VIETNAM 1965 - 1975

'The bombing deprives the enemy of a population, doesn't it?'
General Westmoreland, Commander-in-chief, American forces in Vietnam, 1966

'We must be willing to continue our bombing until we have destroyed every work of man in North Vietnam, if that is what is required to win the war.'
General Curtis Le May, US Air Force, 1 April 1967

'People ask me who my heroes are. I have only one—Hitler. We need four or five Hitlers in Vietnam.'
Air Marshal Ky, prime minister of South Vietnam, 4 July 1966.

'The new improved napalm now used in Vietnam contains polystyrene which makes it more adhesive. The flaming jellied gasoline is impossible to scrape off once it touches the skin.'
Felix Greene, writing in Vietnam! Vietnam! 1966

'There were 40 or 45 people that we gathered in the village . . . men, women and children, babies. Lieutenant Calley started shooting them. And he told me to start shooting. I might have killed ten or 15. Lt Calley started pushing 70 or 75 people into a ravine and just started using automatics on them, men, women, children—and babies.'

'Defoliant chemicals 2, 4, 5-T and 2, 4-D which are widely used by the American Air Force in Vietnam have caused the birth of thousands of deformed babies. The births of deformed babies have multiplied so enormously that the Saigon Health Ministry has made all statistics secret.'
Professor E W Pfeiffer, American biologist, after a visit to Vietnam in 1972.

'It became necessary to destroy the town to save it.'
US Army major after sacking of Ben Tre, South Vietnam, in a news despatch, 7 February 1968.

And they dare to talk about humanity!

Killed in Vietnam since America entered the war: two million
Orphaned in South Vietnam since America entered the war: 300,000

VICTORY IN VIETNAM - pages 7,8 and 9
GLASGOW: THREE WEEKS OF

THE STRIKES ARE SOLID!

by Jimmy McCallum

THE soldiers who complained...

By John Glen

Theoyal Highland Fusiliers, who have been strike-breaking in Glasgow for the last three weeks, have moved on to other places—Belfast. They have been replaced by the Royal Scots and the First Light Infantry.

At the close of the three weeks' muck-shift, the officers were not the only ones who had a good time. The soldiers were seen drinking, the leaflets asked the soldiers if they knew why they were in Glasgow, and if they liked being scabs?

"Just a J8 street meeting in the city centre, a soldier listened to the arguments and announced that the speaker had only said what was being said in the barracks. A lot of the guys are against the policy of the CCEU," Brigadier Riddell-Webster is only a few yards away from them getting out of Glasgow.

Obviously, some of the troops are anxious about coming in contact with trade unionists, especially when they are doing their own town. About three-fifths of the troops are Glasgow men.

What has worried the troops who have taken the leaflets that they have no rights in a union and no sympathy for the trade union and no representation.

The Commanding Officer is aware of what can happen to the average soldier if he is exposed to arguments like this for too long. This is why they are changing the guard on the rubbish tips.

It is the responsibility of every trade unionist to ensure that the officers and sparks are given the support they need to get the troops back on strike. The Government's policy of holding the troops has drawn more than its fair share of criticism.

Make no mistake about it, soldiers will be used in other disputes if the Government gets its way. They are not prepared to put up with such a thing. It is the responsibility of the trade unionists to ensure that the Government gets its way.

The four-man committee, who have been in charge of organizing the West of Scotland shop stewards meeting, at the open field meeting last Wednesday, the decision was made by the committee to go along with the other four members of the committee. They are now working on the problem of avoiding disturbance at the fields. The four-man committee has now taken the matter into its own hands. They are now working on the problem of avoiding disturbance at the fields. The four-man committee has now taken the matter into its own hands.

They need your donations.

The strongest section of the local authority electricians out of the dispute.

The last week they allowed Glasgow Aircraft Electricians to return to work after a deal with the British Air Port Authority. They have taken over the terminal and replaced Glasgow City Council with whom the workers were in dispute.

The new pressure point in this strike is the high rise flats. In Dundee, Aberdeen and Glasgow many tower blocks are without lifts, although the strikers operate a life-or-death emergency service.

Win.

The popular press are now shedding copious tears about the inconvenience and danger to persons and property. Frank McElhone, Labour MP for Queen's Park, Glasgow, has called a meeting of Glasgow MPs which he hopes will decide to contact Frank Chapple and urge him to instruct the workers to put one lift in operation in each tower block.

The threat behind McElhone's appeal to Frank Chapple is that, if it fails, the troops now breaking the strike's policy by using the city's electricians will be used to repair the lifts.

Electricians are determined to win but finance is going to be a problem. The following meetings, with tax rebates drying up and the union tightening up on strike pay, many sparks will be on the bread line. Money should be sent to the Strike Committee in support of the electricians.
ARMY STRIKE-BREAKING

We must close our ranks

by HARRY McSHANE

WE ARE RIGHT in opposing the use of soldiers in this strike. They are being used to break it. But some houseswives showed hostility because of the problems they are faced with—some must face the fact that public opinion is against us.

We are running against the stream, but many justifiable movements in the past have shown that there is another thing—wherever I go in Glasgow, if I see posters they say 'stop soldiers in this strike', I see no trades council's posters nor are they Communist Party posters, they are put up by young people whom the secretary of this trades council calls ultra-lefts.

They have done more on this issue than all the rest of the movement put together. The Secretariat told the Sunday Mail that they spread like fleas in a bed. I don't know what fleas do in bed, but I regard the comparison as uncouth.

The government has threatened these young people with violence and has even challenged them to fight. We have been forced into that role. One of the most important elements is the young element who, at one time, called all those on their right social fascism. That term was dropped after it helped Hitler to power.

They now have a new term—all on the left are ultra-left. This must stop. The ranks must be closed. The future of the movement rests in the hands of these young comrades. The campaign against them must be brought to an end.

HOW I.S. WON SUPPORT FOR STRIKERS

The only serious fight to mobilise support for the strikers and activity against the strike-breaking troops has come from the International Socialists.

In the week before the army moved in, the union members in factories and trade union branches pushed through resolutions of support for the electricians and the dustcart drivers.

SYMPATHY

The Glasgow area political committee of I.S. backed up these initiatives by organising leafleting at all the major factories in Glasgow. The leaflet took up the drivers' case and repeated the demand for a shop stewards meeting to organise sympathy action.

To spread the campaign, the area committee sent out an organised fly-posting team to cover the city centre and factory areas.

The poster put the case plainly—No troops in Glasgow. It was followed up by posters put up on doors and factory floors by I.S. militants.

As soon as it was announced that the troops were being sent in, the Edinburgh District of I.S. moved into action.

An emergency resolution was put to the Trades Council from the AUEW Pitron branch condemning the use of troops, and an amendment was passed calling on the Trades Council to organise a meeting of the whole union and branch representatives to consider support for the strikers.

I.S. members present at this meeting that the Trades Council would not do this. A 26% majority was recorded and the need for support was stressed. They also called for a protest picket at City Chambers.

But these proposals were not allowed to be discussed and all attempts to organise support were squashed. Communist Party members on the platform were more concerned that the political nature of the dispute was kept in the background.

Resolutions of support for the strikers, condemning the use of troops have been passed at the AUEW Pitron branch, VALO Gar, ASTMS University No 1 branch and T&G 1/124 Brewery branch, who also sent a £5 donation.

Socialist Worker Worker 12 APRIL 1975

WHAT WE THINK

If the troops win, we all lose...

WHEN THE TROOPS first went into Glasgow, the press set up a daily howl about the health hazard, with scores of pictures of photogenic rats.

We have since had something different: a deafening silence. The aim of this press black-out is to make trade unionists forget one of the most important events of the moment—the use of the state's armed forces to break the power of a significant group of workers. Any success the troops enjoy in Glasgow will be used as a precedent for confrontations with other groups of workers.

Talk of clearing up a 'health hazard' is a pretext. It would be much cheaper to clear the rubbish by public transport drivers, if the government was really concerned about health.

But the government knows that once it has established the precedent of using troops, there are a whole range of different strikes that could be represented as a 'health hazard'—strikes by electricity and gas workers, health service workers and even, with a little bit of press imagination, strikes by railway, dock and transport workers.

The troops are there to defend the Social Contract, and for no other reason. The government faces a massive barrage of public sector wage claims. It knows that such is the power of some of the workers involved that it has to make some concessions—as with the power workers last week. But it also wants to show that it can stop other groups of workers following such examples.

Battleground

So, despite the talk about the Social Contract being 'to help the low-paid', it has sent in the troops with the aim of defeating a typical low-paid group. And it has chosen Glasgow, the scene of so many strikes against the Social Contract, as the battleground.

The tragedy is that, so far, much of the trade union movement has allowed the government to get away with it. Not a murmur of protest has come from the trade union leaders, even those that claim to be left wing. They seem quite happy to see a small group of workers defeated by the most powerful weapon in the government's armoury. By their silence, they have encouraged the press black-out and made it easier for the 'health hazard' argument to be used against strikers.

But the conspiracy of silence has not only affected the top most ranks of the movement. Too many rank and file activists—branch secretaries, district committee members, convenors, senior shop stewards—have also avoided the issue.

In Glasgow, the Communist Party, which organises many of these militants, has deliberately played down the issue, opposing calls for a West of Scotland shop stewards' conference.

As a result, the confidence of the strike-breakers is growing. The troops have been joined by sub-contracting firms, using T&G members, such as Youngs, Golightly, Page of Blackhill, Melville Plant from Bathgate, and Redland Purile. The amount of rubbish being cleared has shot up from 500 tons a day to 2500.

Unless the conspiracy of silence is broken by rank and file militants throughout the country, there is a danger that the army will show that it can crush strikes. And that will be a black day for the whole trade union movement.
THE GENERAL ACCIDENT SAGA: HARDLY THE APEX OF TRADE UNIONISM

ATTEMPTS BY APEX, the Association of Professional Executives and Computer Staffs, to recruit members in General Accident, the insurance company which, in 1975, fought to unionise for 50 years, have ended in failure.

Following threats of suspension and expulsion, APEX has withdrawn.

General Accident, which employs thousands of office workers, has a history of anti-unionism. To keep AMST out, an employer-dominated staff union was formed, called Staff Association General Accident. But, over the last few years, AMST began to make ground.

A secret ballot of APEX members voted more than three years ago for AMST and against SAGA. Management was forced to withdraw and AMST was reinstated.

Last year, with negotiations well underway, APEX-with no members in insurance—suddenly stepped in and offered SAGA's different deal.

The undemocratic structure and management interference were to be maintained. The low level of union was to be phased up over a five-year period.

The intervention was not a surprise. Management had been secretly fighting unionisation for 50 years, and now they were trying to stifle the new drive.

But, most important for General Accident, the move failed to stop the AMST and keep AMST out.

After the TUC Disputes Committee decided last August in favour of AMST, the full TUC endorsed the decision. But Roy Grantham, general secretary of APEX, ignored the TUC's decision.

The decision to intervene against AMST was widely condemned. In the general election, the TUC brought the AMST leadership to heel, and last week they withdrew from General Accident.

AMST is hard to keep for AMST, but months have been lost because of the manoeuvrings of TUC leaders.

But now APEX members must ask themselves whether it is worth their while to rejoin the AMST.

The trade union movement is in crisis. The TUC has already passed motions condemning the behaviour of the Executive. This needs to be stepped up as part of a campaign to build a stronger leadership.

What the press barons mean by a free press

READERS of national newspapers must have been amazed in recent months at the sudden hysteria over the freedom of the press.

Most trade unionists and journalists, to whom the idea of a free press has always been a holy grail, have detected quite different motives behind the campaign to keep the press barons in their place. The real motive is this: there is a determination on the part of the employers to prevent journalists from implementing closed shops.

The government's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill seeks to restore this basic trade union right, which enables workers to achieve strong enough organisation to take on the centralised power of the employers. Over recent years, the newspaper employers have viewed with alarm the development of the National Union of Journalists from a genteel professional association into a trade union.

Last autumn's strike in London over the sickness of journalists and printers on the Kentish Times concentrated the employers' minds. They turned their powerful propaganda machine against the NUJ-to their own advantage.

The impact was devastating. For the smallest red heads they could find to throw into the debate on Labour's Bill—and called it The Freedom of the Press.

By raising caters over the threat which the closed shop would pose to freedom of expression, the press barons hoped to cloud over the real threat: the threat which effective union organisation makes to their profits and their power.

While their hypocritical articles ranted against more than a year among provincial journalists and book and magazine employers, the management of the NUJ was keen to play part in this great and historic debate.

Last year's Annual Delegate Conference had called for post-entry closed shops and abolished Associate Membership—a class open to journalists with management responsibilities.

Associate members were not allowed to attend either chapel (workplace branch) or branch meetings and lived a twilight life, where there was little or no way in which they could participate in chapel activities.

The adoption of these two motions put the NUJ in a position where it could work towards 100 per cent membership, and where all members were subject to the discipline of the chapel.

In cases where editors and lower management were in the union, the chapel could, when necessary, vote to exclude them from meetings.

It was also accepted that the dual management/union role meant an employee was working totally against the interests of the chapel, it could make a complaint against him, and if necessary have him expelled from the union. But in no way would a chapel accept his voluntary agreement to bring out a paper or journal during a dispute.

This was the position which NUJ members were in a few weeks ago until the unexpected membership received Branch Circular 106 which contained possibly the greatest ever union coup-out on the part of our executive since the days of the Finch Report.

The circular goes completely against the policy laid down at last year's delegate conference. First it will let editors in, rather than the chapel, decide whether they should join the union.

Second, editors in or out of the union will be allowed to continue normal working during a dispute. The Executive also want to set up a separate class for these editors. The net result is that no person eligible for the union, who is already working in an office, will be pressed to join the union!
IRELAND
Why the truce is breaking down
by Eamonn McCann

The government has hoped that some sort of conditional administration will emerge from the Convention with sufficient support in each community to isolate the terrorists on both sides.

That is possible in theory. But the institutions of the Northern Ireland state, developed over half a century of continuous one-party rule, are sectarian by nature. If they continue to operate in the old way, they will frustrate any reformist sentiment, no matter what compromise is hammered out on the Convention floor.

The fact that the institutions are working in the old way was vividly illustrated by the Belfast City Commission on 27 March when Corporal Roy Jones of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was accused of murdering 2-year-old Patrick McIlhone at Pomeroy. Co Tyrone last August. Mr Justice McDermott said the killing was "reasonable".

Patrick McIlhone had been sitting having tea with his parents in their isolated farmhous when an Army patrol called. They took him out and into a field beside the house while his parents watched, terrified, from a window. The McIlhones saw the soldiers push their son roughly into the field in front of them. Then a shot rang out. The bullet hit Patrick McIlhone in the back and passed through his heart.

Jonest did not give evidence. Police witnesses said he had claimed at first that the bullet went off accidentally, then changed to story that McIlhone had tried to run away.

There are, of course, no parishes in Northern Ireland, so the government said that McIlhone had not been involved in politics.

Nevertheless, the Commission's report, though not unanimous and not entitled to "consideration", clearly described the verdict as "unbelievable".

The McIlhones had been held on six Catholic men shot dead on Belfast's New Lodge Road in February 1973. Evidence was given that two of the men, teenagers, had been gunned down outside a cave by Protestant assassins. The other four had been killed by soldiers.

The army had moved in after the two sectarian killings and opened fire on the Catholic crowd which had gathered, in the process, doubting the sectarian killers' score.

The soldiers had been testing scientific tests on the men's bodies and clothing indicated that none had been handling firearms. Evidence from civilian eyewitnesses confirmed that all four had been shot in cold blood.

None of the soldiers who fired the fatal shots appeared. Instead, the soldiers said that the incident alleging that 'aimed shots' had been fired, were, in fact, confused, and that "four bodies were later recovered" - were read out by a member of the Army's Special Investigation Branch.

No cross-examination was allowed. Then the police said for the next of kin objected to this procedure he was told it was "normal practice" with police and "normal procedure" for them.

On 26 February, 18 years old from the Catholic New Lodge Road area got 12 years for possession of a machine gun. One hour later in the same court, a 24-year-old Protestant got 25 years for possessing a sub-machine gun and 122 rounds of ammunition.

Killing
Two weeks before that, a member of the IRA was charged with possessing two sub-machine guns, a magazine and 1,400 rounds of ammunition which had been used in the sectarian killing of Catholics. The police refused to tell where he had obtained the guns or to release the names of those charged. He is now doing 18 months.

Although all of their weapons are in no way uncommon in Northern Ireland, the sales of such arms to individuals are illegal under an Act of Parlia-

mament. And it is not simply that magistrates, councillors and judges are astonished at the number of such arms which may well be. Sectarianism is built into our system here.

The very boundaries of the state were drawn precisely to ensure a permanent Protestant majority. British governments have since supported and, when necessary, armed the sectarian institutions which control or, at the least, tolerate the state.

And every attempt at reform has crumbled on the rock-like resistance of these institutions.

Thus, almost certainly, will the Convention crumble, opening the way for the British government to make yet another accommodation to the sectarian establishment.

The problem is not the way Northern Ireland is divided, but in no other way can it be run. The problem is the indigenous wealth of the Northern Ireland.

And the solution British societies should insist on, especially when, as at the moment, sporadic non-violent protest is being promoted in the capitalist press, is the redistribution of the resources of the Irish people as a whole can decide their own future.

Troops Out: Keep up the argument

The picture tells the story. Of the thousand or so demonstrators who marched through London last Sunday, demanding the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland, more than three-quarters were members or sympathisers of the International Socialists. This fine turn-out, which brought 15 members from as far away as Cardiff, Southamplon and even Glasgow, was proof again of the determination and strength of IS organisation.

The marchers were cheered by a fine speech from John Glavin, of the Glasgow Corporation electricians strike committee, who said that his strike was being broken by troops who were used for similar repressive purposes in Ireland. He wanted to see the troops out of Glasgow and out of Ireland.

Many IS members were disappointed with the size of the demonstration—and its lack of impact. But, as Dunman Heflin of IS made clear in a forceful speech before the march, the Irish issue has to be raised consistently in the British working movement.

The ten deaths in Northern Ireland over the weekend show how the truce is breaking down. None of the causes of the violence have been dealt with, and it can be expected to mount even more in the next couple of months. The impact in Britain could be far further than the Irish community, further deportations of Irish trade unions, still more attacks on the civil rights movement.

The demonstration was intended to prepare at least part of the labour movement in Britain for that eventuality, showing that there are people prepared to go on the streets around the demanding Troops Out Day. The need now is to follow up the demonstration with preparation for the important national conference of labour movement delegations called by the Troops Out Movement for 24 May. Every IS branch, federation or cell should start organising delegations for that conference.

Write for details to: Troops Out Movement, 103 Cambridge Road, London N14.
Could you stomach this food bill?

The new Labour Research Department pamphlet, In or Out?, provides a mass of useful information on the Common Market. It has to be said right away that it also advances some very dubious arguments. Its general line is not a million miles away from that of the Communist Party. But, if you take away the arguments with large pinches of salt, here is a handy pocket source of information.

On the fraudulent claim of the pamphleteers that the Common Market is "Europe", it notes... the EEC includes only nine of the 18 countries in Europe and only 270 million out of the total European population of 500 million.

Rise

On the Common Agricultural Policy: food prices rose in Britain during the first two years in the Common Market. A considerable part of this rise was caused by the quite exceptional rise in world food prices. But if we had been outside the EEC we would have been able to avoid part of this rise. This is correct and important.

Incidentally, it needs to be borne in mind that the full effect of EEC policies on food prices has not yet been felt. As the Transport House document for Labour's national executive, which was leaked to the Sunday Times, says: "Import levies have been rising and British farmers are already paying more for their food as a result." And this is in continuing process. Where world food prices have fallen back, the CAP has held up Common Market prices. The EEC price of beef is £21 24 per live cwt outside the EEC the price is as low as £8 10. In Britain, still protected by transitional arrangements, the price is about £16. As the whole harmonisation with EEC rules goes on, up goes British food prices even when world prices are falling. "Harmonisation" will be completed by 1971 if Britain stays in the EEC.

Part of the EEC's dear food policy is the sale of cut-price food outside the EEC, subsidised by EEC consumers. For example, the Soviet Union bought surplus beef at 57s per cwt in 1973 and 40,000 tons of surplus beef in 1974 at a price 40 per cent below the EEC price.

At a recent meeting I was challenged when I said that the CAP was an anti-working class scheme, the argument being that British farmers had been subsidised before EEC entry. So they had, but out of taxes. Now to the extent that the tax system is at all "progressive" - that is, that the rich pay proportionately more than the poor -- the changeover to subsidising farmers by artificially rigging high prices to the consumer directly penalises the working class as a whole and the poorest people hardest of all.

Planning

In or Out has no difficulty in demonstrating the essentially capitalistic nature of the EEC. A major expansion of public ownership in Britain is a point on which resources were allocated by a conscious process of planning would be totally incompatible with membership of the Common Market, which requires that they are allocated by competitive market forces.

That is certainly true. But the conclusion drawn is pure pie in the sky. "Freed from the restraints of the Rome Treaty and its competition policy we shall be able to extend public ownership and advance towards socialism in a pace slowly determined by the British people and their traditional democracy."

Come off it comrades. It is not the Rome Treaty that is holding the advance towards socialism. It is the pro-capitalist policies of the Labour Party leaders. The support for the EEC is only an aspect of this general policy.

The fight against the EEC is part and parcel of the fight against the right-wing of the Labour movement. It is not helped by pretending that but for the EEC our right-wing Labour government would somehow have saved our democracy from a force for socialism.

Duncan Hallas

NO TO THE COMMON MARKET: Posters and handouts available for local propaganda. Send orders to Sun Terrace, 9 Convent Gardens, London WC2H. Large—25p per 100, posters—75p per 1000. Money with orders please.

FOR READERS of the Daily papers a glance at last week's crop was a moving experience. For Alexander Shelepin, the Russian secret policeman who made good as head of the Soviet trade unions, was in town. Not a day went by without moving editorials, and stirring news reports of angry demonstrations against him.

Should we 'bow down as a nation of creeps before the sick-making hypocrisy of this most provocative and unwelcome visit? asked the Daily Mail.

No: Nor should we bow down before the sick-making hypocrisy of the Daily Mail. Take a trip back to 1933, and deal with the visit of another secret policeman, now sadly out of a job, one De Marcello Castano, then the chief of police in Portugal.

At that time the Times newspaper had exposed a massacre of 400 villagers in Mozambique by the Portuguese army. What was the reaction of the Mail and the Daily Express?

The Express set to work with particular fervour to dispense the stories.

That massacre, along with many others, did take place, as has been further proven, by, among others, the Portuguese Army.

What did the Mail say of Castano's visit? "We may not admit the Portuguese police, for reasons of our own, may deplore its policies but this is no reason why Dr. Castano's visit to Britain should be cancelled."

Mob

A lot of people didn't admit Castano was a policeman. In expressions against him. Here's how the Express described them: "The hero of the Hour."

Not a day went by without people expressing their anger against him. Here's how the Daily Mail described him: "He is a wondrous man, a great personality."

As one of the writer papers, the London Evening News also showed its big heart when Castano showed up.

The CIA man reminisces...

THERE WAS a general election in June, 1948. It worried a lot of people, particularly the United States government, who were concerned with the possible victory of the Communists. The US, from making the Christian Democrats (the Italian equivalent of the Tories) a variety of essential things it couldn't refuse, mainly taking the form of large hoops of dollars, the US, stepped its own inevitable role in the campaign.

Details have been recently published in US State Department documents. Unfortunately, they have had to delete most references to the use of clandestine operations.

Unconventional

Never mind, old Harry. Rozko, an ex-CIA official has been reminiscing about old times in Foreign Affairs, an American political science journal. In 1948, spurred by the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia and the Italian political crisis, the National Committee of the CIA was formed to take the responsibility for political, psychological, economic and unconventional operations.

With only the assistance of the United States navy, army and airforce in the area the CIA did a really good job. The Christian Democrats had been presiding over the shambles that were Italy.

Still that was a long time ago. One shouldn't take over old clothes. Double-elixier Federico Villagran, editor of the Spanish paper El Correo de Andalucía thought of something in the moment.

Meanwhile, in Bangladesh

A surplus of 300,000 tons of milk has been made, but no good. The shoulder and shoulder prove nothing except how easily mistaken prejudice spreads.

Strangely the tune was different for Shelepin. The arrival of Mr Alexander Shelepin was chill and furtive -- as becomes the former head of the world's most odious police apparatus.

Two thugs, one Portuguese, one English, were seen around the city the night Cia Shelepin was in town. The papers were published. The newspapers were printed. The army, under the leadership of Lt. General Hafeez, was sent to the border. The press was silenced. The people were told that Shelepin had been arrested.
And they dare talk of suffering...

This was a hospital in North Vietnam’s most populous province, Thong Hoa. The picture was taken after the United States Air Force had passed through.

There were no editorialists in the Daily Mail about that. There were no harrowing films on television. There was just the distant sound of a country being crucified by the USA, the US Army and the US Seventh Fleet.

The US government has committed mass murder in Vietnam. Now a few pitiful orphans in Saigon have become a publicity campaign. For newspapers that care about their circulation—like the Daily Mail with its ‘mercy aid’—for Gerald Ford and other Americans who care about the suffering of the people, their policies have failed in South East Asia.

Some uncle

After the bombs and the blood, there’s nothing left but few creatures. "Uncle Gerry," as the Daily Mail so obsequiously called him last Sunday, is a man who spent the 1950s and 1960s assisting in the organisation of the murder of the babies’ families. Some uncle.

The US government, its politicians, businessmen and generals declared that American investment and power in South East Asia could be saved from social revolution. But they reckoned with a people who had fought foreign domination for 30 years.

During the Second World War, the people of Vietnam, like the people of other colonial countries, fought back against occupation by Japan. But they also fought the French, who had held their country for 70 years. The guerrilla army that waged that war was the Viet Minh, made up of communists and nationalists.

After that war against Japan was over, the Viet Minh controlled much of the countryside against the British, who reamed the Chinese to replace the French, and the French, who were given the country back to rule.

Wealth

The Viet Minh fought on. By 1964, the French had been defeated—and a new power stepped in: the United States, who had financed the French war.

The French left nothing except a war-torn country and a collaboration with Vietnamese who had collaborated with them, with the Japanese, with the British. They had done so to preserve their estates, plantations, factories, towns.

To the peasants they were the enemy, the landlords who stole their crops and starved them.

The United States built its dreams of this group. The 1964 peace agreement stated that Vietnam would be reunited in 1956. The US ignored this and constructed its own solution.

The collaborators with the old imperialism were to be the new men, upholding “democracy,” bringing a new way of life to the South.

They chose a man called Diem to be the embodiment of the dream. They called him the “Churchill of Vietnam.”

He was well qualified, thought the US government. He had fought with the French. He hadn’t fought with the Communists. He hadn’t done anything. He had spent the previous 20 years in the US.

So the old firm set up in business with a new boss—the US. Increasingly, the countryside started to fight back. By the late 1950s, the guerrilla war was in full swing once more— and Diem was losing.

By 1963, Diem was alone. Even his generals had deserted him. The country was largely under the control of the liberation forces.

So the United States backed Ngo’s murderer. Perhaps the dream would work if another man could be found. They settled for a General Khanh. But he was useless, so they went to Air Vice Marshall Ky.

Heroin

Her was a fine man to represent “Western democracy,” they proudly proclaimed.

But Ky—who announced that his hero was Adolf Hitler—was denounced and went back, with CIA assistance, to the more profitable business of shipping heroin into the US.

The new man, Thieu, has remained ever since. But the country he ruled did not exist. It remained a figment of public relations from the US government.

Four hundred thousand US soldiers were sent in to fight a war which Thieu’s army was unwilling to fight. The Seventh Fleet and B-52 bombers blasted the country.

In the 1950s and for most of the 1960s, it was a war fought by South Vietnamese in the National Liberation Front. The US persistently in the lie that the war was an invasion from the North.

Some Americans actually believed it. The USAF bombed North Vietnam in the belief that this would stop the war in the South.

The reverse was the case. Bombing strengthened morale in the North.

The North Vietnamese regime is no socialist utopia. Its leaders are men and women who came out of the traditions of Stalinism. But, unlike their counterparts in Europe, those leaders hadn’t been imposed by the bayonets of the Russian Army.

The building of their power in the North lessoned their desire to get involved in the South—so that, in the 1950s, they provided little aid to the guerrillas. Only in 1969 did they give the struggle official support—and this was merely a token until the mid-1960s.

But the regime in the North, and the National Liberation Front in the South, had substance. They expressed the desire of the Vietnamese to free themselves from a century of Western domination.

And the government in Saigon? It was the corpse of the old French colonialism, kept twicing by massive transmutations of American money fed through the US military machine. It has no life, can create nothing—except a shrinking black market, a massive drugs trade, terror and death.

Death

Since 1973, the corpse has been on its own. The money flowed in from the US, but the soldiers had gone. As it thrashed, many people die, waiting for its death.

President Thieu will now be wondering where to settle. Switzerland? The South of France? Perhaps the United States? After all, he did his bit to keep the American dream going...
WHEN THE PARIS cease-fire agreement was signed in January 1973, many people thought that after more than 30 years of almost unbroken war, Vietnam was going to know peace. Now, after two years of continuous skirmishing, full-scale war has broken out again.

Even before the cease-fire was signed, the Thieu government in South Vietnam was making plans to continue the war against "Communism"—which, to it, meant anything or anyone aiming to improve the miserable conditions of the ordinary people.

On 25 January, 1975 (before the cease-fire), the New York Times reported from Saigon:

"The President is said to have re- 

minded the commanders that under the 

present state of martial law the police 

and armed forces are authorised to 

shoot on the spot people who incite 

riots and 'applaud the Communists' ."

"He also pointed out that they were 

empowered to arrest summarily anyone 

who distributed Communist propaganda, 

fly a Communist flag, interfered with 

Government officials attempting to 

maintain order or urged others to move 

to Communist-controlled areas." 

On 18 February, less than a fortnight 

after the 'cease-fire', the New York 

Times reported that between 200 and 

300 hamlets had already been taken 

over by the Thieu government forces. 

Then maintained his grip in Saigon 

only by the use of vicious repression. 

In March last year, an investigation by 

an American Catholic priests estimated that there were at least 200,000 political prisoners in South Vietnam, whereas the number of the total of political prisoners in the world.

Prisoners suffered torture, flogging, 

and electric shock. In some cases they 

to 14 prisoners were crammed into 

tiny cages three yards long by two wide. 

Thieu has systematically and 

destroy any opposition. Even the most 

moderately critical newspapers have been 

suppressed and their writers imprisoned.

At the same time, the corrupt 

Thieu and his friends became 

billionaire and the extent that even strong 

Communist Catholics began to 

protest demonstrations.

Although Nixon solved his 

problems by bombing and invading 

South Vietnam in 1973, the Thieu regime 

remained to be propped up by 

money and American men.

For the first six months 

cease-fire, the US government 

had 140,000 troops stationed in South 

Vietnam, and 114 rounds of ammunition.

The US and direct military aid 

could be shipped in by sea, but in fact the US 

Food for Peace programme was 

wasting arms, money, and lives.

And while the US troops 

US 'advisers' remained — perhaps 

20,000 of them.

FACT

American propoganda for years that the 

American and Vietnamese war was 

Vietnamese decision.

But the so-called 

Pentagon Papers 

difficult to 

outlined its real 

invasion into Vietnam in

QUOTE

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—President 

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So far as 

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—Harold 

1965

It was Mr Wilson 

American policy 

including the 

North, that 

White House 

February, 1965

Land, and a people at war—a travelling theatre group in a village in North Vietnam.

Dozens with their 

heads of the 

wounded and 

the casualties.

The ordinary 

Vietnamese seem 

to fear from the 

American 

Communists.

By IAN BIRCHALL

After two years, the British press and television have rediscovered Vietnam. Journalists who had nothing to say when Nixon was bombing hospitals in Hanoi back in 1972 are now shedding floods of tears over the plight of refugees and orphans.

Of course, any socialist must be distressed at the sight of a million refugees flooding hopelessly along the roads of Vietnam. But that's all the more reason to be disgusted at the hypocrisy of those who find the refugees a convenient means of glossing over the political issues.

The idea that hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing because they would sooner face starvation and death than lose their 'freedom' to the Communists is appealing to many people.

Blood

Unfortunately, it has little to do with the facts. Some of those running away are doing so with good reason. They are the landlords, drug-pushers and parasites who made fortunes out of the war; the

T Dan Smiths and Andy

Cunnighams of South Vietnam who now,克莱ffi, take the revenge of those whose blood they have been sucking for years. The ten thousands of army and police officers who have been killing and torturing for years.

Even among refugees there are class distinctions. If you had money—up to 6000 dollars you could get on a boat leaving Da Nang that night. If you hadn't, you had to walk.

Many others are fleeing because years and years of propaganda have made them fear of the Communists.

In 1954, when Vietnam was partitioned, propaganda was deliberately used to increase the number of refugees. Catholic Action dropped leaflets in the North saying that the peace was going to the South and the Virgin Mary has departed from the North, encouraging Catholics to flee South.

And the Americans—as is now revealed in the Pentagon Papers—put out forged Communist leaflets to frighten people into fleeing.

Destroy

But most people are just trying to get away from the fighting.

There are still vivid memories of what happened during the big National Liberation Front offensive in 1968, when the Americans simply destroyed towns that they had fallen into enemy hands, with no regard for civilian casualties. As an American major put it after the battle for Saigon: "Where about a thousand of the town's 35,000 inhabitants were killed. We became desperate to destroy the town to save it.

The corrupt and incompetent Thieu government was so unwilling to admit even the possibility of defeat that no preparations were made for refugees. After months of stubborn defence, towns were abandoned overnight without warning. The population was naturally plunged into chaos.

The French newspaper Le Monde, which has a record for thorough and honest reporting from Vietnam, reported on 26 March that a French tea-planter had been among the thousands of refugees who fled from Phouc in the Central Highlands.

Flee

On 14 March, the Vietnamese Army colonel responsible for the area and the American advisor had assured him there was no immediate danger. Two days later there was an instruction—from no clear source—to flee.

The planter reported that the refugee convoy had hardly seen any Communist forces.

But any cars in the convoy were destroyed—another day had been overturned by bullets..."
And in Cambodia, the US continued to display its full military might. Although it was claiming that US bombing was being used against North Vietnamese supply routes, it was clearly more directed at Cambodia than on Japan in the whole of the Second World War. In the face of this, the Provisional Revolutionary Government could hardly sit back.

And so the war went on. In the first month after the so-called cease-fire, more than 185,000 people were killed and wounded, and some 600,000 forced to leave their homes as many thousands of Vietnamese under one government can this bloody war at last be ended.

It assigned 70 per cent to avoid a humiliating US defeat, and 20 per cent to keep Vietnam and neighbouring territories from the Chinese. The official reason, the one pumped out by the western press, to aid the Vietnamese so they could get back their land, required only ten per cent.

...and organized and now with any discipline, are running riot. In Da Nang, Le Monde reported, the main concern of South Vietnamese army officers is to get themselves and their families onto the planes ahead of other refugees. In the coastal town of Nha Trang, returning soldiers were looting and firing their weapons when asked to pay for a meal.

A French teacher who escaped from Saigon to Cambodia told Le Monde how the helicopter had had to fly over the town for some hours while South Vietnamese troops shot at it.

It is not necessary to believe the reports in the North Vietnamese press of cheering well-wishers, students in one technical school struck and demonstrated in protest at the lowering of the conscription age. But the main aim of the North Vietnamese and the PRG will be to reconstruct the South Vietnamese economy wrecked by 15 years of American bombing.

Already the Hanoi government has started to supply and technicians to the South. They are scarcely likely to indulge in the massacre of ordinary workers and peasants, along the lines of the liberation forces that told the South Vietnamese that everybody was in, in sharp contrast to the columnists in Saigon.

In the space of a few hours, the Vietcong had set up a complete apparatus of local government. They were issuing their own identity cards to the people of the city and they dished out useless parcels of food. They ordered shops to reopen and ordered people to resume their daily lives as normal.

Hate

Meanwhile, in Saigon, far from being carried away by anti-Communist hysteria, students in one technical school struck and demonstrated in protest at the lowering of the conscription age. And the Le Monde correspondent in Da Nang quoted a South Vietnamese air force captain as saying: "I hate the Communists. For 20 years I've been told that everything must be sacrificed for the freedom of the country. But what freedom?"

Bitter

...and the US Air Force, to re-emerge as statistics of "kill ratios" from the Pentagon's computers. BELOW (right), the instant of death in Saigon for a NLF guerrilla, from the hands of Saigon's secret police boss.

A cropped girl, naked baby, two lives shattered by the US Air Force, to re-emerge as statistics of "kill ratios" from the Pentagon's computers. BELOW (right), the instant of death in Saigon for a NLF guerrilla, from the hands of Saigon's secret police boss.

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Wages, not import controls, are the key

THE FISHERMEN’S blockades have once again highlighted the hypocrisy of the bosses’ press and the class basis of the “rule of law.”

When building workers organise an effective picket and so provide a shining example to the rest of our class, they are physically attacked on the sites, slandered in the press, charged under the conspiracy laws and given savage Jail sentences.

But when farmers have a punch-up with the police in Liverpool or a skipper blocks the Humber, to 1,000, and he is treated sympathetically by the press.

Hearts of Oak, run a headline in last Tuesday’s Express—

Now, as socialists, we don’t call for equally savage sentences for building workers, farmers and fishermen, but it is important for us to point out and explain this difference in treatment.

The farmers and fishermen, with their open import controls, help divert attention from the wages’ issue.

Of course, when we talk of fishermen or farmers we must differentiate between the owner skipper and United Fisheries.

The former, like all small businesses, are being hardest hit by the crisis, and stamina is now waning.

It is important that workers who are sympathetic with their plight (and in Grimsby they have all done their bit) do not accept their solutions.

Import controls are a third alley. Our immediate demands must be on the wages front.

DAVE PHILLO, Cleethorpes.

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Comrade House, Cockfosters, Barnet, Herts EN4 9AL.

Shrewsbury Two: We must fight as a class

I RECENTLY attended a trades council meeting in Blackpool on the Shrewsbury Two case and the contributions from the platform, aimed at convincing the audience of the individual innocence of the Two, were devoid of political debate and argument.

You cannot merely show a short film and then leave the issue without giving the (unwanted) impression of pleading to be believed.

There was no direction at all of how the case affects workers, and efforts to co-ordinate action, and why and what had been done for the Other Two, or even for the comrades Warren and Tolmanin.

Say the trade union movement did not do enough, before the free the two remaining comrades in prison, we must then support them.

To make them all stand up, go home and feel justly proud that they showed ‘em and the world that the sharpness of class politics needs to be drawn.

The working class and revolutionaries must support each other. This becomes more and more obvious.

Socialist Worker sells more than ten times the IS membership, and its influence can be felt in the struggle. All these people should do more than think ‘tis too late.

You must admit, that sooner or later, unless more people join, Spain, Chile and El Salvador will be visited by the same forces.

Let it be—JOHN WORTH, Blackpool.

Nurses on the poverty line

A MEETING of nursing shop stewards in Liverpool recently voted to add a latest pay offer put up by the Whitely Council.

Our union, NUPE, is asking for a minimum of £30 a week for a first-year nurse-student, with time and a half for Saturday and double time for Sunday to bring them into line with the rest of the hospital workers.

A nurse, who has been in the profession for five years, said: “We are fighting for a living wage and it is a struggle for us and our families.”

There are nurses who are working. Some say the cost of food has gone up so much that they can only eat one meal in the first two weeks of a month.

In the southern counties, the situation is worse and workers going on the dole this is when the police are in with people like the National Front and Enoch Powell. The message is black workers in this country work in the most poorly paid jobs with the worst working conditions.

Many of these jobs have many vacancies, but scarce workers believe they don’t need these when there are plenty of jobs around like public transport.

When the workers travel on public transport to doe the job many will believe what fascists say about the blacks stealing jobs, taking money out of the country.

We must organise against these people. Perhaps the best way of doing this is by a Union campaign on this line. For the fortunate people still working, we can show the productivity deals, short time working etc. On the Burnley buses they were selling food at 20p, following our small price rise.

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Their army - or ours?

I WAS IN THEIRS, BUT IT HELPED TURN ME INTO A SOCIALIST

HARD CASES, they called us. And Liverpool bred many in the dark days between the wars with a built-in sense of humour that saw us through adversity.

With millions unemployed and employers dictating wages, we had no spare cash but we managed a laugh, even in the darkest days.

We never passed a chip store without picking up cads. We were at least fortunate in having shoes to wear. It was commonplace to see kids going barefoot.

The scholarship I won offered me the opportunity of making a break from schooling and higher education, but it was a luxury beyond our means and I had to quit school to earn my living or join the never-ending dole queue.

Although our young intellects couldn't escape the fast-changing world, the implications of the inevitable, and growing, crisis of capitalism which affected our lives so vitally, we sensed the sickness which was affecting society, and this knowledge made me want to do something, and try to help the other fellow down.

Vacation did exist. The recruiting office always had the welcome mat down, coming the unwary with high-sounding guff about the physical and educational advantages seeing the world, learning a trade.

Dotted line

I suppose becoming an accomplished licensed killer in a trade of sorcery. Believing the world really was inhabited by unclean and lawless types who couldn't survive without the beneficent restraining influences of the British Army, I signed on the dotted line.

Dissimulation was a gradual process. It was hard to accept that our young intellects were being used to discover the same standards applied throughout the whole war-time system: stooges, crooks and viciousness were earmarked for promotion.

As NCOs, these servile creatures abused their power, destroying the character of good men. Military justice is a system that could not exist without false testimony and cooked evidence. Like a lottery, you paid your money and took your chance with the innocent guilty, and vice versa. Commanding officers were often too sensitive or drunk to know what was going on.

An escort of the unit cricket XI, we had the temerity to drop the sergeant-major and a top sergeant, who were more ornamental than use. I was on the carpet and instructed to pick another team including their sub. I declined and life was made very uncomfortable.

India was a revelation, a dirty frontier war against 'trouble-makers' who dared to demand a say in running their own country. The British Raj, playing God as usual, with sickening self-righteousness, sent us to blast theTISSIN inhabitants, cut off the map and brain-wash us into bloody iniquity.

By GEORGE OWEN

THE SYSTEM OF PROMOTION AT THE FRONTIER WAS INEPT AND UNINSPIRING. MORALE CONSEQUENTLY SUFFERED. OFFICERS AND NCOs, CORRUPTED BY SOFT LIVING, WERE THROUROUGHLY INCOMPETENT - A FACT FORCIBLY BROUGHT HOME TO ME LATER, IN BATTLE CONDITIONS WHEN WE CAME THROUGH IN ONE PIECE, DESPITE OUR LEADERS...

THE CASE WHERE A STAFF CAPTAIN

This is Portugal... and the cheering crowds have no doubt whose side these rank and file soldiers are on. Earlier, soldiers from this regiment had been sent to deal with a workers' demonstration against unemployment and RATO... and had greeted it with clenched fists and cries of 'Long Live the Working Class!

Valuable background information for British trade unionists appears in the latest issue of Our Common Struggle, the bulletin of the Portuguese Workers' Co-ordinating Committee.

The bulletin goes on to nail many of the press lies about Portugal. It also calls on trade union branches, trade councils, and shop stewards' committees to affiliate to the newly-formed Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese working class which the co-ordinating committee has initiated.

It points out how trade unionists can aid this campaign.

INVITE a member of the PWCW to speak at your branch, trade council, shop stewards' committee, or school.

PASS resolutions, through your branches and trade councils to go to annual delegate conference for support of the Portuguese working class's struggle for socialism, and call on your national committee to:

CHILE

Urgently put strong pressure on the British government to prevent imperialist intervention in Portugal and avoid another 'Chile' situation.

INVITE a speaker from the PWCW to a summer conference.

SEND us immediately copies of any resolutions passed which we will forward to the sister trade union in Portugal.

SUBSCRIBE to our newsletter £1 for a year from PRWC, 18 Fleet Road, London NW3.

AFFILATE to the Solidarity Campaign with the Portuguese Working Class.

Your affiliation will enable us to expand the flow of information on Portuguese trade union activity and will entitle you to a free copy of our monthly newsletter and any other material we publish.

Contribute affiliation fee, trade union branches and trade councils £5; districts and regional organisations £10; national organisations £5.1.
IS public meetings

MANCHESTER is public meeting: Thursday 2 April. Paul Foot (editor, Socialist Worker). All members should contact branch secretary to confirm arrangements.

IS NORTH AMERICAN group public meeting: Wednesday 22 April. 8 p.m., Taggart Hall, 1707 U Street, Washington, D.C. 20011. All welcome.

SOUTH AMERICAN public meeting: Thursday 23 April, 4 p.m. at the Haitian Mission. All members welcome.

IS CAMBRIDGE public meeting: Thursday 29 April, 8 p.m. at the North Cambridge Baptist Church, 58 Argyll Street (off Mill Road), Cambridge.

Meetings for IS members

LONDON is ISALCO fringe meeting; Wednesday 22 April, 7.30 p.m., Earl Russell Club, Millbank, London SW1, followed by the main meeting at 8.15 p.m. Admission £1.

BIRMINGHAM & BLACK Country is AGM: Thursday 23 April, 8 p.m. at the Prospect Hall, 162-182 Hall Green Road, Hall Green. All members should contact their branch secretary to confirm arrangements. Admission £1.

IS AFRICA GROUP this day Sunday, 2 April, 2-4 p.m. London, Central London, Piccadilly Circus, and/or South Africa and further details. The Future of the Commonwealth, the state of the world and the role of the South African Bantus" by South African editor in Britain, Abdiel Gupte. All members should contact their branch secretary for Further details. Admission by card.

IS AN Other Trades meeting in London on 2 April. Further details contact National office (01-730 2791).

IS AMSTAS Franchise: Aggregate meeting in Birmingham on 21 April. All members should contact their branch secretary to confirm arrangements. Further details contact IS national office (01-730 2791).

IS ISGWU members’ national fringe meeting: Tuesday 20 April, 8.30 p.m. at the Edinburgh School of Business, Edinburgh. Further details contact IS national office (01730 2791).

IS EKSTU fringe meeting, this Saturday 2 April. Contact IS national office (01-730 2791) for further details.

IS Scotland fringe meeting: Sunday 22 April, 7 p.m. at the Labour Club, 70 Union Street, Aberdeen. Further details contact IS national office (01-730 2791).

IS Wales fringe meeting: Wednesday 25 April, 8 p.m. at the Regent Hotel, Cardiff. Further details contact IS national office (01-730 2791).

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Democracy: An important letter

WORKERS in a factory near Southampton recently voted to set up a small action committee which would meet in secret and be able to issue instructions, to be obeyed by the workers, to occupy parts of the factory.

They were unable to decide public policy. They knew they would occupy the factory at whatever time because the management would have been unable to negotiate anything, or take other precautions. Surprise was their best protection.

So the workers agreed their general aims and strategies and the tactics for achieving them, but left the tactics to the action committee. All the workers were free to make a different interpretation of the committee's instructions, even if they disagreed with them. If the tactics failed, or if the committee worked badly, it could easily be recalled and replaced.

The workers were able to operate like this for two reasons. They had a paying union and everyone had as much to gain or lose by the tactics followed. A trade union is different. The full-time officials have interests which are not always those of the members. They tend to be paid three or four times as much as those they represent. If members are on strike, the officials don't have to wait weeks for strike pay. They can carry on drawing their salary. Their job doesn't directly depend on what they advise. A factory can close but they will still have a job.

And, unlike a shop steward, most full-time officials are appointed, even in a union like the TGWU. Even those who are elected often don't have to stand for re-election. Some are elected for life, most appointed for life. Recall is in practice impossible. Fighting to get the minutes of meetings held between officials is one way of trying to exercise some control over what they are doing. But the action committee in the factory had to meet in secret because of the special job it had to do, and because of the relationship between the committee and its members.

SPEAKE: ACTION OVER REDUNDANCIES

by Tommy Hasley
Secretary, Spoke TU Committee

THIRTY delegates attended the second meeting of the Spoke area Trades Union Committee last Sunday.

The committee, sponsored by Every Medical Shop stewards' Committee, was launched on the issues of redundancies, short-time working, and lay-offs locally.

We felt the only way to defend ourselves against redundancies and factory closures was to set up a defence committee that could go into action immediately help was asked for. It would offer financial, industrial and moral support, and would involve the whole community.

Delegates from shop stewards and branch committees represented Fords, Dicenow, Plessey Data, Evans Medical, British Rail, Garston and Speke Bus Garages. Hunts Engineering, Silcock and Collins, Synthetic Ketan, Speke Community Council and Liverpool Housing Department set up a team to defend the need to fight redundancies.

TACTIC

At our previous meeting, we decided to stage a May Day demonstration and picket shafts to hand out on it. We are also to carry our own banners.

Our goal is to hammer home that short-time working is the real threat to jobs and that redundancies can lead to redundancies, as we have seen at Vauxhall at Elysham Port.

We are determined to fight for no redundancies, to say that we will not allow any worker who has volunteered for redundancy to be employed in our workplaces.

Selling jobs is no answer. Once a job is sold it has gone for ever so this decision must be made now for the future benefit of protecting jobs. We will meet again in a month, but we will act immediately if asked.

The material from other areas on Merseyside who are interested in setting up similar committees and ideas will spread and that we shall have an all-Merseyside Committee.

1200 locked out at Hopkinson's

HUDERSFIELD — 1200 engineers and foundry workers are locked out at Hopkinson's, described as 'one of the most anti-union firms in the district.' Speaking from the picket line, AUPE shop steward and convenor of the Joint Shop Stewards. The workers have been forced to accept a deal in which they are holding out for pay increases and job security. The company has been forced to pay a £2,000 fine.

HOLIDAY pay—by sending home service engineers who refused to work overtime. When this failed, the management told 'normal working or else.' The workers voted not to lift restrictions if there was a concrete pay offer. So, on 26 March, the bosses locked out all the electricians, supervisory and clerical staff.

The workers are demanding payment to stewards victimised over reporting back. Additional threshold payments from November—when the previous agreement ended—at 60p for every percentage increase in the Retail Price Index; plus £1,000 for being met with the company—buy stewards insist we will not be bought out to recommend what does not cover their demands. One worker said: 'We've lost many little battles here. But this is the big one—we'll win if it takes months.'

LOCAL COMMUNITY also support the campaign. A meeting called by the local employers' federation, has decided other funds for paying threshold agreements. If the employers win, their hand will be strengthened in the coming round of local wage negotiations.

Local engineers also appreciate the significance of the battle. Shop stewards' committees at two local firms have offered £100 to anyone who can find a job meeting with the company—but stewards insist they will not be bought out to recommend what does not cover their demands. One worker said: 'We've lost many little battles here. But this is the big one—we'll win if it takes months.'

MSSS, Manchester, TN, 15/9/75

By Peter Clark

Debate

It would be stupid to assume that the Socialists are in any sense today.

All the political decisions taken by leading bodies of IS will be ex-

plained by Socialist Worker. This will ensure that all the people who are also ending the practice of endanger-
bis, no longer unimportant and by publishing operational decisions.

Like the action committee, the general strike is discussed and debated, but the operational decisions made by the PCE are no longer unimportant and by publishing operational decisions.

By Peter Clark

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Delegates from shop stewards and branch committees represented Fords, Dicenow, Plessey Data, Evans Medical, British Rail, Garston and Speke Bus Garages. Hunts Engineering, Silcock and Collins, Synthetic Ketan, Speke Community Council and Liverpool Housing Department set up a team to defend the need to fight redundancies.

TACTIC

At our previous meeting, we decided to stage a May Day demonstration and picket shafts to hand out on it. We are also to carry our own banners.

Our goal is to hammer home that short-time working is the real threat to jobs and that redundancies can lead to redundancies, as we have seen at Vauxhall at Elysham Port.

We are determined to fight for no redundancies, to say that we will not allow any worker who has volunteered for redundancy to be employed in our workplaces.

Selling jobs is no answer. Once a job is sold it has gone for ever so this decision must be made now for the future benefit of protecting jobs. We will meet again in a month, but we will act immediately if asked.

The material from other areas on Merseyside who are interested in setting up similar committees and ideas will spread and that we shall have an all-Merseyside Committee.

1200 locked out at Hopkinson's

HUDERSFIELD — 1200 engineers and foundry workers are locked out at Hopkinson's, described as 'one of the most anti-union firms in the district.' Speaking from the picket line, AUPE shop steward and convenor of the Joint Shop Stewards. The workers have been forced to accept a deal in which they are holding out for pay increases and job security. The company has been forced to pay a £2,000 fine.

HOLIDAY pay—by sending home service engineers who refused to work overtime. When this failed, the management told 'normal working or else.' The workers voted not to lift restrictions if there was a concrete pay offer. So, on 26 March, the bosses locked out all the electricians, supervisory and clerical staff.

The workers are demanding payment to stewards victimised over reporting back. Additional threshold payments from November—when the previous agreement ended—at 60p for every percentage increase in the Retail Price Index; plus £1,000 for being met with the company—buy stewards insist we will not be bought out to recommend what does not cover their demands. One worker said: 'We've lost many little battles here. But this is the big one—we'll win if it takes months.'

LOCAL COMMUNITY also support the campaign. A meeting called by the local employers' federation, has decided other funds for paying threshold agreements. If the employers win, their hand will be strengthened in the coming round of local wage negotiations.

Local engineers also appreciate the significance of the battle. Shop stewards' committees at two local firms have offered £100 to anyone who can find a job meeting with the company—but stewards insist they will not be bought out to recommend what does not cover their demands. One worker said: 'We've lost many little battles here. But this is the big one—we'll win if it takes months.'

MSSS, Manchester, TN, 15/9/75

By Peter Clark
CHILEAN MINERS TO COME TO BRITAIN

Royer Cox, secretary of the committee. We ask all supporters to approach their employers to secure a letter offering him any kind of job. He has worked in the past as a textile machinist and a driver.

VISA

His wife and three children have hardly any money and have been blacklisted by the Chilean authorities. She has applied to the British Embassy for a visa, but the problem would be solved if a job and work permit could be found for her husband.

This is the only most urgent case the committee is dealing with. There are still hundreds of trade unionists in jail in Chile. Many have been tortured. The Rank and File Organising Committee, sister to its campaign direct to Chile Radio station in Algeria. Voice of the Resistance, broadcast the air for half an hour every night.

More than 70 trade union branches, trade union centres and shop stewards’ committees have been involved in the committee’s campaign for Chilean trade unionists in the past six months, sending money to prisoners’ families, taking part in demonstrations in London, the Juans, and recently sending a protest delegation to the Chilean Embassy in London which was reported in the national press.

Further details of the Chile campaign and especially the need for jobs can be obtained from the secretary, Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Holland Road, London NW10.

Apprentices We must get organised

YOU need organisation in any factory, anywhere. Often it’s a fight, even in well-organised factories, for apprentices.

Here in his own words is the story of one Manchester apprentice—how a strike led to his victimisation and what he learned from it, just as servicing his time—so he, and the factory, remain anonymous.

Two years ago we were on strike for three months over a piecework question. During it we formed up a strong sense of fellowship.

One day we were in the factory some stackers ran away and were found huddled in some doorway. It was one of those who got the blanking machine and found his way out of the factory that night.

Our mate Cleary, who always worked the rolling mill, was taken off his machine, my trade, and put on as a general labourer some months in a corner. I had no idea to talk to. This approach used to make you knock down, but it didn’t work.

I was brought off and put back on my machine. I was put on the trade, and we went on the strike. It was the same old routine of jeering the union office, my first meeting was where I was right mainsider and we had our first meeting of the factory. I was back again.

Meanwhile the apprentices were getting fed up as a general had trouble from management. They were to be sent in to bed, were in the same room and arranged for a public meeting of all apprentices who were coming in. They wanted discipline, they wanted to get out of the factory. They wanted to meet. We had regular meetings from that time on.

That was the start of it. We were running our round the factory. That was the start of the first strike in the factory. The day started off by a general meeting. It was a great feeling through the whole factory. We were all getting something done and we were all together to get the union to where we knew we had to.

Record

Because I took a big part in the organisation I had my neck on the chopping block. It came a lot sooner than I expected. I was sacked. It was really a bit of a shock. The union said it had no choice. It was a fright, but I saw a foreman’s notice ‘for bad timekeeping.’

Months earlier I had been called in to be suspended or sacked. At the time I was working in the most militant section in the factory as the apprentices built up the factory. I felt there was no room for me, but I knew I would be allowed it, not because it was not true, but because it wasn’t sustainable.

A lot of organisation is needed outside the factory. For example: at the Fair Engineering Union district secretary in Manchester—the district Jutting Workers’ Committee. Every factory was involved but they only a few days from many factories.

In some factories apprentices are just asked as workers can be paid less. In some factories thresholds have been lowered. In others the company is aware that workers should not get the full rate.

We need a national conference of junior workers, particularly from areas of work. This is a meeting and talking around the factory thing. It’s a bit of a meeting, but the ultimate, it’s ultimately a meeting. We have to do that in order to have control over what we do at the present stage of our life.
by Bob Light (TGWU, London Royal Dock)  

THE London dockers’ strike ended last Friday after a mass meeting in the West India Dock who voted to call it off on terms of abject surrender.

The vote came when the dockers of Hull voted down a recommendation from their stewards to come out. Instead of five weeks on strike, London Dockers lost only four.

Now the strike is over the union has told its members to forget about its lost dockers. They’re off to not only get their warrants and back pay, but also to try to fight the dockers’ blacklisting. If they do not, the union will come out on its feet with a new contract.

And yet the general crime is all of them, and it is their fault. The dockers did not take the offensive and sail bold towards the battle. For a strike in the dockers’ strike has come out of the dockers. For a strike in the dockers’ strike has come out of the dockers.  

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The Daily Worker 20 May 1973
The families need your support

THE Rank and File Organising Committee is calling for a big effort around May Day to boost the Shrewsbury Dependants' Fund.

This is not the only fund solely concerned with providing help to the families of the sacked pickets. The organising committee is determined that the families shall not have financial problems on top of all the other pressures.

A letter has gone out to all Rank and File Conference supporters urging them to make an extra effort during the run-up to May Day activities, and to take special collections.

To make these collections effective they have produced sturdy "top badges" to be given to those who donate, so that the donations can be collected. These are available free from the Rank and File Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

All trade unionists are urged to:

Order stickers and wrapping paper.
Collect at all May Day demn and meetings.
Collect at all union and trade council meetings.
Collect at work.
Ask other factories to collect.
All money to the local treasurer: Osie Lewis, 25 Park Road, Chingford, London.
Cheques should be made payable to the Shrewsbury Dependants Fund.

The Shrewsbury National Organising Committee has called a national conference on 1st May at 2pm at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WCI. The Rank and File Organising Committee have written to their secretary, Simon Fraser, suggesting a joint programme, but have not had a reply.

"We outlined activities around the Shrewsbury Factherts, the film, lobbies of the TV studios and the demonstration we've had. We felt it would be a matter of a lot of effort was deployed. In particular the Dependants Fund need support", Ken Appleby, Rank and File Organiser, told the Shrewsbury Dependants' Fund.

Manchester AUWE No.15 branch is to sponsor a "Free the Shrewsbury Two" rally on the evening of 1st May.

The idea is to get other trade union branches, trade unionists and others involved. The rally will feature a showing of the Shrewsbury film. It will be open to all trade unionists in the Manchester area.

Socialist Worker

MAY DAY GREETINGS

Socialist Worker is including a special four-page supplement for the many trade union bodies, shop stewards committees and other labour organisations who wish to join in the May Day celebrations. The rates for advertisements will be:

The rates for advertisements will be:

- Non-pay page insert: 6pp 50p
- Single column (size 1in x 2in) £1
- Quarter page 20p per single column inch
- Full page 20p per single column inch
- Advance space may be booked by telephone, Ring 01-719-26 29 49. All copy must be received by 12 noon, 15th April.

Send to Socialist Worker (May Day), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Name and address of Organisation:

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Socialist Worker

DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

£7447 Fighting fund a big step nearer target

WE'RE three-quarters of the way there. A magnificent total of £1453.22 flooded into our emergency £10,000 fighting fund this week, pushing it up to £7447.96.

Now we need one big effort to hit the target and so we can keep up the important work the International Socialists have been carrying out, for instance in Gloucester, where we've produced thousands of posters and leaflets arguing the Corporation strikers' case.

Our thanks this week to:

Plyto Press £20.00, Bath IS £10, a member of East London Hospital Workers IS £100, Cardiff IS, Newman teachers £80, Weston-super-Mare IS £80, Farndon £50, Bath IS £14.50, Lexham students £40.22, Portsmouth IS £20, Shrewsbury IS £10, Norwood £10, Halifax IS £5.34, GLC IS £3, Bath IS £25, Waingate £3, Welshpool IS £3, Wigan IS £25, Cameron £30, Southwell IS £22.79, Doncaster IS £3, IS readers, Newcastle South Shields IS £8.50, Wilmslow IS £6.50, South Lambeth IS £6.84, Evans Rush donations to: Mel Norris, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Medical IS £6, Wootton IS £25, Woolwich readers £2, Peterborough IS £10, High Wycombe IS £18, Lewisham IS £10, Rugby IS £5, SW6 supporters, Brighton IS £5, Croydon £25, Wellingborough £37.50, Ipswich £25, Kirkby £3, Stockport £23, Woolwich £37.50, Ipswich £6, Nuneaton £21, individual members £380.

Members' special: Manchester students £125, Ipswich £12, Derryburner £12, Norbury £14, William £10, Suffolk £10, Acton £3, Cambridge £10, Exeter £7, Mount Pleasant £8, Kirkby £3, Stockport £23, Woolwich £37.50, Ipswich £6, Nuneaton £21, individual members £380.

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