

SPARTACUS R. IS CLEARED

Spartacus R, campaigner against Apartheid, was acquitted last Wednesday in Knightsbridge Crown court of charges of willfully obstructing the highway and assaulting a police officer.

The charges stem from an incident last November when he was arrested in Brixton distributing leaflets against the sale of

South African goods in this country.

Michael Hall, counsel for Spartacus R, submitted that there was no case to answer. The appeal was upheld.

Solicitor Alf Wynter of Brixton is now looking into the possibility of civil action against the police.

Spartacus R commented

after the appeal: 'I have nothing to get excited about. I should not have been in the courts anyway, but in this racist, oppressive society, the real criminals are those who make and manipulate the laws to suit their own interests.'

'I would like to thank all our supporters and well wishers for what they have done'.

THEY ARE PRISONERS OF WAR!



MP JEREMY CORBYN being led away after his arrest on a picket outside the Old Bailey trial of Martina Anderson, Ella O'Dwyer, Joseph Sherry, Gerárd McDonnell and Patrick Magee. Media coverage of the show trial presumed the three guilty: now they are prisoners of war

LAST WEEK saw the end of the latest in a long line of show trials perfected by British governments over the last few years.

The build up to the 'trial' began with the torture of two of the accused, Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer by the use of strip searching.

The two women were strip searched hundreds of times: sometimes a search was done only minutes after one had just been completed.

Nothing was ever found.

Strip searches, body searches and frequent cell changes were carried out not in the hope of ever finding anything but for the mental torment of the two women — making it difficult for them to prepare their case.

The 'security' card was placed to the full in this way both before and during the trial.

To create an atmosphere of tension at the time of the trial the police would

ostentatiously drive the convoy (an armoured transit, two armoured trucks and two squad cars) carrying the defendants through London's rush-hour traffic to court — while a police helicopter circled low overhead and police 'marksmen' stood on the roofs surrounding the Old Bailey.

Media access to the trial — as Terry O'Halloran reported in our last issue — has been closely controlled.

He was refused access to all but three days of the trial, while the representatives of the gutter press were allowed to come and go as they please.

The media have made the most of the meagre evidence produced by the prosecution, repeating their story as gospel.

They ignored the evidence put forward by the defence unless it was something which could be twisted to suit the verdict that they had reached long ago.

There was almost no reporting of the defence challenges to prosecution witnesses in the 'free press'.

The starkest example of this concerned forensic evidence upon which Patrick Magee was found guilty.

His defence counsel,

Richard Ferguson QC, argued strongly that this 'evidence' must in fact have been planted by police.

Ferguson said the trial had been billed as the 'trial of the century', and that the Brighton bombing had been the most serious crime since Guy Fawkes.

The QC then told the jury: 'It would be tempting to visit your outrage on the only head which is bowed for sacrifice — that of Magee. But it would not be right.'

The only evidence against Magee, Ferguson reminded the jury, was a fingerprint and a palm print on a hotel registration card and the opinion of a handwriting expert.

(See the Guildford Four story page 10 for the way

forensic evidence was produced in that case).

Members of the public, instead of being allowed into the trial as of right, have had to make a special application.

Even then all but one row of the public gallery had been roped off, severely limiting the amount of people able to get in.

A protest against this show trial and the torture of Martina Anderson and Ella O'Dwyer began on May 10.

It was systematically obstructed by the police who arrested the entire demonstration including legal observers within minutes of their arrival, under an ancient law banning demonstrations in the vicinity of the court.

Amongst those arrested were Lambeth Labour leader Linda Bellos and Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn.

Separate trials were denied the defendants in an attempt to implicate all the defendants in collective guilt.

The past history of this kind of trial has been that of lies, deceit and frame-ups carried out on behalf of successive British governments both Tory and Labour.

The guilt here lies not with those sentenced but with British imperialism which is responsible for untold deaths and misery in Northern Ireland.

Martina Anderson, Ella O'Dwyer, Peter Sherry, Gerárd McDonnell and Patrick Magee are Class War Prisoners.

BY PHIL PENN

PRINTERS VOTE TO CONTINUE FIGHT

Two-to-one ballot says 'no confidence' in Dean

LAST WEEK, printworkers, sacked by Rupert Murdoch in January, rejected his latest 'final offer' of £50m plus the Grays Inn Rd plant as a settlement of the 20-week-old dispute.

It was expected that members of SOGAT would vote 'yes' and leave the National Graphical Association (NGA) and the Engineers to fight alone.

When the ballot result came through last Friday, SOGAT members had rejected the offer by nearly 2 to 1 — no surprise to those printers who have been standing firm.

They knew that money and buildings were no compensation for jobs, which is why they came out in the first place.

There was no doubt that rejection of the 'final offer'

by SOGAT members was a no-confidence vote in the leadership of Brenda Dean, their General Secretary.

There has been bitter resentment of the way she has conducted the dispute from the beginning, especially of the boycott campaign on which the union seemed to pin all its hopes.

Rank and file printworkers now want to escalate

By ALAN CLARK

the dispute. The 'No' vote was a great victory and morale booster but it cannot be left there.

The dangers of a sell out are still on the agenda.

Brenda Dean has said that the NEC will still back the dispute but not at the expense of the union.

The 'No' vote must be seen in the same context as the decision by trade unions to continue the political levy to the Labour Party and the massive class vote for the Labour Party in May's local council elections.

These decisions show that workers are not being deceived by Thatcher anymore.

Thatcher is no longer influencing the working class, her lie machine and propaganda are not working.

The danger is that she may want Kinnock to take hold of the reins as quick as possible. But trust cannot be put in a Kinnock government anymore than a Tory one.

Kinnock would undoubtedly carry on with many of the Tory policies, especially the hated anti-union laws.

He would keep jailed miners where they are until their time was served.

Kinnock said at the SOGAT conference last week that only British citizens should be able to own Britain's newspaper industry and broadcasting organisations.

If Kinnock can come out with statements like that, he has no conception about the way capitalism is run.

It is not about whether or not you are a foreigner; capitalism has no barriers where exploitation is concerned.

An employer will exploit workers whatever his nationality.

Does Kinnock think that British employers will be much nicer to their work-

force? He should read his history books.

The working class have got what they have by fighting for it; no employer yet has given anything away for nothing.

If printworkers lost this battle with Murdoch, the right to belong to a union or even to have a union altogether, does Kinnock believe that all employers up and down the country, whatever their nationality, wouldn't take advantage of the situation? Printworkers know they will.

That is why they are demanding Murdoch must not win!

DENBY LINKS WITH FAR RIGHT

Powell aide on the run

POLICE were last week hunting solicitor and former Enoch Powell aide Peter Denby for questioning in connection with an armed hold-up of two police officers in London's West End.

It is thought the hold-up incident, in Down Street, Mayfair — not far from MI5 offices — may have been linked to Ulster Loyalist terrorist organisations.

Two men with Northern Irish accents, one with an automatic pistol and the other with a revolver, forced the police officers at gunpoint to lie down on the pavement, then stole the keys to their patrol car.

They made off in a hired car driven by Denby.

The following day, Denby

phoned an old friend — far-right Tory MP Harvey Proctor — and told him he was going abroad.

At first, police were inclined to doubt this, because they held his passport. They thought the runaway solicitor might be hiding with friends in southern England.

But according to Tuesday's 'London Standard', former colleagues of Denby say he was issued with two passports by the Foreign Office to help him pursue Middle East business activity.

A specialist on shipping law, Denby visited both Iran and Iraq.

Denby comes from a top legal family — his uncle, Sir Richard Denby is a former president of the Law Society.

The Law Society has been investigating several complaints against the London solicitor, including allegations of a secret £133,000 'commission' on an Iranian shipping deal, passed through a Swiss bank.

He is also alleged to have twice broken into the home of a former senior partner to search for private papers and to have falsified information to a building society so he could extend the mortgage on his Islington home.

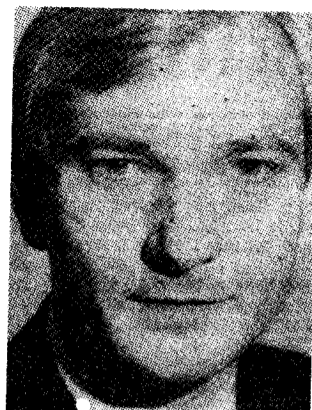
Denby was personal assistant to Enoch Powell from 1970-73, before Powell became Ulster Unionist MP for Down South. Since then Denby is said to have visited Ulster several times.

Denby and Proctor have been friends since university days and are known to share similar political views. Bilericay MP Proctor, a supporter of the right-wing Tory Monday Club, has been involved in anti-immigrant campaigns with such people as Lady Jane Birdwood and known National Front associates.

The National Front has



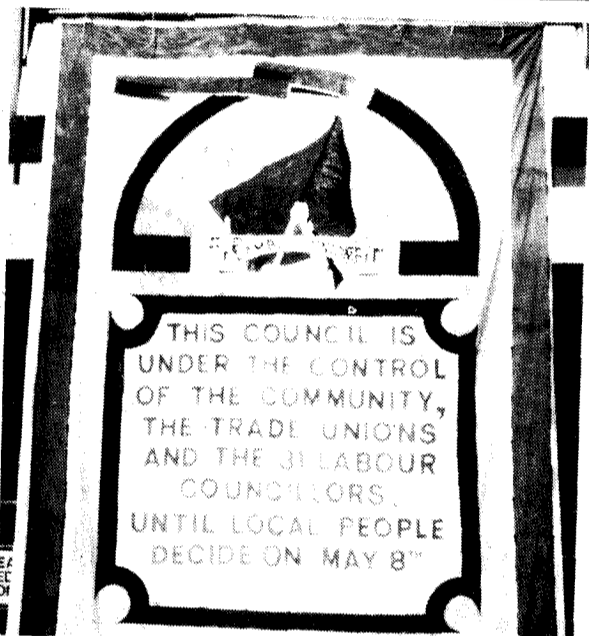
Peter Denby



Harvey Proctor

been campaigning increasingly in support of hard-line Ulster Loyalists this year. Several Fronters

hold dual UDA membership and NF members from Britain have gone over to join Loyalist marches in Belfast.



Delegates from Liverpool and Lambeth NALGO will be fighting to get an emergency resolution onto their conference agenda following the Tory attacks on their councils.

The resolution condemns the arbitrary powers of the District Auditors, demands that the next Labour government lifts the penalties suffered by the councillors and compensates them for financial loss.

It asks for a further £5,000 for the legal appeal and instructs the NEC to support non-cooperation with any temporary minority administration.

BRUM'S HEALTH DEAL

CENTRAL Birmingham Health Authority plans to hand £8 million of health service funds to an American private company to build a private hospital in the grounds of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

tients on a profit-making basis.

The money, earmarked for schemes elsewhere in the region, is to be given to Community Psychiatric Centres of Los Angeles who will be treating NHS psychiatric pa-

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicester.

KENT

TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent.

CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three year sentence from January 1985. A29398, Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

ROBERT HOWE: 22 — Affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea) 21 months.

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD: 24 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.

JOHN ROBINSON: 21 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months.

GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.

ANTHONY HOWE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody.

WILLIAM BELL: 20 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months Youth Custody.

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18 month sentence. G76424, Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Ackington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

N. DERESHIRE

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough.

AFTER SHIPYARD DEVASTATION: North-east pit jobs fight ahead

By DAVE TEMPLE

THREE North East collieries are under immediate threat of closure.

This was announced by North East Area Director of British Coal within hours of an agreement being signed with the Central Electricity Generating Board reducing the price of coal by £3 per ton.

The three collieries — Whittle and Ashington in Northumberland and Murton in Co Durham — have been under intense pressure from British Coal to increase production and reduce costs in the face of increased competition through falling oil prices.

Four months ago Murton

Colliery was given a target of 6,060 tons per day as a plan for survival provided that present market prices prevailed.

It has come as no surprise to Murton miners that the goal posts have already shifted.

Murton Miners Lodge were quick to issue a statement which said:

'We have no intention of letting the Coal Board close Murton without a fight. Murton has been open for 140 years and has produced untold wealth.'

'That wealth has been taken away from its producers and put into the pockets of those who did nothing to contribute.'

'The generations of Murton miners, like all miners

throughout the world, have died through accidents, injury and disasters to produce that wealth.'

'Now, the government and management say we are surplus to requirements.'

'They are quite prepared to close our pit, without regard to the years of labour they have taken from us. We will not accept that.'

'The NCB has robbed us of alternative work. They and the state owe us a living.'

'There is plenty of evidence to show that the NCB conspired with governments of the day to suppress other forms of industrial development in the north east, purely to keep men in the pits.'

'They feared that new industries would tempt men away from the dangerous

work in the mines.

'So, when they come to close our collieries there is nowhere for us to go. Why should we put up with this insult to our intelligence and destruction of our livelihoods?'

'The duty of the NUM is to fight to protect jobs for our members. We understand that many are weary of the treatment at the hands of the NCB and want to take their lump sum.'

'But you must remember that our community relies on the pit for its economy without which we are dead.'

'We urge everyone to join the campaign against closure. All union members should back this cause before it's too late.'

VIRAJ MENDIS CAMPAIGN BUILDS UP

WIDESPREAD support is developing for the Viraj Mendis campaign and march organised on his behalf from Manchester to London on July 5 to July 26 by the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (VMDC).

Euro-MPs Glyn Ford and Eddy Newman (MEPs for Greater Manchester East and Central) have written to the European parliament opposing Viraj's deportation to Sri Lanka.

The European Committee for the Defence of Refugees and Immigrants passed a resolution calling on the British government not to deport Viraj.

Viraj has lived in Britain for over 12 years.

The Home Office still refuses to recognise that Viraj would face persecution if deported to Sri Lanka.

Although they do not deny

Viraj's public support for the struggle of the Tamil people, they believe the words of the chief adjudicator M Patey that 'Sri Lanka is inherently a democracy where the rule of law applies'.

It was in response to Viraj's appeal being turned down that his campaign planned the march from Manchester to London under the slogans 'Viraj Mendis must stay!' and 'Fight the immigration laws!'.

Many different groups are sponsoring this event (over 50 so far) and 40 people are committed to marching all the way.

Coming shortly after Viraj's final appeal to the immigration tribunal on July 3 (10 am Thanet House, The Strand, London) this march could be the event which wins Viraj's case whilst bringing to the public's attention the enormous misery caused by the racist laws.

Every week more than 50 black people are deported from Britain, and the last ten years have seen a five-fold increase in the number of deportation orders.

The Viraj Mendis campaign is raising the question of these racist laws, the increasing number of racist attacks that are encouraged with racist laws and a racist police force.

VMDC are calling for support from all sections of the

labour movement.

They are asking that trades councils, Labour Party branches and so on pass resolutions of support, donate money and join the march.

This campaign gives urgency to the demand to finish with the Tory government now.

Viraj cannot wait until the next election to stop deportation or the immigration laws.

The Viraj Mendis campaign can be contacted at VMDC, c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, Manchester M15 5AL, telephone 061-795-3870, or at their regular Sunday evening meetings at Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester (Albert Street entrance).

MICHAEL GAUGHAN COMMEMORATION



LAST Sunday saw a commemoration at Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight for the late Michael Gaughan, who died on hunger strike on June 3, 1974.

John French, of the Irish Republican Prisoners Campaign Committee, made a roll-call of all Republican prisoners currently serving sentences in British jails.

Slogans shouted by the pickets outside the prison supported political status for the prisoners of war and for repatriation of all

Republican prisoners to jails in Ireland.

A wreath was laid outside Parkhurst and the last post was sounded.

A similar picket was held outside Albany Prison, also on the Isle of Wight. Among the delegations were the Irish POWs Campaign Committee, the Workers Revolutionary Party, the RCP and the Irish Freedom Movement.

A WORKERS PRESS INTERVIEW

PRINTER'S WIFE SPEAKS OUT

WORKERS PRESS spoke to CHRISTINE ROGERS, wife of a sacked printer from the Sunday Times who is a member of the SOGAT 82 London Machine Branch.

She discusses how the dispute has affected her life, how her views have changed during the struggle and of how she sees the responsibilities of trade union membership.

'I SHOULD imagine that, like myself, many of the News International printworkers' wives were totally shocked and stunned when our husbands were sacked by such a ruthless and conniving employer like Murdoch.'

'He had conspired against them and forced them into a strike when he moved his newspapers to Wapping.'

'As women, we must be united in our struggle to get back what is rightfully ours — the jobs of our menfolk.'

'We have to believe wholeheartedly in what we are fighting for.'

'In my home, drastic adjustments have had to be made. It is not easy when you have been used to a fairly decent standard of living.'

'Especially when, like myself, having three kids, continually having to say firmly: "No you can't go to the pictures. No you can't go swimming. No we can't go on holiday."

'They are having to learn the hard way, which is a tragedy.'

'I hate Murdoch for doing this to my kids and all other sacked printworkers' kids. What have they done to him to deserve such treatment?'

'It makes me very angry when I know that some of the printworkers and their wives have never bothered to demonstrate or picket at Wapping. How they can just give up or accept Murdoch's method is totally beyond me.'

'I have always been led to believe that trade unionism means sticking together through good times and bad times. It obviously does not have the same meaning to them.'

'I think they should have their union cards ripped up so that they would not be able to work elsewhere in Fleet Street.'

'As women, we must organise more marches. When we marched early on in the dispute, it was the only time that Murdoch's lorries were delayed.'

'We should march every week if it means that our men can be off scoring successes with the flying pickets.'

'I wonder how the police would justify their methods on television if it were shown how they had to control women and children with horses and riot police wielding shields and truncheons.'

'When Brenda Dean first led us into this dispute, myself and many of the women had a good deal of admiration and confidence in her. But as time has gone by, many of us have become totally disillusioned with her.'

'It seems she has given up on her members.'

'I could hardly believe my eyes when I read through the five page document that was

'It was such a relief when the result came back as a resounding "no". For the life of me I thought that Brenda Dean would have realised that this dispute is not about money, it is about getting back the jobs that are presently being done by the scabs in Wapping and about trade union recognition and giving them back to their rightful owners.'

'We must now put all our efforts into rebuilding the mass picketing and demonstrations to the numbers we saw on Saturday May 3.'

'If we could get 10,000 to 20,000 demonstrators at Wapping each week then pressure would be brought to bear on Murdoch.'

'It is vital that Norman Willis and the rest of the TUC get off their backsides



Christine Rogers with sons Steven, Ben and Paul

'I have always been led to believe that trade unionism means sticking together — through good times and bad times'

sent to my husband when he had to vote to either accept or reject Murdoch's 'final' offer of £50 million redundancy and the Gray's Inn Road building.

'It was one-sided (it was the company's point of view). I am sure she must have been sitting on Murdoch's lap when she wrote it.

and do something positive instead of pussyfooting around. I hope they realise the importance of the 'no' vote to Murdoch's 'final' offer.

'If the printworkers are left alone in this battle the flood gates would be flung open for every other employer in the country to do

exactly the same thing as Murdoch. They are all waiting on the sidelines now, ready to pounce.'

'It seems to me that the TUC and the Labour Party are keeping a low key in order to safeguard a Labour victory at the next general election. Well, it had better not be at the expense of the sacked printworkers. We are not going to be sitting ducks for anyone.'

'It is crucial for all print-

workers, whether they have been sacked or are still working in other papers in Fleet Street, to get down to that picket line in Wapping.'

'They should take their wives, girlfriends and families along too and help show Murdoch that we mean business.'

'We need all trade unionists and supporters everywhere to join us. Together we will win this bitter dispute.'

VIRGIN MAN BAGS THATCHER RUBBISH

WHY HAS Mrs Thatcher chosen multi-millionaire Virgin Record/Virgin Atlantic boss Richard Branson to run her cheap labour clean-up scheme?

Of course it is because the 36 year-old current holder of the Sunday Times/CBI Business Enterprise award, whose hobby is building highspeed motor vessels in pursuit of the Atlantic record, has so much in common with young people struggling to live on the dole!

How has this all come about?

The story is that Mrs Thatcher, on her way from Downing St to Heathrow for her trip to Israel, noticed that the streets and motorways en route were dirty.

On her flight home she remembered having heard somewhere that some people were without a job.

She quickly put two and two together.

They could clean up the mess and cease to be unemployed at the same time!

All 35,000 unemployed — on the journey she had lost a nought or two — all they needed was a lead from someone they could relate to, i.e. Branson, and some sort of wage — £67 a week has since been mentioned.

The hope is to cash in on

By BERNARD FRANKS

some of the enthusiasm that followed Band Aid and Sport Aid. Thatcher is already cracking jokes about Litter Aid.

In fact the litter louts responsible for dirty streets are none other than Thatcher and her Tory cronies.

It is they who have decimated the street-cleaning services by their 17 billion pound cuts in local authority essential spending.

It is they who have insisted that proper services are replaced by the lowest tendering private companies whose main concern is not cleaning highways but making a profit.

It was also the government Code of Practice issued last year that urged that cleaning of motorway verges be reduced to once a year and that layby litter bins should be removed and replaced by notices asking motorists to remove their own litter.

Today streets everywhere are not only filthy but frequently lined with plastic bags of uncollected rubbish, often ripped open by animals and constituting both a health and a safety hazard.

Over the past 20 years, workers in all aspects of refuse operations have fought to achieve a decent wage and recognition of the increasing importance of their work to a modern society.

These hard-won rights are now under attack.

Essentially, what is taking place now is the undermining of the properly organised services run by organised workers and their replacement with non-union cheap labour without rights of employment, with no traditional conditions or benefits and with no interest in the service which is supposed to be provided.

Once Branson has finished his latest boating jaunt, he will head a committee of businessmen, civil servants and voluntary organisations:



JULY 1982: Wandsworth Council workers lobby the Town Hall in their fight against privatisation. The whole department was finally closed and the contract awarded to Pritchards. Private operators have been sued by councils claiming breaches of contract and shoddy services

to implement the latest stage of the plan.

The fact that the Tories are also promoting all manner of voluntary community schemes and that these are increasingly encroaching on work normally carried out by paid people probably means that the next step will be replacement of cheap labour by unpaid labour.

Trade unions should be exposing the enormous public health danger opened up by the extension of sporadic amateur scavenging schemes.

They should be opposing all YTS and community clean-up operations and pulling out of all collaboration with their main recruitment agency the Manpower Services Commission (MSC).

Finally they should be demanding that the local authorities' own refuse departments take on young people and expand to ensure the maximum cover by what is one of the most vital services in existence today.

SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS DEFY BAILIFFS

By Michael Wood

LAST TUESDAY Southwark council employed a scab labour force to evict nearly seventy people from single bedroom flats on the Pullens estate in South London.

The local Tenants Association has consistently worked with the squatters group.

Last year over fifty per cent signed a petition for them to be allowed to stay.

Southwark council have not fulfilled their promises to Lambeth Court to have tenants ready to move in.

They also have no policy for housing single homeless people which is illegal under the 1977 Homeless Persons Act.

The bailiffs were supported

by about two hundred police, some wearing riot equipment.

Paint bombs were thrown and minor scuffles erupted. Eleven arrests were made; people were charged with obstructing the bailiffs and 'criminal damage'.

When the police army of occupation withdrew, the majority of the flats were re-squatted.

The evictions were opposed by Pullens Tenants Association, the local Labour MP, the local Labour ward, Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, the District Housing Committee, SHAC, SHELTER, CRISIS, as well as many Labour and trade union branches throughout the London boroughs.

Workers Revolutionary Party

Public lectures

Friday June 13

Capitalist Development since the 1930s

Geoff Pilling

Friday June 20

27 Reasons why Mike Banda is wrong

Dave Bruce

Friday June 27

Tom Kemp

Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, NW1

7.30 pm sharp, Tickets 60p

WORKERS PRESS UNION CONFERENCE NEWS

OBAN: POLITICAL FUND 'YES'; YTS REJECTED

LEFT TURN BY TEACHERS

FOLLOWING its annual meeting in Oban last week, Scotland's largest teaching union has moved significantly to the left.

Until now the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) has been a 'non-political' union.

On the advice of the national executive, however, the delegates voted overwhelmingly in favour of establishing a political fund.

The EIS is now committed to a campaign in favour of a 'yes' vote for the fund, after a debate which left the union's right wing completely

isolated from the vast majority of delegates.

The liveliest debate centred on the union's attitude to the MSC.

National executive member Norman Bissell claimed that MSC cash is tainted.

'Does this EIS really want

By JOE EYRE

to act as the bag-man for the Mafia?' he demanded of the delegates.

Their response was clear — they voted overwhelmingly to withdraw co-operation from TVEI.

In a later debate, leading members of the Communist Party argued strongly in favour of continued support for YTS.

But they were voted down and the EIS is now to recommend to the TUC and Scot-

tish TUC that they reconsider their support for YTS.

These decisions reflect the deepening awareness of the membership caused by their two-year campaign on pay.

The government has now set up a committee of enquiry to look at teachers' pay and conditions in Scotland.

The executive asked that it be left free to handle the findings of the enquiry when it reports in the autumn.

The delegates were quick to see the dangers in this and

voted instead to have the whole matter debated by a special delegate meeting following publication of the report.

The delegates then went on to vote in favour of refusing to co-operate with armed forces recruitment campaigns in schools and to campaign among local education authorities for a ban on armed forces recruitment displays altogether.

This debate was significant for the intervention of ex-president Kenny McLach-

lan who condemned militarism and discussed the barbarity of war based on his own experiences as a paratrooper.

Even more significant was the contribution of Edinburgh delegate Callum Macrae who roundly condemned the use of British troops in Ireland.

Delegates were in no mood to listen to the pleas of the right wing and the motion was passed by a massive majority.

'BROAD LEFT' BANKRUPT

Right gains threaten telecom jobs

WITH THE present election of John Golding to succeed Bryan Stanley as general secretary of the National Communications Union and the swing to the right in the Engineering Section executive elections, workers in BT, the Post Office and National Girobank face a serious threat to their jobs, wages and working conditions.

The most important lesson to draw from the failure of the Broad Left (BL) to keep its majority in the leadership is that the fight in BT needs correct policies, a determined leadership and the active support of the membership.

Receded

The BL has failed in all three respects.

Their policy of 'The Broad Strategy' failed to win support because the objects receded into the indefinite future.

The 32-hour week, longer holidays, sabbaticals, workers' and community control of telecommunications; all fine in themselves, but as privatisation and the new technology bit visibly into daily working conditions of BT/PO/NGB workers, so the retreat of the BL accelerated.

Jobs in factories and supplies (Cwmcam and Hereford) went — without a fight from the leaders.

By TIM O'HALLORAN
NCU(E) West End Branch
(in a personal capacity)

Redundancy in south-west Scotland was fought with an overtime ban and overcome with a compromise on early voluntary retirement (EVR) with enhanced pension payouts.

This formula has been applied in thousands of cases throughout the country, resulting in an approximate job loss of 4,000-5,000 per year with the balance being made up by 'natural wastage'.

In other words the 'Broad Strategy' was seen to have become a pious wish to be realised under a future Labour government, not one that could be fought for today.

The retreat of the BL leadership started almost immediately after their election in 1982.



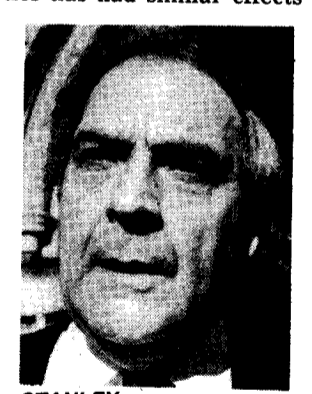
GOLDING

One of their first decisions was to accept the YTS, though this was later thrown out by a reconvened annual conference.

The fiasco of the 'anti-privatisation campaign', which left the members in International Services and other isolated individuals up and down the country to carry out a fight that all members should have been mobilised for, together with the craven climb-down over the writ gained by Mercury to stop the blacking of its circuits interconnecting with BT, showed that here was an executive with no fight.

It was only a matter of time before the BL was removed, ballot or no ballot.

The bankruptcy of the Broad Left apparatus politics has had similar effects



STANLEY

elsewhere (CPSA, AEU, etc).

It is in many ways, a syndicalist mirror-image of parliamentary reformism, with traitorous Labour administrations paving the way for reactionary Tory regimes.

In this case, the reactionary threat is from Mr Golding and his tame new executive of Kinnockite 'new realists'.

This new executive will push ahead with redundancy agreements and acceptance of 'more flexible working' etc.

Older BT workers face speed-up and new technology will no doubt find EVR a welcome solution.

Younger workers with families and mortgages will have no choice but to stand and fight.

Experience in the USA where the new technology and the break-up of AT&T has resulted in a massive de-skilling of engineering functions and the division of telecom workers into com-

peting economic units, should be a warning to all NCU members.

Any defence of the considerable gains, one of the most important being the 37-and-a-half-hour week with the Scheduled Day Off (SDO), cannot be undertaken by means of any revived Broad Left.

The 37-and-a-half-hour week and the SDO (whereby hours are accumulated and taken off in the form of one day every two or three weeks) are now under attack.

Golding and company will take their cue from the BT board and say that each BT district and union branch has autonomy, and they can do nothing at national level.

To fight this, the members of the NCU need a strong rank-and-file organisation that mobilises members in the branches.

The BL tactic of concentrating on capturing office and calling for the next Labour government to deliver BT workers out of captivity has been proven bankrupt.

An election machine cannot defend jobs.

Defence

The potential exists for a strong movement amongst BT/PO and NGB workers which must link up with workers in other industries to lead a defence of jobs, pay and conditions.

This will also expose the bureaucratic machines of right and 'left' that have squandered the fighting capacity of the working class in general.

It must lead to a revolutionary leadership in the trades unions.

If the unions are left in the hands of either the Goldings or the 'Broad Lefts' they will be destroyed.

The immediate demands must be for:

- Reduced scale of hours in response to the new technology; defend the shorter working week and the Scheduled Days Off.
- No loss of pay or abandonment of national wage rates.
- No redundancies; retraining and voluntary redeployment; defend the positive aspects of the Job Security Agreement.
- Re-nationalisation without compensation; defend the monopoly.
- No erosion of grading and skills.
- No compliance with anti-union laws.

SOUTH WALES NUCLEAR CONFERENCE

By TRAVIS GOULD

THE WALES Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA) held a South Wales conference in Merthyr Tydfil last Saturday (June 7).

Speakers included Kim Howells and Ann Clwyd.

Its main objectives were to popularise further anti-nuclear feeling among the public especially after Chernobyl.

It also aimed to make opposition to nuclear power official Labour Party policy, both locally and nationally with a campaign in the labour and trade union movement.

There are divisions within WANA on how to phase out nuclear power.

Some sections want a moratorium and no further building of nuclear power stations.

Other sections want to build no more and close down existing stations over varying phase-out periods.

All the implications of these policies were discussed in workshops — employment and nuclear power; sickness due to radiation; economics of nuclear power; individual campaigns, e.g. against Hinkley C power station and the Severnside Campaign Against Radiation (SCAR), and also on how general campaigns against nuclear power should proceed.

Employment implications are complex but the overriding implication has to be safety. Emissions or accidents have devastating consequences which last over decades.

These were well portrayed by Stuart Boyle of Friends of the Earth and Dr Richard Lawson who also addressed the conference.

Kim Howells gave a rather utopian view of new coal-fired power stations providing both heat and electricity, feeding valley communities, and factory complexes, making solar panels and insulating materials for housing, providing work for millions and taking Wales a quantum leap forward.

We must transcend the tired policies of the bankrupt left by thinking far ahead now.

Viable alternatives have to be posed and grasped and then it must be worked how they can be applied was his demagogic message.

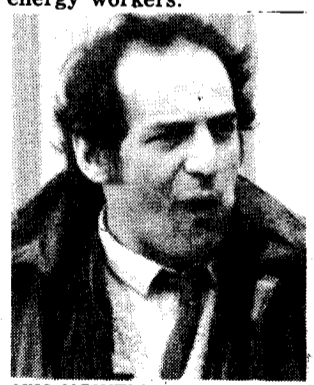
The establishment of socialism will release the development of the productive forces and will outshine a

thousand times Kim Howells' vision.

What has to be confronted is the stagnation of monopoly capitalism and the building of a revolutionary leadership that will not betray the working class.

The very demands of the conference objectively confront the question itself.

A future Labour government faced with the capitalist crisis will not want to relinquish what it considers a cheaper form of energy — and an ace card against the miners' union and other energy workers.



KIM HOWELL

The campaign for an anti-nuclear strategy within the Labour and trade union movement poses questions that Neil Kinnock and the Labour leadership will be unable to answer in practice and will stand exposed.

The conference passed the following resolution:

'We call upon the elected representatives of South Wales in community councils, district and county councils, area health authorities, MPs and MEPs to actively oppose the continuation and expansion of nuclear power stations in the Severn estuary and elsewhere in co-ordination with their opposite numbers on the other side of the channel.'

WANA has brought together groups like CND, Friends of the Earth and other single-issue campaign groups and is a very welcome move.

A demonstration has been called against nuclear power in Cardiff on September 13 and must have the widest support.

■ IRISH WOMEN PRISONERS ARE STRIP-SEARCHED IN BRITISH JAILS

■ PLASTIC BULLETS ARE SHOT IN TO CROWDS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND

■ THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT SOLVES NOTHING: IT MEANS MORE ARMED REPRESSION

British workers must take a stand on Ireland

COME TO A

LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE ON IRELAND

Saturday June 28th, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

City Halls, Candleriggs, Glasgow

◆ Speakers invited: a Sinn Fein representative, a prisoners' relative, Liz Hill (sister of Paul Hill of the Guildford 4), the general secretary of an Irish trade union, and from the EIS and the NUM (in a personal capacity).

◆ Workshops on: 'Irish prisoners', 'Repressive Legislation in Ireland and Britain', 'The Anglo Irish Agreement', 'Withdrawal of Troops', 'The Struggle Continues 1969-86', and 'The Campaign Against Strip Searching'

◆ A motion will be proposed for the formation of a 'West of Scotland Campaign for a United Ireland'

Conference credentials £1.: available from Conference Organising Committee, PH3, 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G4. Creche Available.

WORKERS PRESS UNION CONFERENCE NEWS

UCATT DELEGATES HEAD FOR BOURNEMOUTH

LUMP FIGHT LOOMS

By GERRY DOWNING

UCATT's eighth national delegate conference takes place from Monday to Friday (June 16 to 20) at the Pavilion Ballroom, Bournemouth.

It promises to be a stormy affair, with many contentious motions on the agenda, against a background of unprecedented upheavals within the union in the past twelve months.

Readers of Workers Press will be familiar with the case of Dick Miles, denied a place on UCATT's executive by ballot-rigging in the Republic of Ireland branches.

Then there was the sacking of John Flavin, a London regional organiser for opposing Jack Henry for an executive position.

Dominic Hehir later resigned, writing an open letter which made allegations of corrupt practices at the highest level within the union.

Discriminated

There is the case of Frank Foley in the north west whom the union referee Edgar Jepson found had been discriminated against by the executive.

Jepson has subsequently been replaced by right-winger Len Eaton.

George O'Driscoll, another London regional organiser has also subsequently retired.

The last year has seen one of the longest-running disputes in UCATT's history against the 'lump' in Laings.

This dispute, and the one at Tarmac at Wapping, has highlighted the fundamental problem facing the building industry.

It is also a real beginning of a fight back if a united front can be formed of all



those fighting against the 'lump'.

The 'lump' is a term used to describe the unorganised section of the building industry.

Thirteen motions refer to this malpractice, some castigating the executive for its failure to carry out successive conference instructions.

General secretary Albert Williams is on record as favouring recruitment from the 'lump' and has been in discussions with the House Builders' Federation in a desperate attempt to exchange union principles for cash and secure the jobs of union bureaucrats.

Secret discussions with the EETPU are read as a move by the executive to amalgamate with the most discredited unions in the country and join forces with the UDM in a yellow TUC.

Since the defeat of the building workers strike in 1972 the position on unionisation of private sites has gone from bad to worse.

All the big employers — Laings, McAlpine, Wimpey, Tarmac etc — progressively

ran down their own workforce and replaced them with labour only sub-contractors to break union organisations.

The corruption of both T&GWU and UCATT officials allowed face-saving devices to be operated where sub-contractors paid lump sums to the union office for a number of men and no effort was made to ensure any real union organisation.

Now the situation on the big sites is that only a small fraction of these are weakly organised — as the Laing's picket found out when they tried to picket out Laing's biggest site near London Bridge.

So who works the 'lump', what is it and how is it to be fought? The 'lump' is organised by the sub-contractors who now control almost all the labour on the private sites.

The workers are mainly Irish although in late years West Indian and Indian labour has become more evident.

Cricklewood Broadway and Camden Town are still crowded with thousands of

building workers looking for 'the start' just as they have been for decades, but now things are much different.

Many of the workers are fresh from Ireland and get paid 'in the hand'.

Many others are on the 714s i.e. they get classified as self-employed, although this is clearly a device to avoid tax and give the illusion of 'doing the government'.

Others get thirty per cent stopped out of their wages by the sub-contractor who generally pockets it.

In the period of relative boom this system was pernicious.

With no safety regulations and no insurance number, the Irish generally organised dances as benefits for people injured as for the families of those killed, in place of social security.

Terrible site conditions and the frequent disappearance of the sub-contractor on a Friday with the wages made this a precarious existence leading to heavy drinking.

But at least the money was good because of the boom

and the strong unionisation of sites like the Barbican etc.

Now that is all gone.

Horror stories are told of men without insurance numbers and therefore unable to account for their activities for years past working for as little as eight pounds a day from Cricklewood Broadway and Camden Town as they fear to approach the DHSS.

It is no good classifying these men as 'lumbers'.

Some of them were the best of trade union militants in the past.

Blacklisted by the employers and abandoned by their union they had no choice but to take work where they found it.

Most of the rest came from rural Ireland with no trade union tradition and the Catholic church-Irish sub-contractor link leads them straight into a way of life open to exploitation.

True it is changing now somewhat with more immigration from the Irish cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Limerick with a stormy trade union tradition but where is the leadership

to break the vicious circle of exploitation?

The Communist Party is now so discredited in the building industry that very few builders will trust them.

The union leadership sold out the 1972 builders strike which was only sustained by rank and file militants, many of them in the Communist Party.

But Des Warren rotted in jail for three years and the CP let him stay there in the interest of peaceful co-existence and a free run for the Wilson government of 1974.

After incidents like the abandonment of the Mulligan brothers of Brondesbury branch, now blacklisted after fighting so hard for their principles, most of the CP militants dropped out.

Force

Clearly a new fighting force is needed to go to the heart of the industry's problems.

It must demand of a new Labour government:

1. Open the books of all the major building firms to show where the profits go.
2. Workers control of these firms as a prelude to nationalisation.
3. 100 per cent trade union organisation.
4. The union to organise a force to defend its picket lines against police assault.
5. One building union but in the meantime co-operation between the T&GWU and UCATT.
6. Immediate dismissal of corrupt officials where this is proved by an open trade union inquiry.

Such demands must be fought for by a broad-based trade union campaign.

There will be a lobby of the UCATT conference at the Pavilion Ballroom in Bournemouth on Monday June 16 at 9 am in support of the victimised Laings picket.

JOBS CLOUD OVER GALA

South-Wales Miners Face More Pit Closures

By TRAVIS GOULD

THE SOUTH Wales miners hold their first annual gala since the 12 month miners' strike on Saturday (June 14) — in Swansea.

The venue was moved from Cardiff when the city fell under Tory control.

Miners and their families will enjoy a summer's day out, but the gala is also important in the struggle to boost morale and renew combativity.

A demonstration will march through Swansea city centre before the gala starts.

Since the strike ended, 11 pits have closed and over 6,000 jobs have gone as well as those in Mountain Ash and Ammanford yards and the Tredegar NUM workshops.

By July 17, the Abercynon colliery, which for the last 12 years has been combined with Lady Windsor in Ynysybwll, will be closed and the lodge disbanded without even going through the colliery review procedure.

If the review procedure is adopted, Lady Windsor will be included and 200 jobs are expected to go — mostly surface men.

The rest of the workforce will have to go over to the Lady Windsor side.

The coal board is ignoring arguments to keep the pit open.

Coal reserves are more accessible from the Abercynon side (it is only one mile to the faces, but three miles going down the Lady Windsor side).

Men on the Abercynon side will have to travel to Pontypidd, up to Ynysybwll by road from the Cynon Valley — a journey of approximately 10 miles — and then walk three miles underground back towards Abercynon to reach the faces.

Supplies are easily accessible from the main A470 road, a dual carriageway, but would have to travel to Ynysybwll on inferior roads.

The men want to resist this

closure and the lodge is pressing for a campaign to keep it open.

The situation in the coalfield and the 'take it or leave it' attitude of the board was discussed at an emergency conference last week.

All lodges will discuss a recommendation to ban the production of coal on overtime — as a small step towards more positive forms of action.

A minority feel this could put their pits in jeopardy.

The majority feel this does not go far enough and want a complete ban on overtime.

A further conference has been called to act on the lodge decisions.

One lodge secretary told Workers Press: 'If the vote for no coal production during overtime is not carried, what chance have our officials got in future negotiations with the coal board?'

'My opinion is we should

have a complete overtime ban.

'The coal board have gone too far. They want to keep rubbing our faces in the mud.

'We have got to get back on our two feet and fight back. Many of us still have debts and are still feeling the effects of the strike but you can only take so much.'

Des Duckfield, the new president of the South Wales miners, has a job on his hands guiding the unions' struggle over the next few years.

The rising mood against Thatcher could lead to a Labour victory in the next election.

But miners and their families cannot wait for that.

Neither can they wait on the struggle to reinstate the sacked miners or the release of the jailed miners.

These issues, the future of

the coal industry, the campaign to close down nuclear power stations and the removal of American bases, are issues which must be taken up in the fight to return a Labour government.

We will all be waiting to hear what Neil Kinnock has to say about these questions when he addresses the gala.

He is not there by popular demand, having been invited by the executive after the miners' strike.

Next year's guest speaker, chosen at a delegate conference, is Arthur Scargill.

Kinnock stated where he stood during the miners' strike, claiming that police were 'the meat in the sandwich'.

Printworkers and miners are fully aware of the role of

the state even if Kinnock isn't.

An onslaught on industrial relations by the board, including the introduction of the scab UDM, who do not have the slightest foothold in South Wales, into consultative procedures, places the area in a strong position to oppose these measures and rally around the national union.

Workers Press will play its part as a campaigning paper participating in and supporting the miners' struggle and fighting to build a revolutionary leadership in the miners' union.

● We send fraternal greetings to all South Wales miners and their families on the day of their gala and special greetings to Dean Hancock and Russell Shankland.

See Page Six for details of a speaking tour by 'Solidarnosc'

WORLD NEWS

CHILE LINK IN PALME KILLING?

SWEDISH police, under strong criticism for their lack of progress finding the killer of Prime Minister Olaf Palme, are reportedly investigating a Chile connection.

According to a report in last Sunday's 'Observer', they have evidence that as far back as 1975 a contract was put out on Palme by the Chilean right-wing dictatorship.

That year the Chilean DINA secret police sent

American hit-man Michael Townley to Europe, where he made contact with various fascist groups and also tried to kill Bernardo Leighton, a Chilean political exile in Rome.

In 1976, Townley carried out the car-bombing murder of exiled Chilean socialist Orlando Letelier in Washington, where he had been the Allende government's ambassador.

Brought to trial in the Un-

ited States, Townley confessed to US authorities that DINA had also ordered him to murder Swedish premier Palme, but that he had not found an opportunity.

Townley is now on parole and due for release in the next few months. The US government has provided him with a new identity and documents. The FBI apparently believe he is going to work for the US-backed Contra terrorists

against Nicaragua.

With contacts both in the CIA and among European fascist groups, Townley could well be a central figure in the conspiracy to murder Palme. The Swedish police have said they think there is an international conspiracy involved, but are not being specific.

A 33-year old Swedish right-winger, Victor Gunnarson, formerly a member of

the so-called Swedish Workers Party (actually an offshoot of Lyndon LaRouche's well-heeled right-wing outfit in the United States) was arrested early on, then released.

Wide public dissatisfaction at lack of progress in pursuing the culprits led the government to set up a judicial inquiry last month into the murder and police handling of the case.



OLAF PALME

FRANCO MEN WATCH — AND WAIT

By CHARLIE POTTINS

THE SPANISH people go to the polls on June 22 and Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist Party looks set to win again.

The Communist Party has also been gaining support, from workers fighting over wages and jobs and those who voted against NATO membership in the March 12 referendum.

Lurking behind the scenes of parliamentary politics and workers' confidence, however, a smaller but nevertheless determined organisation is waiting, not for election day, but for the day they hope once more to ban elections and workers' parties.

Fifty years after the Civil War which brought Franco's fascists to power, they are plotting their comeback.

Newspapers recently headlined the arrest of an army colonel said to have solicited Libyan funds for fascist terrorism.

He was charged with absence without leave for travelling to Libya, though Defence Ministry officials say there may be further charges.

Libyan authorities are said to have denied knowledge of the visit and there is no evidence that any funds were received.

It's not the first time army officers have engaged in some 'loony-right' scheme.

Five years ago, a group of them burst into the Cortes (parliament), firing guns and holding MPs hostage.

Continuation

The more serious fascist groups hastily dissociated themselves from the mad-cap colonel.

Not because they disapprove of violence or are dedicated to preserving democracy, of course.

They have more long-term plans.

'We plan to work inside the system, but we don't believe in liberal democratic government,' fascist leader Blas Pinar told reporters recently.

Pinar, a 62-year old lawyer, leads the Fuerza Nueva (New Force), a fascist party organised on semi-military lines but temporarily calling itself a cultural organisation.

Fuerza Nueva took its Blue-shirts off the streets since it was eliminated at the polls in 1982.

Pinar lost his party's only seat in the cortes, but Fuerza Nueva still claims 25,000 card-carrying members.

'The time is right for a rebirth of Fuerza Nueva', Pinar says.

'The country's political line-up is clear and our task is to convert our little raft into a mighty ocean liner.'

The fascist leader does not look to the elections for this 'rebirth'.

He told reporters 'We are

not fielding candidates because we lack funds and access to media to launch an effective campaign'.

He blames the restoration of parliamentary democracy after Franco's death for 'moral corruption', terrorism, unemployment and a decay of the state.

'Spain was an impoverished nation when Franco won the crusade against communism in 1936', Pinar says.

'The Caudillo (leader) led this country to unknown levels of prosperity.

Now it is sinking back into moral and economic poverty'.

With the bitter memories of fascist rule still in Spanish workers' minds, it is little wonder Pinar does not look to the electorate to support his openly stated aims — of

banning workers' parties, strikes and freedom of speech.

The Spanish fascist says he is encouraged though by what he terms a resurgence of 'national' movements in Portugal, Greece and France.

He probably has the rise of France's National Front particularly in mind.

He says Fuerza Nueva maintains 'fraternal' links with other European fascists.

Another man nostalgic for Franco's rule is former Planning Minister Joaquin Gutierrez Cano, who runs the Francisco Franco Foundation, set up 'to honour and promote the work of Franco'.

The founders include many former Franco ministers and others 'who owe a debt of gratitude to Franco', as Cano puts it.

Links

A former executive director of the World Bank, Gutierrez Cano claims his Foundation is 'non-political', but warns that Socialist government policies are leading Spain into the arms of 'communism'.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's conversion to backing NATO does not stop people like Gutierrez Cano claiming Gonzalez is 'Moscow-baked'.

Unlike the colonel who went to Libya and whose supporters preach a 'third way' that is 'neither capitalist nor communist', Gutierrez Cano and Blas Pinar stick to straight anti-communism.

Pinar told Western newsmen recently:

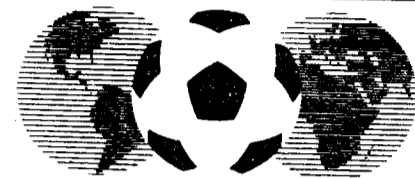
'If the Socialists win another absolute majority, Spain runs the risk of becoming the Nicaragua of Western Europe.'

It's not difficult to guess whose ears such forebodings are intended to reach.

● Rather than pop across the Mediterranean to solicit cash for a hasty adventure, the more serious 'bring back Franco' men are evidently looking across the Atlantic for backing for long-term fascist aims.



Armed right wing army officer burst into Spain's parliament in February 1981



CINDERELLA SPECTATORS

WORLD CUP football gate receipts of around £12 million will leave Mexico when the razzmatazz is over — leaving a financial and political crisis.

By BRIDGET DIXON

Mexico will also have a bill of £4 million as its share of the preparations for the World Cup.

The 78 million people of Mexico earn a basic wage of \$2 a day. Runaway inflation has meant that real wages have halved in the last four years.

The Mexican National Consumer Institute reports that two thirds of low-income families have had to give up rice, eggs, fruit, vegetables and milk.

Recent cuts in food subsidies have doubled the price of bread.

Infant mortality is on the increase. Children are forced into domestic work and the 'informal economy' of street vending, as half the population have no full-time jobs.

Last year's earthquake left thousands homeless, compounding the problems for the poorest sections of the community.

Banners and murals protest about Mexico's mammoth debt to the world banks in Mexico City, where 100,000 demonstrated in February to demand non-payment of the debt.

Cuts in public spending

already amount to \$2.7 billion; another 15-20 per cent cut would be needed to satisfy IMF demands.

Mexico needs an agreement with the IMF before the end of June but speculation is increasing that Mexico may be driven to default on its debt.

In 1982, Mexico's suspension of repayments for 90 days triggered shock-waves throughout the world banking system.

Banking collapses were averted — at least for the time being — by austerity measures of the most brutal kind imposed by the 'financial policeman' of the IMF, whose effects have been felt by the poorest.

To pay creditors, Mexico had to contract more debt in an absurd cycle of lending and borrowing.

After years when finance came into Mexico, it began to pour out.

After four years of IMF-imposed tax increases, price increases and spending cuts, another crunch is coming.

Mexico is the weakest link in the debtor chain.

HAMBURG: POLICE INJURE NUCLEAR PROTESTORS

ANTI-NUCLEAR demonstrators clashed with police on the streets of Hamburg last week, after a huge demonstration at the nearby Brokdorf nuclear power station had been attacked by riot police.

Over 80,000 people had assembled at Brokdorf at the weekend.

Police in full riot-gear used water-cannon and tear-gas to drive them back from the fortified nuclear site. Over 200 demonstrators were injured.

Police claimed 95 of their men were injured; their cars and helicopters were set on fire.

Demonstration organisers said the police had provoked the trouble and that many peaceful demonstrators, including women and children, had been injured by the water cannon as they were walking away from the nuclear site.

Many demonstrators had been prevented from reaching the planned peaceful rally, due to police road blocks.

In Bavaria, 20,000 people defied a court order to protest at the Wackersdorf nuclear site.

The GSCG9 'Anti-terror' squad was sent in to help riot police.

Chief Minister Franz-Josef Strauss, a notorious right-winger, has sacked the local police chief for being 'too soft' on previous demonstrations and says he will insist on a 'more offensive police approach' to protests.

Among those held up from reaching the Brokdorf demonstration on time were coachloads of West Berliners, stopped for several hours by East German border guards who insisted on searches, holding up traffic through the city's checkpoints.

The anti-nuclear movement in West Germany has grown in popular support since the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union.

This widespread support was shown by local farmers around Brokdorf offering use of their barns for demonstrators to camp and as refreshment centres.

In the week before the rally the Lutheran Church urged local people to 'open their hearts and homes' to demonstrators.

SUHARTO FOR NUCLEAR 'CLUB'?

A NUCLEAR reactor in Indonesia is producing radioactive material suitable for nuclear weapons.

The plant, at Serpong south west of Jakarta, is being developed with £7.5 million of West German money.

No-one could argue that oil-rich Indonesia has any need of a nuclear energy programme, and it is clear that its sole purpose is for the brutal regime's fastest

growing industry — weapons.

The Bonn government regards Indonesia as a major arms-partner, and although German law forbids the sale of weapons for offensive war, submarines, torpedo-boats, minesweepers and transport aircraft have all been supplied to the Indonesian armed forces since 1977.

German support is ensuring that Indonesia is fast

building up an armaments industry itself.

The Minister for Research and Technology, B J Habibi, is still on the payroll of the German firm for which he was previously a senior engineer, Messerschmidt-Bolkow-Blohm (MBB).

The links between the two governments and the growing arms industry are very direct.

MBB is investing heavily

in Indonesia, with the support of £2.5 million from the German Ministry of Technology.

Both the Social Democratic government of Schmidt and the conservative regime since 1982 are implicated in the German support for one of the most repressive dictatorships in the world, a country which wages a genocidal war in East Timor and has literally thousands of political prisoners.

Solidarność THE POLISH OPPOSITION

STEFAN BEKIER of the Revolutionary Workers League of Poland is visiting Britain to speak at a series of meetings in the labour movement.

Bekier was one of the signatories of the 'Appeal by Members of the Workers' and Democratic Opposition in Poland, the USSR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary', launched last November.

The Appeal called for international solidarity action with underground Solidarnosc on the anniversary of the imposition of martial law.

When the Polish government sent coal to Britain to break the miners' strike, Bekier was one of those who called for a boycott of all scab coal deliveries.

The recent arrest of underground Solidarnosc leader Zbigniew Bujak, who faces a long jail sentence on charges of 'seeking to overthrow the state', adds urgency to the call for international solidarity action.

Workers Press will be carrying information on political developments within the Polish opposition in conjunction with the tour.

This week we print the first part of an interview with a member of the Executive Commission of POR (the Alliance of the Polish Workers Opposition).

It will be concluded next week.

We also print extracts from underground Solidarnosc broadcasts made during the miners' strike in Britain.

'The POR is an alliance of various structures within the Polish opposition movement. They vary in size and form. Several represent the editorial boards of underground bulletins (four of which actually launched POR). Others are opposition groups organised in plants, towns or regions.

'The POR was set up with a single aim in mind — to co-ordinate the activities of those in opposition who believe we have to base ourselves firmly in the working class, both in our current struggles and in our strategy, in the political perspective we present.

'We are all, as individuals, members of Solidarity. All the organisations involved in the POR either developed out of old Solidarity structures or were organised by Solidarity activists.

'But neither the POR nor any of its constituent sections are controlled by or

responsible to the regional or national leadership of Solidarity that still exist.

'Solidarity is simply the sum of the whole Polish opposition.

'It includes the old leadership bodies, workplace structures in the factories and mines, new inter-factory

organisations that have sprung up since martial law, groups of people organised on a neighbourhood basis, and — perhaps most importantly — a whole host of underground bulletins.

'The last figure I heard quoted was around 600 coming out regularly — but these bulletins are the lifeblood of the opposition. Yet they represent widely different political positions, which reflects the growing politicisation of the movement.

'While some bulletins, particularly in factories, essentially just contained information, others began to represent distinct political lines.

'This whole process has picked up speed recently. Many people in the opposition are calling for a more clear-cut political differentiation within the movement, for the establishment of political parties, etc.

'In addition, the fact that many factory activists are calling for the increased politicisation of the movement reflects their rejection of any concept of forcing the authorities into a dialogue that would result in some sort of 'historic compromise', most probably involving a return to the status quo prior to December 13, 1981.

'At that time, when the POR was being launched, the point was to present an overall outline of the strategy and positions that differentiate us from other currents in the opposition. But that doesn't mean we are not involved in concrete

A MESSAGE TO MINERS

The following two statements were issued by the miners' section of NSZZ ('Solidarnosc') in the Lower Silesia region. Both statements were broadcast on the underground radio 'We shall Win' on June 17, 1984; the translation is from the bulletin 'Walke Klas' no 34, November 29, 1984.

STATEMENT ONE:

Working illegally, TKKG/NSZZ 'Solidarnosc' emphatically protests against the current policy of PRL (Polish Peoples Republic) government concerning the management of our greatest wealth, coal.

Entering foreign markets by undercutting prices fixed on the world market means:

- Breaking of the Jastrzbskie agreement, which clearly states that coal is our national wealth and should be managed nationally. If it is sold below such prices, any investment in the coal industry brings only losses to the national economy.
- The policy of PRL govern-

ment contradicts its official line which speaks of the respect for the dignity of labour and hardships of the miners.

- The trade in coal takes place without social consultation. The PRL government is not the owner of the coalmines. Therefore it cannot arbitrarily dispose of the national wealth. Only 'bad' capitalists and dictators act in this way.
- The policy of PRL government in this matter hits the fundamental interests of our brother miners in other countries by depriving them of work.

We are hoping that our party officials and so-called

'People's' Sejm (parliament) will tell their own people what is what.

STATEMENT TWO (in support of the British miners' 1984 strike)

From underground, TKKG/NSZZ ('Solidarnosc') is sending you our fraternal greetings and a message of support and solidarity in your fight for the right to work.

From our own experience, we know what it means to be without work. Therefore we shall do everything possible in order to support your actions by our own. This protest, directed to the government and Sejm (parliament), is our first step in the support of your struggle.

practical struggle.

'The vast majority of our work takes place in the factories. In contrast to many other currents in Solidarity — and that includes a significant section of the old leadership — we believe that struggle in the factories, mines and shipyards is not something for the future, even the very near future, but something for today.

'This is in fact borne out by what is happening in Poland.

'Despite the experience of martial law, the repression and intimidation, the fact that many leading activists in the factories have been sacked, can't get new jobs, and are seeing their families face severe hardship — scarcely a week goes by without some form of struggle or protest action in at least one major factory, often in several.

'This is what we have to build up and all our efforts are directed towards developing and supporting these struggles. In particular developing the forms of workers' self-organisation that struggles immediately produce.

'The struggles in the factories are mostly economic; pay and conditions are the basic questions, although protests over victimisations because of political activity are not uncommon.

'The most frequent are probably short, spontaneous strikes, lasting from half an hour to three or four hours. Longer strikes also occur, but they aren't typical, since the management usually gives in at once, or calls in

some local Party official, in which case he gives in.

'The biggest problems normally come afterwards, since the factory involved automatically receives special attention from the security police and anyone identified as playing a leading role in the strike is likely to be harassed.

'But workers are not striking all over Poland today. The strikes I'm referring to have involved a relatively small percentage of Polish industry.

'Still, they have to be placed in the context of the defeat the workers' movement suffered with the imposition of martial law.

'What we are now seeing is a revival of the combativity of the working class, although this process is only just beginning.

'Another element in the situation is the activity of the workers' councils that enjoy the confidence of their workforce, i.e. the ones in factories where the Party executive didn't manage to rig the elections.

'These councils have often become the forms for opposition within the factory, and many have taken a firm stand in defence of the workers' interests. Unfortunately, some sections of Solidarity still hesitate about taking advantage of the opportunities these councils present.

'We are campaigning for a united front around the two main slogans of the programme: the defence of living standards and the defence of the national economy.

'First there is inflation,

which has hit all working people very hard since martial law.

'The effect of this has been a substantial increase in the number of working class families living in absolute poverty and a situation where the vast majority of working people get by from month to month, but have no savings whatsoever.

'In other words, the working class is being condemned to a vegetable existence.

'The second problem is that of income differentials. The strategy of the ruling bureaucracy since martial law has been to increase these radically, in line with their overall policy of 'divide and rule'.

'Our reply to the first problem is to demand automatic cost-of-living adjustments, known as a sliding scale of wages. On the second problem, we are calling for automatic additional increases for the lower-paid in all wage settlements.

'The next question is that of working time. Since martial law, the state power has mounted an intensive campaign to increase working hours.

'The paradox here is that few workers have enough to do within the standard working week, due to the disruption of production caused by bureaucratic management.

'So we are demanding a reduction in working hours, particularly for working women and those in the heaviest and most hazardous jobs.

'Any reduction in working hours cannot, of course, involve any loss in pay.

FREEDOM FOR IMPRISONED POLISH TRADE UNIONISTS! FREE JAILED BRITISH MINERS! REINSTATE SACKED MEN!

EDINBURGH

(During the Scottish Miners' Gala)
Saturday June 14 3.00pm

Royal Mile Primary School
Near Holyrood Park

Organised by Scottish Labour Briefing

STIRLING

Sunday June 15, 3.30 pm

Stirling Miners' Welfare

Organised by Stirling Miners' Support Group

GLASGOW

Monday June 16, 7.30pm

McLellan Galleries
Sauchiehall Street

Organised by Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee

NEWCASTLE

Thursday June 19, 7.30pm

Young Socialists Youth Centre
Lime Street, under Byker Bridge

Chairman: Hugh Nichol (AEU Tyne District Committee), Speakers: Billy Etherington (General Secretary, Durham Mechanics & Convener, National Justice for Miners Campaign), Arthur Oxley (Sacked miner and Treasurer, National Justice for Miners Campaign), Bob Bell (Newcastle SOGAT), Peter Hanson (UCATT Regional Official), Jane Kingsland (NUTGW steward, Contracts Ltd)

Organised by Workers Revolutionary Party

DONCASTER

Monday June 23, 7.30pm

Doncaster Labour Club

Chairman: Dave Smith (Dinnington NUM), Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (WRP CC)

Organised by Workers Revolutionary Party

LONDON

Thursday June 26, 7.30pm

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square

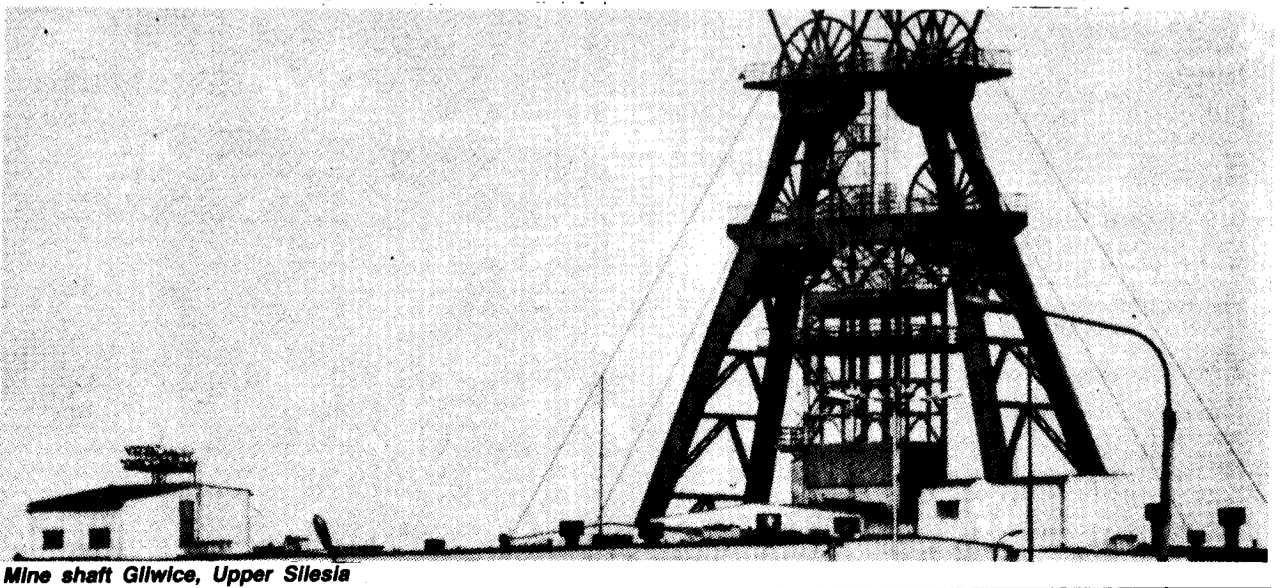
Chairman: Zbigniew Wojcik, Speakers: Ron Spurway (President, Croydon Trades Council), Cliff Slaughter (WRP CC)

Meeting sponsored by Rob Clay MP and Eric Heffer MP

WALES

Details to be announced

All speakers appear in a personal capacity



Mine shaft Gllwice, Upper Silesia

COMMENT

By Bill Hunter

The government of South Africa has been driven to desperate measures to counter the call for a general strike on the anniversary of Soweto on June the 16.

Its measures come not from strength but from weakness. The economy is in a depression. A two-tier exchange system was introduced last September in order to try to stop the flight of capital from the country, however capital has continued to flow out.

Both Rand exchanges have slumped. The fall of the Rand was accelerated by the speculative activity of South African bankers themselves.

That South Africa is on the verge of insurrection can be marked very clearly by the reaction of an assorted group — the owners of foreign capital invested in South Africa, South Africa businessmen, and Bishop Tutu and other black leaders who profoundly wish that the worlds oppression be ended by singing hymns.

Meanwhile the struggle of the masses and of the organised working class has continued, riots continue in the townships, youth riot against the banning of meetings and funeral marches. In Johannesburg last week, teargas and shotguns were used to break up a crowd which was protesting against rent increases.

The businessmen and financiers whose profits are involved in the rich mining and industrial concerns want a painless transition to a new relationship with an African middle class. They would like the Apartheid regime to be quietly buried.

Their model is Zimbabwe where a new African bourgeoisie is now emerging to link with old rulers and imperialism. That is the meaning of the present struggle in the ruling party, ZANU, and the complaints that leading members no longer carry out the 'self denying ordinance' as to participation in capitalism. They have now bought ranches, are wealthy owners of liquor stores, bus companies and hotels.

While looking at the possibility of a development such as that in Zimbabwe, the finance capitalists with vast investments in South Africa fear very much the development of the mass struggle and the working class.

After consulting 103 of South Africa's largest companies, several professors in the university of South Africa have issued a report calling for reforms from the government, including fair elections and universal franchise within a federal system.

This week, welcoming the report, Dr Zach De Beer, a director of the Anglo American Corporation said: 'We all understand how years of apartheid have caused many blacks to reject the economic as well as the political system. But we dare not allow the baby of free enterprise to be thrown out with the bathwater of Apartheid.' (my emphasis)

For the demonstration and general strike to commemorate Soweto on June 16 the Anglo American Company together with other companies like the Post Office and the Premier Group are giving their workers the day off, although it is probably on the bases 'no pay and no penalties'.

That the imperialist businessmen and financiers are only shifting their stance, the better able to carry on the exploitation, is showing in the way they continue to prosecute the class struggle against the black workers in their factories and mines.

We have quoted a very significant statement from the AAC. This corporation has 51 per cent of shares in the AAC Coal Corporation which owns the Vryheid colliery in the town. Miners there have been on strike over a refusal to admit a National Union of Mineworkers organiser into the mine.

Police tear-gassed strikers' and thugs from the Buthelezi 'United Workers Union' were allowed into the mines and eleven miners were killed.

Buthelezi's Zulu followers had been in alliance with the police who have allowed them to destroy over 1,000 homes at Crossroads Squatters Camp.

The decisive factor in South Africa has been the emergence of a black working class. On May Day this year nearly 2 million African workers stayed away from work in support of the demand to make May the 1st an international labour day and a public holiday in South Africa. 2 million! They held meetings in all the towns in South Africa.

How enthusiastically Engels welcomed the May Day of May the 4th 1890, as the English proletariat joining the international movement of its class. The South African working class has not just joined the movement of its class but is in the forefront!

Without a recognition of that, no British worker can call himself either class conscious or an internationalist. To recognise that is to start to think: How can the African workers be helped to win.

JUNE 1936: F

FIFTY YEARS ago, in June 1936, following the victory of the Popular Front coalition at the polls, French workers began to occupy the factories.

Not waiting for the formation of a new government by the reformist leader, Leon Blum, they made demands of their own.

Without a strike call, and without consciously calling for the taking of power, the working class had erupted onto to scene and shown its strength.

There was no call for a general strike, yet within days all the major factories had been taken over and the strike was spreading to the big stores and offices.

This was an evident and direct challenge to the bosses, as well as to the Blum government elected with worker votes.

'We may say without fear of exaggeration' wrote Trotsky, 'that in the whole of France there are only two parties whose leaders are unable to see and understand, or who refuse to see the full depth of the revolutionary crisis.'

'They are the "Socialists" and "Communists"'. We ought, of course, to add the "independent" trade union leaders. The working masses are now creating a revolutionary situation by resorting to direct action'.

June 1936 has become a symbol both of the readiness of the working class to fight and of the treachery and betrayal of those 'Socialist' and 'Communist' leaders who acted as strike-breakers.

It was an object lesson in the meaning of the Popular Front launched by the Stalinists in 1935 and consecrated at the Seventh (and last) Congress of the Communist International held in August of that year.

Unlike the United Front, which is an agreement for joint action by workers' parties, the Popular Front was designed to be a coalition of such parties with the 'progressive' and 'peace-loving' bourgeoisie, said to be represented in France by the Radical Party.

Fearing the growing power of fascism in Germany, which had defeated the largest and best-organised working class in Europe, thanks to the criminal policies of the 'third period' which caused disunion and demoralisation, the Soviet bureaucracy now sought

alliances with bourgeois states.

The Soviet Union joined the League of Nations, called by Lenin 'a thieves kitchen'.

By May 1935 it had made a pact with imperialist France.

This policy was fully endorsed by the French Communist Party, which forthwith dropped its opposition to militarism and patriotism and began whipping it up for the coming war.

It became the main force to bring together the Radicals and the Socialists into the Popular Front coalition which won the May 1936 elections on a watered-down programme, which amounted to a mild policy to drag French capitalism out of the depression.

Workers did not see it in that way. Ever since the fascist threat had shown itself in France in the right-wing riots of February 1934, there had been a powerful current for unity in the class.

Forefront

The small forces of French Trotskyism had been in the forefront of that movement which had, at first, been opposed by the French Stalinists who continued with their old 'third period' line.

Called to order by Moscow, Maurice Thorez began to draw closer to the Socialist Party and took the initiative in winning the support of the discredited politicians of the Radical Party for the Popular Front.

They saw in it a chance to redeem their flagging electoral fortunes and regain some credibility.

The results of the May 1936 elections showed that they would have done much worse without the backing of the Popular Front.

There is no doubt, however, that the Stalinists were able to canalise the powerful movement for unity which ran through the working class in 1934-6.

They had the resources, the apparatus and an estab-

As modern Euro-Stalinism acts as de facto adviser. to Kinnock, the lessons of the Popular Front government in France half a century ago are as vital as ever. Here, TOM KEMP outlines the movement in the working class which was the ground for this and the betrayals of the struggle by its leaders: a fuller account is contained in his book, 'Stalinism in France' volume 1 (See advert this page)

The Trotskyists, despite their pioneer work as advocates of the United Front, were small in numbers, young and inexperienced.

They were swept aside and were unable to consolidate their gains. Besides, they were divided by serious political differences. They also had to face the virulent anti-Trotskyist campaign conducted by the Communist Party by its strong-arm men as well as by its propaganda liars.

'Trotskyist' became the ultimate term of abuse for



CGT stalinist leader BENOIT FRANCKON — worked out closed door deal as alternative to revolution

the Stalinists to attack any move towards the left in their own ranks as well as outside.

When Blum finally formed his government on June 4, there was no sign of an end to the strikes. In fact they were still spreading.

Blum had no intention of taking socialist measures. His view was that the election had only given him a mandate to 'exercise' power, that is to say, within the framework of capitalist property relations.

His aim was to lift the French economy out of its depression with the help of the capitalists.

But the capitalists' right to

rule was now being challenged by the working class, which had taken over the factories, with much sympathy from the peasants and lower middle class.

Where did the party leaders stand?

Blum knew that the fate of his government, and its programme of reform, depended upon his ability to get the workers out of the factories and restore them to their legal owners.

The method he chose was to persuade the employers to make concessions, with the support of the trade unions, to the striking workers to leave the factories.

These concessions went well beyond the programme of the Popular Front and included a guaranteed forty-hour week, wage increases, the recognition of trade union rights and two weeks' paid holiday.

Reluctantly, in negotiations held at a government building known as the Hotel Matignon, the employers' representatives agreed to these proposals, which were accepted by the trade union leaders including those belonging to the Communist Party.

It then became the task of the trade union leaders, and especially the Communist Party, to which the most militant workers mainly looked, to sell the Matignon agreement to the strikers.

Performed

A major service to French capitalism was performed here by Maurice Thorez, general secretary of the Communist Party and wholehearted adherent of the Popular Front policy of class compromise.

The first reaction of the strikers to the agreement was that it was a sell-out and only represented a fraction of what could be obtained.

The Trotskyists called for its rejection and the maintenance of revolutionary demands.

The Blum government moved large reserves of police into Paris and the factory districts and consulted the army chiefs about using troops to get workers out.

The general in charge of the Paris garrison said that it would be necessary to call up the reservists to do that — and most of them were in the factories, with the strikers!

So it was left to the Communist Party. Its officials, led by Thorez himself, displayed immense energy in calling meetings of Party activists and trade unionists and going round the factories urging that the strike should be brought to an end.

On June 11, Thorez made an important statement in which he said that there was no chance of the working class taking power, claiming that the peasantry and the middle class would not support it.

For the record, he made the famous, or infamous statement: 'It is necessary to know when to end a strike once satisfaction has been obtained. It is necessary to know when to make a compromise when all demands have not been met, but when



FRANCE IN TURMOIL



Popular Front platform, July 14, 1936. Left to right: Leon Blum, Thorez, Salengro, Violette

victory has been won on the most essential demands'.

Bitter struggles followed in factory after factory to persuade the workers to give up their occupations on the basis of the gains of Matignon. The campaign eventually succeeded.

By vacating the factories, the workers gave up any possibility of turning the electoral victory and the class power expressed by the strikes into the taking of state power.

They gave up the very basis of their strength and, through the complicity of the Stalinists, enabled Blum to pursue his chosen course.

The Trotskyists continued the fight in the young socialists and in some of the unions and factories in which they had supporters. Divisions were briefly healed in June with the formation of the 'Parti Ouvrier Internationaliste' with 'La Lutte Ouvriere' as its paper.

The Blum leadership

which had already driven the Trotskyists out of the Socialist Party while supporting organic unity with the Stalinists, took fright.

The first number of 'La Lutte Ouvriere' was seized by the police of the (Socialist) Minister of the Interior, Roger Salengro (later to commit suicide as a result of rightist persecution regarding his war record).

Swoop

The same fate was suffered by the second issue and a police swoop was made on the offices of the POI.

Proceedings were begun by the Popular Front government against the party leaders for conspiracy against the security of the state!

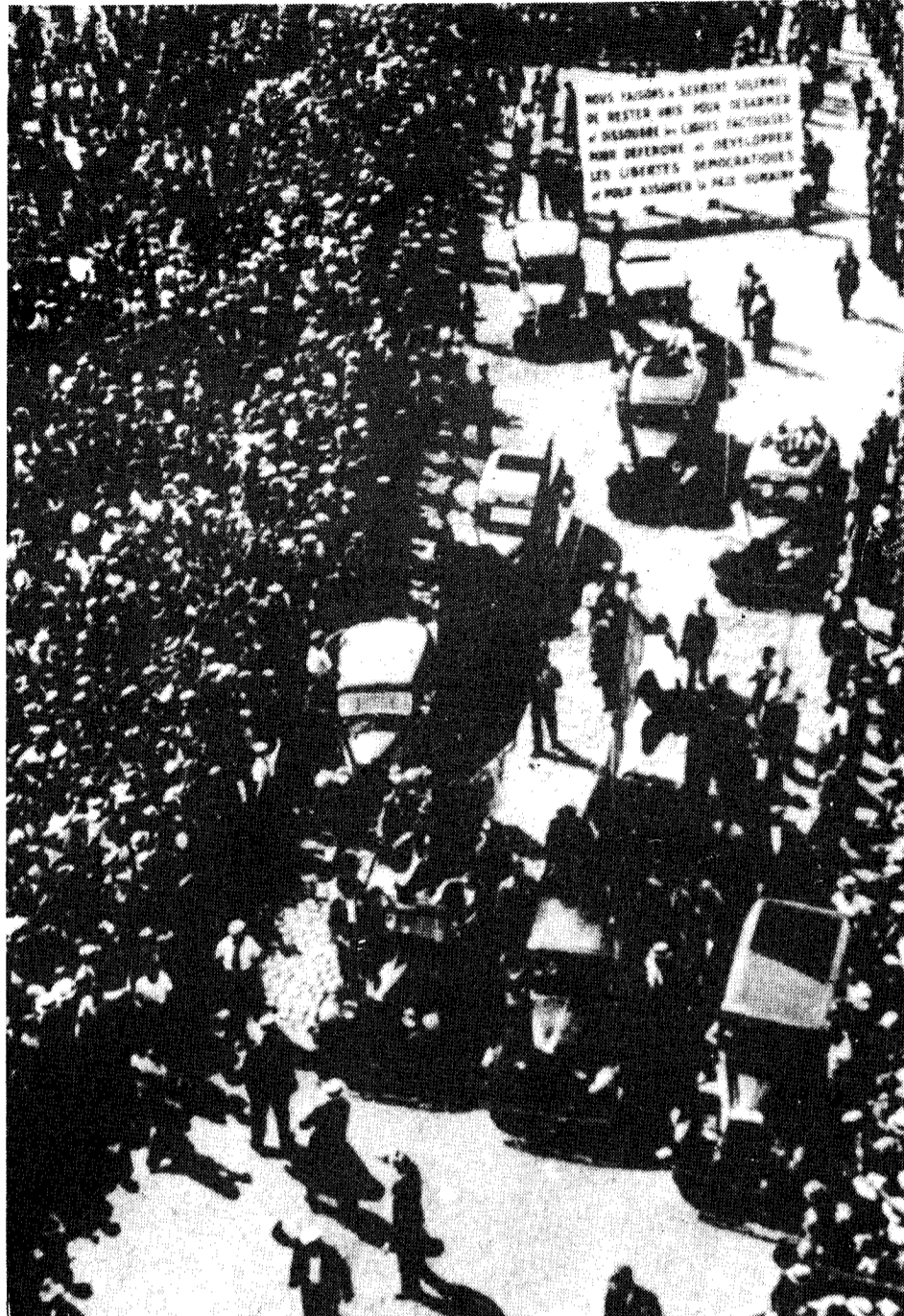
Needless to say, the trial of the Trotskyists never took place. The object was to keep off the streets, and out of the factories, a paper

which called on the workers to continue to occupy the factories, to set up action committees (soviets) and armed defence squads.

Even though the POI had less than one thousand members, it was recognised by Blum and by Thorez as a real threat, not because of its numbers but simply because what it said reflected what the masses were doing and might consciously understand what they were doing.

The suppression of 'La Lutte Ouvriere' was a consciously counter-revolutionary act aimed to prevent the emergence of an alternative leadership and programme to that of the Popular Front.

Incidentally, the files of the POI taken away by the French police were never handed back and later passed into the possession of the Gestapo during the Occupation of France (to which the Popular Front policies directly led) and were used to hunt down its militants.

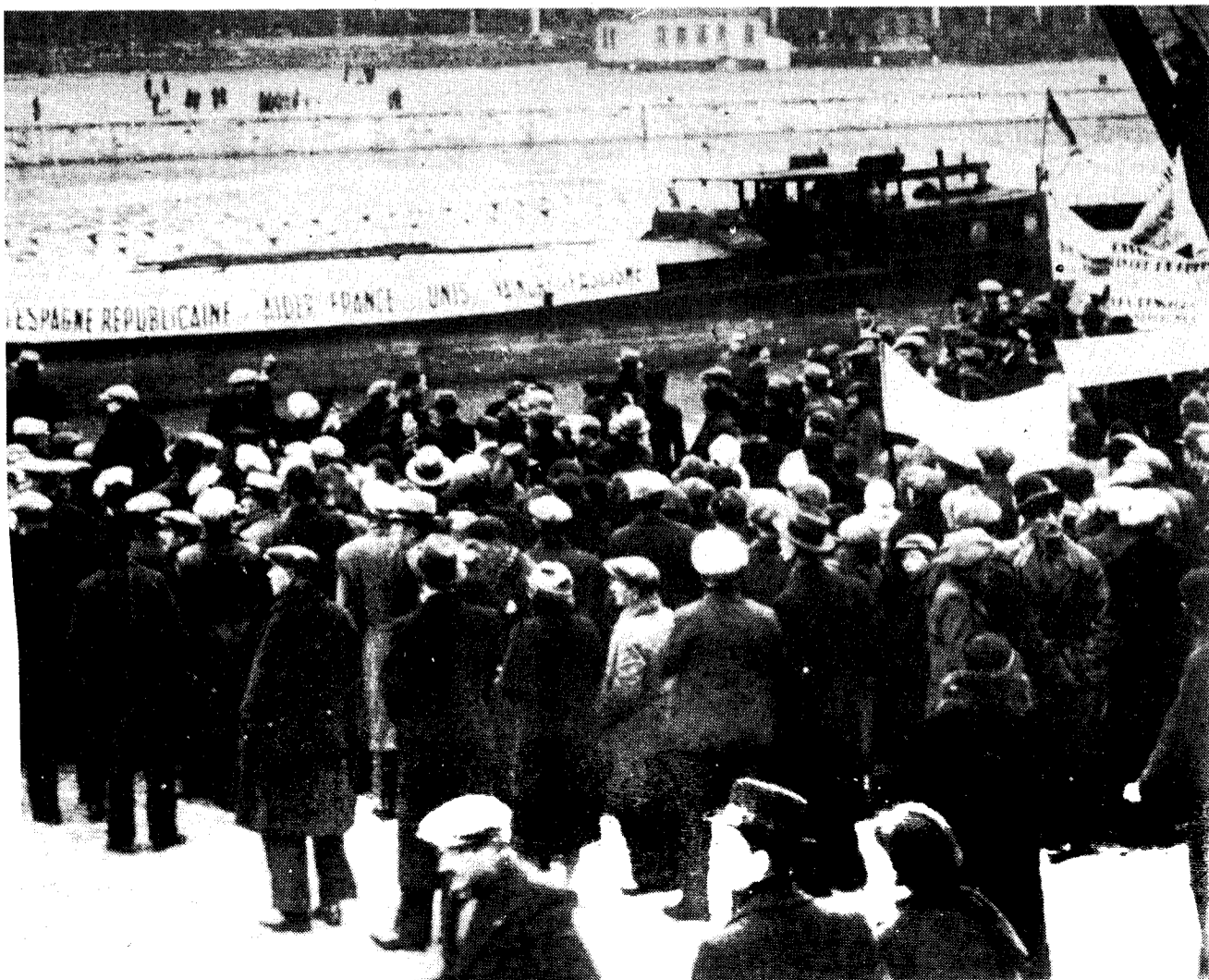


Left: Local supporters supply strikers occupying their factory in the Paris region.

Below: Support for the Spanish Republic was a popular cause in 1936-37 and the Communist Party put itself at the head of the

campaign — but French support concealed the betrayal organised by the Stalinists in Spain

Right: July 15 1935 Popular Front demonstration at the Bastille



STALINISM IN FRANCE

Tom Kemp
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VOLUME I: THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY



Vol. 1: The first twenty years of the French Communist Party. Invaluable for understanding the roots of the crisis in French CP today, this book shows how the working class was betrayed by Popular Frontism in 1936. **191 pages illustrated. Price £4.50 + 75p p. - p.** Available from New Park Publications, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT

FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR!

Part 5: The arrest of the Maguires

BY PHIL PENN

WITH THE help of the 'Prevention of Terrorism Act' (PTA) the police were able to hold the Guildford Four for prolonged periods incommunicado. Under these terrifying conditions the defendants would agree to say anything.

Conlon came from a Catholic working class area of Belfast, grew up in the 'troubles' and was familiar with the activities of the British army and the RUC and their methods of obtaining 'confessions'.

He said police threatened that the SAS would shoot his mother and that they would 'Toss him to the Shankill Road Mob'.

Tremendous pressure to produce results led the police to arrest relatives of Gerard Conlon as an easy answer to the problem of producing a supplier of explosives to the Guildford Four.

Giuseppe Conlon, Gerard's father, was arrested and charged in connection with the Guildford bombings.

He had come to London after Ted Jones, the family solicitor in Belfast, suggested that at least one member of the family should come and try to arrange legal representation for Gerard.

Giuseppe Conlon was a sick man but he agreed to go and see the solicitor appointed to look after the interests of his son.

On the morning of his de-

parture Giuseppe called on his doctor, Joe Hendron, who was very concerned about his health.

He said that Giuseppe had extensive fibrosis in both lungs which would mean that with even moderate exertion he would be quite breathless.

He arrived on the overnight boat train, got into London about lunch time and went to the home of his relatives the Maguires.

Seven hours later he was arrested.

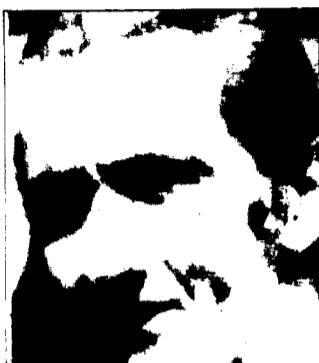
When the solicitor in Belfast, Ted Jones, sent a telegram to the Maguire house in London to arrange a meeting there was no one left to read it.

They had all been arrested.

In addition to Gerard's father, the police had arrested his Uncle Paddy Maguire, his aunt Annie, his cousins Vincent (16) and Patrick (13), the Maguires' lodger Sean Smyth — and a man called Pat O'Neill who called in to arrange for Annie Maguire to babysit for him because his wife was in hospital having a baby.

The methods of interrogation were the same as before.

GERARD CONLON was arrested at his family home in Cyprus Street, Belfast by contingents of the British army and the RUC on December 1. Like the other members of the Guildford Four, he was found guilty of murder although there was no evidence to connect him with the bombings in Guildford and Woolwich. This week PHIL PENN examines the way that after his arrest the net was spread to frame his relatives and their friends.



GIUSEPPE CONLON



GERARD CONLON

Vincent Maguire said he was beaten up at Guildford.

An officer named Harvey kept saying to him: 'Your guts are going to be all over the floor.'

Later Harvey left the room and said to him: 'If you have not told him everything by the time I come back you are going to get the biggest hiding that you have ever had.'

An officer named Bray then said to him 'You must know something, come on tell us.'

Vincent said 'I told him that I did not know anything but when Harvey came back he just rushed at me, my chair went back and my head banged against the wall.'

'He put his forearm under my chin and punched me in the stomach.'

'He said "Come on you little bastard; you had better tell us."

Mrs Anne Maguire was first charged with murder. She proved that she was with her small daughter at a circus at Shepherds Bush at the time of the explosions.

They could not uphold the murder charge against her and had to drop it.

Although no explosives were found the whole family and their friends were charged with possessing explosives.

All seven were later convicted of possessing explosives.

Innocence

All seven consistently maintained their innocence.

Sean Smyth, one of those arrested with Annie Maguire, was released from police custody and went back to work. He was then rearrested and charged with handling explosives.

He simply went back to work and was arrested at work while following his normal routine, hardly the action of a guilty man.

Nowhere in the Maguire house, apart from a microscopic trace said to have been found on a rubber glove, was there any trace of substances said to be explosives.

No traces were found on Annie Maguire herself.

A police search of the surrounding area, including dragging the canal, found nothing.

So in the trial of these seven the only piece of evidence, upon which the whole prosecution case rested, was a test allegedly showing minute traces of nitro-glycerine on the skin and

under the finger nails of six of them, and the trace allegedly found on one of Annie's gloves.

Swabs were taken of the accused's fingers for a forensic test called Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC).

A drop of the distilled solution is applied to a jelly-like substance which has been specially prepared; peaks will appear in the jelly at various levels, depending on which substance has been found.

The swabs were taken to the military explosives laboratory at Woolwich and given to an 18 year old apprentice lab technician who had been in the job only three months.

In carrying out the TLC test he destroyed the evidence which the police had collected with the swabs, thereby making the findings impossible to cross check in a second test, which was the usual practice.

Wrong

He then 'forgot' to photograph the results of the test.

In the test on the glove they said that unfortunately all the material on the glove had been used up during the test so it was impossible to do an independent test.

John Yallop, the forensic expert who developed the TLC test, said during the case that it had been used in the wrong way.

He said that it did not prove that there was any nitro-glycerine present, and although reluctant to get involved he still stands by the evidence that he gave for the defence.

What the defence did not know at the time of the trial — and the forensic scientist never told them — was that the TLC test was capable of showing positive results for all sorts of substances which had nothing to do with explosives.

One substance which reacts positively is nicotine.

The police said that Gerard's aunt Annie Maguire was an accomplice to the bombings at Guildford.

They said that she supplied the explosives, a charge she strongly denied.

The entire prosecution case rested upon one piece of forensic evidence based on these tests.

Alastair Logan, defence solicitor, said: 'I find it difficult to conceive of any situation in which any or all of them could have been innocently or unknowingly

A Letter from Gerard P Conlon

462779 Conlon, HM Prison, Long Lorton, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs WR11 5ZT

26/5/86

To Steafon Muris,

I received your letter dated 5.5.86 on 24 May. I was glad to hear from you and to know that efforts on the outside are being made on my behalf of which I am more than grateful.

I must admit I was surprised when I received your letter. At first I thought it had been sent by a crank but as I read it I realised it was genuine.

I had no idea that a campaign was being organised on our behalf. I obviously knew that our case was once again stirring up interest but not to the extent of your letter.

Over these last terrible 12 years I have written to MPs, Lords and churchmen regarding the injustice we have suffered but with little avail.

One wonders how people can realise that you are innocent and do nothing, unfortunately that's what has been happening to us but never for one second have I doubted that the truth would come out.

It does not matter what the courts or the Home Office do with our case it will always come back to stare them in the face.

Justice in this country will never be accepted as just while people like myself languish in prison for something I didn't do. I am so very grateful if you would keep my family and myself informed of your welcomed efforts on our behalf.

Yours sincerely
Gerard P Conlon

SUPPORT FOR CAMPAIGN

THE WEMBLEY branch of UCATT and the Brent Trades Council have agreed to sponsor and support financially the Guildford Four Campaign.

contaminated with explosive substances and I am personally forced to the conclusion that unlawful actions took place whereby samples were taken from those people with a view to producing, by false methods evidence against them.'

On March 4 1976 Anne and Patrick Maguire were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, Giuseppe Conlon, Sean Smyth and Pat O'Neill to 12 years, Vincent Maguire to five years and Patrick Maguire Junior to 4 years.

All have now been released but the inhuman treatment meted out to Giuseppe Conlon is well documented.

Although very ill he was given work in prison, first in a woodwork shop and then in a paint shop — both places unsuitable for someone with chest trouble.

At one point he had to go up and down three flights of stairs for meals.

During the inquest into his death it was stated that at the time of his death he had been suffering from chronic bronchitis, progressive heart failure which had caused scarring of the heart tissue, spitting blood and coughing and bronchial pneumonia.

The jury returned a ver-

dict of death by natural causes but it was clear to the authorities at Wormwood Scrubs prison that Conlon was dying. As his emergency admissions to hospital prove.

Over the years Gerard and his father had been in the same wing of the Scrubs and frequently met.

Shortly before his death Gerard was brought in handcuffs to see him. He was allowed 15 minutes.

When Giuseppe Conlon died the prison authorities sent a letter to his wife saying that they were releasing him.

She was subsequently charged £900 to have the body returned home to Ireland.

For the Conlon family, the nightmare of the last 12 years is not over.

Gerard is still serving a life sentence for something which he did not do.

● The information in this article came from the Fact Pack which is available from the Free the Guildford Four campaign, BM BOX 6944, London WC1N3XX. price 50p+postage. (Donations, which are much needed, should be sent to the same address.) It is also available from Paperbacks Centres.

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

LONG LARTIN

HM Prison Long Lartin, S Littleton, Evesham Worcs, WR11 5ZT

LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.

JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.

GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.

RICHARD GLENHOLMES: 10-year sentence, B32955.

JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715.

ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576.

PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.

PARKHURST

HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX

EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637.

HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636.

HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.

PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603.

STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence, 758663.

NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence, 879225.

WAKEFIELD

HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG

ANTHONY CLARKE: 14-year sentence, 726381.

SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.

CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.

PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.

NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

ALBANY

HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085.

SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.

TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence, 69204.

VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.

GARTREE

HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 7RP

ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-year sentence, B32954.

PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.

RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.

FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham

PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.

EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.

LEICESTER

HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ

BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.

BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.

JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635.

HULL

HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside

MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.

WORMWOOD SCRUB

HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, PO Box 757, Du Cane Rd, London W12 0AE

ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

REMAND PRISONERS-BRITXTON

HM Prison Brixton, PO Box 369, Jebb Ave, London SW2 5XF

MARTINA ANDERSON

ELLA O'DWYER

GERRY McDONNELL

PETER SHERRY

PAT McGEE

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:

CAROLE RICHARDSON

PATRICK ARMSTRONG

GERARD CONLON, PAUL HILL,

JUDITH WARD, HUGH CALLAGHAN, JOHN WALKER,

BILLY POWER, GERARD HUNTER, RICHARD McILKENNY,

PADDY HILL.

They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH FOIL THE FRONT

Last Saturday in Liverpool the National Front were prevented from holding a march and rally to demand the release of Joe Pearce.

Pearce was jailed for inciting racial violence in an National Front publication, which the fascists claim is an infringement of their right to free speech.

But the message from 1,000 counter-demonstrators was clear: no freedom of speech or assembly for fascists!

Two meetings were held

prior to the Saturday, organised by the Militant-controlled LPYS, where they tried to organise a token defensive operation.

Many people, who opposed this approach, argued for the need to go on the offensive and physically drive the fascists off the streets.

On the day, Anarchist and Red Youth groups gathered mainly in Sefton Park and Granby Street in Toxteth to be free of the Militant-imposed constraints.

At St George's Plateau Militant-Labour Party

BY JOHN OWEN
AND NEIL DEMPSEY

speakers warned of 'unnecessary violence'.

Lookouts were posted at the entrances to the city and the likely meeting places.

Groups of National Front supporters were spotted at about three o'clock. The youth gathered at the Plateau immediately began to walk and run towards the Town Hall and Pierhead.

Again the Militant group, this time in the guise of stewards, urged everyone to

stay calm and respect the law.

But soon the traffic in the centre of Liverpool was stopped by youth charging along looking for the fascists.

Meanwhile the group in Toxteth, about 500 strong, came over by mini-buses and cars in convoy in an attempt to find the fascists, who only numbered 50 despite this being a 'national demonstration'.

The police soon turned out in force and shepherded many demonstrators back to St George's Plateau. Within fifteen minutes they set off

again, filled with a determination that was reflected in the chant 'Kill Joe Pearce'.

At the end of the day a few of the fascists and two of the anti-fascists were hurt in street-fighting.

But the purpose of the demonstration, to stop the NF marching, was achieved. About 30 of them held a very short meeting in a building near the town hall.

Although the action was therefore successful, there are important lessons we can learn for next time.

Firstly, demonstrations such as last Saturday's cannot be left to ill-organised sections of youth.

The trade unions must be approached and it must be explained to older workers that driving fascists off our streets is a class question and one in which all sections of the working-class must be involved.

Similarly organisations such as Irish groups, black groups, homosexuals and the wide range of community groups must be brought in to this struggle.

SOLDIERS RUN TURKEY'S SCHOOLS! COLONELS DRAFTED TO INTIMIDATE YOUTH

THE RIGHT-WING government in Turkey, brought to power by an army coup, must be frightened of the youth.

It has put army officers in to run the schools in parts of the country.

Over twenty heads of Primary boarding schools in eight provinces of South and South-east Turkey were sacked earlier this year and replaced by majors and lieutenant-colonels still on active service.

The official announcement said the officer-heads were to establish 'order and discipline' in the schools.

Most of the people in these provinces are Kurds, a people whose rights and culture have never been recognised by Turkey's rulers.

It is suspected the officers' special job will be to intimidate pupils and staff from showing any Kurdish sympathies.

There are signs that the regime is frightened of young people generally, though; and encouraging signs that they might have reason to fear.

Young workers and students are showing renewed confidence in fighting for their rights.

In March this year, the Turkish magazine 'Nokta' reported that some 52,000 people who had passed through police or military hands as a result of their political activity were still being persecuted after release.

Thousands of shop stewards and trade union activists were victimised from their jobs.

Anyone who had been under security investigation, even if they weren't charged let alone convicted of any crime, was automatically barred from jobs like

teaching, or from higher education, the magazine reported.

Teachers and civil servants were sacked simply because a brother, sister, spouse, son or daughter had been arrested.

Between September 1980, when the military took over, and February 1983, 85 per cent of those detained were aged 16-35, leading 'Nokta' to comment that an entire generation had been stamped 'suspect'.

On April 1, at one o'clock in the morning, squads of police began going into gecekondu - working-class shanty-towns - in Istanbul. They detained 500 people.

The raids' purpose was described as 'to prevent communist organisations from organising.' It's thought the authorities feared some action to commemorate the fourteenth anniversary of the Kizildere massacre, when the army killed ten leaders of revolutionary youth.

In Izmir, 3,000 students took to the streets in a midnight demonstration on April 8, demanding better medical facilities.

A 19-year old mining student, Altan Durmus had taken ill and died because he could not be got into hospital.

The students demanded a clinic and doctor for their residences.

The Izmir protest was the first big students' street march since the 1980 coup.

More can be expected.

At the Hacettepe University, students in halls of residence have been protesting overcrowding, poor food and harsh regimented discipline.

Among the restrictions reported at Hacettepe, students are not allowed to have any books other than course text books in their rooms without permission of the authorities.

The regime is very concerned what young people are reading.

A few months back it pushed through a law for the 'Protection of Children from Harmful Publications.' A nine-man censorship committee will investigate all publications to decide whether they are harmful to persons under 18.

None of the proposed committee are writers, academics or educationalists.

Previous military regimes have jailed people like leading writer Yashar Kemal for translating Marxist literature into Turkish.

The present regime's Ministry of Culture has recently banned translations of Scottish 18th century philosopher David Hume's 'On Religion', novels by James Joyce and Henry Miller and essays by Montaigne, Bacon, Russell and Sartre.

The new law is seen as threatening not pornography but newspapers and publications that don't toe the government's line.

The Ministry of National Education has banned use as educational material of any publications that 'run counter to national, spiritual or historical values'.

The ministry's local office

in Yozgat has issued an order as to what newspapers can be allowed in the teachers' centre there.

As a member of NATO and the EEC, Turkey is supposed to be a bastion of what Reagan and Thatcher call 'democracy'.

The committee of ministers of the Council of Europe even decided that this Autumn, Turkey should receive the presidency, in recognition of the 'progress' it has made towards democratic government.

The kind of 'progress' Thatcher is bound to approve of was instanced by the Social Security Minister recently; having heard that many Turkish workers are working for less than the legal minimum wage, he announced his answer - do away with a minimum wage!

'As a human being I would like to raise the minimum wage', the minister told reporters, 'but scientific and economic realities are against this, so we must make a choice as a government... The minimum wage has a negative effect on the workforce.'

Despite vicissitudes, imprisonment, torture and censorship of ideas, Turkish workers and youth are not beaten.

They are increasingly ready to fight.

In Turkey, as in Britain, a revolutionary movement must be built that can lead this struggle.

Information used for this article came from 'Turkey Newsletter', published by Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey, 129 Newington Green Rd, London N1.

The 'Rising Phoenix Flute Band

MUSIC AND STRUGGLE

LATE in 1984 a handful of people in Edinburgh put their heads together and decided to form a Republican flute band to show their support for the armed struggle, not only in Ireland, but in dozens of countries throughout the world which are oppressed by dictatorship, capitalism and imperialism, e.g. the plight of the Nicaraguan people.

Our music is predominantly based around Irish rebel songs (although the band will eventually learn music on a more world-wide scale) because a socialist struggle anywhere in the world is bound to have much in common with the Irish situation.

Many of our band members have Irish ancestry; we feel it is very close to home and that it is something we can actually do something about, by going to Ireland to march through the streets and show the people that we want to see them liberated and free from the clutches of Westminster.

We also want to show the people of Scotland, England and Wales that we have not succumbed to the propaganda that gets pushed in our faces daily by the British media, telling us how evil the Provisional IRA are.

In fact the real atrocities are happening in Ireland - caused by strangers on Irish soil forcing people to live in a war situation on their own doorsteps.

If your father were to be dragged away by the police in the middle of the night, thrown in jail, tortured and kept there for ten years without even a trial, would you sit and do nothing?

Religion is irrelevant; there are both Catholics and Protestants in the band. While the band respects the right of the individual to practice their own religion in peace, we will not tolerate religion interfering with the socialist movement that the band stands for.

This is perhaps best expressed in the words of James Connolly:

... Socialism is neither Free-thinker nor Christian, Turk nor Jew, Bhuddist nor Idolator, Mohamedan nor Parsee: it is only human.'

Stand up and voice your contempt for injustice and imperialism.

Tiocfadh ar la.
By a member of the Rising Phoenix Flute Band, Edinburgh

LISTINGS

day June 15, 4 pm. Teatro Technics, 26 Crowndale Road, London NW1.

SOUTH AFRICA NON-STOP PICKET: Special events on the non-stop picket of the South African embassy.

Soweto Tenth anniversary, picket from 7 pm Sunday June 15. South Africa Freedom Day, Thursday June 26, 1-2 pm. Saturday June 28, torchlight rally for the release of Nelson Mandela. Both at the non-stop picket, outside South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid)

ANTI-APARTHEID MARCH. Saturday June 28, 12 noon. Assemble Speakers Corner, march to festival on Clapham Common.

JEWISH SOCIALIST magazine, No.5 out now, articles on Israeli Left, Gypsies, Irish Women, Louis Farrakhan and the Chief Rabbi. 85p. or £3.50 p.a., from JSG BM3725 London WC1N 3XX

GUYANA MUST BE FREE! Public Meeting. Prof. Kassim Bacchus, Basil Bollers, David Dabydeen, Remember Walter Rodney (assassinated June 13, 1980), mark first anniversary of campaign, 'Guyanese Against Dictatorship'. Sunday, June 15, 6.30 pm, Afro-Caribbean Resource Centre, 5 Westminster Bridge Rd. (near St. George's Circus, tube Lambeth North or Elephant)

THIRD WORLD FIRST. Conference on Third World Aid,

Saturday July 12, 10.00 am, University of London Union

VIRAJ MENDIS DEFENCE CAMPAIGN LONDON SUPPORT GROUP meets Thursday June 19, 7.30 pm, North room, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. March 'Viraj Mendis must stay! Fight the Immigration laws' begins Manchester, Saturday July 5.

BRADFORD MARCH AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS. Saturday June 14, assembles 12 noon, Lister Park, Bradford, and ends at Bradford University for a rally and gig with Easterhouse and Boys from the East.

LESBIAN AND GAY FESTIVAL CARNIVAL PARADE. Saturday July 5, Hyde Park, London, to Kennington Park, Lambeth, for live entertain-

ment and open-air events. Plus 400 events throughout the country between June 19 and July 6.

AZANIA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN. Rally June 15.

GREENHAM WOODRUNNERS FINANCIAL APPEAL. Donations urgently needed to buy a van for the 'Greenham Woodrunners', who keep in daily contact with and supply wood to the Greenham Common Peace Camp. Contributions should be sent to J Lethbridge, Account No 12249286 type 00, Co-operative Bank, 23a St Aldgate St, Gloucester.

Please send details of your meetings and events to Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT, to arrive not later than the Monday before publication

TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT DELEGATION TO THE NORTH OF IRELAND. Belfast, 8-11 August. Delegates invited from individuals and groups, to stay as guests of local people and discuss the Irish labour movement, Irish culture, plastic bullets, strip-searching and show-trials with political and community activists. Join the Belfast Internment commemoration march and rally, Sunday August 10. Details from: Delegation Organising Committee, PO Box 353, London NW5 4NH

BIRMINGHAM IRISH HUNGER STRIKE COMMEMORATION RALLY. Saturday June 21, 2 pm, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham. Organised by the Irish Hunger Strike Commemoration Committee, Birmingham.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST THE LABOUR PARTY WITCH-HUNTS. Saturday June 21, 10 am - 5 pm. Regents College, Inner Circle, Regents Park, London. Speakers include Tony Mulhearn, Audrey Wise and Linda Bellos.

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT LOBBY FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID. Mass lobby of parliament on June 17 to show concern about Britain's policy towards South Africa and Namibia. 2 pm onwards. For details of lobby and meeting write to Lobby For South African Sanctions, c/o CCSA, 2 Eaton Gate, London SW1W 9BL

SOWETO TENTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION RALLY. Sun-

WHAT IS HEALYISM? PART ONE

A reply to the Healyite statement of May 30 1985

Many readers of Workers Press will know that the Healyites published a 'Political Committee' statement on 'The break-up of the Banda-Slaughter Clique' on May 30.

It was, of course, written by Healy himself: much 'practise' is more reliable than a by-line.

The thought behind the statement shows a profound degeneration reflecting more than simply old age.

It would merit neither reply nor analysis except that the study of this process has valuable lessons, particularly for those who expelled Healy last October.

He cannot understand what happened in the WRP either last October or in the months preceding but tries to explain it in terms of the manoeuvres of groups 'secretly' working behind the scenes to 'smash' the party.

This leads to an attempt to reorganise other 'groups' to gain some credibility for the problem-wracked rump — with a more or less open appeal to the Banda brothers to come back to the fold.

Last October, the WRP exploded politically when the corruption of its leadership was exposed.

Premises were occupied by angry party members; normally sacrosanct Central Committee meetings were lobbied by hundreds; publication of the daily paper was prevented until immediate issues were settled; aggregates with an unprecedented attendance discussed heatedly.

On the primary question, there was near unanimity within the party — corrupt leaders must go!

None of this merits a mention from Healy; it was as if it had never happened.

Charges were laid against Healy on the issues of sexual abuse, slander and physical violence against members. Would any leader of integrity not have faced the charges, answered them, dismissed them with contempt, with proof of their calumnious nature?

Like his clique, he could not face his own party —

BY DAVE BRUCE

(twenty-one!) legal actions, a press campaign (which they also got the worst of) and the attempted looting of the party's assets.

None of this is mentioned: can you really cover this up with the use of categories like 'political lice'?

Behind this lay not simply the 'secret' goings-on of a small group — however decisive they may or may not have been in exposing this corruption.

The WRP was in a deep political, financial and social crisis. This flowed from a method which had been revealed by a social movement, above all in the miners' strike.

The increasing isolation of the party from the working class against the ground of the deep-going changes in the class itself had been masked over by the form of party organisation.

The apparatus, so long seen as a strength, had turned into its opposite: a source of political corruption within the party, a cause of degeneration, and a product of the political problems of the movement.

Beneath the placid exterior — the papers ran on time — lay a ferment of political discontent.

This was highlighted by the fatuous notions that, unless the miners won their strike, there would be fascism in Britain; that we had seen the last Labour government, that Thatcher represented some form of extra-parliamentary rule (Bonapartism) which in and of itself was the catalyst for revolution — which could be realised by linking the miners with (wait for it) Labour councillors fighting rate-capping.

This was to lead to a general strike — at the behest of the TUC — which would lead to the formation of a Workers Revolutionary Government.

Only a clique totally cut off from the real world could believe such rubbish — the membership of the party, working in the areas, were far closer to the real movement in the working class, far more aware of the problems in its development.

When the material basis of this thought was revealed — what lay behind the apparatus for which the membership had sacrificed so much — could there have been other than an explosion?

Did the Healy/Torrance/Mitchell regime ever allow the conditions for political debate. Could it, by its very nature?

Healy rests on lies — not only those he tells, but on those told to him, which are probably more significant.

Readers of News Line are told that Bruce proclaimed that dialectical materialism was redundant and that the way forward was in 'testing a Labour government'.

Frightened

Forget for a moment that Bruce has written at length to refute Healy's mystical nonsense which passes for philosophy. What was the 'United Front' document about?

It attacked the WRP's cover-up of the role of Livingstone.

The idea that Labour leaders do not need to be tested was shown to be a rotten, corrupt cover-up precisely of the role of Labour leaders.

No prattling about Popular Frontism — on which Healy reveals an ignorance he would never himself have tolerated even ten years ago — can conceal that the WRP's strategy was based on alliances with or belief in forces outside of and hostile to the working class — social-democracy (Livingstone, Knight), Stalinism (Vietnam) and the colonial



DID the cameraman just miss the handshake of the decade? Healy's shady front man, ALEX MITCHELL, — all things to all men, unless they were in his own party — in close conference with none other than Michel Pablo, originator of the theory of Pabloism — that stalinism had a revolutionary role — which led to the 1953 Fourth International split. By the time of this photograph, Pablo was adviser to the Papandreou government in Greece

bourgeoisie (Iraq above all).

The lies of Healy are reinforced by the lies of his cronies — patch up a daily paper with a sale of around 1,000 a day, present a facade of an ATUA; pretend there is a flourishing youth movement and present this to the leader. By the way, whatever happened to the 10,000 members?

How many of them rallied to defend the 'slandered' Healy?

What does this represent politically and philosophically? Is it 'Subjective Idealism', a mode of thought with a history and which played a role in the development of bourgeois philosophy?

To label it subjective idealism is to belittle the con-

tribution of philosophers like Bishop Berkeley.

To be sure, the method of image-making, of pasting together a fantasy of the world, of turning history on its head, of the Big Lie, (shades of Stalin) has elements of subjective idealism but it can really only be described as solipsism — a degeneration of thought.

It has ceased to be rational (all philosophers speak of correct thought — Lenin). The categories of philosophy no longer apply: it is the concepts and categories of psychology which are applicable.

Here are perhaps the greatest lessons of the split in the WRP.

To be continued

WHO ORGANISED THE ATTACK ON PHIL PENN?

SUNDAY June 8, 1pm: Phil Penn was attacked by three men while taking photographs outside a meeting in Leicester.

The three men, one carrying a stick and another a Stanley knife blade, knocked Penn to the floor and tried to take his camera.

It began when Penn, who was taking photographs for the Workers Press, was seen outside the meeting by David Gilbert, Healy's driver.

Gilbert darted back inside the meeting. Shortly after, Healy emerged but at the same time the three ran to-

wards Penn, knocked him over and dragged him 50 yards towards a block of flats.

Witnesses to this scene, and there were many of them, said that when Penn was attacked he was unable to defend himself because he was hanging onto his camera

with both hands.

He was making a row which caused one of the men to urge the others to drag him into a nearby passageway — where they would not be so noticeable.

A large man called Colling put his knee in Penn's throat to silence him, while urging

Mark Harrison to get the film out of the camera.

Harrison, unable to do this, ripped off the lens and threw it away.

Thinking that they had exposed the film and being unable to silence Penn, they let him go and went back into the hall.

Penn got to his feet and ran to his car where he had another camera which he used to take more photographs of his attackers.

He was later taken to Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Three men were later arrested.



Collings approaches Penn — with a club



Mark Harrison sees Phil Penn...



but spots the camera too late

Palestine and Labour — a reply...

CHARLIE Pottins invites us (Workers Press May 31) to 'set the record straight' on the relations between the Labour Committee on Palestine (LCP) and the Labour Movement Campaign for Palestine (LMCP).

Unfortunately he does not set us a useful example in this respect.

He purports to be replying to the LMCP secretary Anna Wagstaff, whose letter in the previous week's Workers Press made two central points: firstly that the Healy-WRP 'tried to strangle' the LMCP 'at birth' and secondly that the LMCP would welcome the participation of Workers Press readers and supporters in their campaign.



Charlie Pottins

So what is the record? At a steering committee meeting of the LCP on the morning of the day on which its first National Conference was to be held, Ted Knight

(Treasurer of the LCP) claimed that he had no record of the campaign's finances because his office had been broken into and materials stolen — a break-in that, it later turned out, Knight had neither reported to the Town Hall security staff or the police.

He claimed however to have a book containing a list of well over 100 'members' of the LCP, people who, he claimed, had either come into the Labour Herald offices and asked to join or who had approached him personally.

Needless to say these names had never been given to me as secretary of the campaign and there was no record of any subscriptions

having been paid.

When registration started, the queue of WRP members formed up and each claimed to be a paid-up member of the campaign, though none who were asked could recall when or to whom they had paid the subscription.

The only corroboration of their claims came from Ted Knight's book.

By the time the conference started, WRP members outnumbered the rest — not surprising in view of the fact that the campaign was small and that its Publicity Officer, Penny Cole, a Knight protégée, failed to place any notices of the conference in the 'left press'.

The record is, then, that the LCP was hi-jacked at its first conference.

Those who were not prepared to go along with this kind of political gangsterism walked out and founded the LMCP to continue the work of the LCP which, they rightly predicted, would soon cease to exist.

What does Charlie Pottins say to that? Is it true or not?

He should stop prevaricating and 'set the record straight'. Of course, there is no need for the members of the WRP who have broken from Healy to wait for Pottins to convert himself to a truth-seeker.

Many of them must themselves have been involved in this coup. Let them speak out!

In his effort to evade this central question, Pottins ingenuously records that the LCP welcomed non-LP members.

The truth is that it was anticipated that some non-LP members would be attracted to the campaign and so LP membership was

not made a precondition.

But this has nothing to do with the herding of a hundred or so hand-raisers through the turnstile of whom there is no credible record that they had ever applied to join.

Indeed, the 100 or so could 'legally' have paid at the door and hi-jacked the conference 'within the rules', that is, after applying for



Knight



Healy

membership and paying the subscription.

But such considerations of legality aside, a packed meeting is a packed meeting . . .

On one albeit minor point, it must be said, Charlie Pottins is right and Anna Wagstaff is mistaken: the steering committee elected by the hi-jacked conference was not 'composed of a majority of

WRP members and supporters'.

Pottins' account of the members of the committee is accurate.

But he misses the main point: the WRP had succeeded in handing over the campaign to Knight even though they did not represent a majority of its members.

Comrades, you are going through a period of re-assessing the role and record of Healyism. In order to do so you need to have 'the record straight'.

For the purpose of this re-assessment there are two central issues arising from the matter we have been discussing: the hi-jacking of a conference by Knight and the WRP using methods of political gangsterism and the blow that this action and the subsequent demise of the LCP dealt to an already weakly-supported Palestinian cause.

Pottins' blather about 'Socialist Organiser', 'rejectionists' and the alleged weakness of the minority resolutions and all the rest of his irrelevant fictional production should not lead Workers Press readers away from these central issues.

This response is limited to 'setting the record straight'. It is not written as a contribution to a discussion on how best to build a successful pro-Palestinian campaign in the British labour movement.

Of course, we would be happy to discuss that.

Unfortunately there is nothing to suggest that Pottins' invitation to do this is anything but a diversion from 'setting the record straight'.

Andrew Hornung
on behalf of LMCP

Ireland, votes and Kinnock

WHILE the News Line daily produces its edited press agency reports, political slanders and popular frontism, Workers Press is struggling to re-establish a revolutionary paper.

People, who under Healy were not encouraged to think let alone write, are now facing that challenge.

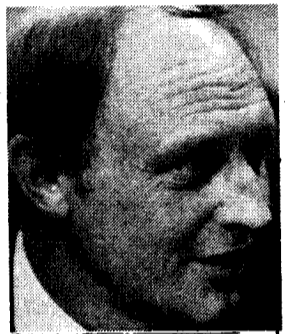
In this context, it would be a sterile exercise to criticise in letters each and every wrong formulation or weak article.

However, the 'Comment' column of May 31 by Charlie Walsh I think is so wrong that it must be answered.

Comrade Walsh and others in the WRP are fighting to overcome years of criminal silence on the Irish liberation struggle in the WRP and especially to establish links with all those in the Irish community fighting British imperialism.

This has to be done from the position of developing the theory and practice of the revolutionary movement here and in Ireland.

Comrade Walsh's comments take up quite rightly the history of the Labour



Kinnock

leaders on Ireland and their pro-imperialist stand but then, in the final four paragraphs, puts forward a perspective of putting pressure on the Labour shadow cabinet.

We certainly have to join with all those in the Labour Party who are fighting against the pro-imperialist right-wing.

The tactics of how we do that are open to discussion, but it has to be said loud and clear, especially in our 'Comment' column, that the Labour leadership has and always will be pro-imperialist.

No amount of pressure will change that.

It will only force it into greater treachery against the working class as a whole.

Moreover, and this is the greatest weakness of the article, the Irish liberation struggle and the battle for socialism in Ireland and Britain cannot be reduced to the question of what a future Labour government will or will not do: you might not get a 'next Labour government' anyway.

To those Labour members and voters who are opposed to Labour's stand on Ireland but do not yet see the need for a revolutionary movement, we must say that we still support their struggle against the right-wing but make clear the need for a war against reformism and the need for a Trotskyist party.

The prospect of Labour losing Irish votes should be seen as a potential for recruitment to our party not as grounds for pleading with the reformists like Kinnock to change their spots!

Unless this clear distinction between the revolutionary party and the nationalist movement as a whole is made clear and fought for, then the work that is being done will only end up repeating Healy's popular front policy on Iran and Palestine.

Bob Myers
NW London

Please note:

I WROTE two letters to the Workers Press published on December 21 1985 and March 29 1986.

To clarify the position for

anyone interested I, of course, wrote the letters entirely in a personal capacity.

Martin Ralph

Appraisal of Cannon or apology for Healy?

A COUPLE of points in reply to Cde Paul Thompson's letter about M Banda's obituary of James P. Cannon and the former's '27 reasons'.

Both works make statements which are merely opinions, stated as though they are established and proven positions.

This is particularly so in the case of the Minneapolis Trial of November 1941.

Banda states in the 'obituary' and in '27 reasons' that Cannon took up a semi-defencist position in relation to the coming war.

The quote Cde Thompson describes as a 'lucid answer' to Novack, proves nothing.

Even if the defence in the trial was 'a pedagogic and pedestrian exercise', would that make it semi-defeatist?

Even in the criticism of Grandizo Munis, the most he says is that the defence 'for moments borders on the renunciation of principles.'

His main criticism is about the attitude of the defen-

dants towards sabotage.

Cannon answers this emphatically from his own experiences in the IWW and with quotations from Lenin and Trotsky. (Socialism on Trial pp167-170).

The same can be said for most of the points raised in '27 reasons'.

There is a method of raising differences which is positive in that it gives insights into events from which all can learn. This is not Banda's method.

Banda's obituary of Cannon is written from the standpoint of an apologist of Healy's 'dialectics', with Cannon's failure to develop as a Marxist reduced to his inability to grasp 'the Marxist theory of cognition' and his 'complete lack of understanding of the active and revolutionary side of reflection'.

The historical circumstances during which the events were taking place are not analysed for their effects

on the SWP and its leadership.

Did Banda, between 1974, when the obituary of Cannon was written, and 1986, develop a historical materialist method of analysis or did he remain an apologist for Healy?

I think the answer to this question is important for anyone discussing '27 reasons'. We do know certain things which happened in these years.

This brings us to another point in Cde Thompson's letter; that Banda's criticism of Cannon's 'grotesque limitations and appalling cowardice' is 'purely relative'.

Let us consider two discoveries, one by Cannon and one by Banda.

When Cannon inadvertently obtained a copy of Trotsky's 'Criticism of the Draft Programme' when he was in Russia for the Sixth Congress of the Comintern, he was convinced that it was

politically correct.

He fought wholeheartedly and tenaciously for Trotsky's position, despite this leading to his expulsion from the Communist Party.

Undeterred, with only two comrades, he fought to found a Marxist party in the USA and succeeded.

This Banda has to acknowledge, despite his supercilious remarks about Cannon ('what Cannon lacked in theoretical knowledge' etc etc)

Contrast this with Banda's position when Dave North showed him his criticisms of Healy's 'Studies in Dialectical Materialism'.

Despite him agreeing privately with North's criticisms he did nothing for three years.

I think what Comrade Thompson is saying is that cowardice is not just a personal matter.

I agree with this position. We have to ask ourselves

...and from a WRP member

FURTHER to Anna Wagstaff and Charles Pottins. I was a member of the Watford branch of the WRP and attended the founding conference of the LCP with Comrade Dave Shadwell.

A number of days prior to the event, Sheila Torrance met with leading members of the branch including myself. She told us that:

1. The WRP was mobilising for the conference and that as many comrades were to attend as possible.

2. All affiliation fees were to be paid by the party and that all she required was the details of our union membership.

3. The party was acting under instructions from the PLO centre (the truth or otherwise of this claim I cannot answer).

4. We were to vote with her on all questions.

5. We were not to respond to the 'provocations' of the 'revisionists'.

The question is not

whether we packed the meeting, we undoubtedly did.

What the WRP should be asking is whether the party was right to do so and if it did on the correct political basis.

Geoff Stuart
Oxford

● Next week's issue will carry a letter on the same theme from Tony Greenstein of the LMCP and from a WRP member, which we have had to hold over for lack of space.

what politics or, if you like, the interests of which class drove the two men to two different courses of action.

Banda's '27 reasons' was not written as a historical materialist analysis of the FI. He did not break with Healy until he was forced to — and then for opportunist reasons.

He did not carry on the fight to regenerate the WRP, but ran off to Sri Lanka instead.

His '27 reasons' and his whole practice has one logic-

al conclusion — that Trotsky was wrong to found the Fourth International.

A critical assessment of the history of the Fourth International has to be hammered out in the Trotskyist movement from the point of view of the necessity of building it as the world party of the socialist revolution.

I do not think '27 reasons', because of its impressionist method, has any value in this.

Frank Fitzmaurice
Liverpool

● Readers of the Cannon obituary may note that on page 26 it quotes Trotsky saying:

'Jim's pamphlet is excellent. It is the writing of a real workers' leader.'

Banda goes on to say, 'Trotsky was careful not to use the word Marxist in this definition, implying that he was damning Cannon with faint praise

Trotsky actually wrote: 'Jim's pamphlet is excellent. It is the writing of a real workers' leader. If the discussion had not produced more than this document, it would be justified.' (Emphasis added)

Does this method of quoting constitute the 'active side of reflection', one may ask.

Editor

Trotsky patronised and distorted

OLD WINE — NEW BOTTLE

Academic treatise on Soviet Union confuses class nature

The Soviet Union Demystified. By Frank Furedi. Junius Publications, £5.95.

FRANK FUREDI'S new book makes a number of claims for itself. On the back cover we find:

'Using the Marxist method of analysis, this book offers a new and exciting perspective on Soviet society.'

This work is certainly of interest to Marxists, but they will find important methodological and programmatic differences with Furedi.

Furedi, we are told, again on the cover, is Professor of Development Studies at the University of Kent, and yet the book is published by Junius, the publishing house of the RCP (Revolutionary Communist Party).

It would appear that he is attempting to straddle two fences.

Under cover of an academic treatise he is trying to solve some of the problems of his own group's history.

This 'new and exciting perspective' is neither new nor exciting. In fact Furedi bases himself centrally on the work of Hillel Ticktin, the editor of 'Critique' (a journal of Soviet Studies and Socialist Theory.)

Ticktin elaborated a theory in the early 1970s that the central feature of the Soviet economy was the question of waste.

He argued that there was no plan in the Soviet Union and that it was not a workers' state in any form. Consequently a new social revolution was needed and not a political revolution.

Furedi adds nothing to this theory and even manages to obscure aspects of it.

Ticktin argued that there is a tendency towards the market and the transformation of the 'elite' into a class.

The question of the class nature of the Soviet Union is no small one for Marxists.

This book is therefore more revealing about the politics of the RCP than about the nature of the Soviet Union.

The book is littered with such 'Marxist' categories as 'Western commentators', 'informed experts', 'left-wing critics' and even 'orthodox Bolsheviks' (Lenin), and by implication in the book 'unorthodox Bolsheviks' (Stalin).

We begin to see more clearly the nature of Furedi's anti-Marxist method.

Divorce

On page 8 we read: 'Marxism developed as a distinct alternative to the romantic critiques of capitalism which arose in mid-nineteenth century Europe.'

Really? This is the path of many previous anti-Marxists.

That is the attempt to see Marxism not as a world scientific outlook, but to separate it into its component parts, to divorce Marx's economic doctrine from the philosophical method that underpins it.

Marxism in fact developed as a critique of German classical philosophy, particularly Hegelian dialectics, of classical English political economy and of French socialism.

From this starting point flows Furedi's failure in method.

He proceeds to analyse the historical development of the Soviet Union from a teleological perspective.

The development of the Soviet Union is abstracted from the objective conditions and therefore from the international class struggle that gave rise to it.

In a view of history that sees the ends as given, it becomes all too possible and necessary to speak of Trotsky's 'inconsistencies'.

Furedi generously credits Trotsky for providing 'valuable insights' into the nature of the Soviet Union but he considers Trotsky's assessment flawed.

We have heard similar thoughts from others recently.

Here really is the core of the book, it is an attack on the Trotskyist analysis of the class nature of the Soviet Union.

Furedi considers 1928-1933 to be the low point in Trotsky's analysis of the Soviet Union.

Why didn't Trotsky understand what is only too clear to Furedi?

Furedi fails to grasp the question of the struggle of the Left Opposition, a struggle not just in the Soviet Union but internationally, which lasted ten years.

He writes that it was ironic that Trotsky's analysis of Stalinism was only completed with the coming to power of fascism in Germany in 1933.

Why ironic? Hitler's victory over the German work-



The victory of fascism over German working class in 1933 was a historical turning point.

ing class was a historical turning point.

Trotsky's analysis of Stalinism could not have been complete before that. The victory of fascism was not pre-destined; Trotsky was engaged in the struggle.

Like all petty-bourgeois radicals, Furedi cannot grasp things in their movement and change.

For Furedi, therefore, the Bolshevik revolution died in 1929 — a position not so dissimilar from that of Tony Cliff and the 'state capitalists' of the SWP.

The Soviet Union today is a product of the 1930s, a regime that according to Furedi should serve as a 'grim reminder'.

This academic hotch-potch attempts to obscure the real nature of Stalinism.

The bureaucracy in the Soviet Union represents a parasitic growth on the working class, a bureaucra-

cy which is not historically indispensable and whose whole role is counter-revolutionary through and through.

Furedi and the RCP thereby attempt to jump over the real historical tasks posed for Marxists in this period, the resolution of the crisis of leadership of the working class.

In this book we are not actually told what is the nature of the social formation in the Soviet Union.

He leaves us in limbo, it is neither state capitalist nor a degenerate workers' state.

In a mechanical way, Furedi shows us that the Trotskyist analysis of the Soviet Union must be incorrect, because, he says, nationalisation is not in itself progressive.

The nationalised property relations are a historical gain of the October revolution and we defend them unconditionally.

We call for a political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy. What does Furedi propose?

What form would his social revolution take?

We don't know because he has written off the Soviet working class.

He believes that it is inter-imperialist rivalry that will decide the fate of the Soviet Union:

'Its survival owes more to rivalries among the imperialist powers than to its own form of social organisation. The destiny of the Soviet Union will be largely decided by events in the international arena.'

'The Soviet Union Demystified' reveals the RCP to be a radical nationalist grouping.

We will not travel their path; we are for the rebuilding of the Fourth International as the world party of social revolution.

Andrew Burgin

SQUATTERS' HANDBOOK REISSUED

Squatters Handbook. By the Advisory Service for Squatters, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1. 8th edition. 50p.

HOUSING CAMPAIGNERS, advice centres and people in need of housing will be

pleased that after a two-year gap, the Squatters' Handbook is available again.

The new edition takes account of changes in the law and makes it clear that squatting is still legal.

Anyone with children, pen-

sioners and disabled people are entitled to be housed by the council — and the handbook discusses ways of insisting on this right.

But the handbook is really directed at those with no such rights, like the 30,000 already squatting in London.

It discusses short-life licensing, housing co-ops and organising local squatters' groups.

It tells you how to find a place, move in, and get water, gas and electricity — and then it tells you where to go for further advice.

18 years of British occupation

The Bobby Sands Commemorative Lecture given by Danny Morrison in Twinbrook, Belfast, on May 4 1986. An Phoblacht/Republican News, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin, Ireland. 75p, plus 42p postage.

THIS very readable pamphlet brought out by Sinn Fein is a detailed account of the political struggles and events during the past 18 years in the British-occupied six counties in the north of Ireland.

It takes us from the period of 1969 up to the recent signing of the Hillsborough agreement — the so-called Anglo-Irish accord.

In 1969 the British Labour government, embarrassed internationally by the loyalist pogroms against the Catholic working class and the sectarianism of the six-county state, put pressure on the Terence O'Neill Unionist government to carry out a series of reforms.

At the same time the Labour premier, Harold Wilson, signed a Downing Street declaration in which Britain re-affirmed that there could be no change in the constitu-

tional status without the consent of the 'majority' — that is, the loyalists.

Similar reassurances ever since have done little to mollify the loyalists, who are a minority in Ireland. Indeed the breach between the loyalists and the British has widened, the pamphlet points out together with an analysis.

The rise of Sinn Fein as a political force is shown in the pamphlet — particularly how much of this support was gained in the 1980-83 period of the heroic struggles of the blanket men in the H-blocks and, of course, the great struggles of the hunger strikers: especially those ten men who died on that same hunger strike fighting for political status.

Prior to this period, particularly during the IRA ceasefire in 1975, the pamphlet points to the Labour government and to Mason's and Newman's attempts to Ulsterise and normalise the conflict and, by refusing to concede political status, their — unsuccessful — attempts to criminalise the republican movement.

Charlie Walsh

HAROLD WILSON:

Did he fall or was he pushed? MI5's shady role

LOBSTER — Intelligence Parapolitics. State Research No 11: Wilson, MI5 and the Rise of Thatcher. By Robin Ramsay and Stephen Dorril. £2. Available from Robin Ramsay, 17c Pearson Ave, Hull, HU5 2SX.

THERE'S something fishy about this publication. Did Harold Wilson really get one in the eye from MI5?

It's an unusually named publication which chronicles in detail Wilson's accusations that MI5 were involved in destabilising the Labour government in 1976, accusations which were not taken seriously by the press at the time.

This magazine-style quarterly also charts the growth of shady right-wing groups (such as the Institute for the Study of Conflict) which began to spring up around 1976 — preparing the ground for the return of a right-wing Tory government under the premiership of our Madame from Finchley.

The publication includes a forward by Kevin McNamara MP and the findings appear impossible to dispute.

Included in the bibliography is the Workers Revolu-

tionary Party's book 'Britain's State Within the State.'

But here must be added a note of caution. Members of the WRP will be well aware of Healy's paranoia concerning security.

The threat posed by the secret arms of the state was used to allow the bureaucracy to bloom within the party at the expense of cadres.

One final point would be worth mentioning, although I will refrain from speculating on the authors' politics.

On page 16 a reference is made concerning the acceptance by the NUM during the miners' strike of financial assistance from Libya.

It is stated that this must have confirmed the government's 'wildest imaginings' that the NUM was a communist force.

I distinctly got the impression from 'Lobster' that to decline the offer of financial assistance from Libya would have mitigated in the NUM's favour.

What the miners' strike did prove is that irreconcilable class forces do exist in the UK and that alliances are forged by deeds and not by words.

Peter Windeler

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BOOKS

REVIEWS

ORGREAVE — 'THE MOST TERRIFYING DAY OF MY LIFE'

The Battle for Orgreave. By Bernard Jackson with Tony Wardle. Vanson-Wardle Publications, £3.95.

A moving account of the terrifying events which happened two years ago at Orgreave on June 18, 1984, during the year-long miners'

strike, has been published by the same team that produced the outstanding television documentary.

The author tells a personal and political story of ordinary people, people who, in their attempt to fight for their jobs and communities, come up against all the might of the Tory state.

The book gives a sensitive account of events leading up to that fateful day, during the day itself and right up to the trial of those arrested.

An emotional picture is built up of how the defendants stood up to all the pressures put on them — maltreatment at the hands of the police being but one.

As a veteran of Orgreave, I think this is an excellent and accurate account of how the police went to work on one of the most terrifying days of my life.

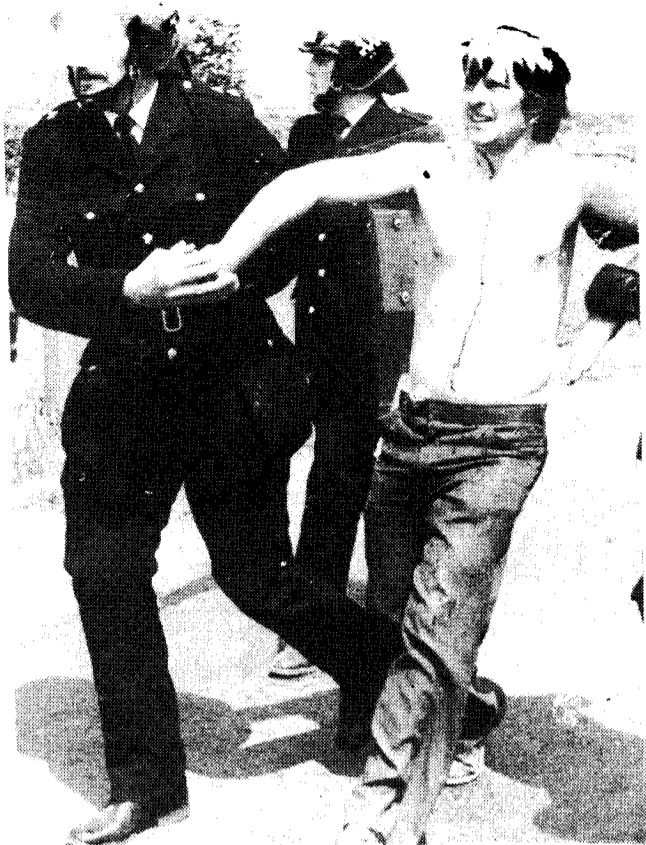
It raises important questions about the way the police are now being used in conjunction with the anti-union laws.

How do we stop the attacks on trade unions, working conditions and living standards?

One lesson of the miners' strike is that no trade union can take on the might of the Tory state on its own.

The whole labour movement must take action and, as Bernard Jackson says at the end of the book, 'if that means a general strike to establish a government which puts people before capital, then so be it.'

Kenny Thompson



TRADE WAR HITS WORLDS' POOREST

'Made in Bangladesh'? Women, Garments and the Multi-fibre Arrangement. By Brian Phelan with additions by Dan Jones. Bangladesh International Action Group, distributed by Third World Publications, £1.95.

ONE OF THE most reactionary calls made by some trade unionists is to demand import controls supposedly to protect 'our jobs'.

An example of the effects of this nationalist rubbish on workers in developing countries is vividly shown in this short publication on the fledgling textile industry of Bangladesh.

In the eighteenth century British imperialism destroyed the Dacca muslin trade to eliminate competition to Yorkshire mills.

By 1840 the population of Dacca had fallen from 150,000 to 30,000 as workers were forced back onto the land.

Sir Charles Trevelyan of the East India Company recorded:

'Dacca, which once used to be the Manchester of India, has fallen from a flourishing town to a very poor and small one.'

Although the industry was destroyed the tradition of vil-

lage hand weaving was maintained.

In the 1970s the Bangladesh government began to encourage manufacturers by offering substantial incentives like five year income tax free periods and large premiums on exports.

Work, even for a pittance, meant some respite in a country where it is estimated that 65 million people do not get enough to eat, one in six children die before the age of five and those that do survive are unlikely to live beyond 50.

Organised in a cartel called the Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA) the US, French and British governments imposed quotas on the import of shirts, Bangladesh's chief export garment, while giving privileged treatment to imports from Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea where their 'hot money' is invested.

In 1985 the US government suddenly announced that Bangladesh had fulfilled its quota and cancelled shipments in mid-delivery. Britain meanwhile imposed a quota worth less than £2 million.

Over 50,000 workers lost their jobs.

British 'aid' to Bangladesh consists of dumping its pro-

duce, which gave Britain a trade surplus with Bangladesh of £32 million in 1982.

The 'free market economy' is the freedom of the British ruling class to exploit and trample upon infant industries which may be future competitors.

The British working class has not the slightest interest in supporting these policies.

Those small-minded trade unionists who cannot see beyond the end of the white cliffs of Dover — of which the Stalinist 'little Englanders' are those most virulent — must be shown the lessons of the Bangladesh textile industry.

In the founding document of the MFA it grandly claims 'to achieve the expansion of trade, the reduction of barriers to such trade and the progressive liberalisation of world trade in textile products, while at the same time ensuring the orderly and equitable development of this trade and avoidance of disruptive effects in individual markets and in individual lines of production in both importing and exporting countries.'

These aims cannot be achieved under capitalism — only socialism can answer this question.

Martin Westwood



All the materials are imported — even the label that says 'Made in Bangladesh'. Rolls of cloth usually come from Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong.

TV Preview

Saturday June 14

7.30 pm, Channel 4. **Africa: The Legacy.** Final programme in the series looks at the problems left behind from decades of colonial rule — arbitrary political divisions, dependence on cash crops and raw materials which are controlled by rich countries at the expense of the poor, neglect of agriculture creating a multitude of unemployed urban poor.

8.30 pm, BBC2. **Arena: Caribbean Nights.** First of a six part series showing throughout the rest of the week. Five and a half hours exploring history, music and culture of the region, hosted by Darcus Howe.

Sunday June 15

8.00 pm, BBC2. **The World About Us: Down Under, Down Under.** A glimpse of the unique lifestyle of the coots who live on the Lightning Ridge opal field in New South Wales, Australia, and dream of finding the big one. In the meantime they live on emu and kangaroo.

9.30 pm, BBC2. **Arena: The Bob Marley Biography.** The first ever full scale documentary on Bob Marley, and what his music represents. It follows Marley's entire musical career and features contributions from his

mother, friends and fellow musicians.

Monday June 16

12.30 pm, ITV. **Take 30: Rape Crisis Centre.** A look around one of the many rape crisis centres which have been set up to provide assistance to women who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

1.35 pm, Channel 4. **The Making of Britain: A New World of Words.** Part of a series showing Britain from the departure of the Romans to the present day. Dr. Elizabeth Cook argues that the English language passed through a unique stage in the 16th and 17th centuries, enriched by the discovery of new worlds, both across the seas and in the mind. This enabled the rich flowering of literature which took place at that time, when geographical and scientific discoveries went hand in hand with the rediscovery of the new world.

Wednesday June 18

10.20 pm, ITV. **Three Days of the Condor.** 1975. Semi-political thriller, with Faye Dunaway and Robert Redford. Joseph Turner returns to his office to find the entire staff murdered. Enter the CIA with startling results.

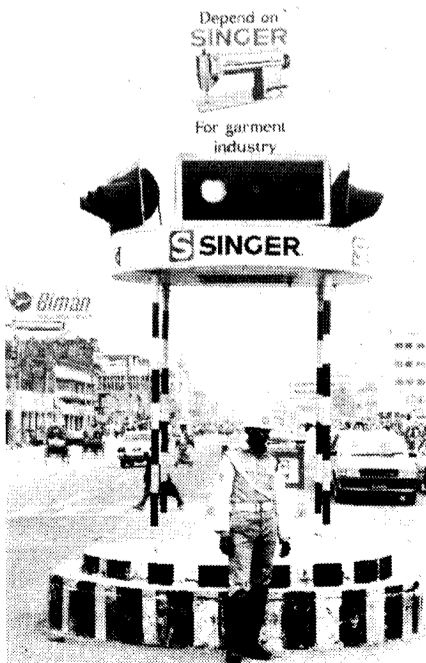
Thursday June 19

8.00 pm, Channel 4. **Too Hot to Handle?** First of a three part series, examining how far we understand the use and dangers of nuclear power. Exploring the physics, the biology and the psychology of radiation and nuclear power. The first programme examines public knowledge and the role the media has played in shaping these views, and asks how realistic our fears are.

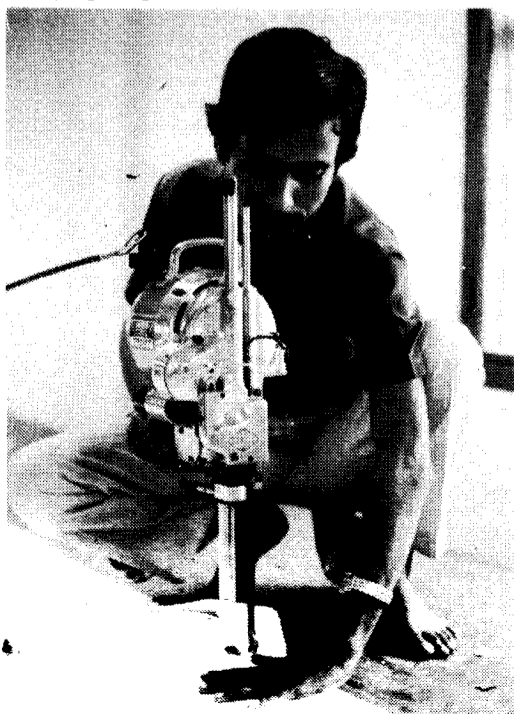
11.15 pm, Channel 4. **With Bibles and Banners.** The continuing story of the development of the American trade union movement brings us the 40 day strike at the General Motors plant, a turning point in American labour history. 'It was the women — the working women in Flint, and the wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts of the strikers — who were the backbone of the strike. They organized strike kitchens and day care centres, picket lines and family aid. . . . Sound familiar?

Friday June 20

2.30 pm, Channel 4. **Dread Beat and Blood.** Portrait of Linton Kwesi Johnson, a poet whose work recalls an older tradition, in which art society, politics and music are fused, voice of the people and the community.



Singer is fighting for a toehold in Bangladesh, where most equipment is Japanese. Equipment firms give massive credit — a factory employing 500 young women machinists could be set up for £150,000.



Cheap labour is the key to the success of the Bangladeshi textile industry. Wages for semi-skilled workers are between £3.50 and £7 a week.

Workers Press

Saturday June 14 1986. Newsdesk 01-720 2000



13-year-old Hector Peterson was the first to die

18000000 HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT THEIR CHAINS



Initially concerned with education, the student protests took on a broader political character creating new targets for their anger

PORTUGUESE ROUTED IN MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, THEN:

SOWETO ERUPTS

TEN YEARS ago, on June 16 1976, workers internationally witnessed what would be remembered as the Soweto uprising.

Soweto has the largest concentration of black Africans, with over a million inhabitants. It is situated near the white city of Johannesburg.

The Soweto event was to go down in history as the day of the black students.

The crisis arose because the racist state insisted on the compulsory use of the Afrikaans language in schools.

Many head teachers in black schools had warned against enforcing 50-50 English and Afrikaans in all Bantu homelands.

Black educational groups called for the language to be left to the local schools and parents to decide.

The clashes began at 9.30 am on June 16 when police tried to stop a procession of a large number of black pupils carrying placards demanding 'Away with Afrikaans'.

Suddenly a policeman fired a shot into the demonstrators, killing a 13 year old boy.

The crowd retaliated by throwing stones. The police then opened up with more revolver fire into the protesters, hitting more people.

This incident sparked off what was the most courageous conflict ever to take place by black youth against one of the most reactionary capitalist systems the world has ever known.

These young blacks fought with their hands, with petrol bombs, with stones and clubs against a well-disciplined police force of at least 1,000 men armed with machine guns, FLN rifles, tear gas and machine pistols who were drafted in and around Soweto to suppress the uprising.

That same day the fighting spread to townships outside Soweto.

During the next few days major street battles took place between semi-organised sections of youth and the racist security forces. Many black police informers, left out of the final count of people killed, were executed by militant young blacks in the townships.

By VICTOR STOCKPOLE

The authorities demanded the schools be closed and transport services halted in an attempt to contain the uprising.

On June 18 the clashes had spread to several other townships — Alexandra and Empangeni, Durban. White staff were forced to flee for their lives.

The uprising died down on June 20 only to break out again next day in Manelodi and Atteridgeville near Pretoria. The estimated damage was £35 million.

The official death toll figures, announced on June 25 by the arch-racist, James T Kruger, then Minister of Justice, were 174 black people killed and two whites.

Wounded were 1,222 black people, six whites and 22 policemen.

1,298 people were arrested. These figures conflict with those of the official spokesman for the United Nations special committee who reported 1,000 black people murdered by white vigilante squads allowed a free run.

The UN also reported that Citizen Force Reserve troops were called up to quell the violence.

After the student uprising had been temporarily exhausted, the racist police force began rounding up students and political activists in a frenzy to find out who was behind this powerful opposition to hated white minority rule.

One of the many young children who had been held in a makeshift tent for interrogation after the clashes said:

'There were six white police and one black. They told me to strip.

'Then they took a small black wet sack and put it over my head. All this time I had been told to run on the spot.

'Then one of them came to

10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 16 STUDENTS' REVOLT



twist the sack around my neck and I fell. They were asking me where was Khotso and also other members of the SRC.

'When I fell I was beaten with something on my back. Later, when the sack was taken off my head I saw one of them holding a thick white plastic rod.

'They put the sack over my head and repeated the beatings three times.

'They wanted me to say that other students had been doing various things. I would not say what they wanted.'

The Workers Revolutionary Party pays tribute to all those people who have laid down their lives in the struggle against the ultra-racist apartheid regime.

We especially dedicate our revolutionary greetings to the defiance and self-

As the uprising spread throughout South Africa, police and soldiers shot dead more than a thousand young people

sacrifice of the youth who are an inspiration to all young people world-wide fighting against oppression and exploitation.

We say that the armed struggle and the building of a Trotskyist revolutionary leadership must be the way forward.

We pledge ourselves to campaign in the labour and trade union movement to obtain a complete trade, sporting and cultural boycott of the racist state.

- Victory to the South African social revolution!
- Build the FI!
- TUC sanctions now!

