

Youth and Vietnam

LABOUR PAYS THE PRICE FOR WILSON

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AFTER THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Enough has been written about the terrible defeat Labour suffered at the polls last week for us to assume that our readers are familiar with the main facts. What concerns us is the possible consequences for our struggle to build up a firm, principled, left wing within the Labour movement. Firstly, these results confirm beyond all doubt that Wilsonism is a disaster for the Labour Party. Secondly, we see that disillusionment with Labour (expressed mostly in the form of Labour voters stopping at home, particularly in safe Labour seats) has not led to a swing to the left. Indeed, the Communist Party lost one third of its 1964 vote in London, dropping from some 90-odd thousand to 66,000. Thirdly, it is apparent that the Wilson leadership shows no sign of having reconsidered its position: Wilson's Fulham speech was not mere rhetoric - it was followed by the presentation of new antitrade union incomes policy legislation.

There is now bound to be a deep questioning of the leadership of the Labour Party. Many sections of the Labour Party bureaucracy - the solid base of which is the system of local council cliques - have been structurally weakened. We will be hearing the pitter-pattering of rats deserting the sinking ship. On the other hand, there are bound to be fierces struggles for the few remaining fruits of office in the councils. It would, however, be wrong to think in terms of Wilson being down for the count. That very sly politician has a strategy of waiting until just before the next general election before handing out some concessions. He must calculate that the next general election, being some three years away, can still be won.

Whether or not these developments (and the further losses Labour will suffer in the borough elections) assist the formation of a big left wing in the Labour Party is entirely up to the left. The left must use the shock of these results to start a great discussion inside the movement. This discussion should be on two levels: the left itself must clarify a strategy of how to fight Wilson, and in every unit the lesson must be driven home that Wilson's policies are playing right into the hands of the Tories. Any talk of pulling out of the Labour Party at this stage is particularly bad. In the absence of any alternative on the left this means going into the wilderness. It further means that one cuts one's self off from the discussion in the Labour Party. Now is the time to fight for the building of a Labour left.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DATA'S STRUGGLE

According to <u>The Times Business Supplement</u> of 13 April "observers are wondering whether this dispute" (the shipyard lockout) "is the beginning of a return to the use of the lockout, which has practically disappeared as a factor in industrial relations for more than a generation...." This is striking confirmation of what DATA's leaders have been saying: it is absolutely essential for the immediate future of British trade unionism that this fight be won. It is very necessary for all trade unionists to struggle for solidarity action with the draughtsmen.

DEMOCRACY WITHIN THE LABOUR PARTY : The "Nottingham" Legal Action

by Geoff Coggan

Some weeks ago The Week reported that I and two other members of the Nottingham Labour Party, who were barred from office in the disciplinary witchhunting that followed the expulsion of Ken Coates, had issued a High Court Writ against the NEC.

The action has now been settled out of court, with the NEC publicly conceding every point raised and agreeing to meet our legal costs of approximately $\pounds 300$. The NEC's own legal costs as defendants are of course additional to this.

This legal action was never sought by ourselves. Indeed, we did everything possible to permit Sara Barker to withdraw gracefully, or with as much grace as she can muster on such occasions. Although we had been deprived of the basic rights of Party membership last May, we nevertheless undertook, patiently and privately, to seek redress. Letter after letter was sent to Transport House. By December we had had enough, but we decided to make one last attempt to settle the matter without embarrassment or cost to the Party, and we therefore instructed our solicitor to set out in precise and clearly understood terms the several points on which legality and natural justice had been perverted. It was also made clear that failure to reach a satisfactory conclusion at this late stage must inevitably mean placing the case in legal hands for further action.

According to Sara Barker's next letter to us, our argument had been placed before the NEC, who had decided to uphold their previous decision of last May. We then had no alternative but to proceed with a High Court Writ against Sara Barker, Len Williams and members of the NEC.

The Writ introduced no new material whatsoever. Every point it raised had already been raised in letter after letter to Transport House, and there was nothing for the NEC to concede that it could not have conceded months before. Yet, faced by the prospect of having to defend its attitude in public, the resolve of the NEC to adhere to its previous decisions suddenly collapsed.

On the face of it, it seems that the NEC was quite prepared to endorse the most scandalous and indefensible acts of injustice, so long as it could do so quietly. On this interpretation the rights and wrongs of the case do not appear to have mattered one whit. Yet I find this explanation, which implies a callous disregard of democratic rights by every member of the NEC, a difficult one to admit - though I can well believe it of most of them.

It seems more probable that the NEC customarily delegates such decisions to the National Agent's office, or to some other sub-section of the Party bureaucracy, and that its own contribution is limited to endorsing recommendations "on the nod". The fact that many NEC members have Cabinet and other executive responsibilities which must severely limit the time at their disposal is no argument - except to add to the many other arguments against members of the Government accepting NEC nomination. Clearly some urgent rethinking of the NEC's responsibilities towards individual members of the Labour Party is necessary. It is also imperative that all other disciplimary cases which have been similarly disposed of "on the nod" are now exhumed. SUPPORT BUILDING UP FOR WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE. from Tony Topham.

This week the circularisation of trade unions and labour parties for the workers' control conference at Coventry on June 10th-11th is being carried out. If you do not receive a circular, and would like full details, please apply to 1, Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull.

Already it is apparent that this year's conference will be the most representative so far in this series. The chair is to be taken by Bill Jones, London busmen's leader and vice-president of the T & GWU. Amongst those who have promised to attend and participate during the week-end are Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the AEU, and Hugh Scanlon of the AEU National Executive Committee. Vic Allen (author of "Militant Trade Unionism") and Michael Barratt-Brown (author of "After Imperialism") will also be present. A number of trade union organisations, including Bristol Siddeley Shop Stewards Committee, and Coventry Trades Council, are backing the Coventry CSE's sponsorship of the conference.

From the steel town of Scunthorpe, the Redbourn Works Delegates Committee has also come forward as a sponsor. Terry Lacey, of the Radical Student Alliance and the Young Liberals, is to attend, this provides a valuable link with the Y.L., who recently adopted a policy of workers' control on municipal transport. Jack Ashwell, author of the Humber-side Voice pamphlet "Four Steps for Progress", which advanced the municipal transport programme two years ago, is to attend conference as convenor of a seminar on industrial democracy in public services.

SUPFORT BUILDING UP FOR ORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE from a Northern Correspondent.

Last week in Liverpool 600 dockers came out on strike, saying that the handling of asbestos was injurious to health. They returned to work this morning, but the ship carrying the cargo was left untouched.

The port medical officer has said that there is no danger from the bills asbestos, provided the men wore goggles, masks and other protective clothing, and had the necessary washing facilities.

The dockers' attitude to this statement is that it confirms the fears they had expressed. The next move in the dispute may come tomorrow if the port authorities try to direct other dockers to unload the cargo.

In a written reply to a Labour M.P. the Minister of Labour, Mr. Ray Gunter, said the chances of a docker getting one of the two kinds of cancer associated with asbestos was remote.

"This is true even with the precautions taken in the past," he told Mrs. Joyce Butler, M.P. for Wood Green.

"Current evidence" pointed to blue asbestos as being most commonly associated with mesothelioma, a kind of cancer affecting the covering of the lungs. Willie Thompson suggests that the British C. P. has always called for negotiations on Vietnamese terms and not on U Thant's. But is this so? For instance, the 'Morning Star' recently gave uncritical support to those Labour 'Left' MPs' letter which expressed "unqualified British support for U Thant's specific proposals to end the fighting."

As to the Soviet Union, it is clear that this country is sending some aid to North Vietnam (more than any other country is sending). And, undoubtedly, the North Vietnamese are thankful for what they get. I have recently heard at first hand from a visitor to Hanoi that the North Vietnamese are still short of several types of supplies and this is apparently also true of the N.L.F. in South Vietnam, as 'The Week' reported (April 13): "Only last week we received a list of the medical supplies and equipment most urgently required from representative of the N.L.F. in Paris." What is in question is whether the Soviet Union is giving its first political priority to intensifying its solidarity with the Vietnamese resistance.

How is the Soviet Union CP going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution this year? - By congratulating itself on a new £1,000 million space project or by following Castro's example: "For our country (Cuba), which recognises that imperialism is the enemy of all peoples, this bond with Vietnam is facing a life and death struggle, a decisive struggle which is growing in depth and intensity.

"For this reason, rather than continuing with words, we would like to make a gesture that will say it to all: that we dedicate this year to Vietnam" (Applause.) "We are going to call this 'The Year of Heroic Vietnam." (Prolonged Applause.)

Comrades Rintoul and Thompson are in disagreement with me about the past and present showing of the Soviet Union on Vietnam. I am sure that my differences with them could be most effectively resolved if the Soviet Union was to act clearly and unequivocally on a policy which gave the highest priority to solidarity with the Vietnamese resistance. As Castro has said, now is the time for action not words.

YUGOSLAVIA MAY ALLOW HOLDINGS IN MIXED COMPANIES

BELGRADE, April 14 (UPI). Yugoslavia may become the first Communist country to allow "mixed companies" to be formed by its own industries in cooperation with foreign investors, it was announced today. Aleksandar Grlickov, chairman of a Government commission on foreign investment, told the Federal Assembly's economic chamber that the Government had opposed mixed companies but might reconsider its position.

Yugoslavia announced several weeks ago that it would enact a law permitting foreign investment, but would not allow mixed companies. Foreign investors would be allowed to send technical advisers into Yugoslavia but would have no direct, legal voice in the management of plants in which their money was invested, it was announced.

AN APPEAL FOR A DEMONSTRATION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE ADENI MASSES

Dear Friends,

For over 128 years the Adeni people have been living under the political and military domination of Britain. In the past 4 years the struggle for independence has taken the form of armed struggle, reaching new heights of intensification in the past few weeks. No one can deny that the population stands united against the oppressor and the despicable manoeuvres to force upon the masses a puppet regime the reactionary and feudal, imperialist dominated, South Arabian Federation. Britain is striving to hold onto its military bases and investments, especially in Oil, which abounds in the area. Because of its greed for cheap raw materials, its deals with American imperialism to maintain the East of Suez policy, Britain stands in violent conflict with the Arab people's demand for land, for political freedom and social progress. The barbarity of the British actions in Aden have now even proved too much for the United Nations officials.

The "Arab Revolution" believes confidently that the British people, led by the working class, can now play as positive a role as during the 1956 Suez crisis, in putting a brake on the aggression of its ruling class against other nations. We share a common enemy - the British capitalist class which is part of the world imperialist and reactionary alliance.

It is necessary to show the people of South Arabia that they are not alone in their battle. The Adeni masses, and above all the Adeni working class, call for the solidarity and support of the British people and the British working class against this ferocious attack.

Because of the sharpening of the struggle, it is necessary that there be a demonstration of solidarity by all progressive and revolutionary organisations and by individuals who care for political freedom. We ask you to take part in a protest march and meeting, details of which are given below.

"Arab Revolution"

THE ASSEMBLY POINT WILL BE AT CAXTON HALL (near St. James Park Tube) AT 5.00 P.M. ON SATURDAY, APRILL 22nd. WE WILL MARCH TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THEN PROCEED TO HYDE PARK CORNER FOR A PUBLIC MEETING.

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AN APPEAL FOR A DEMONSTRATI

Two leading academics had some important things to say about Britain's brain drain recently. Professor Titmuss gave some important facts and figures about the worsening situation at a conference on social welfare and Lord Bowden, Vice Chancellor of the Manchester College of Science and Technology, even applied a kind of Marxist analysis to the crisis in an interview on television on the same day. First, here are some of Prof. Titmuss's main points:-

America's "borrowing" of doctors, scientists and engineers will save them thousands of millions of dollars, Prof Richard M. Titmuss, told the British National Conference on Social Welfare at Church House, Westminster, last week.

"Since 1949 the U.S. has absorbed and to some extent deliberately recruited 100,000 doctors, scientists and engineers from developed and developing countries," he declared, and went on to estimate that in about 18 years the U.S. would have saved some \$4,000m. by not having to educate and train, or train fully, this "vast quantity of human capital.

"It has spent more on consumption goods, less on public services. It has taxed itself more lightly while imposing heavier taxation on poorer countries," he stated. Prof. Titmuss, said that estimates of the amount of foreign aid going into the U. S. left out of account the social and economic effects in Britain - and more significantly in the world's poorer countries - of having to train more doctors, scientists and engineers, and of having to pay heavier inflated rewards to prevent American recruitment and offset the harmful repercussions on incomes, prices and levels of taxation.

"In medicine alone, foreign doctors now account for nearly 20 per cent of annual additions to the U. S. medical profession. The world now provides as much or more medical aid to the U. S. in terms of dollars as the total cost of all American medical aid, private and public, to foreign countries." Prof. Titmuss said a study he made recently showed that American advertisements for British doctors - often accompanied by recruiting campaigns - rose from 134 in 1951 to over 4,000 in 1966.

Many monetary experts abroad seemed to place a different valuation on countries which depended heavily on "borrowing" human capital as distinct from those which borrowed financial capital. "For such transactions, no payment is made to the lending country. There are no interest charges, and there is no intention of repaying the loan," he said.

continued over/

Free speech campaign: We have received for publication a full length article outlining the important progress this campaign has made. Unfortunately, owing to space reason we are unable to publish it in this issue. We will do so in the next issue. However, we are sure readers will be very pleased to know that the response to the press adverts has been extremely encouraging, and that people and organisations from all over the country have sent money and messages of support. Britain, he pointed out, also relied heavily on the skills of doctors from poorer countries. But "at least it cannot be said that we are deliberately organising recruitment campaigns in economically poorer countries. Just as we have recognised the injustice and the waste in the unrestricted free international movement of goods, material and capital, so we must now recognise the need for the richer countries of the world to take action to protect the poorer countries from being denuded of skilled manpower," argued Prof. Titmuss.

Lord Bowden made his remarks in the TV programme 'Future'. He explained how the number of British scientists going to the United States was rapidly increasing; he then went on to point out that this was part of a world-wide problem. For instance, the Swiss Government have recently produced a report indicating their concern at the loss of top scientists from Switzerland to the U.S. Bowden went on to say that the loss of British doctors had meant that we had become dependent on Asian (especially Indian) and African doctors for the manning of British hospitals - even though the poor nations of the world are in the most desperate need of doctors. Bowden added that he felt that the Marxist theory about the increasing impoverishment of the workers in all countries was not correct, but he was convinced that Marxist theory as applied to nations was accurate - the rich nations were getting richer and the poor were getting poorer. When asked for his ideas on possible solutions, Bowden commented that the Berlin Wall had been technically successful but politically disastrous. He thought that the idea of a transfer fee - with the richer nations having to pay much more for any skilled technicians they wanted from the poorer nations, should be seriously studied.

<u>A Comment</u>:- It is clear that the poorer nations are currently subsidising the social services and welfare of the richer countries, notably that of the United States. And all the European scientists and technicians who are being recruited by the largest American business corporations simply add to the domination of such corporations in world markets. The U.S. parent companies pay the highest fees to the world's best brains and use them in their U.S.-based research and development programmes. The large American corporations do not develop such advanced work in their European or Latin American subsiduaries. Nearly all the research and development work is done in the United States plants and only the resulting new techniques are passed on to the corporations' subsiduaries. This results in the European-owned companies being unable to compete. This in turn encourages further U.S. take-overs. Such is the power and inhumanity of <u>presentday international capitalism</u>. Only the forces of international socialism can put an end to it.

URGENTLY WANTED !!

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"Spare and unwanted copies of <u>The Week Report</u> of the Third Workers' Control Conference, Manchester, 1965, - which was The Week, volume 4, number 2, July 15th, 1965.

Please send to 1, Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull."

WEST EUROPEAN LEFT YOUTH HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE. by a special correspondent.

The first conference of European vanguard youth organizations met here March 11-12 to consider joint action in defense of the Vietnamese revolution. The 153 delegates came by foot, car, bus, train and air to sit down for two days of serious discussion in preparation for international coordinated action. They represented several thousand young people who are in revolt against the opportunism and passivity of the European Social Democratic and Communist parties.

Despite their differing political backgrounds and different experiences there was remarkable homogeneity in their outlook and their determination. They had no time for empty rhetoric or entertainment. They came to work. They were eager to meet and get to know their counterparts. And when they completed their business at the end of the second day they closed their very impressive gathering by standing with clenched fists singing the "Internationale." It was a stirring sight. Among these youth there was already evident the cadres of a new generation of socialist leaders.

The conference was initiated by the Belgian Young Guard Socialists (JGS) and grew out of the Liege demonstration sponsored by them last October. The hosts had secured two modern meeting halls equipped with simultaneous translation equipment.

Originally scheduled for April, the date was advanced to provide time for co-ordinating actions in support of the April 15 demonstrations in the U.S. A young American present from the antiwar movement across the Atlantic gave a description of the work and movement of his country. It was clear that the courage and the dedication shown by the American youth movement against the war in Vietnam, have made a profound impression upon youth everywhere.

Eleven youth organizations in Belgium, France, Italy, Great Britain and Ireland, and Holland were officially represented. Observers were present from Germany, Spain, the United States and Canada. Other organizations which could not send delegates in time sent greetings and offers of cooperation. The conference was also officially greeted by a representative of the north Vietnam delegation in Paris.

The conference authorized the organization of a Coordinating Committee of seven members representing the youth of the United Independent Socialist party of Italy, the Socialist Students of Belgium, the Young Socialists of Belgium (FNGS), the Revolutionary Communist Youth (JCR) of France, the Socialist Students of the United Socialist party of France, the Socialist Students of Holland and the left wing of the Labour Party Young Socialists of Great Britain around the organ, Rebel.

The first coordinated action will be preparation for demonstrations in solidarity with the April 15 demonstrations in the United States.

The conference closed with a call to all young workers and students of Europe to: - contained in a call to all young workers and students of

"-- Organize volunteer brigades prepared to go to Vietnam when asked by North Vietnam.

"-- Reply to the imperialist escalation by escalating political and material aid of all kinds to the Vietnamese people.

"-- Fight for the unconditional withdrawal of imperialist forces from Vietnam and an unconditional and definitive end to the bombing of North Vietnam.

"-- No to the Atlantic Alliance such your and this both suppose of fire seaw

"-- Not a man, not a penny for imperialism and its war! "-- Long live solidarity with the Vietnamese people! "-- Long live the Vietnamese revolution!"

Nalso Annual Conference continued/

for the SLL supporters. In the election to the new executive, the SLL were reduced to a minority, losing most of their previous positions.

rty, rather than lighting inside.

The line finally adopted by the conference was by no means clear and at points was even contradictory. Its position on student radicalism was ambiguous. The sharp sectarian hostility of the Socialist Labour League to the Radical Student Alliance left its impression. Many resolutions were adopted by unanimous votes.

In the debate on the constitution, the delegates defeated a move by the SLL to delete all references to the Labour Party, but failed in preventing the "eligibility clause" being eliminated. This would have insisted that executive positions could only be filled by people who were eligible for Labour Party membership. In the past this clause has been ignored by NALSO but was a statement of its main orientation. The SLL argued that this was a principle and meant acceptance of bans and proscriptions, whereas it had been argued, especially by the Sussex delegates that it was necessary to accept such devices if one was to be in an effective position to fight against them. It was pointed out by Oxford delegate, Bernard Reaney, that in the past the SLL did not consider this question a principle, because they accepted such clauses in the Young Socialists constitution before they split from the Labour Party.

The problem for NALSO now is to work effectively in the broad labour movement and cultivate support for its readmission to the Labour Party, especially at the Labour Party conference in October. It also has to seek ways of intervening in the current wave of radicalism among young people in order to play a role in making socialism a key part of the students' armament against the conservative educational establishments.

EDITORIAL NOTE: We are informed that delegates from many Young Socialist, YCL, and Young Liberal branches, and both foreign and British student groups are to attend the National Youth Solidarity Confernece this coming Saturday. We wish them a fruitful discussion - in fact we are sending three young supporters of <u>The Week</u> to take part in the conference. We hope that this conference will mark the beginnings of a new solidarity movement to come to the aid of the people of Vietnam against American aggression.

ANNUAL MALSO CONFERENCE by Brian Gormley

The seventeenth annual conference of the National Association of Labour Student Organizations in Manchester on April 3-6th lived up to all its expectations of being the liveliest in its history. It was the scene of a sharp political struggle between several tendencies over what attitude NALSO should take to the attacks on it by Transport House and how should it relate itself to the developing radicalism among university students, as typified by the Radical Student Alliance.

Readers of the Newsletter, organ of the Socialist Labour League, may have guessed in recent months that the S.L.L. had developed a more than casual interest in NALSO affairs. From previous articles, readers of the <u>Week</u> will be acquainted with the previous conference of NALSO, held in January, where the SLL managed to obtain a majority of places on the national executive, and were obviously hell bent on taking NALSO through the experience of their particular brand of sectarian politics.

Transport House quickly cut-off the NALSO subsidy, which fitted into the S.L.L's plans. While they may not agree on most things, there seems to be common agreement between Clapham High Street and the Labour party ringht wing that it is better that left wingers be ineffectively outside the party, rather than fighting inside.

The Socialist Labour League misjudged the situation in NALSO. Students may be opposed to the Labour leadership, but they are certainly in no mind to be absorbed into the S.L.L. This became the central question for the conference. The SLL approach was at first cautious. They submitted minimum policy resolutions. Their main task was to burn all bridges to the Labour Party, but under the pressure of the Save NALSO Caucus, they were forced to reveal their full positions: that is, the making of NALSO into "the revolutionary alternative" and in opposition to the Labour Party.

The conference, by a hefty majority, rejected a statement by the SLL majority on the NALSO executive on the reasons for the break with the Labour Party, referring it back to the incoming executive. It also passed by solid majority, over SLL opposition, the Cambridge resolution which stated:

"This conference deplores the hasty actions of the NEC of the Labour Party in repudiating its bi-lateral agreement with NALSO but also believes that the student socialist movement must retain links in some form with the Labour Party at a national level. It therefore instructs the EC to seek immediately affiliation or some form of association with the Labour Party, preferably one which will give NALSO speaking and voting rights at the Labour Party Conference."

The incentive to struggle with the SLL came from the SLL itself which became trapped in its own ultra-leftism. It immediately posed to the delegates that all who did not agree with the SLL line would not have a place in the organization. It would cease to be a broadly based student socialist youth movement, representative of several tendencies on the left. The SLL moved in hard in a determined bid to consolidate its hold, running a full slate for all positions on the E.C. This was in contrast to the Save NALSO Caucus which left several positions open Continued on previous page.... WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO OPEN IN PARIS from a special correspondent.

Despite various attempts at obstruction, the International War Crimes Tribunal is to open in Paris later this month. The following press release was issued on April 17th by the War Crimes Tribunal office:

The International War Crimes Tribunal, which is investigating allegations of American war crimes against the people of Vietnam, was inaugurated in London last November, when it agreed its intention to meet in full, solemn session in Paris this Spring.

The International War Crimes Tribunal announces that its First Session in Paris, originally planned to start at the Hotel Continental on April 26th, will now take place on the 29th April until the 9th May at the Municipal Theatre, Issyles-Moulineaux (Salle des Sports).

At this opening session the Tribunal will deliberate on two of the five questions which its published Aims and Objectives commit it to examine. These questions are:

- 1. Has the United States Government (and the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and South Korea) committed acts of aggression according to international law?
- 2. Has there been bombardment of targets of a purely civilian character, for example, hospitals, schools, sanatoria, dams, etc., and on what scale has this occurred?

In carrying out its enquiry the Tribunal will examine evidence from individual witnesses, as well as from the Investigating Teams of lawyers, doctors, surgeons, and other specialists who have spent the past months in Vietnam and Cambodia on behalf of the Tribunal. The date and place of further sessions will be announced in Paris during the course of the present proceedings.

up a new European organization to plan and co-ordinate their actions

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The Tribunal will be open to the world's Press and to invited members of the public. Requests for further information should be addressed to:

Geoff Coggan, Press Officer, International War Crimes Tribunal, 11A, Wormwood Street, LONDON, E.C.2. Tel. 588-5064, 588-1924, 588-1925. BELGIAN YOUNG SOCIALISTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST HUMPHREY. from a Brussells correspondent.

Brussels, April 10th -- Groups of Belgian young socialists, members of the National Federation of Young Guard Socialists, challenged American vice-President H. Humphrey during his visit to this city yesterday. Heavily reinforced riot police and mobile gendarme units deployed all through the area failed to keep the demonstrators from infiltrating the thin crowd of spectators and shouting their slogans and emphasizing them with rotten eggs and tomatoes.

Humphrey made his quick and well guarded public appearance at the tomb of the unknown soldier béfore a very small audience of what appeared to be mostly employees of American firms here and part of the American colony.

As his limousine approached the tomb he was greeted with the anti-war slogans and protests against American action in Vietnam. The riot police moved quickly and clubbed the demonstrators to the ground. Plain clothes men were everywhere in the crowd and helped the police capture fifty-one of the demonstrators who were hauled off to the local bastille. Arrested were many activists and leaders of the FNGS as well as activists of the local young communists who follow the pro-Maoist group of J. Grippa here. The official Communist Party and its youth group stayed away from this scene and had a small protest meeting in another part of the town.

The viciousness of the police was a reflection of the extreme nervousness of the authorities during Humphrey's short visit. Every public appearance of his in Europe has been marked by vigorous protest and wide indications of popular dislike. In fact it has been widely recognized in the European press that the many demonstrations held during Humphrey's visit accurately reflect the popular feeling of dislike for the American aggression in Vietnam.

His public appearance at the tomb here had all the aspects of a quick run into "enemy territory" and a quick retreat. In fact near panic developed when at the conclusion of the ceremony the charfeur of his limousine could not get started as he had dropped the keys.

The FNGS are the intiators of the international youth conference held last month to co-ordinate the anti-Vietnam war action on a European wide scale. Together with 12 other European vanguard youth organizations they have set up a new European organization to plan and co-ordinate their actions in defence of the Vietnamese revolution, as well as campaigns against NATO.

8,000 MINERS FACE LAYOFF IN HOLLAND

The Hague, April 14 (Reuters). -- Holland's state-run mines plan a further cut in production which will lead to the layoff of 8,000 workers, it was announced here today. Officials said 5,000 of the workers would be gradually transferred to other jobs while the remaining 3,000 would either be pensioned off or given a compensation wage until they reached retirement age.



PUBLIC MEETING SPONSORED BY THE WEEK

ROBIN BLACKBURN editor New Left Review

JULIET MITCHELL contributor New Left Review

Contributor The Week

CAXTON HALL SWI THURS APRIL 20 7.30 PM

