London dockers vote overwhelmingly to stay out

Docks: This is how to fight for jobs

I'm in here for defending the trade union movement. It's up to the trade union movement to get me out.

Des Warren, wrapped in a towel, because he refuses to wear prison uniform, gave this message to all his fellow workers through Labour MPs Martin Flannery and Sid Bithell who saw him in Lincoln jail (left) last Friday.

On Saturday, 400 trade unionists responded to the call of the Rank and File Organising Committee to demonstrate for the first time outside Lincoln Jail. There were delegations from the Grimsby docks, several AUEW branches, Lincoln UCATT, Lincoln Trades Council and scores of the International Socialist branches, from as far away as Dundee.

Police tried to stop the demonstration from going to the prison, but were brushed aside. Outside the prison, the demonstrators chanted: Prentice out of office, Warren out of jail.

Many thanks for all the wonderful work and support you have given to colleagues Des and myself, and our families. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Marlene Tomlinson, wife of jailed picket Ricky Tomlinson, visited her husband in Leicester jail (right) on Saturday for the first time for three months. She came out of the jail greatly moved and spoke to 1500 trade unionists who had answered the call of Leicester Trades Council to demonstrate at the prison gates.

"I'd like to thank you all for the tremendous work which you've put into this demonstration to help free our husbands, Ricky and Des. I know that one day I'll have my husband back—this is what keeps me going and helps me fight on."

10,000 LONDON dockers are on strike to defend their jobs. Over the past seven years, dockers have lost 35,000 jobs. Trade union officials in London are talking of a further 1500 redundancies this year.

The dockers' frustration and bitterness at this treatment has exploded in a wave of anger, redoubled now that they have proof that the Road Haulage Association, the transport bosses, organisation, made an agreement to pay lorry drivers to picket the docks.

Jack Jones, the general secretary of the TGWU, has called the dockers 'gangsters'. Instead of mobilising the whole union behind a fight against closures and redundancies, he calls on the dockers to rely on another inquiry and the Labour government.

Inquiry

The last inquiry, conducted by Jones and Lord Aldington, lost the dockers 12,000 jobs. Michael Foot, the Minister of Employment, has called on the dockers to return to work. Foot is MP for Ebbw Vale where 4500 steelworkers are to lose their jobs, despite a ton of promises to the contrary.

And he asks dockers to sit back and wait for him to do something!

The outcome of this strike is of vital importance to trade unionists everywhere. If the dockers win, they will have shown that militant action can halt the tide of redundancies.

That will offer a lead to workers wherever they are faced with unemployment.

That is why dockers in other ports must strike in support of their brothers in London now.

Dockers have a fine record of solidarity, with other trade unionists in blacking and collecting money. Now they need support in return.

Money must be collected to finance the organisation of the strike NOW.

Send to: Royal Docks Stewards Committee, 91 Crichton Avenue, East Ham, London E6.

Please note: We reserve the right to print any text submitted for publication, subject to our editorial discretion.
The dockers who put steel into a jobs fight

What do you say when you hear someone say it’s an inter-union dispute, a fight between workers?  

Those days are gone, TGWU! The port employers have worked overtime to make it look like that. But it’s not the case. Woodrow Layt, writing in the Mirror, explained it all. It’s one of those steel-dockers’ employers getting the same work done cheaper by registered dockers. Hays Wharf sacked 1200 of our men some years ago. Then they opened up Doverhampshire dock and got their work done by the union registration scheme. That’s why we’re picketing the place.

Dockers are well-organized. We can’t be sacked when it suits the employers’ whim because of our registration scheme. We have sick pay and holiday agreements. So the employers resort to costing, splitting our job. In this the performance of the union has been disappointing. They have done a lot to make it look like an inter-union battle. The TGWU has recruited members in those seaboards who are claiming the jobs. That’s what the TGWU did at Midland Cold Storage.

Johnnie Piner, NASD: It’s a shitty lot that we want to see other trade unionists out of work. We won Chobham Farm and that led to shorter hours and wage increases for the men. But every trade unionist must realise that we are being taken to the cleaners. Our employers are out to get rid of us and in that situation we have to fight to defend our scheme.

So it’s in the interests of all workers that dockers win.

Johnnie Piner: Yes, it is in the interest of every worker to have a properly run scheme. Strong trade unionism is the only way we can beat the employers. It can help other dockers, too.

At Dover, we have had men after registering and the employers haven’t wanted the security, the extra control, that it gives. But the port employers won’t concede. Registration means more work too.

Of course, there’s other places like Colchester where they can’t have either manning or wages. There it’s 10p an hour to students and soldiers. We want to put a stop to that so that the whole industry can be run on the best conditions.

David Wood, TWWU: This is definitely not just a dockers’ fight. If the docks flourish round here, then the whole area flourishes. If the docks die we are fighting unemployment the only way we know how. Other workers have exactly the same problems. So it’s a matter of a fight of all working people.

What about legislation? Why not wait for that?

Tommy Clark, TWWU: It’s all happened before. We’ve got to make a decision, a committee, this inquiry, that inquiry. All we’ve ever done is wait for someone else to solve our problems. If they really want to legitimate our problems away let them do it right now, in a hurry.

They’ve done this ‘leave it to us’ business once too often. We need to win now. We need concrete gains or –

Twcnty-two dockers at Insmine’s Wharf, Bow Creek on London’s Riverside have a message for every worker in the country: ‘Your employer may insist on giving you a one way ticket to the scrapheap of redundancy and unemployment. He may offer you a small or even large financial inducement to take it. But if you stand firm, imaginatively and use your own industrial strength you can compel him to change his mind and keep you in work.’

The wharf is one of the main steel and iron-ore handling docks. Dockers there started to suspect that their employers, Insmine’s Steel and Shipping Group, were up to something last October. Insmine’s stopped bringing in steel.

John Fitzgerald refused to be bound by the confidentiality trick and told the men. From then, the men united to defend their right to work. Throughout January, it became clearer and clearer that the jobs were hand- lining were coming to an end. On 5 February they sailed £125,000 of steel the employer had loaded on railway wagons. They unloaded it, covered over and refused to let it go until their jobs were secure.

The boss, infuriated that workers should interfere with his property rights, said they either handle it or they would get it off pay. The men refused to handle it, saying ‘We think that you’re trying to push us up and you’re not getting it for nothing.’

At this, the boss shifted his tactics. He started to take the dockers to the tribunals. He finally offered £90,000 to each.

But at the dockers’ employers’ favourite tactic of buying the right to destroy a job was destined to fail. The men decided to hold out.

They stuck firm, withdrawing their ships. In this way they ensured the loss of their bosses’ other major London depot. They got full compensation from the firms that use the wharf.

They moved out to chase the ships that normally came to their wharf. They tracked one down one day and put it to work. They got their jobs back.

The response of the boss was to offer a bigger bribe to sell the job. He offered each long service man £500 and less for the others. Then finally he offered £1,000 man.

But the dockers stuck firm and, with the support of their brethren on the other riverside, forced the employer to change his mind.

On 3 March after four weeks of strike action, the bosses finally agreed to withdraw the notices of dismissal. For the first time in the history of the Port of London, a wharf was destined for closure was forced to stay open.

It was no thanks to the union officials. They said ‘It can’t be done’ and ‘One employer decides to close, that’s it.’

John Fitzgerald, the boss of the NASD, told Socialist Worker: ‘Under no circumstances should any worker accept a bribe of any kind. Any one who does should be prevented from working in our industry again.

On a further strike at Insmine’s, we helped to call a meeting of shop stewards representing all the steel employers’ interests on London’s riverside. Now we’ve formed a riverside trade council to campaign for wages and against opposition from the union officials.

As a committee, we are opposed to any strike, to any action we think is wrong. As a committee, we are opposed to the abolition of the union officials and we are going to continue this campaign. But if any individual worker comes under attack, we’ll all go in together.

So we’re ‘gangsters’ are we, Brother Jones?

Jack Jones gets an earful from an indignant docker. Later he claimed such men were ‘gangsters’.

Jones claim that he was physically threatened is an out-and-out lie. Tempest at the meeting ran very high. Jones took a little verbal battering because of his constant non-support for our cause. But at no time was he threatened with violence.

3. I am certain of many of them not members of my union—some were members of any union. Jones also accused the men in the meeting of being ‘gangster elements’.

It is true that some men were not TGWU members. There are, after all, left unions, the TGWU and the TWWU, the NASD, the independent dockers. We have always tried to co-operate, some to take on individual multi-unionism, to fight for the rights of all sections of the workforce. With the TGWU, we are working together to achieve our aims.

We are the men who attend their branch meetings and the union functions. We are the men who work side by side with the employers and the dockers who come to the meeting, all trade union cards were checked. A SECOND TIME because of a rumour that the press had somehow managed to make it.

Joof thought the men and some of the men at the meeting were ‘gangsters’. As a matter of fact the men were among the best in our port. We’re the men who care enough about our trade and the men who really believe in the trade unionists. We were the men whose help did the job. We are the men who really believe in the trade unionists. We are the men who go to the meetings and the union functions. We are the men who are the backbone of the movement.

We are the men who attend their branch meetings and the union functions. We are the men who work side by side with the employers and the dockers who come to the meeting, all trade union cards were checked. A SECOND TIME because of a rumour that the press had somehow managed to make it.

And now it seems that Jones has taken another job—umpired for the capitalists over the negotiations.

Jack Jones, 17, a docker-clerk, claims that he was physically threatened is an out-and-out lie. Tempest at the meeting ran very high. Jones took a little verbal battering because of his constant non-support for our cause. But at no time was he threatened with violence.

A letter to Socialist Worker from Graham Tasker: Bob Light, Jack Thompson, Tony Delaney, George Scott, Dave Wood, Party John, Eddie Prevost (all TGWU) and Johnnie and Michael Penn (NASD).

Jack Jones is a docker-clerk. He said that he was attacked by a number of men who were called for shop stewards and lay officials only. Other ranks were not welcome.

But early in the meeting some dockers and the dockers who were in the meeting then any full-time bureaucracy.

They began to threaten us immediately and I decided to proceed despite the very real fear of fatalities.

But then the meeting continued.

Joeof thinks that the men or some of the men at the meeting were ‘gangsters’. At no time was he threatened with violence.

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You're Irish, you're fired

IF YOU think Roy Jenkins' anti-terrorist law is aimed solely at men of colour, consider the case of Lila Nic Oreffaigh.

She left Dublin last October and put up the rent. The University's registration department. The authorities found her and held her for seven days without charge or even explanation under Jenkins' Act.

Two days after her arrest, while she was still in prison, the Rector of the University, Mr D W Bonner, sacked her without ex- planation.

Contact

Lila was arrested on 24 February, taken to the Garda station and asked about her politics. She told the police she had been a member of the IRA for Dublin for six years and, since coming to Dublin, she had been a member of the Cumann Chiarrai, a small left-wing group.

She had never been associated with the IRA in either country.

The interception lasted only a few minutes. She was told she was being held for 48 hours under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. She had no right to see a lawyer or contact anyone.

Two days later, she was told she was being held for seven days under the Act. Once again, no explanation. After the seven days— maximum for which a suspect can be detained under the Act—she was released. No charge, no explanation.

Lila has reported her dismissal to officers of NAOG on campus. Mr Thomas, the branch secretary, explained to Socialist Worker that the fall-out from the case was not yet available to the union.

He emphasized that Lila had been 'sacked within the probationary period during which, apparently, the college authorities don't have the right to give notice—or explanation—for dismissals.

Mr J Peel, from the personnel department, told Socialist Worker: 'We have no comment to make on this case'.

Many trade unions are arguing for a mass meeting called by all trade unions on campus to demand Lila's reinstatement.

A member of Ms Niamh Interna- tional Socialist Workers' District Com- mittee says: 'We are urging all trade unions in the area to raise this fearlessly, without any fear of repercussions, at their union, branch and organise for reinstatement'.

Decision

The Transport and General Workers' Union Executive voted unanimously last week to campaign for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They also voted to instruct their sponsored MPs (who include a certain Roy Jenkins, Member for Putney) to vote against the Act.

This is the best decision to have come out of the executive in years. It is the result of agitation from all union bases. It is a very significant development. All trade union bases are urged to get similar decisions and actions to support them from their unions.

Why your paper needs you

Imagine your food bills being trebled because the student going through the roof. Maybe you'd rather not.

Socialist Worker doesn't need to imagine—and we can't dream it away.

For us, it's a fact. Just one of the price of newsprint has gone up by nearly three times in two years. Another increase was announced last week.

And the cost of printing paper, again, a major outlay is chasing us. It's costing more and more to put Socialist Worker on the shelves for you.

Few socialists, plagued with price increases of their own, dare call in a doubt over the prices. If these socialists are print-workers, they are certainly not the fiddles of what we politely call the press industry.

The fiddles by which big newspaper monopolies, owned by such vast Reed International, pay out the price increases to big newspaper monopolies, owned by such vast Reed International, pay out the price increases to print-workers even though there are surpluses of both. Of course, the workers at big newspaper workplaces, such as the Economist, are no better off with their own price with a three-day week.

Readers

But we hope Socialist Worker. Distrust on behalf of capitalist. Distrust on behalf of capitalist. Distrust on behalf of capitalist. Distrust on behalf of capitalist. Distrust on behalf of capitalist.

And when they're handing out the bills, we've got to sign the cheque. Or we'll lose our job.

So what do we do?

We can put up the price of Socialist Worker. We can lower the price of Socialist Worker. We can win readers, not bankrupt them. We can just increase the number of pages. Except that we think 16 pages a week is enough. We can try to counter the daily doses of distor- tion extorted by Britain's free and imperial press.

No. We can only pay our ever- increasing wages by increasing Socialist Worker into the beginnings of a serious newspaper. Not only is our wage the same. We are men and a means and a means alone.

At a time when our info- nial emergency: £10,000 fund drive, our readers supporters and members have dug deep and a paper, a paper, a paper. This won't be our last fund, nor our first. If you take a paper that is serious about socialism, you'll understand it. You'll also, we hope, do your bit by sending in what you can afford today.

We don't claim that you can analyse your mates at work or on the estate or on the streets. You'll give a bit extra when you see your Socialist Worker colleague at work.

Socialist Worker, lives and death.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT WAGES?

TWO 'facts' are produced every day by the national press to prove the need for wage restraint. First, we are told that wages are going up faster than prices. Second, that 'wages are going up faster than price increases'.

In the last week, in an internal bulletin, top city stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie produced facts and figures which prove the exact opposite.

The two main conclusions of their Economic Analysis are:

1. Personal disposable income was expected to fall by 2 per cent in real terms, despite a 26 per cent in- crease in higher wage rates.

2. 'Wages are going up faster than prices' (as a result of rising unemployment and short-time working), the impact of the progressive increase in VAT and a 20 per cent lift in retail prices'.

The Meriden co-operative has started production at last, so now is a good time to look back at the whole NVT experiment.

The work force in September 1973, when Dennis Poore announced his intention to close NVT Meriden, was about 1,700. Only about 200 workers are now employed. It is intended to increase this. The 18-month occupation has certainly saved some jobs which would otherwise have gone.

The NVT workers' victory is a one again, it proves that militant action pays. Without the occupation, 200+ would have all been saved. But the cost of the 'co-operative' solution is high.

First of all, the long drawn-out negotiations without pay. Leaving aside the earlier talks with Tory minister Chataway, it has taken more than a year of negotiations since Wedgwood Benn took over. The remaining workers have shown remarkable determination but it is hardly surprising that the majority have left.

More important still, the co-operative is a captive of Dennis Poore's organisation, totally dependent on him for its marketing arrangements. And instead of having to face a uniting people's occupation, Poore has feared the workers that have been built up between the Meriden workers and those at NVT Small Heath.

Now that a new range of models is needed. The cost of development is estimated at 33% to 4 million. Thus far, the co-operative has got £1 million from the government, a grant hedged around with restrictions that there are fears that have been built up between the Meriden workers and those at NVT Small Heath.

Now that 80% of costs are needed. The cost of development is estimated at £3 million to £4 million. Thus far, the co-operative has got £3 million from the government, an intended grant that has been built up between the Meriden workers and those at NVT Small Heath.

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IS: 'Menace to trade unionism' threat

IN THE EDITIONS of the Socialist Worker dated 8 and 15 February I am the target for attack because of observations in the February issue of my union journal Red Tape.

It is not my aim to divide the CPSA membership. My job is to unite it behind a practical programme and recent articles are further evidence of how difficult an extremist minority can make the task of this membership—which you must not have yet generally embraced the politics of the International Socialists.

BROther Kendall makes three major points:

1. On unconstitutional practices, he says 90 per cent of his article in February's Red Tape attacking Red Tape (the rank and file journal of civil servants), ten per cent attacking the right-wing 'moderates' and 0 per cent attacking the secretive and unconstitutional practices by which the union leadership has always been elected.

2. On re-election, his anxiety is astounding. Red Tape is the only group that has had the honesty and courage publicly to expose this practice.

3. Lists

We have always exposed the present system of circulating lists. We believe that candidates for election should stand on a programme of demands or send their own election addresses.

This is the normal practice in many unions, for example, ASTMS and the AUEW. We are standing four candidates this year for the National Executive Committee on a Red Tape platform.

Mr Bro Kendall, they are not all IS—two are, two are not.

They are standing openly, not vote-catching, back scratching or flattering on personal grounds.

3. Kendall writes: 'Only a handful of people believe that the route to radical social change of a progressive kind lies by way of destroying trade unions as we know them'.

Mr Bro Kendall, the number of workers that we want to advance towards socialism, IS members are active in CPSA and in Red Tape because we are ordinary workers and socialists.

Socialism, for us, means workers' power and the destruction of capitalism which can only come about if a strong class-conscious and democratic trade union movement exists.

We don't want to destroy trade unions, but we do want to change them 'as we know them'—bureaucratic, weighted to the lesser jobs, incapable of mobilising over the most elementary attacks on workers' rights. We are in the business of construction, not destruction.

Mr Bro Kendall goes on to say that they have 'more creditable advances along the right road'—referring to Whitelimum, productivity deals, democarcy.

What does he mean by the 'right road'? We still have pay research—improved but far from adequate—credit unions, staffs' trade unionists are alive and kicking. 600 jobs lost in the Post Office to give one that remains 85 a week. Some deal!

On democracy, an atmosphere of pseudodemocratic unions exists over the union. Many branches do not even have branch elections.

The branch takes the decisions. The vast bulk of the membership are not aware of the consequences. Is it any wonder that apathy reigns?

Finally, how can Mr Kendall expect to discover the Shrewsbury two, though they haven't lost their discovery run away with them. They're only calling on someone else to do it for a strike.

The majority on the TGWU National Executive Committee are still dedicated to looking back in their attempts to build something genuine.

The socialist Common Market campaign reflects the process most of them have been put in by the Communist Party that's being paid to look back in the patriotic jamboree.

Is it any wonder that many genuine activists and socialists within the CPSA's sway—now have no choice but to look elsewhere for the sorts of leads and initiatives that will genuinely advance the interests of our class.

He defines the real issues as 'the fight for open shop'. They ignore the fight against management by objectives (productivity dealing) and the consequence of losing the sacred cows of securities and the secrecy of pay negotiations and against the stifling atmosphere of Whitleyism.

Keen to ensure whether the CPSA as a whole—or its leadership—have neglected its task to have a good record in respect of all of them and have made up to the modern. If challenged and asked the space I am prepared to demonstrate the essential truth of my statements.

The real issues are such as: Mike McGraft lists there is no need for the machinations of inflationary groups out in the media.

One gets rather weary of the self-righteous gospel that only the IS are accountable if we are to re-place our media and as a better state of affairs, we should ex- cipate instead of assailing each other's integrity, and I perfectly agree with you in conviction that we are as yet present operating the IS are a destructive rather than a constructive factor from a working class point of view.

Abide

But this does not mean that I want them to single out for persecution their attempts to bring about a new- look by Revising the Rules and Constitution in words and in the manner in which they have freely agreed to do in the past.

Your stupid 15 February page headed 'Watch Hands' leaves me cold. I am no record over a lifetime of trade union work as a supporting tolerance and the fullest freedom of opinion, the fullest freedom in- volvement and a livid spirit of agitation.

The evidence is available in the columns of Red Tape, in letters to newspapers, in circulars and in the minutes. You yourself admit on the 13 February page referred to for three years from responding to what I can only view as the re- vocative libels upon which Red Tape frequently.

Amongst a number of distortions, typical of IS publications, is your 15 February statement to the Socialist Worker, that the CPSA National Executive Committee has 'not even bothered to let the men know to whom they are currently negotiating for'.

I say, in May 1972, when the IS bureaucracy churn out this sort of stuff they have no right to complain of what is necessary to gain the support of responsible trade unionists.

Can't you trade unionists who write and who ever strike that structure upon whose Nation Executives Committee was not well aware that the pay of Civil Servants of all grades is based on payments for corresponding grades of workers outside the Service, and that pay research analysis is essential before it can be estimated what increases are justifiable.

Jibe

I don't wish to nag, but in CPSA we have demonstrated the pro- cess of pay determination as much as we want to do. With the best will in the world, it is difficult for 200,000 members to participate in all the processes, but if you put out your jibe was unworthy of an or- ganisation pretending to the title and the means.

Like much of your propaganda it attempt to hide the real hatreds by reliance on Dr Goebbels' existence, but I would claim that the better chance of its being be

Fortunately, the great majority of CPSA members do give us credit for doing our best; and we must issue an almost record amount of material. I shall depend upon it that they won't think the worse of anyone included in your list of enemies of the working class—W. KENDALL, General Secretary of the National and Public Services Association.
SPECIAL OFFER

In this first volume of his three-volume study, Tony Cliff traces Lenin’s life from political obscurity to prominence as the leader of a mass working-class party. It shows him instilling into that organisation the insights gained from every contact with the men and women fighting—with workers. Above all it shows Lenin managing as a practicioner of revolution in the pre-revolutionary period.

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Tony Cliff: Lenin


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PORTUGAL: DEFY THE REVOLUTION

Bosses panic, workers’ struggle grows

The exact outcome of the fighting between different sections of the armed forces in Portugal on Tuesday is still uncertain as this goes to press.

But one thing is clear. An attempt was made to destroy the strength of the working class which has built up since the overthrow of fascism last year.

Right-wing politicians in Portugal had been calling on the armed forces to ‘restore order’. Their statements have been given enormous publicity by the British press.

A police attack on the port of Setubal last weekend gave prominence to the few bruises received by the British pressman. There was hardly a mention of the shooting dead by the police of a left-wing demonstrator and the wounding of a dozen more.

Not of the way thousands of local workers besieged the police station, remembering how the police had been the staunchest supporter of the fascist regime.

When these people talk about a ‘breakdown of order’, what really worries them is the massive upsurge of the working-class struggle in recent weeks. It is estimated that there have been about 300 industrial disputes in Portugal in the past month, many of them over redundancies, with workers occupying the plants and locking out the managers.

The signals raised by workers from the Eurofil factory who demonstrated last week were typical of many such struggles: ‘Nationalisation yes, redundancy no’, ‘Down with capitalist exploitation’. The working class will win, ‘One solution—co-operative production’, ‘Those who created the crisis must pay for it’, ‘Nationalisation yes, negotiations no’.

The Portuguese workers are giving a lead in the fight for nationalisation that workers everywhere would do well to follow.

But not only the factories are involved in struggle. Most newspapers in the major cities are still run by the journalists who write them, with the power of the newspaper proprietors reduced to virtually nil. The attempt of the Catholic bishops, who control one of the most popular radio stations, Radio Minha Vida, to impose their views on the staff was met with anger and some of them, has led to a long strike.

Many of the secondary schools have been closed down by primary pupils strike, despite an ultimatum from the Minister of Education. Troops were stationed round the schools in an attempt to keep it open last week.

But the countryside has been taken over by the land of the great landlords, who are demanding additions to their land and permission to build on unoccupied land.

It is so wonder that the Portuguese ruling class is getting panic. The bourgeoisie is not only imploded. There are a proliferation of cases of managers going abroad, under the pretext of consulting medical specialists.

But other sections of the ruling class have no intention of running the risk of giving the workers and peasants a chance to fight back, even if it involves the methods used in that Andenne in Chile.

They are making a great deal of noise about the elections to be held in three weeks’ time. They expect these to give a victory to right-wing and social democratic parties that favour big business.

But a victory in the elections will not by itself provide big business with a new margin of power to control the factories and the press. So big business is also looking to sections of the army to act for it.

Immediately after the overthrow of Carles last year, the majority of army officers were willing to allow a few right-wing officers to take the initiative—especially as this seemed the only way of ending the clearly unpopular war in Africa. But in the last few months the Armed Forces Movement last week, the armed forces have voted for right-wing candidates and only the army supported the left.

VICTORY

Portugal, therefore, is the right of the officers in being matched by a move to the left among the rank and file. Its recent demonstrations, soldiers have shown sympathy with the left even against them with the police.

No real progress would have supported Tuesday’s coup but for that fear that the rank and file might not offer any support.

Many will hope to organise the workers’ movement by less violent means in the weeks ahead. It is worth noting that these Chilean officers used ‘restoring order’ after an unsuccessful right-wing coup as an excuse for the workers’ movement and to prepare the ground for a coup of months later.

The Portuguese working class has the power to crush all such moves, provided that an organisation of rank and file soldiers is formed to watch every step of the officers and to link up with the workers’ committees in the factories.

The movement, as in Chile, the biggest workers’ parties argue against such moves and to push their own independent movement that organises with the majority of right-wing officers. Portuguese bourgeoisie is trying to use its weak position by calling its ‘neutralising’ the movement and democracy.

The Communists in Britain have to be prepared to show solidarity if any such eventualities develop. The press and the Labour movement must be to soften public opinion for a Chile-style situation, and to organise to be at least 10 months of Allende’s government.

Socialists have to point out what is really going on. How to the workers who make the wealth to defend themselves, to organise their factories and to fight for a better society.
M15—a story of growth...

BECAUSE OUR RULERS, and the rulers of every country in the world, are determined to retain their power, their influence, and the rest of the population they try to make their own a fraction of pre-war levels. All this Washington is now putting to reverse in the interests of a new kind of "international order" and so the "Community" idea is taking shape. There are important schemes, the European Defence Community (EDC) and the European Coal and Steel Community (ECC). The EDC was a device to raise a German Army under a nominal "European" control. The EEC was a free trade to the EDC, different from its predecessor. It was an instrument of the French communist documents rather than a mere expansion of US foreign policy.

It was and is an economic bloc with a high degree of integration. The French "club" attempting (not too successfully) to organize a joint Western European capitalism, which is in competition with the rest of the world.

The famous Treaty of Rome, is a most important framework for such a joint capital. It is a radical document of association for Europe Ltd. It is intended to add that the establishment of a socialist Europe is impossible without setting up the whole setup of the cold war and mired by the "conquest" of the west, and used against the entire steel industry, the EEC is reactionary through and through.

MI5's London HQs

WHERE IS MI5 based? In the USA the CIA and FBI operate from huge, well-paved buildings. In Britain the location of the security services is concealed. Apart from the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall there are at least three buildings for MI5 in London.

Leconfield House in Curzon Street is the MI5 building. It is the MI5 filing centre. The files are known to run into millions, and cover societies, trade unions, and for a bonus every MP.

The windows are elaborate iron grills. To give that bit of melodrama to the proceedings are neat square machine gun emplacements at ground floor and first floor level.

At the operations centre in Barnard Road, Battersea a quiet suburban street, but there, at the bottom of the street is a ramshackle three-storey building. It is an anonymous place, and could pass for one of the many small ranges in the neighbourhood. Raise your eyes and you’ll see its special feature, a 15-foot mast complete with interesting little aerials.

The mast should be high enough to give great reception at the third aspect. The sixth floor, of the Ministry Tower at the top of Tottenham Court Road. Officially this new skyscraper is dedicated to the improvement of Health and Social Security, and is in fact the first of a new series of buildings. The Post Office has been given a special area in the basement.

Floor 16 has blinds on every window. The main lift doesn’t stop there and the doors to various staircases are kept locked. This claims a retired MI5 officer, is the main HQ.

WORRIED about your rights being violated? Thinking about complicating the life of MI5 at the office of the Commissioner for Straffordshire?

We’ll be pleased to know that the Secretary to the Commissioner is a Mr. A. McMahon & McNulty, and he’s British. He is also an agent of British military intelligence which is very handy for the government when all their embarrassing Irish facts come in.

Narking—a family affair...

JAMES BOND is for the movies, not the real world. He is an agent for MI5 in one who can just melt into the background. Kenneth Lennett filled the fill. He was a socialist and an anti-communist, and a lot of money he was sucked into working for the MI5. He was, only to be assassinated, murdered.

He was killed to a girl who was approached by spy for MI5. She is an upper-class family and is the daughter of the old family friends, turned to be an administrator with MI5.

The approach was made by the leader of the Angry Brigade, for which she was asked to put up money to buy a friend of the one of the defendants.

‘Originally he asked me out in to the West End store. He told me that he had a friend who wanted some advice about his university son was thinking of going to, she explained.

‘Well that was all untrue. The friend was his boss, complete with a briefcase. I know nothing about all his wartime exploits with the SS and his connections. When they got round to talking politics, she informed, she was, I was always involved in telling her things without even nothing. The family friend insisted that I must come to his place.

Crime

‘I thought he would be there—but she wasn’t. He told me how "we" all had the same end in the world. He said that thing as a political crime in this country which is "the living voice in politics".

We were talking about violence in South Africa—which had him upset, because of his family connections. He knew that I’d put up for this and I told him that I could get some help from the police. I could get to know certain people—and I didn’t know them, but whom I’ve met since.

‘I thought that he could understand my scruples—that I felt I would be saying on friends, not that we wouldn’t really we all believed in the same thing etc and that I needed a "job" and directions in life.

The ‘family friend' left MI5 shortly afterwards. He left to be a girl for the service was a part of this life. She said me ‘I didn’t find out a thing about MI5 she explained. ‘He was far better at getting information out of me.'
THE WEEK IN IRELAND

AS THE IRA ceasefire enters its seventh week, the detailed lines of current British strategy are beginning to emerge.

The short-term strategy is aimed at preserving the peace, at almost any cost, at least until the Convention elections scheduled for late April. But if this fails another, more ominous, long-term strategy is being prepared.

Northern Irish Secretary Merlyn Rees calculates that a minimum of violence between now and the election will yield a maximum vote for the 'centre' parties - Fine Gael-Unionists, the SDLP and the Alliance Party - thus opening the way for a new version of the power-sharing experiment.

This explains Rees' willingness to negotiate directly with the Provisionals and to risk alienating the Protestant right-wing, allowing the Provisionos to operate their 'Seven-advices centres', each with a hot line to the Northern Ireland office.

On examination, however, it is clear that the minimum status is all the Provisionos have got in return for laying down their arms. As one disenchanted member observed last week: 'We called off a war for phone numbers!' A formidable paramilitary army the Provisionos may be but, lacking a political base, they are non-starters as a revolutionary leadership.

Setting up of the advice centres was sufficient to energise the more hysterical elements in the Provisiono leadership. But the real conclusion is that the Provisionos had, in effect, been granted that status by the British government in order to send out its own "police-patrols" in protest.

Rees dealt with them as much as he could have dealt with the Provisionos by making a great show of meeting their leaders, giving assurances and commenting on local television on their "good sense". In other words, he accorded them, too, some status in the campaign.

Rees' play is to buy off 'extremists on both sides' by giving them, if necessary, the shadow of power: but the substance he is re-animating for the Provisiono men is a deal. He knows, however, that it may not come off.

The Catholic working class, with more unemployment, membership and now far further disarmed by the IRA - Official IRA feud, will almost certainly vote massively for the SDLP.

But, overwhelmingly, the Protestant workers are still imprisoned within Orangeism and will support the Coalition of the Protestant Ascendancy, which is committed to a restoration of the Protestant Ascendancy. If they win around half a seat in the Provisional seats - they will probably get more - the Executive Mark II will never get off the ground.

Asked last week what the British government would do in that situation, Rees replied that the Convention would be abandoned and Direct Rule continued as at present. Hardly anyone believes him.

The Massacre of Portardaw

Pontardawe, a village in the Swansea valley, became a dead valley overnight when the steelworks was closed down in 1961. During this period, the whole of the West Wales section of Richard Thomas and Baldwin's steelworks was closed.

As a steelworker in Pontardawe, I was in the same situation now facing the Ebew Vale workers. I worked in one of the steelworks owned by Richard Thomas and Baldwin, one of the nationalised industries. I was forced to leave home and look for work elsewhere. I saw my father broken at 51 because he knew he would never find work again.

Michael Foot, now frankly trying to persuade the steelworkers to give up their jobs without too much fuss or embarrassment to the Labour government, is only doing what Hugh Gaitick said to us in 1961.

Respectfully,

Garet Williams

The Loyalists, having 'won' the Convention elections, are determined to maintain their sectarian designs they will launch a full-scale civil war. They are preparing for that now. They are not to be frightened. The likelihood is that the British government would do in that situation. Rees replied that the Convention would be abandoned and Direct Rule continued as at present.

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Ebew Vale steelworkers giving a rough reception last month to Michael Foot, 'Unemployment Minister'. His betrayal is not the first...

The Massacre of Pontardawe

By Gareth Williams

AUEW shop steward, Ford's Dagenham

still see the same men unable to find work. Out on the scrap heap since 1961. Fourteen years un-employed. These men are in their forties when they closed. They were considered too old to get new jobs - and, anyway, there were more to be had locally.

Michael Foot is keeping his word. The workers of Ebew Vale are to have a marshmallow factory. How many men does he hope to employ here?

The other industry he mentions is car components. He states there will be 'few jobs. He must be joking! The car industry is on its knees and the bulk of the car industry is working short time. There have been massive layoffs already.

We did not get a marshmallow factory. But we did get a ladies' underwear factory! Work for women of course - at women's rates. The men stayed home while their women worked.

Will Ebew Vale end up like the Swansea Valley, with the only industry being light industry? We finally got the 'industrial estate' promised us ten years after the steelworks closed.

It was, however, all light industry, especially geared to employing women on a part-time shift system. Profits are higher for the bosses this way.

Until 1961, we were a prosperous village, the most central in the valley. After the closure all that changed.

With the end of the steelworks we lost our social amenities. We had once been the central meeting point for other villages. All this finished. The dance hall closed and the cinemas became a warehouse and a supermarket.

When people talk about Wales they often say 'you can always go down the mines'. The coal industry too, is suffering in Wales. There are regular closures of pits. Now, without the steel industry, thousands of tons of coal will not be used.

Michael Foot promises industry before redundandies. What about all the people already made redundant? At the weeks go on, still more are being laid off.

What I learnt from our defeat was not to trust union officials. We were without any leadership. We had no experience of struggle. In the 60's or so years the unions had existed, there had always been a paternalistic attitude towards us from the firm.

First name

It was a pint after work with management, first name terms. The older workers used to say quite proudly that there had never been a strike or official dispute. They could not understand the young workers more militant attitude.

When we worked out this, they realised their was too late to make a stand.

Not only the jobs are at stake at Ebew Vale. It is the future of the families as well as their village.

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Not only the jobs are at stake at Ebew Vale. It is the future of the families as well as their village.
The crisis: social contract or socialism

The past year has seen the development of the most serious economic crisis of capitalism since the 1930s. All the major economies are in a state of stagnation or decline.

In the US output fell by 5 per cent during 1974 and unemployment reached seven and a half million (8.2 per cent) early this year, with at least another four million on short time. In Japan output is down by a staggering 15 per cent per 12 months, and officially admitted unemployment has topped the million mark.

In West Germany it stands at nearly two million and a quarter million more plus nearly a million on short time. West Germany has doubled, Italy has a million and a half more and France has topped the million mark.

The indications are that the recession has yet to touch the bottom. It is still deepening.

At the same time inflation continues. In 1974 it ranged from 8 per cent in West Germany, through 20 per cent in Britain, to 27 per cent in Japan. This is the unique feature of the present crisis. Instead of the normal "stabilisation" which takes place in a recession, with some decline in prices, we have "stagflation" turning into "deflation".

This means that even if there is some recovery from recession next year, the outcome can only be a drive back of inflation followed by a still deeper slump. As the OECD officials see it: The risk is of a much more severe slump than expected, followed by a stronger than anticipated recovery. This might lead straight back to a new inflationary surge. (Financial Times, 7 March, 1975).

The world crisis has paralleled almost everywhere by a growth of working-class resistance. Workers have reacted to the "voluntary contract" at the TUC with a wave of strikes in India, the strike waves in Thurnau and Halle, the "social contract" in the US, the strikes in Paris before the election, the US doubles and the migrant labour system in South Africa, not to mention the most important of all the upsurge in workers' struggles in Spain and Portugal.

The trade union leaders' drift to right

The shift from the compulsory incomes policies of the Tories to the "voluntary contract" of the Social Contract means that the immediate class of any workers in dispute is with their own trade union organisations.

The main aim of the union leaders--as well as that of the TUC leadership--is to increase the "political base". Their whole position is based upon working within the system. When the system enters crisis, they lose the ability to control the conditions under which they are paid and the conditions of their members' wages.

But in Germany, where the Transport Workers Union (TCGWU) had made a single strike official, the organisation has sunk into feathering its own nest, burying the controversy under a wave of strikes. They have made a "political" decision to stand behind the cause of the transport workers' organisation, the Technikerverein (TDVU).

In Britain, the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) had made a single strike official, too. The TGWU has been accused of being a far right wing organisation, but there is a need to draw people into activity around the rank and file movement.
for socialism

GO

...but the workers said NO!

Benn's left image

The organisations of the Labour Party have continued to decline over the past year, as in the years of the Tory government. The number of individual members has continued to drop, as has the activity of ward and constituency parties. The vote for Labour in both elections last year was lower than at any time since the 1940s.

The direct links between Labour Party and the working class in the localities are weaker than ever before. That means that any future left swing by workers is unlikely to be reflected in terms of a real movement of rank and file workers within the Labour Party as such.

However, we should not be blind to the attempts by sections of the parliamentary left to create a certain sort of base of their left—although not to leftist-reformist politics which does not depend upon the local Labour Parties.

Widgenna, in particular, has attempted to give itself a left image. His proposals for 'participation' and 'co-operatives' have two aims.

Firstly, they linked in with the need of the ruling class to seem to make concessions so as to define militancy. The idea of 'co-operatives' has served to confuse and demoralise workers in a number of redundancy struggles.

Participation proposals could lead to workers agreeing to sack their colleagues in the interests of efficiency.

The public opposition expressed by the press to these ideas is designed more to keep them in check, to place close limitations on their sphere of operation, than to do away with them altogether.

Secondly, Benn's proposals make him seem like a leftist and have enabled him to make a certain degree of contact with a layer of unions and social workers, independently of both the Labour Party organisations and the national trade union bureaucracies.

In the event of a serious conflict at some point in the future within the government, those contacts will be advantageous to his career.

Revolutionaries have to be irreconcilably opposed to the class collaboration, complete with talk of 'three-sided partnership', that is built into Benn's ideas. But that should not blind us to the fact that these policies sometimes represent a pole of attraction for workers who move into opposition to the government, particularly in redundancy situations, but are not yet prepared to commit themselves to revolutionary politics.

We have to be prepared to fight alongside such workers, pointing out in a frank manner the faults of Bennism, so as to draw them away from Benn and towards revolutionary politics.

What is to be done?

The ruling class will not be able to tolerate the present situation indefinitely. The low rate of investment, the massive balance of payments deficit, the scope of overseas borrowing, the squeeze in wages in the aftermath of the miners' settlement, all put British capitalism in an extremely precarious position.

All the economic forecasts made on its behalf stress the need to cut out 'non-essential' public spending—wages, schools, the Health Service, and 'private consumption' in other words real wages. The government will try to reinterpret the Social Contract so as to fit in such cuts. The trade union hierarchy will want to go along with these cuts, but will be inhibited from going too far for fear of the reaction of rank and file activists.

The outcome could well be the development, at some point, of an open clash between the government and the unions, perhaps on sectoral issues. Two or three redundancies on the shop floor can often determine whether sackings and cuts are accepted fatalistically—or met with vigorous resistance which can radicalise even the most backward layers of workers.

But it is presently the volatility of the struggle that produces the greatest danger of the oppression. A spell of demobilisation and retreat by the best-organised workers in a locality can produce a general decline in confidence that affects IS members as well as other militants, closing their eyes to the political possibilities, as being a drift to the right, or even a 'regrowth of reformism'. This is misleading.

There are no real signs that workers are being more attracted to right-wing or reformist ideas than in the past. There are even fewer indications of any rebirth of the traditional reformist political organisations, the local Labour and Communist Parties.

What is true is that workers who do not get a fighting lead from their factory organisations over redundancies and lay-offs will then look upon other things as the 'lesser evil'—whether or not they attract them is Benn's 'co-op' or import controls, demands that women be laid off before men, or whatever.

The trend towards political and ideological questions to the fore. That is why we have to step up our political propaganda, develop our own discussion groups, against the idea of discrimination against women.

Minority

Under such circumstances, the traditional groups of supporters who are attracted to the Labour Party are more committed to what we argue for. If we can organise them to take the right sort of initiatives, we will draw them behind our more general political ideas.

TWO. Political periphery to our organisation of support among those who accept all of the ideas we argue for. We have to address the 'South Bank' problem, because of the 'phoney war' climate, the need to keep an eye on the mass opposition to form a revolutionary organisation. In every factory and workplace, to do our utmost to bring these workers closer to us, by encouraging the formation of a group as well as read it, by attempting to form discussions groups with them, by seeing if we can get any financial contributions to the paper.

The IS must continue to increase our influence, right now. That can have an immense effect on the ongoing struggles can exert when the class struggle becomes much sharper, whether this be in weeks or in months.
PARADISE FOR THE QE2
PARASITES

I wonder if the people on the luxury cruise got the same look at South Africa that I did. I was young and completely unaware that apartheid existed. I had joined the Merchant Navy at 16 and my first trip turned out to do be South Africa. Locking back I wonder at the naivety of the other crew members. They seemed to think that the situation was quite novel and that was about it. No doubt it was because the majority of them just went by taxi to a club and came back the same way. Anyway, when we docked in Capetown I decided to spend my shore leave exploring.

At once I began to see strange things—very hostile looks from coloured people which I couldn’t at first understand. Old black women having to struggle up to the top deck of a bus with their shopping. At that age my joy was football and I decided to go and see a game if the chance came up. Nice grounds. Large stands for Blacks behind one goal and the rest, good seats, for the Whites. I was learning.

When someone told me it was unfair to return to the ship at night alone I decided to find a person who could tell me what the hell was going on. I think the best way to describe my feelings was that I aged and changed very quickly. Before getting all the facts I had one harrowing moment.

In the Port Elizabeth shopping area I saw an old coloured man pushing a small barrow of fruit. Somehow he managed to tip it over and the fruit scattered across the road. Immediately some coloured children clambered around and ran off with their prizes. Being very ruthless, I had both down and was gathering up the fruit and trying to put it back in the barrow.

The old man looked scared and made me feel unwanted. Next minute there’s a hand on my shoulder and a fifteen minute dress down on how to behave when visiting South Africa. Apparently helping people pick up dropped goods was not a good way to behave. Anyway, the South African policeman took a few of my details and suggested I walk back to the ship. So it seemed to me that I saw South Africa in one of the two ways in which it is possible. I know I witnessed the stark true—READER, Southampton.

Where higher rates mean comfort for the few

FAMILIES IN CROYDON are threatened with an 80 per cent rate increase. In recent years we have had new fly-over and a new underpass, and a new carriageway is being built.

Could it possibly be that my rates are going towards their cost? These remote offices seem to be the base of the economic structure that is the tea, sugar and chocolate barons can get about more easily.

For, in the fashionable area of Croydon, we find such imposing buildings as the House (Tate and Lyle), explorers of the West Indies and East Africa) and St George’s House (Cadbury and Fry, explorers of West Africa).

You look at these tall, striking glass and concrete structures and you wonder how many hours of underpaid black labour and how many thousands of tons of underpriced tea, sugar, coffee and cocoa, it costs to build them.

And I wonder how much more of my sweat, how much more of my wages, it’s going to take to keep them churning out their millions of pounds of profit each year.—JOE MAGUIRE, Croydon.

THE RAPID growth of redundancies and short-time working has shown the trade union bureaucracy for what it is—nothing more than a police force for the government’s Social Contract of the 1970s.

Not once have they recommended occupation of factories nor workers thrown on the scrap heap been advised to mount the planned and recommended strike action. It becomes clear that the crisis in the trade union movement is the key to the fate of the workers and the workers united in the伤病, an injury to one is an injury to all.

The last Labour government took the fight against redundancies to the courts with the Redundancy Payment Act. Now the present government is not going to take the fight against redundancies but Sidgwick it will take the fight to the workers themselves through a Bill to be introduced soon in the Lords.

This will make it a criminal act to occupy a factory, punishable by up to six months in prison if workers refuse to end a sit-in. Homeless families who squatted would also face imprisonment.

Every trade union needs to argue about the political aims of this Bill and needs to organise against it.

As more and more companies threaten redundancies, the problem they are presenting and the tactics to fight them are becoming more confused.

Any attempts to split the workers are being led by the part-time women workers first and then dividing the workforce.

The tactics used by the workers has divided the factories in the end determing who wins. Occupation will win over sitting on it. In some cases a total strike is the answer. In continuous process plants, guerrilla tactics might win the day.

But something is certain. Whatever the outcome, unless the political basis of the strike is kept the issue will remain the same—there are no jobs and no future.

TOMMY HEALY, Merseyside.

POSTAL POINTS

AULT and ASTMS . . . . Kincardine and Sidgwick (22 February) are wrong if they think the safeguards of the AULT in the TUC would be a step towards increasing the strength of trade unions through the universities.

The proposed move is not a result of significant rank and file pressure, but is a manoeuvre being considered by the AULT executive to head off the growth of membership of ASTMS among academics . . . . socialists who are academic employees in the universities; rightly see AULT as the main vehicle for extending trade union organisation now and for the foreseeable future.—ERIC CAMERON, ASTMS, full-time executive.

THE CRISIS . . . . J Parks (1 March) says that the collapse of the gap between the purchasing power of the masses and the total price of goods on the market . . . . What is so special about capitalism is that it operates outside of the market . . . . but the surplus is in the shape of capital goods, and what causes the crisis is the over-accumulation of such goods (not just any goods). This forces down the amount of surplus extracted relative to the amount of capital goods invested, i.e., the rate of profit falls.—DAVE PARKINSON, London.

For the best and most readable explanation of capitalism read Marxist Economics and the World Today, by Chris Harman in the latest JHMT.

THREE . . . . the review snatches of a Tory or Labour Party mentality of prevarication and evasion; a lesson from nothing and stay there to be a good socialist.—IVAN BEAVIS, London.

THE BUSINESS . . . . I fully sympathise with those who refuse to accept the cuts which are being brought in because it tends to antagonise workers who are already on low wages—venture to counter any action by management.—J BURTON, London.

REEDS UNDER THE . . . . Your article on newly internationalised BAA came across to me. Before my marriage, I worked there, I fully sympathise that the workers should hold on for more than money, but from my experience the money was determined by the employers and the workers' standards. We won staged agreements. There are no more. The trade union should attempt to give their members into one of the few remaining representation claret—MRS DAVEY PARKER, London.

BABY-SNATCHING . . . . It would be impossible to improve on Mary Harman’s perceptive and sympathetic statement on the case of Patricia Wood held for two years by baby-snatching The Parts from the Press. Many similar cases are covered by the Kees Norman (March) article from Labour Briefing. These are London N.-THEO SAUNDERS, London.

MORE . . . . Pete Marsden’s recent series The Politics of Inequality could prove to be the finest asset to be selling Socialist Review. The series behind the 24-weeks. The series is backed with quotes and presents a proper context of the themes, this doesn’t explain fully what we’re fighting for. Further explaining what’s meant by terms like ‘industry for social needs not profit’ it would serve recruitment to the international Socialists more than the lengthy reports of strikes and disputes.—DGREEN, London.
Why are these men rejoicing?

By PETER BINNS
a member of the Chile Solidarity Campaign executive

Allende alliance was too progressive — it should have moved more slowly, it should have made greater concessions to the Chilean bourgeoisie. This would have been less provocative to US imperialism.

The strength of this book is in providing some useful information to counter the first myth. It shows the depth of US commitment well before Allende’s election to office in 1970.

Flooded

The US extended 1.3 billion dollars to Chile in the 1960s through Alliance for Progress loans — more for each person than anywhere else in Latin America. And the CIA gave 20 million dollars to Christian Democrat Frei to finance his successful 1964 election campaign against Allende.

Allende had no foot in the door for money which the US had lavished on his opponent. The only US money which Chile received between 1970 and the coup in 1973 went to the two universities which were serving as centres for right-wing opposition to Allende, and to the military which carried out the coup.

Worsened

American firms with big stakes in Chile — firms such as Kennecott, ITT and Anaconda — also played an important role in the sabotage. Working hand-in-glove with the US Treasury and the CIA, they succeeded in virtually cutting off Chile from US sources of supply.

Before 1970, nearly half of Chile’s imports came from the US, much of it in the form of machinery. By 1973 the lack of US spare parts had become urgent, and progressively worsened.

All these facts and more are to be got from this book. However it provides no real analysis or understanding of the class struggle in Chile itself.

Can you afford to miss these films?

By George Kelly

Fear Eats the Soul, a film shown at one of the popular cinema complexes in Sheffield, will probably end up in an art film theatre at a March in Liverpool with a rather pretentious atmosphere.

Which is a great pity, because the picture shows workers with their general reluctance to watch ‘artistic’ films will close off the good film from the audience it deserves.

It is about a young Moroccan ‘guest worker’ who falls in love with a German widow, an elderly German widow. She is married and for a living, he is a car worker.

His life has all the misery of the single migrant worker, whose only way of relaxing is alcohol and prostitution. She is constantly in debt, and the audience is left to decide whether she is running around with a young worker, or has something about her that makes her appeal.

Rejected

They sleep with each other, set up home and eventually marry. She is rejected by her kids, the neighbours gossip and plot, the shopkeepers who had taken her back.

He gets tired of her that she is only interested in him for sexual relief and runs back to the bag girls. In the end she ends it all and goes down with a stomach ulcer, the international shiftworker’s aliment.

As a romantic expression of a story is wonderfully acted, particularly by El Hedi Ben Salem and Brigitte Mira as the unfortunates. The film’s great strength is showing how alienationism cannot be confined to Britain and how it takes such subtle and complicated forms.

Don’t let the subtitles or the generally middle-class aura of the film theatre put you off. If Fear Eats the Soul comes your way, go and see it. You won’t be disappointed.

Fear Eats the Soul is distributed by CineDailies, 9 Rosharon Road, London W11. (01-727-2651).

All Sw readers in London should see Black Holiday at the Academy Two cinemas — and readers outside London should try to get the film shown at their local picture houses.

The film explains better than any other film or any other machine it, and which side it is on.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY

BBC 1: 10.15am. Alvin Stardust stars in PLEIN SOLEIL, in THE MURDER AT THE MUSEE D’HISTOIRE ROYALE. What the Academy with all the Americans have done with the world price and world food prices have quadrupled in the last three years. Price index due at the Chicago Grain Exchange also control the world price and world food prices.

WEDNESDAY

BBC 2: 9.30pm. Not a gun for the junta! Demonstration: Saturday 15 May.

DEFEND CHILEAN TRADE UNIONISTS

Not a penny, not a gun for the junta!

Demonstration: Saturday 15 May.

IS members and Socialist Workers readers in the North West and West Yorkshire should work to make this a big turn-out. A poster with the slogan and details of the demonstration is available, 15p for 50, including posters for local Chile Solidarity Campaigns and trade union bodies from Sue Bayrell, 8 Cottington Gardens, London N 1 (phone 01-380 2659).

The Chile Solidarity Campaign is organizing a special train from London for the demonstration. Details from CWC, 179 Seven Sisters Road, London N7.

ELI S PRIETO

Chile: The gorillas are amongst us

HELIO PRIETO

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Chile: The gorillas are amongst us
**International Socialist Worker**

**670 at IRISH DAY SCHOOL**

MORE THAN 70 IS members, from all parts of the country, met in London on Sunday for an Irish day school. The aim was to arm members with the facts and arguments to take to the Troops Out campaign. The day school was arranged in association with the 6 April demonstration and the May Day conference in Ireland in May.

The day school dealt with the present situation in Ireland—the truce and the Civil War—given by the Provisional IRA. Jimmy Greaney talked about the British withdrawal, and the Loyalist councils, the loyalists had regained confidence. The Convention decisions are expected in April—with the British trying to force the situation. Large majority, this time with hardline aspirations.

Faldy Frewin spoke of the growing possibility of a civil war. Since there is no chance of reform within the North, because of its divided nature, central police power is essential.

A civil war in slow motion is already going on. The 1200 already dead is, in fact, equivalent to 6000 dead in Britain. The movement will continue to grow, the loyalists hope that Stormont will be made to go on, and the peace will go on.

Chris Hanrahan spoke in the afternoon on IS's perspective. The organisation is concerned with the building of more radical trade union and radical student and worker alliances for the 6 April march and May conferences.

The IS could not last long before the Convention decisions, when the question of the Irish question must arise. All groups must secure themselves and their trade union and political allies and open new lines.

Attempts should be made to affiliate union branches to the Troops Out Movement, so that the movement could be used in organising local conferences when the situation breaks up again.

Another school will be held soon in the Manchester District.

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“SOCIALISM is all right in theory but it never works out in practice. Look at Russia, where one elite was just replaced by another.”

**A QUESTION OF SOCIALISM**

ANY serious discussion of socialism will sooner or later come round to the question of Russia. For many Think Russia today represents what a future socialist state in Britain would be like. Not surprisingly such a proposition makes many people hostile to socialism.

But Russia today has nothing in common with socialism. There is a ruling class in Russia just as in Britain. And the Russian state is the same old Russian state and it is one of the most brutal and repressive in the world.

But there is a further difficulty with Russia that separates it from other repressive states. It rules by claim to be heirs to the workers’ revolution—in the same way that they claim to be heirs to the policies state ‘socialist’. So you have to debate this with socialism.

**TYRANNY**

Russia is not socialist because Brezhnev says so. The Spanish Inquisition might decree that thousands of people on the basis of Christian belief. Brezhnev claims apartheid is in the best interest of the country. But the repressive mechanism of the state is just as strong as that of the Inquisition. And in the same way that the Inquisition’s laws were enforced by the police state, so the Russian rulers try to make sure that the laws they claim to be social and progressive laws are actually enforced by the state. In the same way that the Inquisition could say that Jews could not live in Spain, so the Russian rulers have legal laws that prevent anyone from living in Russia without state permission. So you have to debate this with socialism.

Central to socialism is workers’ control over the means of production. And a large part of the level of production and investment is decided not by the needs of the working people of Russia, but by the relative standing of the Russian state, its relationship with the West, in particular the USA.

In this, the Russian economy operates on the same principles as any country in the capitalist west. For workers control over production is not there, and the question of the widest possible debate and discussion within the working class is essential.

**STATE**

In a socialist state the allocation of resources, the amount to go into industry, the amount to go into agriculture, whether one section of the working populations, the farmers or the industrial workers, gets more or less, is decided continuously. The forum for deciding these important questions would be workers’ councils—that’s the meaning of the Russian word ‘zamoskroed’. The same mechanisms exist in every country, in every region, by a nationalised people’s council.

Delegates elected to the councils, which represent the interests of the people, would attend the councils and replace them if they did not carry out the policies on which they were elected. The delegates would have no privileges over the people they represented and no privileges or special treatment for the workers, the peasants, and the poor, the hungry, and the homeless. Workers in all countries do not apply to Russia today. For the majority of working people, the majority of the population, there is no democracy to speak of. Elections are not held. There is only one candidate. Leaders come into power without explanation and without the right of the people in whose interest they are supposed to work. The workers have no control over public utilities—wholesale, retail, transport, education, health care, communications, housing, and all the services necessary for life.

Even mild criticisms of the regime is not tolerated. Privileges for the ruling class in Russia abound—from salaries offers 100 times that of an industrial worker to special education for their children. Russian unions have been dominated by an opposition of the ruling class, with an opposition of the state.***

**WHY RUSSIA ISN’T SOCIALIST**

Some might reply to this by saying that the revolution of 1917 did work, and it is today because of the Revolution of 1917.

For socialists, the October revolution was the most important event in the history of the working class anywhere in the world. For the first time in history, the working class had gained control of a major country.

For a while after the revolution there was a flourishing democracy. Although there is no doubt that the Bolshevik Party had the overwhelming support of both the workers and the peasants, it was also the case that the soviets, other workers’ and peasants’ councils continued to exist and publish their own papers.

But the new workers’ government faced terrible odds. Forty-eight capitalist armies—including one from Britain—invaded and devastated the country and agriculture. In a country already brought to an economic standstill by the war the effect of the civil war was decisive.

Many of the workers who had made the revolution in 1917 were either killed or driven to the countryside by the starvation in the towns. Out of every five workers in Russia in 1918 only two were left; by 1920 workers’ councils had lost their workers’ councils in these circumstances.

In addition, the working-class revolutionary line of the other European countries failed, leaving the socialist Russia isolated and alone.

Last year, a new state capitalist ruling class rose, led by the former Bolshevik Party led by Stalin. It was thrust upon the workers’ state by violence and repression. Workers have been trying to recreate a workers’ democracy by building up industry and supporting the revolutionary movement internationally they have not been given the chance to do so.

When Stalin was finally forced to industrialise he did it at the expense of the working class, with bitter camps and brutal repression. Rather than seeking a socialist solution to the problem, Stalin decided to follow the capitalist’s path.

The socialist ideals of October workers’ councils and new ruling class which still exists in Russia today had been created.

**Rent strikes in danger**

In the next two weeks most colleges will be voting on rent strikes for Easter and pressure is building up to end the 24 student rent strikes. If they go on in the next few days the cuts to the college authorities will be high. Many already have large losses if they have to bear some of the financial situation could be critical.

At SURREY UNIVERSITY students were expected any day. The vice-chancellor has said he is going to cut the students’ fees instead.

At LANCASTER 400 students are occupying the university administration to try to stop any victimisation of students on rent strike and to get promises that there will be no further cut. The student union executive has made attempts to weaken the rent strike. Last year they succeeded in getting a agreement to agree that some rent that the students paid will not be paid for that year. And that the students get an agreed an increased rent with the college.

The history of the student occupation was played into the hands of the college. It has been very very much to the rent strike together and get students to pay next term’s rent out of the union fund.

Student rents are due to rise again in the autumn if the rent strikes are defeated this year it will be much harder work next year to stop massive rent rises.

**Student Right**

A GROUP of right-wingers, now purged under the name of moderates, are attempting to take over the National Union of Students. They will make little impact on the coming NUS conference despite the rather odd name for their organisation: the Radical Action Group—and the many friends of the University Three Higher Education Supplement.

In the last months the group was claiming a significant victory at BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY when Valentine-Owen, their candidate for the NUS presidency, won the election for president of the university. Last year this super democrat, who claims he represents what students in Birmingham really think, tried to lay off staff required by the student union. The response to this was immediate hundreds of students signed a campaign demanding an increased granting. Valentine-Owen opposed the occupation.

Last week a large union meeting rejected the pay cap, set up a union joint action committee, and backed the occupation, which continued.

Valentine-Owen has resigned, although he will stand again. The RAG is going to attempt to win elections by paying over their differences. It is not clear that they are not more concerned with maintaining the high fees and low support for the high fees and the union funds.

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**THE Rank and File Organising Committee has called a conference on the struggle for equal pay for women and against redundancies among women workers.**

It is to be held on Sunday 26 April and will be open to delegates, both men and women, from trade union bodies and branches, shop stewards committees, trades councils, district committees.

1975 is International Women’s Year, it is also international economic crisis year and in both what working women are going to feel most in their pay packets and on their jobs.

Last year women fought back against low pay and conditions at Salford Electrical Instruments, Winograd and Rogers on Merseyside, Imperial Typewriters in Hall and Leicester and countless others. Women bakers, nurses, hospital technicians and radiographers were on strike for the first time ever.

Women workers are often the first to be sacked, the first to be laid off, the first to be bullied, the first to be paid less. They just don’t get the same. The standard of living of men and women is being brought down by the same forces that bring home women as well as men. Every trade unionist should support the fight of women for equal pay with men for equal pay. Women workers need the same fight for the same rights and conditions. This affects all trade unionists.

Judy Jones, a nurse at Salford Royal Infirmary and chairman of the RFWC, helped set up the rank and file Manchester and District Nurses Action Group during the nursery’s strike last year.

She told Women’s Voice, the paper produced by the International Socialists for women workers and women’s issues. “There has never been a more important this conference is. Everyone knows that a majority of workers in hospitals are women, and women are very often the first to be sacked. Women workers have equal pay... but in the case of the ancillary workers they are almost all women. It was no surprise, therefore, that like in many union claims, it was the first to be dropped.

Delegacies

“Don’t do equal pay for the workers we do. We must make sure that we get equal pay for women as well.”

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**NEW BULLETIN**

THE national committee of the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOSIS) met last weekend. It was decided to produce a regular bulletin which contained local reports. The first issue will contain a full report of the meeting.

**BE AWARE!**

TWELVE months ago when police were used to arrest 100 students at ESSEX UNIVERSITY, Socialists were able to point out that Essex was being closely watched by other vice-chancellors as a test case. student militancy might be broken. We now received a document written by the president of BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY exactly at that time.

It contains a discussion of different methods of attack; one way that the actual tactics which are most harmful to the colleges are the ones in which the cuts are made. We are told that the colleges free occupations and conditions are already in place.

He says: “Security staff should be encouraged to gain the confidence of potential students and be able to stop the student occupation of the occupied buildings. In this way we shall be able to stop the student occupation of their universities.”

**WOMEN’S VOICE OUT NOW**

Articles on redundancies and layoffs, equal pay, maternity leave, and marriage benefits.


Subscriptions £5 per six months or £10 a year, including postage.

**DELEGACIES**

“Don’t do equal pay for the workers we do. We must make sure that we get equal pay for women as well.”

**For details and for forms for subscriptions write to Roger Cox, Secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.**

**Rank and File Call for Equal Pay Conference**
THE GLASGOW Labour council leader has made a frantic call on the government to bring in troops to break the nine-week old unofficial strike of dustcart drivers. He wants transport and private hauliers to move the 60,000 tons of rubbish which has piled up in working class areas in the city.

This outrageous appeal came as the climax to a long saga of treachery by the Glasgow council. The drivers were promised more money when they agreed to return to work last summer. In the interests of the Social Contract, the Labour council broke its pledge.

Their whining about a ‘health hazard’ is pathetic. If they had an ounce of the courage shown by the Labour councillors at Clay Cross in the fight against the Tory Rent Act, they could have paid the drivers in full nine weeks ago and the ‘health hazard’ need never have happened.

The ‘brig is the troops’ campaign by the Glasgow councillors seems to have stopped none of the workers’ resistance. As we go to press, the council’s lawyers are negotiating with the council for an orderly return to work.

There is no doubt that the Glasgow Labour councillors called in the troops to break the firemen’s strike in the city in 1972. The firemen managed to hold out despite the troops’ intervention, largely because their work was specialised, and the troops were not up to it.

Massive

The dustmen’s work is not specialised. Their picket lines could only have been held against troops by massive solidarity action in the city. Although many Glasgow workers—notably the firemen’s, railmen’s and electricity workers—promised such solidarity, the dustmen may have felt that enough support was unlikely.

Negotiations go on as we go to press. The outcome will be reported next week. In the meantime, two scenes stand out from this disgraceful affair.

One scene shows the largest Labour councils in the country preparing to defend the social contract by resorting to strike-breaking tactics worthy of the most unscrupulous 19th century employers.

Secondly, we must build a rank and file movement, free from trade union officials, council bureaucrats, and employers, which can give concrete solidarity to isolated, courageous groups of workers like the Glasgow dustcart drivers, and strengthen their hands against their oppressors.

This was the warning given by the SWP’s Scottish member in the House of Commons, Mr. Kinnock, last week. The SWP has called for a general strike in support of the Scottish miners and against the government’s policy of mass redundancies, privatisation and cuts in social services.

Miners aid Junta victims

NALTOW has issued a report on the miners’ strike in Liverpool. It describes the government’s policy of mass redundancies, privatisation and cuts in social services.

The report states that the miners in Liverpool are facing a battle for their lives. They have been fighting for their livelihood and their families’ future.

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AUEW: SUPPORT THESE SIX

The popular press are campaigning for a vote for the right wing candidates in the AUEW elections. We urge readers of Socialist Worker to vote against the right wing candidates and therefore support:

BOB WRIGHT for General Secretary
J BRET for Assistant General Secretary
J FOSTER for National Organiser
R WALSMEY for National Organiser

For bulk orders phone 01-739 2639

SOCIALIST WORKER
PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

GLASGOW:
LABOUR COUNCIL CALLS FOR SCAB TROOPS

Now scaffolders’ pickets face trial

HUNDREDS of demonstrators, including London dockers, workers from Fords and many North East factories and building sites, marched through Newcastle on Monday to picket the magistrates court where ten scaffolders faced trial.

The scaffolders are on trial forpicketing the McAlpine site at Eldon Square. The victimisation of 14 woodworkers has been publicised by the Shrewsbury pickets in jail, hired studs from London. And on 29 January, the police, who had given the scabs every assistance, arrested ten pickets under the notorious Public Order Act.

At the same time, T&GWU regional officials Peter Shotton, UCAT officials and the Building Trades Employers’ Federation were holding secret talks on how to rubber stamp the victimisation of the 14 scaffolders.

Shotton has been pushing the idea of a settlement, but has got no agreement of all the scaffolders themselves, who are clearly more interested in independent action.

This strike is about the right to organise on McAlpine’s sites. Money is urgently needed. Please send donations to B Alderson, 13 Bamborough Towers, Killingworth, Newcastle 12.

SHREWSBURY: ‘FIGHT FOR ONE-DAY STRIKE’

ON MONDAY, the Rank and File Organising Committee issued the following important statement on the fight to free the Shrewsbury Two. The demonstration at Lincoln and Leicester prison last weekend was widely attended, but the short notice. It is clear that the pressure must be increased if we are to free our two brothers.

As part of our campaign we wrote to the Labour Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, suggesting that their 22 March Conference on Shrewsbury and the Social Contract should be a joint event, with the TUC officials to ensure the maximum possible support within the Labour movement.

The Labour Organising Committee is due to meet on Saturday, 30 March. We have heard that a closed meeting is being considered. We will be contacting the officials to ensure that the conference does go ahead. We will be contacting the officials to ensure that the conference does go ahead.

We must be clear, however, that we would have been unable to attend the conference if the Labour Committee of the TUC had not been willing to discuss the possibility of freeing the two Shrewsbury prisoners.

The Organising Committee is demanding that the TUC give an unconditional commitment to free the two prisoners, who are facing a charge of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm.

Pious

That means blacking Chilien goods. There are plenty of pious sentiments about it—most of the labour movement is committed to a total boycott.

The Engineers’ national committee has agreed to all blacking—but the reality is different. From Liverpool docks to East Kilbride, officials have worked against rank and file militancy’s efforts to build a fighting campaign.

The call for your trade union branch or shop stewards’ committee to support the march this Saturday, 13 March, is to make it clear to the two prisoners that they are not alone.

Chile Solidarity March in Liverpool this Saturday, 13 March

The march leaves Islington Square at 12.30pm, arrives at Pier Head for rally at 1.30pm. IS members in the North West and IS students to support.

ALL OUT I MAY, FREE THE TWO.