers self defence; and a good many were taken on by takers of all descriptions.

Conference draws teeth from fight in Labour Party

A conference entitled "Socialist Candidate for a Labour Victory" which excludes any discussion programme and any examination of the role of the 'left' within the Labour Party and any reference to actual struggles within the trade union and labour movement obviously does not have much to offer the working class.

Such was the case at the 150-strong conference, jointly organised by supporters of the International Communist League and the Chartist group, held in London last Saturday.

It had been hailed by NUM left Arthur Scargill in a message conveying his "best wishes".

Chaired by Ted Knight—"the one-time Trotskyist who is now the 'left' leader of Lambeth Council"—and addressed by prospective Labour candidates Ken Livingstone and by-sacrificed Clay Cross councillor David Skinner, the conference steered clear of any analysis of the record of wretched betrayals carried out by Tribune MPs for every major issue of government policy.

Far from minds

Livingstone certainly spoke of the need to expose Labour's "traitors"—but centred exclusively on the role of the right wing of the Labour Party, leaving completely the Parliamen-

tary support given to them by the 'lefts'.

And while SCLV speaker

Mike Davies referred fleeing to the "ultimate aim" of removing the right wing MPs, his analysis was far from the minds of almost every speaker.

So too was any fight for a consistent socialist programme.

Voted down

A bid by supporters of the "Workers Power" group—

to raise amendments specifying a more precise and comprehensive platform for the SCLV was overwhelm-

ingly voted down with SCLV supporters arguing that the campaign itself was a "compromise" and link up with and organise others who "don't share our conception". The amendments were not even put to a vote.

An IMG speaker, surpris-

ingly missing concern at this failure to discuss programme, referred gloomily to the splendid work of 'Citizens' Roberts in N, Hackney C.P., and was welcomed to the fold on all sides.

Another speaker referred to the fight against the cuts, stressing his view that there should not be too much emphasis on mobilising youth workers who are experienced enough, organised enough, possessing enough muscle to win.

Blaming workers

Graham Bash, a Chartist supporter, said it was necessary to "build the party"—meaning of course not a revolutionary combat party, but the Labour Party.

We must recreate conditions in which the left can press", he argued.

Chartist supporters were unanimous on this view, and insisted that the last few years have seen a victory for reformism over the working class—effectively blaming workers for four years of wage cuts and unemployment.

No confidence

By challenging the 'lefts' to kick out Callaghan and Healey the fight could be turned temporarily against both right wing and the "left" takers.

The WSL supporter

Mike Davies referred to a fight within his own group, led by Healey, for Labour Party ward in which she had lost by only one vote a resolution calling on the local MP to wage a campaign

for a PLP motion on no-confidence in the Callaghan Healey leadership and for a new leadership.

If the forces of the SCLV took up such a fight and struggled with and union sponsorship for right wing MPs they could play a real role.

But if there is no plan for an actual fight against the existing Labour leaders of 'left' and 'right', the SCLV will end up like the tame MILP/Callaghan-Miles group-stalwarts for Callaghan, Healey, collecting votes for them while waging no fight in the Labour Party.

Ingredients

There is no doubt that all the ingredients for such a degenerate body were present at the SCLV conference, and the refusal to spell out any particular line of intervention or any firm programme for action gave further proof that this ad-hoc grouping of debaters will act as little more than "left" recruiting sergeants for Callaghan.

Butcher Mason—Scargill's 'socialist' campaign has not gone far as is for the death of 'Mason's removal in his Barnsley mining constituency".

As the time set for the Official Secrets trial of journalists Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell as former soldier John Berry draws closer, Prime Minister Callaghan has formally announced the abandonment of a Labour Manifesto pledge to scrap the Official Secrets Act.

Replying to a parliamentary question by Barbara Castle, Callaghan replied that while he had the Manifesto pledge "in mind",

"I regret that I cannot come to that conclusion at this time.

Labour policy is to call for the repeal of the Official Secrets Act and its replace-

ment with a freedom of information Act, placing the onus on the state for proving that information should be withheld.

Four years in office in close liaison with 26 of the most reactionary heads of military intelligence in the professional Civil Service has clearly prepared Callaghan and Cabinet that these bastions of "in fact' they must remain shielded from the eyes of the workers movement.

Like every other pledge in Labour's Manifesto which might in any way weaken or threaten capitalism, it has been cynically jettisoned by the Callaghan-Healey leadership.

Suffrage clambound

By express order of a Labour minister, Margaret Thatcher's photograph is to be given greater prominence in the Westminster Hall exhibition to mark the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Baroness Kirk was yielding to accusations from Tory MPs that the show revealed 'political bias' and had been "intended to give the impression that votes for women were entirely trades union and Labour performance".
France and Spain were the settings for the last great confrontations of the interwar period between the working class and the bourgeoisie.

In Spain during this conflict on more than one occasion the working class came close to the seizure of power.

In July and August 1936 in large parts of Spain, including the largest cities, the bourgeoisie was expropriated and the working class succeeded in setting up its own organs of revolutionary power.

By this time the working class and its allies in most of the rest of Western and Central Europe had been decisively crushed under the most savage reaction.

"Impossible"

Stalinist historians claim that this fact meant that social revolution in Spain in the years after 1935 was impossible and that any attempt at revolution was dangerous because of the isolation of the Spanish working class.

This interpretation, however, is a conscious lie—cultivated in order to justify the treacherous policies of class collaboration pursued by the Stalinist and other working class leaders, in particular through the Popular Front.

It is impossible to understand the crucial role in the history of the European working class played by the Spanish Popular Front without seeing the objective material possibilities which existed for the Spanish working class.

Actually occurred

First of all, not only was social revolution possible in the Spain of 1936, it actually occurred in large parts of the country.

In April 1936 Trotsky observed:

"Both the profound ferment in the masses and the continual violent explosions demonstrate that the workers of town and country, as well as the poor peasants, deceived over and over again, are continuously directing all their forces toward a revolutionary solution. And what role does the Popular Front play in the face of their powerful movement? The role of a gigantic brake, built and set in motion by traitors and servile scum."

And he later rightly concluded that:

"In its specific gravity in the country's economic life, in its political and cultural level the Spanish proletariat stood on the first day of the revolution not below but above the Russian proletariat at the beginning of 1917."

Objectively the balance of forces within Spain favoured the working class. The distribution of arms to the working class would have made it invincible in the short term against even the full military might of the Spanish bourgeoisie.

Of course, the bourgeoisie had access to strong international aid—especially from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. But the working class, too, had important possible sources of international support.

Not defeated

The French working class was not defeated; it was attaining new heights of militancy and from June 1936 its leaders were in the government.

And French support could have been crucial to the Spanish working class in many ways. Also there was the Soviet Union—the world's first workers' state whose rapid development was making it capable of providing important material assistance to any major working class struggle in another country.

In Spain, therefore, all the objective material circumstances made a working class seizure of power a historic possibility. And if the working class had succeeded in establishing its power in Spain,
El Frente Popular de Izquierdas, lucha

El programa del Frente Popular de Izquierdas y su significativa e intensión de las derechas monarquistas no admite comparación.

Sevilla: El programa del Frente Popular de Izquierdas ha absorbido todas las exigencias de los sectores democráticos.


dos si las palabras del pueblo soviético permitieran la transmisión de la revolución a través del CNT. El CNT, con su tradición de lucha antifascista, resultaba una base sólida para avanzar en la formación de un gobierno popular.

El Frente Popular de Izquierdas se formó en 1936 con el objetivo de unir a todas las fuerzas progresistas en España para luchar contra el fascismo. La formación del Frente Popular fue un momento clave en la historia de España, ya que permitió al pueblo español tomar la decisión de luchar por sus derechos y libertades.

En resumen, el Frente Popular de Izquierdas fue un esfuerzo colectivo para unir a todos los que luchaban por la democracia y la paz en España. Aunque enfrentó dificultades, su legado continúa siendo importante en la historia de España y en la lucha por la justicia y la libertad en todo el mundo.

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*Notas:

1. El texto que se ha traducido es una榨文深翻，旨在提供对文章内容的概览。

2. El Frente Popular de Izquierdas fue una coalición política formada en España en 1936 con el objetivo de unir a todas las fuerzas progresistas para luchar contra el fascismo.

3. El CNT (Confederación Nacional del Trabajo) fue una organización obrera que jugó un papel importante en la formación del Frente Popular de Izquierdas.
**NEW LIES FROM NEWSLINE**

By John Docherty

After 1905, when Trotsky was in exile following his defeat in the first Russian Revolution, he had discussions with a German Socialist called M. Helphand who used the penname Parus. ‘Parus’ was famous in the circles of international socialism, wrote a number of books and articles which appeared on the front page of Iskra. Before any other socialist figure, he grasped the significance of the October Revolution, he developed the view that the international character of the capitalist system and the proletariat made possible the struggle for workers power before the completion of the bourgeois revolution.

In later years he became a trusted member of the Bolshevik, and later a became a corrupt agent of the Soviet of Workers’ and Peasants’ Deputies. Parus was a ‘proof’ of the failure of the views he had once put forward.

‘Agent’

This, however, does not concern the ex-Trotskists of the WRP leadership who have now become well steeped in the technique of calling their political opponents ‘agents’ of the Stalinist or imperialist, and then attacking others who reject these new views. In this argument, the real way supporters of imperialism, Stalinism, or any other agency that readily comes to mind.

A very worked-out version of this was seen in the WRP’s daily News Line of 1 July last.

Here an anti-communist letter to Tribune written by Mark Jenkins, who is a former member of the British Union of Fascists, is quoted in the name of any who has ever argued with Jenkins on anything.

**Picture**

The article is entitled ‘From Labour Party Towards CIA Position, Parus’ and, in a bid to link it to the war, the letter’s byline is that of Alain Thornet.

Jenkins, in two letters to Tribune called for opposition to Soviet and Cuban involvement in Africa.

Greater support

This, as our readers well know, has never been the position of the WRP.

We have consistently supported liberation movements in Africa and called for greater support for them from the workers states.

We have drawn attention to the counter-revolutionary role of the British government, for example, their support for the war against the Cuban liberation movement.

**Conclusion**

The WRP, of course, does not feel it necessary to explain any of this. Its position is: ‘We are already winning!’

**Sordid purposes**

The WRP leadership has been proscribed, and has no known links with the Trotskyist movement.

The first of these statements has been proven by the fact that it is only means of inventing as the WRP says, and has never been shown to have any relationship with the paragraphs put forward publicly in 1939 by Socialist Press.
The second statement has been refuted in detail many times.

The third is part of the WRP’s now well-known and vile efforts to deal with political differences by compulsory revolution.

Moved to right

To return to Mark Jenkins, it is quite true that Jenkins for several years has been in complete disagreement with which we squarely disagree.

It is important to stress that Jenkins is not mentioned by Trotskyism and moved sharply to the right. But this is not to imply that he has not in the past argued for points of view which were correct.

By early 1960s Jenkins had ‘founded’ a group of generally correct criticisms of the ultra-left sectarian and anti-Trotskyist policies of the WRP.

‘Amalgam’

His subsequent evolution is a matter for explanation and regret.

A for attempt to associate his present position with the political positions of the WRP will not be of use to the general Left or to the electoral Left of Opposition. We doubt if it will achieve the extreme reactionary effect that the WRP leadership had in mind with the present-day Trotskyist movement.

The use of the ‘amalgam’ like the repetition of stale lies, appears to be the only answer that the WRP feels able to make to the series of articles that recently appeared in Socialist Press dealing with the utterly unpatriotic role of the WRP leadership in the war and the rejection of all the claims of the WRP leadership as something once stood on the world stage and important.

If the Holy School of Fulfilment is all that WRP leadership has left, it is not hard to ask where the principles of the all-white South African and the all-white Rhodesian soldier preserving the settlement..."
POLISARIO DENOUNCE FRENCH STRATEGIC IN AFRICA

The Polisario Front was formed in May 1974 to fight Spanish colonial rule in the Western Saharan. In February 1976, when Morocco and Mauritania took over the role of imperialist aggressors, the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic was declared in opposition to this enforced partition.

Since then, the Polisario has continued the war for the independence of the Saharou people against the occupation armies, which have been unable to subdue this resistance, despite the forceful military support of the French state. The war has in turn provoked a major crisis within Mauritania and increasing problems for the reactionary monopoly in Morocco. Almost the only concrete support for this liberation struggle comes from Algeria, where the Ba'athist regime is making clearer its eagerness to be rid of this cumbersome commitment.

We print below the text of a statement issued by Amin Sayed (from the Political Bureau of the Polisario Front) and translated from Le Monde 23 June.

We hold no brief for the political methods of the Polisario Front, where naivety is flavoured with opportunism, while reactionary positions prove with progressive and principled demands. But we fully support the right of the Saharou people to self-determination, and the demand that all imperialist troops be withdrawn from the Saharan. It is the revolutionary duty of the international working class to fight in solidarity with this call as one battle in its struggle for socialist revolution.

The fresh outbreak of French military interventions in Africa shows no signs of being random or unexpected. Troops had been kept ready on a state of alert, and were plainly equipped for the tasks which lay before them; local co-operation had been perfectly co-ordinated; the campaign of propaganda and publicity at once rushed out in full spate.

Believing that the events themselves are only the end-product of a thoroughly organized project which we are now confronting.

There can be no doubt that this project in larger. France has given the recent conference of the five western countries on Africa, a new degree of activity and its lack of caution.

After 20 years of nationalism, Africa was beginning to stir again. The mood of its peoples for the first time, revealed a breakthrough in its conditions of isolation that had been duly prepared for them. Then France, with the recent conference of the five western countries on Africa, showed a new degree of activity and its lack of caution.

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Political blocs

That was barely four years ago. Since then the French state can officially in its own words, for the first time, has been busy drawing up the general plans for a new display of energy.

The plan is to impose on Africa a division into political blocs. Our continent has escaped this fate until now, presenting an enormous variety within. The colonial and the very strong resistance, even in the least developed countries—means that this policy can only be put into effect.

But several actions, that have had highly dramatic consequences for the peoples concerned, show that this scheme is now being put into operation. The latest French-Moroccan war in Shaba, the Sinhalese complexity in the French attacks against the Saharou people, and the second war in Chad between the Polisario Front and the government of the Sudan.

It is in this way that the cold war will find its new battlefields in Africa, with the probable outcome that we saw in southern Africa.

Pretexts

These policies are hidden behind a parade of pretexts and pretenses. If France is 'constrained' to intervene here or there, it is 'necessary' for the 'humanitarian aim, to save

French general staff, because the military have been placed in difficulties by our fighters.

No alibi

Yes, there is a war in our country—i.e., in the Saharan people. Fighting against the French occupation in the Western Sahara, Mauritania and Morocco. There is a French policy which needs lifting.

Fighting, nobody will dare to tell us that there are Germans, Algerians, or Vietnamese or representatives of some foreign power in the Saharan. Our armed forces, all members of one continent, know full well that it is our people who are fighting, and then alone.

So what could absurdly hold good for Shaba or Chad, does not apply to any case applies to the Saharou. There is neither justification nor any possible basis for the French occupation of our country.

The credibility of the Saharan people is a signi- ficant factor. Moreover, on May 21, 22 and 23, several dozen women and children were still in detention, having been arrested at El-Aouat. Their names are added to the hundreds of others who have never been seen again. Who does it talk to about it?

The Saharou people are fighting so that their national liberation movement can come to self-determination and to independ- ence will be respected. For the problem of the-Saharou people remains a problem of de colonization.

The UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU cannot point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that the UN and the OAU have a responsibility to point to the fact that

See article on Mauritania

Polisario Front fighters

Directed against the popular forces, the war will not be for them, and day by day their lives grow more unbearable. This shows how true it is that the imperialist government oppresses other peoples without suffering. They do not have the courage to intervene in the Saharan people.

We declare to the whole world that unless the Saharan people are free, the cause of the Saharan people will not cease.
Vauxhall workers in sympathy strike

100 drivers who drive the Vauxhall’s Ellesmere Port inter-plant fleet trucks are on strike for a toehold allowance.

They have been negotiating with the company for several years since the company introduced new 32 ton trucks which were 10 tons heavier than previous ones. All the way through these negotiations – which have gone right up to national level – the company has claimed that the government paid code had prevented them from paying the men any money.

Vauxhall declared that they would produce an allowance as soon as the pay code expired if the men drove the 32 tonners in the meantime.

The drivers have done all along and the company is still hanging out for no exact figure has been claimed by the drivers who say they will consider any company offer.

The crunch came after the end of the negotiations last week when the company still had not come forward with an offer and the men refused to drive the 32 tonners. The company threatened disciplinary action and the drivers came out on strike.

The rest of the 3,000 TGWU members at the plant voted to go out in sympathy shortly afterwards. This is a magnificent gesture of solidarity since it is almost holiday time and no one wants a strike at this time of the year.

The remaining 7,000 AUEW members are likely to be called off as a result of this strike.

So far the strike has not been made official.

FIGHT HERBERTS SACKINGS

Trade Union leaders at Allans’ in Coventry, where 800 redundancies have been announced, have adopted a policy to fight the sackings which is bound to fail.

While the first step they have taken – opposition to voluntary redundancies – is correct, no real strategy to defend and expand the job is going forward.

Instead they are demanding the removal of the Herbert chairman and appealing to the NEB which owns the company to intervene against what is now regarded as “bad management”.

This short-sighted policy, which misses the basic fact that the NEB have obviously planned the sackings, does nothing to protect the independent interests of the workers concerned.

Work sharing

There must be an immediate fight for work sharing on full pay and the opening of the company books.

A full investigation will show the basis or otherwise for the charges of bad management.

The problems of the British machine tool industry reflect the general problems of the British capitalist economy.

The workers at Herbert must use the information they get from an investigation of the company’s books to draw up a plan for a fully nationalised British machine tool industry under workers management.

The fight for this policy of course raises the basic questions of what sort of government and economy is needed to protect Herbert’s jobs.

But it is the only realistic policy in the face of the employers determined drive to sack at Herberts and elsewhere.

OUT NEXT WEEK

TROTSKYISM TODAY

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Three members of the NUPE executive council and two regional full time officers had been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud and were kept in police custody for 48 hours.

**Rough ride for do-nothing NUPE bureaucrats**

**Disgusted**

This result of the fight so far is that Shorster has produced a lengthy list of TGWU-organised factory branch strikes for the strike committee.

At these meetings the strike committee must fight for resolutions to be poured into the Regional Committee to support their policies of:

- *No return to work without reinstatement and recognition*
- *Full secondary blacking of supplies*
- *Membership picketing every Saturday with delegations from the TGWU organised for regular basis to all Steak Houses*
- *Regional levy to raise a weekly minimum strike pay of 40p per week*

From these meetings the strikers must directly organise factory delegations onto the picket lines.

**Garners kept open by SGP**

**Garners saved**

The determination of the police was not mirrored by the leadership of Region 1 TGWU who have continually refused to mobilise forces from their 10,000-70,000 members onto mass pickets to threaten the company and challenge police harassment, intimidation, attempts to limit picketing to six at a time.

**Sandwell struggle looms**

A major confrontation looms in Sandwell, West Midlands, over the Tory Council's attempt to break the trade union organisation of the local labour department and give contracts for modernisation and maintenance to private builders.

**Question mark**

The closed shop agreement was signed just before Labour lost control of the council in May and may have come into effect on 1 August 1978.

The Tories have already forewarned the strikers that they will not review the decision to end the agreement, writing at the time that 'a big question mark hangs over their response to the recommendation under the Labour government and Labour government Labour government Labour government...'
ASIAN LEADERS CALL FOR 'SELF DEFENCE'

In a bid to retain control of the thousands of militant Asian youth who have gone onto the streets in recent weeks to demonstrate their willingness to fight fascism, three Asian community leaders have issued a statement of support for the formation of self-defence groups.

The Federation of Pakistan Organisations, the Federation of Bangladesh Organisations and the Indian Workers Association of Southall decided jointly that:

For the past decade, the Asian welfare organisations have resisted pressure encouraging their members to join self-defence vigilante groups in the face of such attacks and in spite of considerable anxiety from the forces of law and order.

We now believe that the time has come when we must urge our people to look to their own defence."

The struggle against the growth of fascism in Wolverhampton took a steep backwaters on Sunday when the Anti Fascist Committee rejected the policy of forming workers defence groups.

Instead the committee has decided to hold a meeting around the pacifist and propaganda policies of the anti Nazi League.

The situation in Wolverhampton could not more clearly show the need for workers defence.

It is now unsafe for blacks to walk alone in the city centre at night.

Two months ago two fascists launched a shotgun attack on a car against a group of black youth.

But the Anti Fascist Committee is a classic clash alliance of reformist black and white workers with an amalgam of vicars, community relations workers, Communist Party Stalwarts, shop keepers and degenerates.

Its response to the attack was first to call an inquiry to which the workers were invited. Then it proposed joint patrols with police.

Next it suggested a call system where requests for assistance would be passed on to the police.

Home Secretary

Finally it called for the Home Secretary to come and meet immigrant leaders.

In all these developments the so-called "revolutionary" arist of the International Marxist Group and the Socialists Workers Party played a most shameful role.

Never once have they stood out for the independent organisation of workers to combat the fascists.

Petition

In many cases they themselves have been the source of these pathetic proposals.

(The has been paralleled in East London where IGPM members are totalling a petition drawn up by the Tower Hamlets Movement Against Racism and Fascism which calls for more police patrols in the area to protect the community."

The most aggressive response of these revisionist groups has been their opposition to those who put forward a policy of defence based on the trade union movement and who condemn the notion of alliances with the police.

Black youth earlier this year organised their own defence group in the city centre which was, of course, met with a chorus of condemnation from the local press, police and priests.

It is absolutely essential for socialists to take up an immediate fight in the labour movement for these moves towards defence to be brought under the umbrella of working class organisations.

This is what the WSL will be taking up in the coming months.

The face of Francoism reappears

It was the full power and violence of the Francoist state that was unleashed in Euskadi last week.

On Saturday 8 July, the demonstration of Basque militants in Pamplona was attacked with characteristic violence by the riot police.

The demonstrators for a political amnesty were subjected to volleys of smoke grenades and rubber bullets. In subsequent demonstrations, one militant was killed, and more than a hundred injured.

At San Sebastian two days later, a demonstrator called to protest against the police violence ended in a battle outside the police headquarters.

Barcelona, where the Socialist party is in power, has seen a wave of demonstrations against the Francoist authorities.

Throughout Navarra and the other Basque provinces, 700,000 workers took part in a series of strikes in condemnation of the killings.

Barcinones were sacked in all the towns and traffic in Barcelona was paralysed.

But on Thursday, after the strike had ended, the riot police moved in again.

This time their target was the small town of Renteria, where they shot dead, vandalised and looted.

The "liberal" government of Suarez issued statements condemning the atrocities, but the replacement of a few officials will do nothing to prevent the continued arrest of the Francoist state apparatus.

Fascists

Many riot police are well-trained members of fascist gangs, who fulfil a similar role to the traditional riot police in more explicitly inoffensive environments.

The army itself still holds massive powers. In this context it is only fitly to be suggested that the army - a force of the right - is likely to be an ally in the struggle against the fascist forces.

The army has been instrumental in the upsurge of fascism in Euskadi and the Catalan Basque Country. It has been used to crush any move towards self-determination.

The army is probably going to be instrumental in crushing any move towards self-determination of the Basque people or even the Spanish people.