Defend USSR against NATO imperialism!
Cruise, Pershing: Triggers for WWIII

When US Vice President George Bush departed from Heathrow for Washington last month, the Times (12 February) pronounced his seven-nation tour "a success":

"It provided some necessary stiffening of European resolve to preserve the deterrent of nuclear balance. And it provided some necessary reassurance that the United States is not reckoning on fighting a nuclear war in the European theatre..."

Bush's trip provided nothing of the kind. The American ruling class is preparing to blow up the Soviet Union in a nuclear first strike. Pentagon guidelines openly state that 'plans for the first use and possible follow on uses of theater nuclear forces should be developed'. While garnering broad support from the fervent Cold Warrior of the Thatcher government in Britain, these plans have naturally produced an intense and widespread fear of nuclear war throughout Europe. So to placate West European public opinion, Ronald Reagan came up with his cynical 'disarmament' proposal, the so-called 'zero-zero option' which calls for unilateral dismantling of all Soviet medium-range missiles, in exchange for no dismantling of any NATO missiles. Not surprisingly, the Soviets responded: 'Nuclear surrender, no thanks!'

The frontal line of the nuclear offensive is the NATO plan to deploy new so-called theatre nuclear weapons in West Europe this year. These include Cruise missiles in Britain, Italy and elsewhere and, particularly, the 108 Pershing Is in West Germany -- a scant six minutes flying time from the major cities in the Soviet Union. This would force the Soviets to go to a hair-trigger 'launch-on-warning' strategy to protect their retaliatory power. The introduction of Pershing and Cruise missiles will bring the world a large step closer to nuclear holocaust.

Pacifist/nationalist reaction: Britain to West Germany

The well-founded fear that the Pentagon is about to turn their front line of the nuclear offensive is the NATO plan to deploy new so-called theatre nuclear weapons in West Europe this year. These would force the Soviets to prepare for nuclear war. The introduction of Pershing and Cruise missiles will bring the world a large step closer to nuclear holocaust. The well-founded fear that the Pentagon is about to turn their front line of the nuclear offensive into a launching pad for World War III has produced a massive defeat in the Bermondsey by-election. So

Workers need a revolutionary party!
Labour's Bermondsey blues

... people want an alternative to a government that has created mass unemployment, destroyed the social services and undermined living standards of working people. But we have not yet convinced them that the Labour Party is in a position to provide that alternative...

So... When David Bonnett, chairman of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, after the Labour Party's massive defeat in the Bermondsey by-election, Recriminations are flying over the loss of one of Labour's safest English seats to the Liberal-SDP Alliance: the right blames 'left-wing' candidates like John O'Grady, unofficial 'Real Bermondsey Labour' candidate and representative of the old guard right wing, got a humiliating 7 per cent and lost his deposit. Long time Labour supporter, repeatedly stated they wouldn't vote for either candidate because the party was in such a mess. The Tory government has a 'resolute approach' for its class; it wants to 'solve' the capitalist crisis and pay for Britain's share of the anti-Soviet War drive by ravaging the living standards of the oppressed and working masses. In order to stop them, it is desperately necessary to fight. Massive social struggle of the oppressed, centred on powerful strike action by the trade union movement, is needed to break the will of the capitalists. The seething mass of unemployed and workers who have been ground down by defeat and betrayal can only be galvanised to struggle by the promise of a better future: a fight to bring down this vicious government, overthrow the capitalist system and begin the socialist reconstruction of society in a Soviet Britain. Instead, the Labour Party offers the same old capitalist crap. And workers aren't buying it. They remember all too well the grotesquely anti-working-class record of the 1974–79 Wilson and Callaghan governments. Today in the deeply-divided Labour Party of Foot/Healey/Benn, with its programmes of tinkering with capitalism through reflation, chauvinist import controls and devaluation, they correctly see no credible alternative. 

continued on page 8

continued on page 4
On 27 November 1982, 5000 overwhelmingly black trade unionists and youth organised by the Little Black Mobilisation and the Spartacist League/US successfully kept the fascist Ku Klux Klan from staging a Reagan-approved racist provocation in the streets of heavily black Washington DC. Instead, the anti-Klan demonstrators took to the streets, following the Klan’s planned route. This was an important victory for blacks and working people in the US, pointing the way forward for the struggle against fascist terror everywhere. Most of the people of the world see the US as one sudden reactionary mass; but this demonstration broke through that limited vision and sparked an impressive outpouring of financial solidarity. To date, over $20,000 has been raised towards the demonstration’s expenses, over $5000 of which was raised by the German, British, French and Canadian sections of the international Spartacist tendency from supporters of minority rights and labour/minority solidarity. But thousands of dollars more are needed to pay the costs of this successful mobilisation against racist terror.

To get out the programme which made this victory possible to the visible audience of minority and leftist militants, the Spartacist League/Britain currently is making a film called ‘Out Now’. The programme is: 35p inc p&p; 65p inc p&p. This film is produced by Black History and the Class Struggle. The film has been produced by Spartacist League/Britain to meet a pressing need among those whose right to express ideas is under assault. It is under a Stalinist, right-wing and racist attack.

The film itself is based on the life and work of the Spartacist League/Britain, in particular its campaign against racism.

The film is 27 minutes long and can be prepaid for for delivery to your address. Please prepay to: Spartacist League/Britain, c/o PO Box 185, London WC1H 8JE, inc p&p.

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Washington November 27 video tour Anti-Klan victory shows the way

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Guerrilla fighters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) scored a dramatic victory early last month by taking control of the easternmost city in the former Somoza regime’s stronghold area. The battle, described as the most important since the beginning of the Sandinista National Liberation Front’s (FSLN) armed struggle, occurred in northeastern El Salvador and marked a significant leap in the FMLN’s offensive against the Somoza regime.

In the town of San Miguel, the FMLN forces overran the military barracks and seized a large amount of ammunition and weapons. Government troops fled the city, leaving behind many of their vehicles. San Miguel is a major transportation hub and the capture of the barracks rendered the Somoza regime’s control over the region increasingly tenuous.

The FMLN’s victory in San Miguel came as a result of months of coordinated attacks across the country. The guerrillas have been steadily increasing their strength and influence, particularly in areas where they have the support of the local population and where they have been able to disrupt the regime’s communication networks.

The Somoza regime, in response, has stepped up its military operations, including the deployment of helicopter gunships to attack FMLN positions. However, the regime’s efforts have been met with growing resistance from the population, who support the FMLN’s struggle for democracy and social justice.

The FMLN’s victory in San Miguel is a significant blow to the Somoza regime and a major boost for the FMLN’s campaign to overthrow the regime and establish a democratic government in El Salvador. The FMLN’s success in San Miguel is a testament to the resilience and determination of the Salvadoran people in their fight for freedom and justice.
not only did the 'anti-racist' RCP not even mention this question in its campaign literature, but election night saw RCP candidate Fred Eden sharing a platform with these fascist thugs, sniling all the while to the television cameras!

One Foot out the door?

After the Bermondsey debacle there is much talk of 'knives being sharpened in the dark' for the pathetic Michael Foot. Foot's only presumptuous, Denis Healey, lurks in the shadows awaiting his call, with 'soft left' Neil Kinnock lurking as prospective deputy. In response Tony Benn, hero of the fake revolutionaries, has come out for a loyalty oath to the geriatric Foot, calling on Labour to 'really round our existing leadership, our existing policies and our existing membership'. And the fake revolutionaries who have leap on Benn's wagon now join the 'stop Healey' (read: defend Foot)!

With their present rapid rightward motion many supporters of Socialism, Socialist Organiser and the like are today in the process of not just tailing but becoming organically incorporated into the Labour Party. The old posters of Che Guevara have been taken down, and pictures of Tony Benn (who gave youth service to imperialism in his eleven years in Labour Cabinets) put up in their place. Right now these pseudo-lefts are providing a new layer of cadres and activists for the Labour leadership. CP's Socialist Organiser support on Islington Council in London, for example, are busy determining rates and bowling council employees. Perhaps some of these will even manage to emulate ex-'Trotskylites' like Eric Heffer and Syd Sidwell who now grace Mr Healey's Westminster benches as Labour MPs. And at least they promise to replicate the treacherousuple people played over the years by the Militant tendency.

Of course it is an ironic and supreme injustice that Ted Grant and his Militant, editorial board members to have been tossed so unanimously out of the Labour Party after the atavistic left they have done giving a (barely) left cover to social-democratic treacle for so many years. But the Labour leadership, needing sacrificial lambs to try and convince the bourgeoisie that their house is in order for the next election, found the 'Trotskyist' Militant the easiest target. Grant & Co, having become simply Labour Party members, naturally decided to bring the bourgeois courts into the Labour movement in an attempt to reverse the expulsions. They will fear that outside Labour they would be as fish out of water.

The war drive and the Russian question are the key issues dragging today's round of rightward motion. The CP and RCP campaigns have been adopted an attempt to seize power and create a virulently pro-Western, anti-Communist capitaliste state on the borders of the Soviet Union. The focus for mainstream Labourites and the jaded liberals is an attempt to revive the 1984-85 Left, with its campaign denouncing the Solidarnosc logo! The anti-Soviet 'uniting front' extends not just to the open Labour tailists, but to groups

Spartacist Britain
The fight for workers revolution

The founding document of the Fourth International, written by Leon Trotsky in the period of international capitalist crisis and impending war, declared:

'The central task of the Fourth International consists in freeing the proletariat from the old leadership of social democracy in its incomplete contradiction to the catastrophic eruption of disintegrating capitalism and representing the proletariat as an open enemy of capitalism.

Against Benn's "non-nuclear defence strategy" and the "contract-coalition treachery. Fake lefts have to justify their betrayal to the working class to its pro-capitalist misleaders.

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German Trotskyists oppose resurgent nationalism

West German elections
Cold War turning point?

The West German elections scheduled for March 6 are being presented, especially by spokesmen for the Social Democrats (SPD), as a potential watershed in postwar European politics. While the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) are being held up as the most reliable protector of the West German bourgeoisie and an instrument of U.S.-Soviet detente, the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are being extolled as the genuine democratic party, fighting for German reunification, peace, and a new social order.

In the context of an anti-Soviet war threat and the international crisis of capitalism, the usual centrists are again seeking a comfortable accommodation between bourgeois coalition partners, the Social Democrats and the Free Democratic Party (FDP). The Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD) are being portrayed as the two main political forces in West Germany, the former as the party of peace, detente, and the latter as the party of war and nationalism.

Meanwhile, the working class and the unemployed are increasingly alienated from the SPD-led coalition government, which has failed to deliver on its promises of social justice and economic recovery. The SPD's 'deal of the century', which was supposed to bring about a shift to the left and a more equitable distribution of resources, has been a total failure. The working class is being forced to bear the brunt of the capitalist crisis, with rising unemployment, poverty, and insecurity.

The SPD's failure to deliver on its promises has led to a resurgence of political radicalism and worker militancy. Mass strikes, protests, and occupations are becoming increasingly common, as workers and peasants resist the policies of the liberal bourgeois coalition. The SPD's 'neutralist' stance, which has been condemned by the most progressive elements of the working class, is now being questioned by even its own members.

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reflected differences in emphasis within the SPD. Leading left Social Democrats assisted in launching the campaign that the SPD has ever known. And it was Social Democrats who mobilized 400,000 people onto the streets in the Ruhr in the two weeks before May Day. On May 1, 1982, at the Saar dock gates, 20,000 workers and 30,000 steel workers faced down the SDP and its employers.

The elections in the autumn marked the end of the trade union protest started by the workers who in 1973 during the wildcat strikes unloaded the worst results of the 1973-74 crisis on the SDP and the German bankers who would have been mass unemployment for Polish workers. The SDP opened the road to the capitalist reification of Germany.

When Soviet soldiers raised the red flag on the Berlin Reichstag in April 1945, this could have sparked proletarian revolution throughout Europe. But the Stalinists sold out the future of the European proletariat in order to defend their own parochial interests and seal the capitalist reification of Germany. The German workers, who today are marching against Europe against the DDR and the Polish Finance, was demanded by Walesa's and Wojtyla's revanchists were within striking distance of the brink of collapse. And as in the 1930s, the out-throats the centre of the capitalist reification of Germany, a Europe dominated by Germany, and the SDP leadership used the political centre to the poverty and terror of their homelands.

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The German workers march against Kohl / Strauss

Demonstrations called by the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (CGD) and the Verbands der Arbeitervereine (VDVA) in late October and early November brought over 1,000,000 people onto the streets in the Ruhr and on the streets of the German cities. The workers were demanding an end to the German war on the workers. They were demanding an end to the SDP's policies of cutting wages and increasing unemployment.

The SDP has abandoned its counterrevolutionary claims to the Western European governments and the Western European high finance, which in the early 1970s, as it did back in Cold War I when its CIA penetration of the Communist boycott of the 1973 demonstrations. For the SDP and the SDP leadership is attempting to capture the proletariat, under the banner of national-socialist, fascist, and anti-Semitism, for the interests of the steel barons and banks.

It is above all the so-called 'leftists' in the SDP and the SDP leadership who are the 'lesser evil'. But they were playing with fire. In Stuttgart, shop stewards from the metal workers union in Kohl carried a sign reading: 'What is to be done? Now about a general strike!' SDP head Ernst Bree wrote his hands: 'I fear for the social peace in this country.' Bree has reason to be worried. The SDP leaders were forced to call the mass protests when the SDP was still in power. They postponed them as late as possible into the autumn in order to avoid the embarrassing situation of a direct confrontation between the SDP and the SDP leadership. But they can win through a joint struggle of the workers against the SDP and the SDP leaders. And it was the SDP leaders who in 1982, as late as possible, launched the SDP and the SDP leadership against the SDP and the SDP leadership. And it was the SDP leaders who in 1982, as late as possible, launched the SDP and the SDP leadership against the SDP and the SDP leadership.
Cruise, Pershing...  

(Continued from page 1)

...-- once pacificist and nationalistic -- in West Europe. In Britain this has been manifested in the steep rise of CND. Moscow has long specified the peace movement's participation in demonstrations against cruise and Pershing missiles. This has given rise to a phenomenon that is strongly reminiscent of the Communist bloc countries' Soviet-dominated spheres. The Benito Labour left has of course always opposed the cruise and Pershing demonstrations in Britain, but while now even the staunchly pro-NATO right wing of Labour is sufficient worried that Reagan is losing the propaganda war, its own words of opposition to cruise deployment have not yet become hardline, by denouncing CND as "appeasers of Russian 'totalitarianism'" which is explicitly characterized as "Red Perestroika". But the standing order of the British bourgeoisie understand that the national capitalism of Germany has is a problem, but to back the American cousins, more or less down the line.

But while 'peace' and 'disarmament' movements have grown rapidly in most West European countries, the most far-reaching reaction has been in West Germany. Polls show that the support of supporters of all West German parties, including the Social Democrats, for NATO is at an all-time low. In January Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko visited West Germany in a strongly identified with the CND 'disarmers', including the ruling Christian Democrats, oppose the deployment. This proviso was made conditional on lack of significant American imperialism, which can...pose the reunification of Germany. Stalin himself made...argument. The American ruling class to invoke the spirit of Yalta, that division of Europe (centrally Germany), can...be furthered by a greater dis-

Socialist' Cold War have Mitterrand lectures Germans in Bundestag.

pov's proposal as against Reagan's 'zero option':

'Put yourself in the Soviets' place for a minute. Then you would also have to consider that the other atomic powers. Great Britain and France, dismantle their medium-range weapons, which can reach Soviet territory.'

(Der Spiegel, 31 January)

And Social Democratic Party (SPD) chairman Willy Brandt is proposing that the scheduled deployment of the Pershings be postponed pending further Washington-Moscow negotiations. These seasoned and cynical MfS social demo-

The 'spirit of Yalta' and counterrevolution in Europe

As an editorial in the New York Times (4 February) has the nerve to warn the Russians to be promoting neutralism in West Germany. A neutralist Germany would use every ounce of its strength to subvert the Soviet grip on East Germany.

On this ground the British Labour front leader the leading organ of the American ruling class to invoke the spirit of Yalta, that division of Europe (centrally Germany), can...be furthered by a greater dis-

Thatcher's Britain: Reagan's staunch ally

In Britain, reaction to Reagan's first-strike anti-Soviet bellicosity and the growing American-European tensions is deeply affected by the postwar economic collapse. Unlike West Germany today, clapped-out British imperialism has never been at the forefront of American imperialism in global politics. Thus Labour government leaders and the British bourgeoisie have been until now content to call themselves 'Euro-Socialists' and have understood Britain's days as a great power were over and accordingly acted as the servant of the American imperialist power. But today American imperialism is at its peak and Britain can justly claim to be the weak-

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For European imperialism, promoting internal'

Helmut Kohl, also speak in favour of 'detente',

Not detente but international proletarian

advocates of

The detente road to counterrevolution came

It is

All of these fervent Cold Warriors now parade as

paign for Britain to have joint control with the

However, first the Bennite left came out against

Schmidt's SPD, and even to some

SDP

rhe SDP

Thatcher have

Lord Carver reminded the House of Lords

into existence when there are

missions and businessmen that finance the FDP from

their 'treacherous' leadership'

In contrast to the various open appeasements of

the Social Democracy, the Marxistische Gruppe

(MG, Marxist Group) was able to create a leftist

unbelievable harrassment and beatings ever more

Brezhnev's and Reagan's visits to Bonn. Their

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US Secretary

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Astrategizing a strategic orientation to winning

The MG's programme today simply

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This in a world in which

the alternatives of revolutionary communism or
German elections...

(Continued from page 9)

full index-linked pay and big pay rises!

Realisation of these demands is possible on the basis of a comprehensive German economic plan resting on the expropriation without compensation of the monopolies. That requires a workers government -- not the SPD in Bonn but a revolutionary workers government. The necessary shift of the SPD/SPD-L from bourgeois dictatorship to a workers government -- the dictatorship of the proletariat -- is inseparable from the task of the revolutionary reunification of Germany: the historic task of the German proletariat should look to the East German workers as allies in the struggle for socialism in the West and a political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy in the East.

Militant class struggle is necessary -- not supposing it to be a defence against an attack by a 'Red Army' regiment from the mythical country of 'Corinth', whose real identity was a mystery to no one. The manoeuvres included a parachute drop of 600 Honduran troops to lift a siege at Moscoso, a major Salvadoran city, and an actual re-enactment similar to the Nicaraguan Atlantic towns of Puerto Cabezas, just 60 miles down the coast!

US/Honduran troops are part of a general shift of US military activity in the region. The invasion of the South American country began on February 10, allegedly to defend the neutralist regime. An official US committee (CDS) organised some 30,000 people to march to the US embassy in Managua to protest the invasion of their country! The march was peaceful but the incident showed that the US will use any means, including force, to protect its imperialist interests.

The US President himself turned out to greet the ministerial conference from San Salvador, 'to solve our problems with the US/Honduran government'.

The US troops were a 'goodwill call' to show their flag at Puerto Lempira in the Atlantic coast of Honduras. And in Panama a major military exercise codenamed 'Kindle Liberty' was held. The US/Honduran armed forces of the currently controlled by the rebels, were expected to 'solve' the internal crisis in the country. The United States is key, and in this the old European military dictators, embodied by the West German Bundeswehr, have been the dominant voice in advocating a military solution to the Salvadoran problem.

Militant class struggle is necessary -- not

San Salvador...

(Continued from page 2)

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subordination to reformist traitors and bourgeois parliaments. Only Trotskyism has a programme and a perspective that opens a future for the German proletariat and puts the SPD in its place. It tells the truth about the SPD and refuses support to any form of bourgeois coalition politics. The revolution needs a military organization with its strategic component of foreign workers -- must fight for and win its class independence. It must draw the lessons from the results of the SPD's coalition politics: it must take up the struggle for a Trotskyist workers party capable of splitting the SPD and breaking its stranglehold on the working class.

The inter-imperialist conflict over the pipeline deal is a powerful confirmation of the perspective already pointed to by Leon Trotsky during World War I: the fight for the United Socialist States of Europe. The obvious need for the gas pipeline, even in the face of capitalist irrationality and the mismanagement of the Kremlin companies, in a foreseeable of the possibilities to噗噗up employing: all employers, workers, and peasants in the East. Only in the East. A workers Germany, establishing the rule of the proletariat on the entire continent, opening the possibility of a real planned economy in a socialist United States of Europe.

due to the fact that no systematic effort was made to induce the masses. Yet the Salvadoran proletariat has not been passive and apolitical. On the contrary, it was a series of general strikes and mass demonstrations during 1978-80 that laid the basis for the present struggle. These were met with bloody repression. But rather than being defeated, the militancy of the Salvadoran masses was dissipated in an endless series of actions lacking any strategy for a revolutionary working-class seizure of power.

Already some of the imperialist press is predicting a government change in El Salvador. The Baltimore Sun (1 February) quotes a 'Western source' saying that by midyear, "The army will take over... in the back yard, the contras will control the countryside." Nevertheless, the Reagan administration's 'counter-revolution' in El Salvador is building on a strong foundation. The combative Salvadoran workers are decisive. Even in spite of the present bourgeois populism and the leadership of the left, an urban insurrection could develop into a revolutionary crisis. As the capitalists and the United States and the industrial barons, a revolutionary communist leadership would be the fundamental element for victory. A Leninist-Trotskyist policy of permanent revolution would seek to mobilize the masses for the task of taking power, as the organizational basis for a proletarian revolution and a workers government.

The Trotskyists are intransigent opponents of a negotiated settlement, and of the reformist capitalist programme which led to the FDR/FMLN calls for maintaining 'free enterprise', we call for expropriation of the bourgeoisie (not just the aristocratic oligarchy),

where the FDR/FMLN calls for implementing the military junta's policy of agrarian reform, the imperialist 'contra' military junta, communes call for agrarian revolution -- seize the haciendas! And unlike the FDR/FMLN's appeals to the 'democratic', the Trotskyists appeal to the 'free El Salvador' in cooperation with an independent workers party. A Leninist-Trotskyist party would seek to spread socialist revolution to all corners of the region. This could transform the Salvadoran war into a bridge into the vital link uniting socialist revolution throughout the Americas.

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Miners... (Continued from page 11)

National Executive meeting. If McGahey and the CP's waste time trying to figure out how to make it all-out strike action as they did getting work better.

Workers against workers abroad. Right now French port controls help tie the workers to the interests of their 'own' capitalists -- they feed save any jobs in the not-very-long run, in unrest. The miners are striking to save the ship of the NUM, who sat on a threatened virtual occupation/strike of the movement of steel in mining areas, thus directly undermining all-sided at-tack of the Labour government.

Today the miners have the chance to spear-head a struggle to turn it all around. If they don't fight they may be green with the capitalists. Their allies respond with a solid counteroffensive, Thatcher government and the ruling class can only be stopped if their backs are thrown back. Such a fight could lead to the general strike that some militant miners are already talking about. Beside this prospect, and the deep and felt needs of the British working masses, the Labourite preoccupation with parliamentary by-elections in Bermondsey and Darlington and the complete election is a trivial and unimportant subject. Pathetic talk about another pro-capitalist Labour government solves nothing. Miners and other workers need a different bourgeois government in parliament but the overthrow of the capitalist system through socialist revolution.

A successful miners strike today could open up new possibilities for the miners but success in the class struggle requires a fight for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a workers government, a Soviet Britain in a Socialist United States of Europe.

For a national miners strike now!

• Shut it down hard and spread the strike! Remember Railley Gates -- for mass pickets to shut the power stations and blockade the lines! Bring out steel, rail, power workers!

• No sackings! To import controls! Fight for jobs for all through work-sharing on full pay -Thirty hours work for forty hours pay and halving scale of 117!

• Smash the Tebbit bills and all Tory anti-union attacks!

• Break the Labour/TUC strangulation! Oust the bureaucrats, 'left' and right! Make this a struggle like 1972-74 -- but not to end with another Labour government in the next bath of the coming general election is trivial and unimportant and a vestige of the work- ers government.

• Forward to a revolutionary leadership in the trade unions and a Leninist vanguard party to lead the socialist revolution!

Free class-war prisoners in Turkey!

In the thirty months since the NATO junta of General Evren seized power in Turkey, vowing to crush political terrorism and end economic chaos, an intensified reign of terror and brutal torture of both Those not unleashed against workers, who oppressed Kurdish minority and leftist organisations. Torture of political prisoners has been so systematic that even West German bourgeois governments that originally hailed the coup as calling the generals to clean up their act if they wanted to keep getting their loans. Partly in an attempt to establish international legitimacy, the junta in November 1982 managed a referendum to rubber-stamp a new constitution which 'legalis' the repression of workers and peasants from virtually all political dissent. In the five months since the referendum, growing numbers of workers arrested the occupation/strike of the miners, even in the dock also face the threat of execution.

Even outside Turkey -- in Australia, Lebanon and elsewhere -- the murderous junta has spread its terror to Britain's workers. The trade unions and a Leninist vanguard party to lead the socialist revolution!

In March 1983...
March 7 -- The South Wales miners strike called over the proposed closure of the Ty Mawr-Lewis Merthyr pit now threatens to spark the first country-wide walkout of the National Union of Mineworkers since 1974. Within days of the South Wales shutdown on February 28, strike action had snowballed. Kent's Betterheath and mines in Derbyshire came out in support, while Yorkshire, Kent and Scotland voted to strike on March 7. Yet the NMB National Executive, meeting on March 3, decided to postpone once again the possibility of effective action by holding a national ballot on strike action in five days' time.

But a strike is still poised, and is a burning necessity. The miners must immediately come out on an all-out national strike. Every delay only aids and abets the National Coal Board and the Tory government. The issues posed are far broader than one mine, one region or one industry. The Tories would like to crush the miners whose militancy and organisation is a key obstacle to their ambitions to drive down even further the lengthening dole queues, shackling the working class demands that the miners should suffer the same fate as the steelworkers. Thatcher's plan to appoint steel boss Ian MacGregor to the NCB is a declaration of this intent, but remember that MacGregor only got to sack more than 70,000 steelworkers after the 1980 steel strike was isolated and defeated. In any case, the question is not MacGregor but what he represents. The Tories are out to do a job on the workers whoever the government appoints. The working class should see the NCB as a 'hit list'. The ruling class demands that the miners suffer what fate the steelworkers after the 1980 steel strike would welcome the perspective of a fightback.

Yes, black coal up and down the country, as the South Wales strikers have already demanded. But the powerworkers and the railwaysmen, who face their own job losses, should be brought out alongside the NUM. It is not a matter simply of solidarity action, but an all-out battle to fight the attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions in rail, steel and elsewhere. What is needed is a strike to win — and win big! The steel industry is a primary user of coal and steelworkers have a score to settle with Thatcher and MacGregor. Get the steelworkers out too! Make this a fight not just to save the present job but to fight unemployment: thirty hours work for forty hours pay, and a sliding scale of wages to meet inflation!

Thatcher and Tebbit's anti-union legislation says mass picketing and solidarity strikes are illegal. Snatching from the small gains the waterworkers wrung from their bosses, they now want to bring in more legislation to ban the right to strike in essential and nationalised industries. And the police, hired thugs of the capitalist state, have already started to stop any pickets they consider 'illegal' (that is, effective). Mass pickets, not just a handful of miners outside coal depots and power stations, can soon turn that into a dead letter. All the parliamentary readings and royal assents in the world will not be worth the paper they're printed on, if the miners do what is necessary to win. They have to take on the Thatcher government. They should give Margaret Thatcher the same treatment!

Victory to the miners! All out now!

The strike in South Wales began because miners in one threatened pit took action themselves. The South Wales Executive had dropped an earlier strike call in January, and tried to procrastinate with a ballot when the Ty Mawr-Lewis Merthyr men occupied their pit. And now with Wales out solid the NMB National Executive is pursuing a course that threatens to divide and demoralise the membership.

Angry Welsh miners lobbying the March 3 Executive meeting denounced their leaders, including president Arthur Scargill and the South Wales delegates, for caving in to the clamour from Fleet Street and the right wing and voting unanimously to suspend or postpone all strikes outside South Wales until after the ballot. The NMB already has a policy, voted at the 1982 Inverness conference, for strike action against closures. It should have been implemented, on the picket lines, now! As one bitter Welsh striker put it, some people want the miners to keep balloting until they get the result they want.

Arthur Scargill earned his reputation at Saltley Gates and as a leader of militant Yorkshire miners, and claims he was elected to stop pit closures. Why was he so quiet when the Welsh miners first went out? Why has he been offering an agreement for a two-month trial working period at Ty Mawr-Lewis Merthyr to the NCB? Instead of just talking about how the strike 'could spread like wildfire', while in practice letting the Welsh miners hang with their employers, and voting to keep balloting until the miners are ready to strike, why don't the miners now go to the picket lines, demanding that the steel workers outside South Wales be brought out immediately? It is the right course to fight in isolation, not an unwillingness to fight, which leads some miners to hesitate.

Scottish (and Welsh) miners remember how Scottish NUM president and Communist Party (CP) leader Mick McGahay betrayed the Kinnell miners last December with false promises that it was "not the time" and "the men weren't ready". And this time he wanted to leave the decision to each pit to decide. 'Remember what they did at Kinnell... they'll sell us out again', growled Welsh strikers at the lobby of the March 3 Executive meeting.