

Dunnes striker Cathryn O'Reilly talks to Workers Press page 6
Fifteen years since Briatin brought internment to Ireland Page 8

SOGAT CHIEFS HATCHING DEAL WITH 'DIGGER'

DEAN CRACKS WHIP

SACKED NEWS INTERNATIONAL printers and Fleet Street workers were ordered this week by the London leadership to obey instructions from Brenda Dean — not to carry on effective picketing at Murdoch's Wapping plant or the TNT depots which distribute his scab papers.

The 'undertakings' given to the High Court by the SOGAT executive, and which they now intend to use to discipline the membership, would take away the right of the rank and file to organise mass actions.

What has frightened the SOGAT leadership is the rank and file movement, especially the Fleet Street Support Unit, which has consistently mobilised for picketing, leafleting and demonstrations to prevent Dean and Dubbins from selling the News International jobs for a few pounds compensation.

Only token demonstrations 'authorised and organised' by the SOGAT executive are to be allowed, and Dean's letter makes it clear that members who refuse to go along with this will not only face the Courts but also disciplinary action from their union.

The union leadership know that the militants will refuse to obey their instructions — and the police can then be used to pick them off.

Dean's 8-page document included photocopies of the High Court rulings, but in two letters she spells out what the leadership have agreed to impose on the membership.

Strikers have voted decisively to oppose secret talks between SOGAT leaders and Murdoch's representatives — but Dean's instructions to the members are widely seen as being part of a 'secret deal.'

London District Committee Chairman, George Holmes, told the SOGAT FOCs representing the striking chapels on Monday that they must pass on Dean's instructions to all their members.

He argued that individuals would be liable and that their actions could put the union in danger of sequestration.

The members would certainly be liable — and their union, rather than defending them, would add disciplinary procedures to the state's attacks.

The Fleet Street Support Unit is urging workers to maintain the struggle in a traditional trade union manner i.e. blacking of Murdoch's products, pre-prints and copy and showing physical involvement by turning up at Wapping.

Not to do this would see the News International dispute go down to defeat which will have the greatest repercussions for all the Fleet Street printers with massive job losses and smashing of hard won terms and conditions that chapels over the years have fought for.

Unionisation is at stake, with employers acquiring the right to hire and fire as

they choose, impose any staffing levels they choose, with lay-off clauses, flexibility of labour and no standard hours of work.

The end of the miners' strike resulted in other workers being put in the front line.

The latest attempts to sabotage the dispute by Dean and the bureaucrats in the London leadership must be resisted. The alternative would be a setback for the whole trade union movement.

FSSU PUBLIC MEETING

John Marshall Hall
Blackfriars Rd, SE1
7.30pm, August 14

FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE

Organised by the FSSU, Dennis Skinner, MP; Ken Braidwood, ex-FOC, SOGAT; Linda Bellos, Leader, Lambeth Council; Paul Whetton, sacked miner; Carol Hall, MOC, Times Clerical, sacked print worker, secy, FSSU; Larry Hyett, SOGAT London Machine Branch, sacked printworker; Chair, UPSG

TGWU expels print scabs

DISCIPLINARY action has been taken against northern lorry drivers who crossed printworkers picket lines in Glasgow.

The men, who are based at depots in Houghton-Le-Spring and Carlisle, will be the very first trade unionists to lose their membership because of the News International dispute.

All the drivers are employed by TNT Roadfreight and have been crossing the picket line at Rupert Murdoch's printing plant at Kinning Park, Glasgow.

Their lorries have been used to carry copies of The Sunday Times, The Sun and The News of the World to regional distribution points where vans take over the work.

The expulsions have been

approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the union at regional level and the men have been given 14 days to appeal to the Transport and General Workers Union General Executive Council.

Letters with details of the decision are being sent to the six and it is understood that cases are now pending against another 24.

The T&GWU action in the northern region might now stir other unions to introduce disciplinary procedures against members connected with the News International operation.

Mr Joe Mills, the regional secretary of the T&GWU last night confirmed that the men had been recommended for expulsion because of their decision to cross the Glasgow picket line.

'We asked them about the issue', he said, 'They indicated that they had been crossing the picket line and they would not give an assurance that they would stop.'

'In the end we had to recommend expulsion.'

Extracts from Dean's letter

Accordingly, all officers and members are hereby instructed:

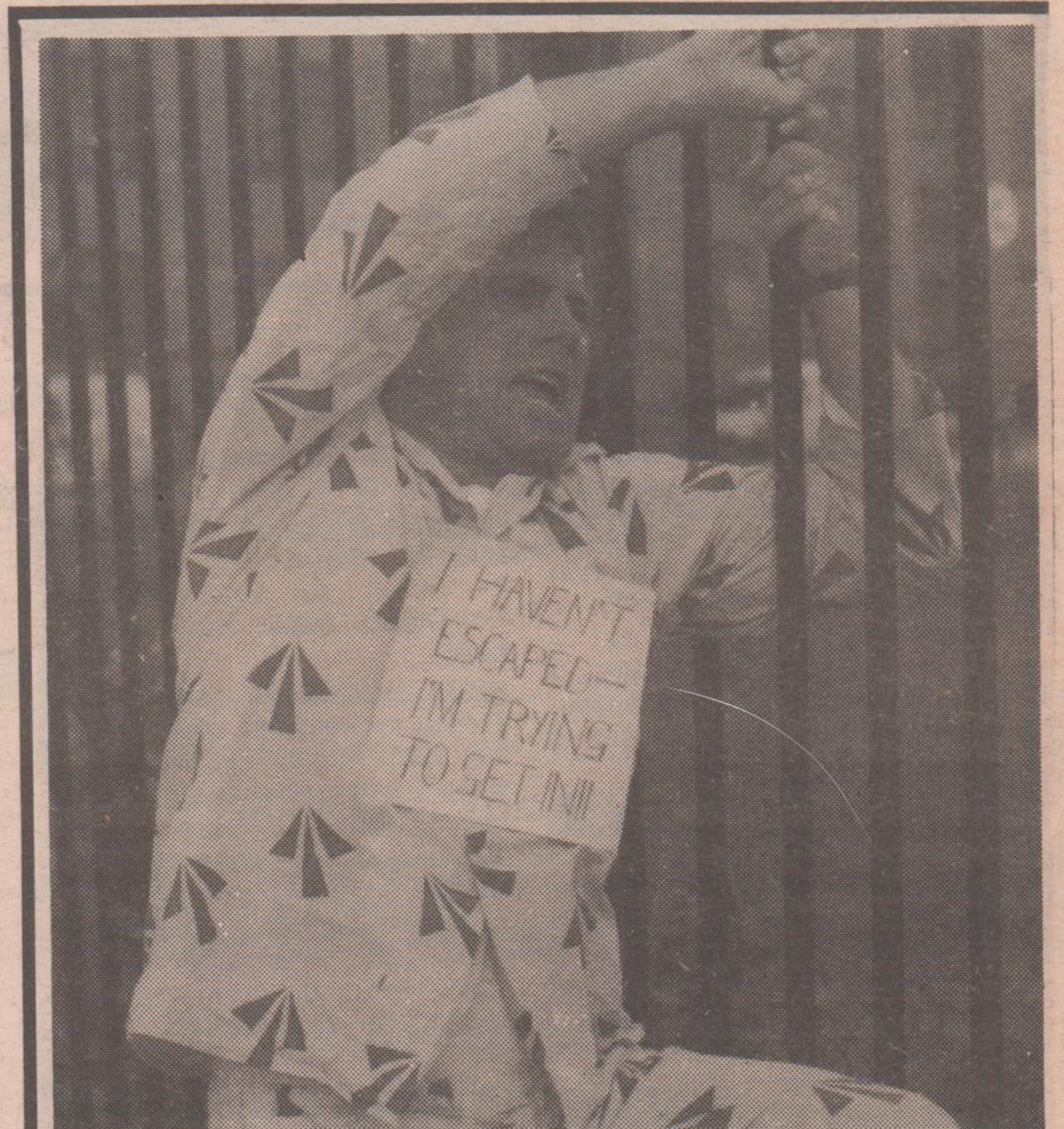
1. That they must not knowingly carry out any acts of violence (to person or property) or any acts of intimidation or abuse against TNT Roadfreight (UK) Ltd or against their employees or directors, whether in the course of any march, demonstration or picket or otherwise.
2. That they must not attend or participate in any demonstration, march or picket at or near any of the depots of TNT Roadfreight (UK Ltd.) save and except any demonstration, march or picket which is expressly authorised and organised by the National Executive Council of SOGAT and under its direction and which is so communicated by the NEC to its membership or part thereof through the usual channels.
3. That they must not carry on any of the activities restrained by the above undertakings.

The National Executive Council wishes to make it clear that it cannot countenance any action by any officer or member which constitutes a breach of any of the undertakings.

In accordance with the legal requirements of the undertakings, to protect the union, the Society will be required to take disciplinary action against any officer or member who takes action which infringes any of the undertakings and thereby places the position of the union in jeopardy.

We are also advised to point out to officers and members, that if they act in a manner inconsistent with the undertakings, they may be personally in contempt of Court and liable accordingly.

It is vitally important that the terms of the undertakings and the instructions contained therein are brought to the attention of all union members and officers.



THIS demonstrator certainly caught the defiant flavour of the womens' march to Wapping last Saturday night

Full story — back page

West of Scotland Free the Guildford Four Campaign

DEMONSTRATION

Saturday August 23
Coatbridge

- FREE THE GUILDFORD FOUR AND ALL FRAME-UP VICTIMS!
- REPATRIATE IRISH REPUBLICAN PRISONERS TO IRELAND!
- END BRITISH PRESENCE IN IRELAND; SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE!

ASSEMBLE 11.00am Laxford Place, Sikeside
MARCH 11.30am through Coatbridge Town Centre

RALLY Addressed by speakers from the Guildford Four Campaign and an Irish Prisoner relative

March organise by the West of Scotland FGFC and the Republican Band Alliance. More information from PH3, 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G4.

Barnoldswick: Silentnight picket caravan burnt out

Mystery fire Hell, No!



The picket line shelter of the Silentnight strikers has been burned to the ground in Barnoldswick.

BY MARTIN RALPH

A Silentnight picket line at Barnoldswick photographed last week

Strikers think it was fired at 5.30pm on Monday August 4 while they were away picketing at Tom Clarke's furniture exhibition at Salterforth.

Two caravans used by the Silentnight strikers have already been burned out. At least one of the caravans was petrol bombed.

The police in this case say the cause of the fire is 'doubtful'. They normally refer to these incidents as 'mystery fires'.

Mr David Marshall, a full time official of the Furniture,

Timber and Allied Trades Union, FTAT, told the local Evening Telegraph 'we have lost two caravans and now the hut has been reduced to ashes. Once again the police were not present when it happened.'

Terry Bennett, the branch chairman of Silentnight FTAT, told Workers Press:

'When Silentnight property is burned, the police say it is arson, but when something like this happens to us, the cause is always doubtful.'

'We know nothing about Silentnight's trailer that was burned out.'

Among the pickets there is no doubt about who did the burning.

They also point out that whoever did it has no concern for the residents living near the picket line.

In another incident of violence a picket was attacked by a scab and his friends while he was in Burnley shopping centre. Derek Halliwell was hit in the face with a bunch of keys.

These incidents are powerful reasons why the organised labour movement should give full and continuing support to the Silentnight strikers.

● Support Silentnight strike: Public Meeting, Manchester Town Hall, Thursday Aug 14, 7.30. Organised by Manchester Silentnight Strike Support Group.

Newham tenants fight homes sell-off

NEWHAM TENANTS have decided to step up their campaign against Tory plans to sell off council estates to private developers.

Local authorities will have the power to evict tenants who have no rent arrears and have not broken their tenancy agreements in any way, simply because they want to sell the blocks to developers.

The proposals, contained in the Housing and Planning Bill, are expected to become law before the new session of parliament begins on November 12.

Newham Council has said it won't implement the Bill, but obviously pressure will

be put on councils who oppose the government.

It is likely that Housing Investment Programme allocations will be withheld from councils who refuse to raise money by selling blocks to the developers.

They have established links with groups in neighbouring Tower Hamlets, where the Liberal-run council has already begun to sell estates, as well as Sheffield, Leeds and Nottingham.

First proposals put to the meeting concentrated on writing to members of the House of Lords in the hope there will not be time for any amendments made in the Lords to be taken out of the Bill by Thatcher's Commons majority.

After discussion about how to proceed, tenants agreed to

extend the committee co-ordinating the campaign, to organise meetings on estates all over the borough, to participate in national demonstrations and organisations like the Campaign Against Sales of Estates (CASE) and go to a meeting called by Sheffield Tenants Association on August 16.

They also agreed to contact local councillors — all of whom are Labour but none of whom came to this meeting — and local trade unions, particularly those representing council workers.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

DURHAM

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

GARY BLACKMORE: 19 — Affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years Youth Custody, (not a miner, but arrested during the course of the strike)

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.

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. DERBYSHIRE

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

TORIES AFTER RACIST VOTE

TORY PARTY vice-chairman Jim Spicer has come out in defence of the racist South African regime during his visit to New Zealand.

Spicer's remarks, which came as the Tory party launched a campaign for

overseas branches and the British expatriate vote, led New Zealand premier David Lange to call the top Tory official a bigot and a liar.

Spicer, in New Zealand for the National Party's annual conference, said 'one man, one vote' did not exist anywhere on the African continent.

He also claimed New Zealand had asked Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe to represent its views at the Commonwealth meeting in London.

Prime minister Lange said this was 'a lie, and known to be a lie.'

'Mr. Spicer is a person who is so impassioned at upholding white supremacy on South Africa that he is calling on Australia, Canada and New Zealand to abandon their strong convictions and side with a regime that

keeps 24 million people out of the political process and detains people without trial — and then wonders why we are aggrieved at such behaviour.'

The Tory attempt to rally the 'white commonwealth' against the rest, together with Spicer's intervention in New Zealand, could well indicate the kind of basis on which they will be campaigning for votes — and no doubt funds — among 'patriotic' British expats overseas.

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

WAKEFIELD

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

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

VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.

HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.

SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.

GARTREE

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

ROBERT CAMPBELL: 10-year sentence, B32954.

JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635

RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.

FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham

PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.

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

WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085

LEICESTER

HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ

BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.

BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.

PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.

HULL

HM Prison Hedon Rd, Hull, Humberside

MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.

ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

RECENTLY SENTENCED

MARTINA ANDERSON: D25134. Brixton Prison.

ELLA O'DWYER: D25135. Brixton Prison.

GERRY McDONNELL: B75880. Parkhurst Prison.

PETER SHERRY: B75882. Parkhurst Prison.

PATRICK McGEE: B75881. Leicester Prison.

INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:

CAROLE RICHARDSON: HM Prison Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire

PATRICK ARMSTRONG: HM Prison Gartree, Market Harborough, Leics., LE16 2RP

PAUL HILL: 462778. HM Prison Hull, Hedon Road, North Humberside

GERARD CONLON: HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs.

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.

The information on this list is supplied and updated by An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for which we thank them.

STUC LOBBY

A LOBBY of the Scottish TUC General Council in Glasgow on Wednesday demanded that the STUC give a lead in implementing workers sanctions against South Africa.

BY BRIAN DEMPSEY

The lobby, organised by the WRP, was supported by members of the Socialist Labour Group, the Revolutionary Communist Group and members of the Labour Party representing various tendencies, and a delegate from Morris's furniture strikers.

STUC General Secretary Campbell Christie had publicly criticised the boycott of the Commonwealth Games by countries protesting against Thatcher's position on South Africa, claiming that the boycott would hurt the Scottish people.

Christie's position provoked much criticism from workers in Scotland who felt that the boycott did not harm them and that, if it did, this was surely a small price to

pay for solidarity with the South African masses.

At a meeting held after the lobby, it was agreed to fight within the labour movement and the anti-apartheid movement for the lobby of the TUC in Brighton on September 1.

Differing attitudes emerged over the role of socialists within the anti-apartheid movement, but it was agreed that a united effort would be made to direct the work of anti-apartheid towards more direct links with South African trade unions, and organising speaking tours in Britain of leaders of the workers movement in South Africa.

MENDIS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

'LOBBY THE TUC in September' was one of the calls of the VMDC at a meeting in Manchester — the first since the successful national march.

The meeting at the Town Hall on August 3 was attended by 40 people and discussed how to expand the campaign. Pressurising the Labour MPs and trade unions into supporting the campaign has now become a major issue.

A national day of action is planned for September 6, after the lobby of the TUC.

BY SUE GWYER

The campaign is calling on all its supporters to draw attention to Viraj's case on this day in any way possible.

The London Support Group will be organising a march in London as part of its action.

The campaign is conscious of the need to get as much publicity as possible; the media effectively boycotted covering the national march.

The Home Office tried to play down Viraj's case as much as possible.

Campaigners who occupied part of the Home Office, Thanet House, were removed from the building and then arrested for obstructing the highway.

To be arrested in the building would have meant a charge of occupying govern-

ment property and drawn too much attention to the campaign.

A publicity group has been set up within the campaign to discuss the best way forward.

A fund-raising group has also been formed to organise events and raise money.

Fighting in the wider labour movement has been stressed as the major way forward.

The experience of other deportation campaigns, met along the course of the march, have been taken into account.

The campaigners agreed: they have nothing to lose and must fight along all channels.



FINES LEVIED ON VIRAJ MARCHERS

Five members of the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign appeared in court on Wednesday.

Three were charged with obstruction following an occupation of Thanet House, a Home Office building in the Strand (see report by Liz in Workers Press, July 26), the other two for chaining them-

selves to the railings of the House of Commons.

All pleaded not guilty, but lost their case and were each fined £25, plus £30 costs.

In a show of solidarity several members of the London Support Group of the Campaign picketed Bow Street Magistrates Court where the cases were being heard.

Viraj's MP, Bob Litherland,

is making representations to the Home Office.

This could mean the suspension of the deportation proceedings until Parliament resumes.

Gerald Kaufman is reported to have said that if Litherland writes to him he will also make representations on Viraj's behalf.

While these parliamentary machinations proceed it is im-

portant that the action is kept up.

A march has been planned by the Campaign for September 6 from Wood Green to Islington (keep an eye on the listings for further details).

The VMDC has recently been sponsored by two NUPE branches in Manchester, ASTMS Midland Health Branch and three Trades Councils (Coventry, Camden and Hackney).

'Warehouses of Death'

PROFIT RATHER THAN concern for the elderly is causing private homes for the elderly to mushroom. The number of homes increased last year by 50 per cent nationally, and doubled in London.

While the number of retired people increases every year, there have been savage cuts in the number of residential places in council homes, as well as support services like home helps and meals-on-wheels which enable them to live in their own homes.

Hospital workers are resisting the closure of hospitals for the mentally ill, mentally handicapped and long-stay elderly and the introduction of 'community care' — which means many ex-patients go to private homes and hotels.

The report published by West Midlands Council and NUPE earlier this year 'The Realities of Home Life' is providing information to trade unionists in other parts of the country campaigning to defend the existing services.

The report showed that changes in supplementary benefit rules in 1980 allowed for massive increases in DHSS payments to private homes, and gave a boost to the vultures who set up homes simply to prey on old people.

In compiling the report, qualified volunteers spent six months part-time in 14 different homes to see what they were like.

They found residents paying £120 a week for overcrowded accommodation with poor fire precautions, no social activities or therapy, and an inadequate staff which meant that unqualified people, including YTS trainees, gave medication.

In the worst, 'ill-

BY STUART CARTER

treatment, indignity and abuse are a daily occurrence and a highly profitable one.'

The only weapon councils have against unsatisfactory homes is de-registration. The report shows that proprietors of de-registered establishments can quite easily start up again under a new name, and that wholly unsuitable people can easily get homes registered.

The governments in the United States and Canada have been encouraging private rest homes long before the Tory government adopted this policy in Britain.

The results have been catastrophic, and in 1984 the Canadian Medical Society called for all private homes to be taken into the public sector.

Small proprietors have been pushed out of the market or taken over by multinationals such as Grand Metropolitan and Pritchards, firms which have been bidding for many hospital cleaning and catering contracts in Britain.

The Canadian press has dubbed the resulting homes 'warehouses of death'.

The report concludes:

CND exposes army nuclear tests Secret site in London

BY ALAN CLARK

NUCLEAR TESTS are being carried out by the army at Woolwich in south east London.

The newly-formed Greenwich CND had suspected for some months that the buildings were being used by atomic research scientists.

It took a break-in by six members of Greenwich CND, and the arrest and subsequent court appearance of one them, to make the Ministry of Defence admit that tests had been carried out for years.

The MOD said that the Atomic Research Department regularly tests materials, plastics and metals, used by the military nuclear

industry at its Woolwich Common site in Ha Ha Road.

Geraldine Brennan of Greenwich CND said that the action they took in cutting the perimeter fence had been proved right.

'It confirms our suspicions that a contribution to the nuclear arms race is being made in Greenwich's supposedly nuclear-free borough.

'And we are especially worried at the thought of radioactive material tested near several infants schools.'

Greenwich CND have been told that Greenwich Council, who have declared the Borough a nuclear-free zone, knew nothing about the nuclear tests.

'Britain must learn from the North American experience and stop the exploitation of our own elderly people and ensure that caring not profit is the priority.'

Needless to say it is up to hospital and council workers to stop the exploitation of the elderly and mentally

ill by taking action through their unions against the rundown of hospitals and council services.

The report 'The Realities of Home Life' provides good ammunition, and is available from NUPE, Civic House, 101 Sutton New Road, Birmingham B23 6RE, price £2.

LISTINGS

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.

ALTERNATIVE BOOKFAIR. New and secondhand books and pamphlets. Saturday September 20, 11 am — 5.30 pm. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

EL SALVADOR SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN — PROTEST. Saturday September 13, 12 noon, United States Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WOMEN'S DAY MEETING. Saturday August 9, 7pm. Stoke Newington Town Hall, Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16. Organised by the ANC Women's Section.

Workers Revolutionary Party
West of Scotland branch

DAY SCHOOL

'COMMUNISTS AND THE TRADE UNIONS'

Saturday August 16th, 10:30 am- 4:30 pm
City Halls, Candleriggs, Glasgow

Opened by: Dave Temple (WRP Central Committee, member of NUM Durham Mechanics)

Discussion on: Marxism and the unions... lessons of the miners' strike... the fight against the anti-union laws

Workers Revolutionary Party
West of Scotland branch

LECTURE SERIES

MARXISM AND THE WORKING CLASS TODAY

Tuesday August 19th, 7:30 pm:

'The theory of permanent revolution: its relevance today'

Tuesday September 2nd, 7:30 pm

'Trotskyists, trades unions and the Labour Party' — W. Hunter

Tuesday September 16th, 7:30 pm:

'Ireland and the national question'

Tuesday September 30th, 7:30 pm:

'The Scottish working class and its history'

Tuesday October 14th, 7:30 pm:

'The family and the struggle for socialism'

All lectures at the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, except Tuesday August 19th, when the lecture is at Partick Burgh Halls, Burgh Hall Street, off Dumbarton Road, Partick.

EXCLUSIVE: DHSS 'SUBMIT OR STARVE' LETTER**CONSCRIPTION!**

THE TORY GOVERNMENT is now ruthlessly engaged in a systematic drive to demoralise and intimidate the unemployed.

An internal DHSS circular, extracts of which we print below, shows that the 1986 re-start scheme funded by the Manpower Services Commission is nothing short of 'conscription of labour' and is to be used to drive the unemployed off the dole registers and into Community Programmes.

The whole trade union movement must now seriously consider the attitude of the TUC to the MSC.

Any illusions that any beneficial training or assistance was being offered to the youth or the long term unemployed must now have been destroyed by what the MSC is now doing throughout the country and particularly in areas of mass unemployment.

Every one of the many schemes initiated by the Tory government have failed miserably.

With the help of MSC-funded schemes, the Tories have tried sixteen different methods of calculating unemployment figures to hide the real figure of over five million.

Every scheme from 'anti-graffiti' squads to the 'Job

Start' and litter patrols has fallen flat.

In Jarrow, with the highest unemployment in Britain, where 84 people chase every job, yet another publicity campaign is to be launched in a bid to fill Community Programme places.

A serious shortfall in the number of people willing to work on the Watchman and anti-vandal and anti-graffiti squads is posing a problem for the local authority.

Applicants

This compares with an abundance of applicants for the same schemes last year.

Similar trends on other schemes for the long term unemployed have prompted the Tory government to seek

BY HUGHIE NICOL

a more direct method to force people to co-operate.

All funding for the previous pilot 'Start' programmes is now withdrawn. (This was funded by the MSC training division).

The new RESTART courses are now operating in a nationwide project funded by the Employment Division of the MSC. People who applied for START courses were self-referred and included many women returning to work after bringing up families.

RESTART attenders are referred via the Job Centres, who are in the process of interviewing all Long Term Unemployed (those out of work for over one year).

Any person who does not attend the Job Centre for the interview for RESTART when asked can have their benefit stopped for up to thirteen weeks. (The Fowler Review on social security, which received Royal Assent recently, increased the

TRADE UNIONS MUST BREAK WITH MSC

penalty from six weeks to thirteen weeks suspension).

An internal Department of Health and Social Security circular (S16/86) states:

'It is important that you maintain good liaison with RESTART teams. Regional Liaison Officers have been appointed and can be contacted if there are any problems which cannot be resolved locally.'

The document then goes on to list the legal rules that may be involved to withdraw supplementary benefit.

Interview

'RESTART teams help the Long Term Unemployed find work. People who have been unemployed over one year are asked to attend an interview. If a person fails to attend interviews, the RESTART team will notify the DHSS.

This circular explains what to do and gives advice on adjudication issues.

'The RESTART team will send the form in Appendix One to the local office if:

1. A claimant fails to attend two interviews;
2. Supplementary benefit or unemployment benefit is in payment.

'Appendix One will normally be sent direct to the local office, but may come via the Unemployment Benefit Office, if the RESTART team did not know benefit was in payment. It must be linked and dealt with urgently.

'If supplementary benefit is in payment, consider whether to terminate benefit. The legal position is that a claimant should be treated as not available for employment and his supplementary benefit refused where:

1. He fails without good cause to comply with a written notice given or sent to him by the Secretary of State requesting him to attend for interview in connection with his prospects of employment.

Withdrawn

'Supplementary benefit should be refused in this way, whether or not the claimant is required to be available for employment. If the area office decides to refuse supplementary benefit, unemployment credits will also be withdrawn. All follow up action on credits will be done by the Unemployment Benefit Office.

'If you get queries from the claimant, refer them to the Unemployment Benefit Office. If supplementary benefit is withdrawn, note the A14 "Further Action" box that the claimant must attend a RESTART interview before supplementary benefit can be reinstated.

'If a claimant requests a review and revision on the grounds that he has not yet attended for interview then arrange an appointment urgently with the RESTART

team, and give Appendix Four to the claimant.

'The RESTART team will advise you if the claimant attends. If he does, reinstate supplementary benefit from the payday on or following the day of the interview. If further claim is made, continue to refuse supplementary benefit if the claimant did not have good cause for failing to attend either of the two RESTART interviews and has not yet attended for interview.

'Claimants who choose to sign on as available for work (e.g. single parents) may be refused supplementary benefit if they fail to attend the RESTART interviews without good cause.

'A claimant may also be treated as not available for employment if, after being properly notified of a vacancy in any suitable employment, he fails without good cause to accept or apply for that situation and the situation is still vacant or open to application.

Office

'The Unemployment Benefit Office will notify the local office in the usual way if a claimant refuses a suitable job offer at a RESTART interview, or a doubt about availability may also arise at the local office as a result of a claimant's failure or unwillingness to attend RESTART interviews.'

In very direct plain language this DHSS circular has stated that attendance at RESTART interviews are compulsory, that offers of Community Programme or RESTART courses are compulsory — but more has been revealed. There is now a very close working relationship between the Job Centres, the unemployment offices and the DHSS, to control and direct the unemployed.

The reference to the Secretary of State is of great importance to all trades unionists. The Secretary of State has the power to require a person to attend for interview; his authority or directive is not appealable to a tribunal. The words used in the opening paragraph of this article are no exaggeration.

Another sinister aspect of

the new regulations both in the RESTART and in the recent Fowler Review is that sponsors for schemes may now (openly) operate them for private gain, as long as the community benefits also.

Worse yet is the emergency on South Tyneside of AMARC (TES) Ltd, the largest independent 'private' MSC-funded agency allowed to operate alongside and in competition with the local authority in running RESTART courses.

Coercion

Private agencies are not allowed to refer the unemployed to Community Programme schemes with all the coercion in the DHSS document to direct them to industry or the community.

The Tory privatisation of the unemployed and the search for profit appears as a parasitic growth in areas of mass unemployment.

RESTART is operated in the following way.

The first stage is a RESTART interview at the local job centre; the long term unemployed are sent letters requesting them to attend for interview.

Obligation

A thirty minute interview is then held where the claimant is offered at least one of eight items on the RESTART menu;

1. A suitable job;
2. A place on a training course;
3. A place in a job club;
4. A six month job start project;
5. Self-employment under the Enterprise Allowance Scheme;
6. Voluntary work;
7. A place on a Community Programme;
8. A place on a RESTART course.

None of these items actually represent any new job opportunity, but are a method of driving the unemployed off the job register and out of the unemployed statistics.

All claimants have an obligation to take any such job they are capable of doing — they may not have to seek such jobs but legally they have no right to turn down the job offered.

DEFEND THE UNEMPLOYED!

A section of the massive crowd of school students in Liverpool who joined the national school strike against YTS schemes in 1985

ANNOUNCING...**Socialist Press**

Available from Paperbacks Centres,

Hope Street Book Centre

For Postal Subscription, write to:

Socialist Press, PO Box N93,

Petersham North,

NSW 2049, Australia

International News

West Germany

SHIPBUILDING JOBS MASSACRE
REACHES NEW HEIGHTSBY OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST HALF of the jobs in West German shipbuilding have been wiped out in the last ten years as a result of the world economic crisis.

In 1975 there were 7,800 West German shipyard workers. By 1985 there were only 4,400.

Every job lost in the shipbuilding industry also means three jobs lost in the supply industry and other areas that depend on shipbuilding.

Many firms that supply the shipyards have already been forced into bankruptcy as the yards die.

At the end of 1985, the shipyard employers were celebrating one of their best years since 1985. A few months later, however, the situation has drastically deteriorated.

Last year saw 126 new orders. In the first half of 1986 there have only been 20.

Of course this means that by the end of this year at the latest the majority of yards will be without work.

A massive collapse of firms in the shipbuilding and supply industry is an inevitable consequence.

This has already started, with the Harmstorf group of yards in Flensburg unable

this month to meet its commitments and the closure of the Rickmers yard in Bremerhaven.

The employers and politicians responsible for this see the only way out of the crisis in closing down another third of the existing shipbuilding capacity.

In May the employers' association (VDS) presented a memorandum 'On the Need to Adapt Capacity and Assist a Secure Future for German Shipbuilding', demanding a further 1,000 job cuts.

At the same time the VDS demanded that the government should supply from public funds 'the means to finance cuts in capacity'.

Unemployment already peaks at 20 per cent in some coastal areas of Germany.

It could easily top 30 per cent as a result of the threatened mass sackings, since the em-

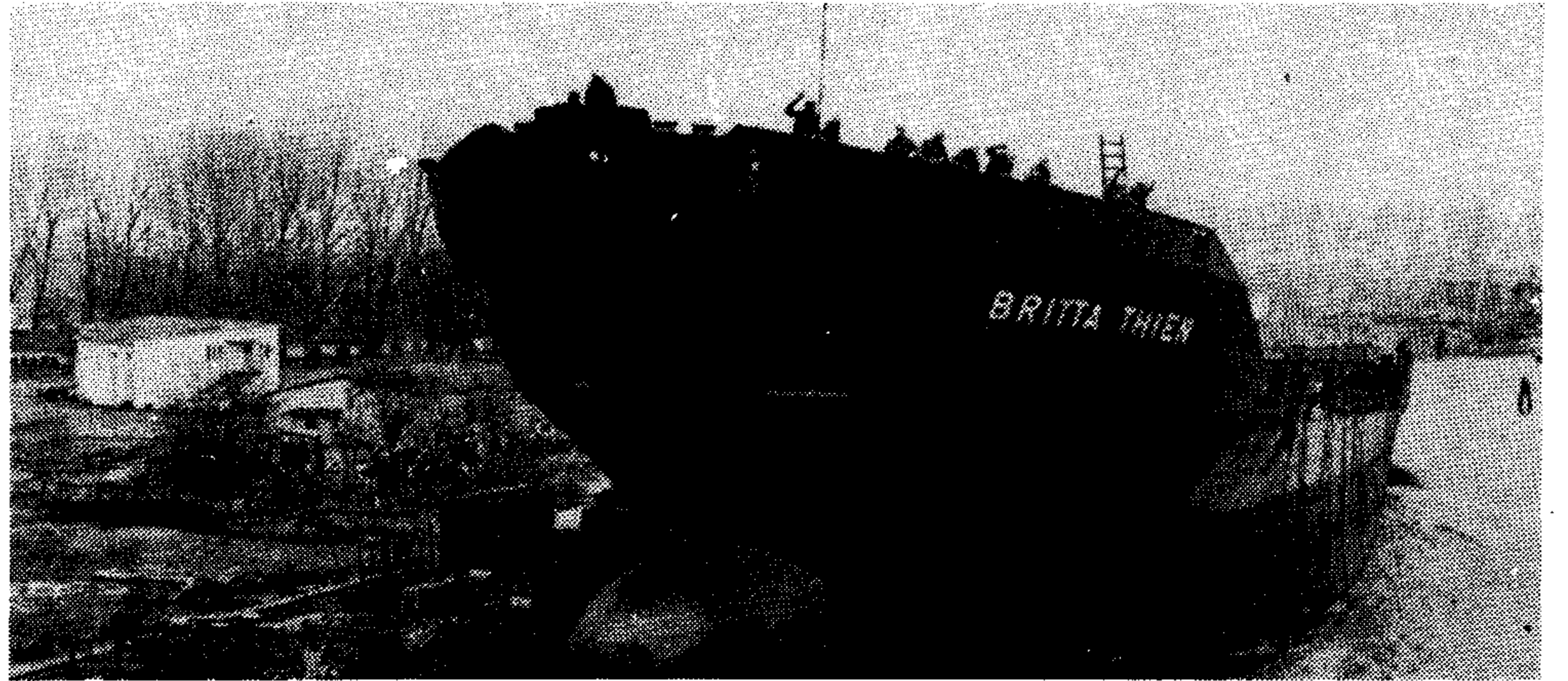
ployers are demanding not an across-the-board cut in the numbers employed but the closure of whole production sites.

Even the VDS does not exclude the total collapse of the whole German shipbuilding industry.

In February 1986 the economics ministers of the German coastal states commissioned the Bremen Institute for Maritime Economics and Logistics and the 'Treuariat' Economic Assessment Group to prepare a study on the situation in the shipyards.

The report, which has since been published, called for a small number of yards to be saved at the cost of thousands of jobs.

It recommended that new starts on freighters should be cut by 'at least 30 per cent'. Of course, the shipbuilding employers are to be



The last ship ever launched at the Rickmers yard in Bremerhaven

'economically compensated' for the closure of production units and the destruction of jobs.

The plans of the leadership of the trade union, Industriegewerkschaft Metall, to defend the threatened jobs are thoroughly inappropriate.

Instead of fighting for a broad mobilisation of all those affected, they are pointing to the 'Swedish

model' and are calling for restructuring measures with the aim of creating substitute jobs in energy supply, environmental protection, waste recycling and, last but not least, urban renewal!

This utopian conception could have flowed straight from the pen of the German ecology party, the 'Greens'.

Shipyard workers cannot expect any help from the Social Democratic leaders either.

trade union and Social Democratic leaders, who are extremely concerned, on their own account, to prevent a mobilisation and fight back by the workers.

In connection with the plans to wipe out thousands more jobs in shipbuilding, it should be recalled that it was the workers in the HDW yard in Hamburg and the AG Weser yard in Bremen who expressed a new consciousness in the working class in embryo form by occupying their yards.

These occupations, carried out against the wishes of the trade union leadership, ended in defeat because of isolation and lack of support from the unions.

New disputes are on the agenda before the end of the year. The decisive question will be whether workers have drawn the necessary lessons from past events.

Those events showed that jobs cannot be saved by mass demonstrations and isolated occupations alone.

What is required is the organisation of the collective resistance of the whole working class against the existing system.

That is why shipyard workers must demand from their trade union the organisation of appropriate militant measures in that direction.

From the point of view of the Federal parliamentary elections, the disputes over the defence of jobs in the yards will play an important role, since it is the working class which has the power to bring down the conservative Kohl government.

Alliance

Johannes Rau, the SDP contender for Federal Chancellor, is eagerly trying to renew the 'Konzertierte Aktion' type of class collaboration and is seeking a common alliance between employers, trade unions and politicians under the slogan of 'Jobs for All'.

Militant action by the working class would not suit his plans at all. The most important thing for him is that the employers know 'how important social peace is to them as a factor of production' (to quote his own words from a newspaper interview).

The latest attacks by the employers and the conservative CDU government on the social gains and rights won by the working class prove in any case that capital is on the offensive against the working class.

The employers have long since crossed 'social peace' off the agenda because of economic conditions and, in their attacks on the working class, are profiting from the defensive attitude of the

his role in the Russian revolution.

They have yet to discuss what he said on the defeat of the 1927 Chinese Revolution.

However, the publication of Trotskyist literature in China — something no other Stalinist regime, 'liberal' or otherwise has dared permit — is bound to open wider discussion.

Tentative

The bureaucracy's tentative moves towards greater intellectual freedom — mainly intended to encourage scientific research and assist modernisation — is having some political spin-off.

Zhu Tingguan says in his review, 'we will need to be courageous in dealing with

theoretical problems; we must dare to seek truth from the facts; we must dare to take some risks; we must not be afraid of making mistakes and we must not worry about sarcastic comments.'

What remains to be seen is whether the regime will allow its intellectuals to be so daring once there is any risk of the debate spreading beyond intellectual circles to the mass of workers.

Nevertheless, the Chinese publication of works by Trotsky and Trotskyists is a bit of welcome news. And Zhu Tingguan's call for courage in seeking truth (which the so-called 'Trotskyists' of the Healy clique would shudder at!) is deserving of some applause.

● Source: 'Socialist Alternatives', 22 Charles Street, Oxford



Auctioning off the stock at the Rickmers yard

TROTSKY'S
WORKS TO BE
PUBLISHED
IN CHINA

WORKS BY Leon Trotsky, including his classic study of Soviet bureaucracy 'The Revolution Betrayed', are being published in China, according to reports.

The Chinese Communist Party's historians, once bound to an almost religiously Stalinist viewpoint, are being allowed to make some reappraisals.

The magazine 'Shijie Lishi' (World History) recently carried a review by Zhu Tingguan of a new book by Party member Li Xianrong, 'A Critical Biography of Trotsky', acknowledging for the first time Trotsky's role in the October Revolution and civil war.

The reviewer says 'breakthroughs of this sort are of great importance not only for the field of world history.

'The questions of the victory of socialism in one country, permanent revolution, the question of socialist

accumulation and its tempo, the methods of socialist transformation and construction, and in particular the historical experience of the inner-party struggle in the USSR, are all of enormous contemporary importance.'

As the journal 'Socialist Alternatives' notes in reporting this, so far the Chinese moves towards reassessing Trotsky have been limited to

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

Boycott the apartheid state

DUNNES STRIKERS LEAD THE WAY

Interview by
Lynn Beaton

WHILE GOVERNMENTS around the world debate the pros and cons of imposing sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa and while the TUC mouths intentions but takes no decisive action, eleven shopworkers in Dublin celebrated the second anniversary of their strike for boycotting South African goods. I refer of course to the Dunnes shopworkers and their decisive and courageous stand against the apartheid regime.

The dispute started in response to an instruction from the 1984 Conference of the Irish Distributive & Administration Trade Union calling on members to boycott South African goods and promising support for any members who took action.

The Dunnes workers discussed the instruction and decided unanimously to carry out the boycott and refuse to handle any of the South African foods sold in the store.

I interviewed Cathryn O'Reilly, one of the Dunnes strikers, during her recent visit to London to support a lobby of the TUC General Council to demand trade union sanctions. She talked about the strike and how it had affected those involved in it.

'THE DAY after we told management we were called into the office two at a time and asked why we were boycotting South African goods.

'They asked us what had South Africa ever done for us and were we prepared to put our jobs on the line for people thousands of miles away.

'We said we were going to continue. Nine people backed out and eleven of us said we were going to continue.

'We were placed on checkouts with management standing behind us, just waiting for a conflict to come up.

'That day there were hardly any customers in. Usually we would be put on the floor to pack, but we were all left on the checkouts all the time. We were bored to tears but we still weren't allowed off.'

The following day, the test came. A customer approached the checkouts with a South African grapefruit in her trolley.

'She hovered between two registers and then went to Mary's. Mary politely explained that we couldn't handle South African goods because of our union's policy on South Africa and because of the system in South Africa.

'The customer said that was no problem, but the manageress took the

grapefruit and told Mary that she had five minutes to reconsider.

'When she said that she'd continue with the boycott they said they had no option but to suspend her until she changed her mind.'

Mary clocked out and the other ten clocked out with her.

The union put two compromises to the company: either the workers would handle South African goods, provided the company agreed not to order any more, or they would go back into the store with South African goods there, provided that they weren't obliged to handle them.

Picket

The company refused both offers and so the workers put a picket on the store.

Cathryn explained: 'at first we didn't really know very much at all about South Africa but we had to learn quickly. We learned mostly from people who'd been exiled from South Africa.

'The first day we put on the picket, the people who'd backed down walked past us. We all said, "Good morning", and they ignored us.

'Later that day they started throwing used tea-bags and food scraps out of

the the window of the canteen at us.

'Most of them had been our friends and they started shouting out in the street, personal things that we'd told them. We tried to ignore them and realised that they were just scabs.

'Our union backed us from the beginning but the Irish Council of Trade Unions gave us some placards for our picket and then left us to get on with it.

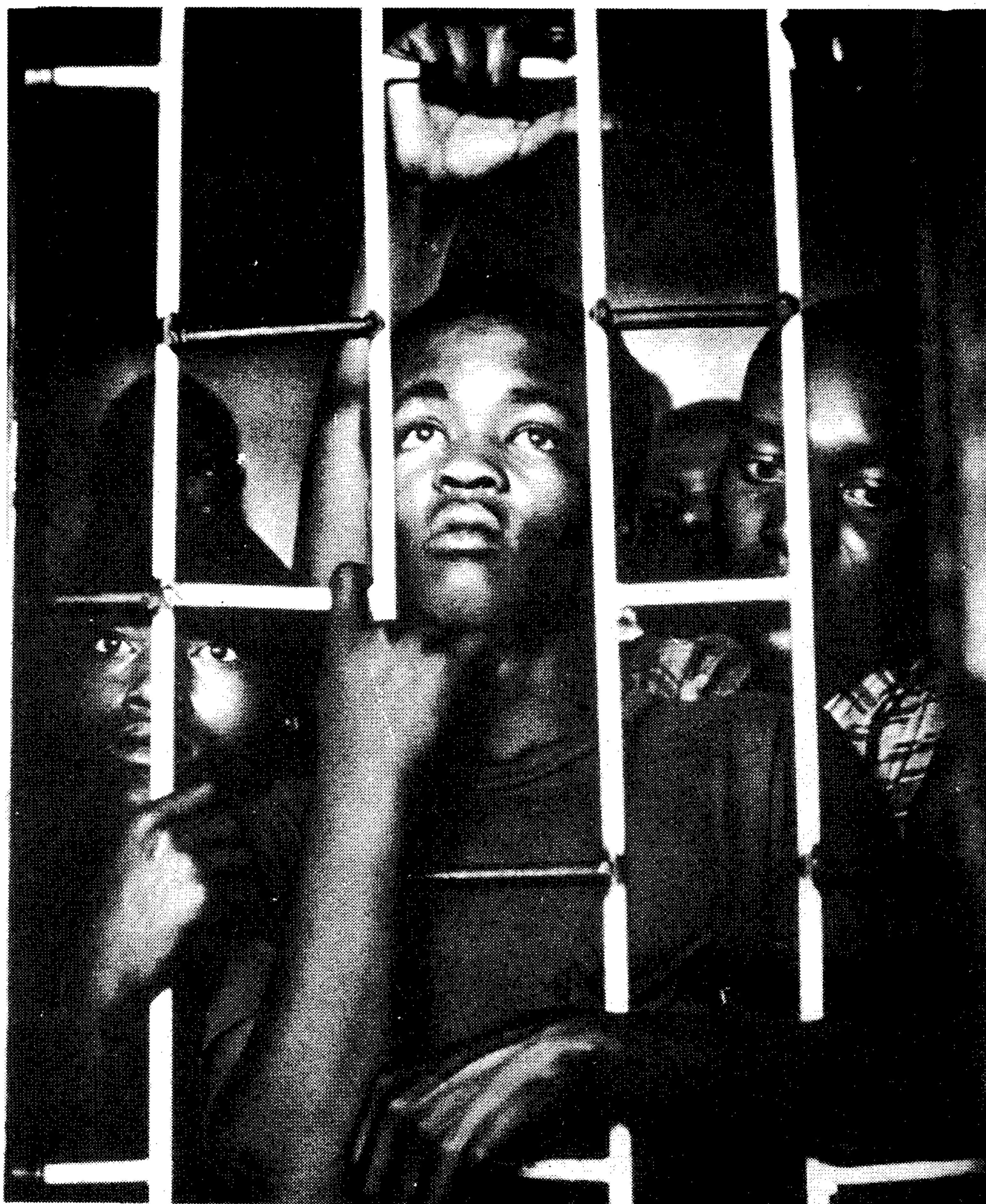
'We asked them for support but they told us that they were supporting the British miners. Even though there were eleven of us they used that as an excuse.'

At first the company refused to talk to the union, Cathryn said. 'After three months there was a meeting between the union and the management of our store.

'They said they'd make a compromise when the customers didn't want the goods, when the competitors stopped selling South African goods and when the Government put a ban on them.

'It was obvious that customers didn't want South African goods. Since we'd put on our picket, business had fallen by 60 per cent.

'As for the competitors, there were other stores that had taken South African goods off their shelves.



'As for waiting for the Government to put a ban on, we'd written to Garret Fitzgerald who had been a member and sponsor of the Anti-Apartheid movement for two years.

'He referred our letter to Roy Quinn, the Minister for Labour, who looked into it for nine months and then referred it to the Labour Court.

'The Labour Court decided that we'd made our point and it was now time to go back to work.

'But we didn't come out to make a point — we came out to have the right to refuse to handle South African goods.'

Two of the strikers went to meet Bishop Tutu in Eng-

land when he was on his way to collect his Nobel prize. They asked him to appeal to the churches in Ireland to support boycotts against South Africa.

Tutu said that he did not think he ought to have to appeal to the churches, that it should have been second nature to them.

However he did invite the Dunnes strikers to visit South Africa and go on a tour with the South African Council of Churches.

The strikers raised the money to cover the costs of the visit in the trade union movement and through collections on the picket line.

They hoped to visit the homelands, talk to black

trade unionists about how the boycott was helping them and to meet Winnie Mandela.

However the South African authorities refused them entry and they had to fly straight back.

Cathryn explained that they were held up at Heathrow for three hours.

They were told that British Airways were refusing to take them because it would mean risking the plane being impounded.

An official from the South African Embassy arrived with letters denying the strikers entry to South Africa, but they refused to speak to him because he was an

Zola Budd runs on blood!

'ZOLA BUDD runs on blood' — this was the message from Tyneside Anti-Apartheid movement at the Kodak Classic Games at Gateshead Stadium on Tuesday night.

Protesters at the South African runner's inclusion in the games drew attention to the decision by the Commonwealth Games Federation to exclude Zola Budd from the Edinburgh games because she failed to satisfy the British residency qualification laid down by the federation.

This precedent was overturned by the Amateur Athletic Association as Budd was allowed to participate in the Kodak Classic meeting sporting a Great Britain track suit.

Budd had to be secretly smuggled into the stadium instead of arriving with the rest of the competitors.

However this subterfuge was to no avail as Budd still only managed to come last in

a field of four.

Demonstrators were incensed when members of the National Front wearing 'Zapp 'em Zola' tee shirts began taking individual photos of the protesters.

Brian White of Anti-Apartheid told Workers Press: 'Some people ask why politics should be brought into sport but in South Africa blacks are not allowed to participate in sport.

Died

'People should also realise that in South Africa many more children under five died of malnutrition than did in the famine of Ethiopia.

'Zola Budd is not interested in becoming a British national. She would ruin for anyone who gave her a passport.

'Gateshead council must take responsibility for allow-

ing Budd to attend this event tonight. They should be supporting the sports boycott of South Africa.'

David Clelland, Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, approached the large and noisy demonstration that was taking place outside the stadium, after congratulating the demonstrators in their protest saying he supported their stand totally.

He then proceeded to enter the stadium. This hypocritical behaviour was also evident at the weekend with a visit to the Edinburgh games by Neil Kinnock in what he described as a private visit.

After his daily beatings in the press and television, crying out for sanctions against South Africa, the Labour leader in this sanctions busting exercise has demonstrated clearly his lack of commitment to the oppressed of South Africa. Fiona Nicol

Dunnes striker Cathryn O'Reilly talks to Workers Press

official of the racist regime.

Eventually the plane departed, seven hours late, with the strikers on board.

'When we arrived in Johannesburg the next morning we saw lots of guards around and we assumed that was normal. In the queue to go through customs we were asked if we were the group travelling from Dublin.

'They brought us up six flights of stairs. I can remember there were only about four security men when we started and the more we went up the stairs the more security were joining us.

'At one stage there were 32 armed guards around us.'

After being thoroughly searched, the strikers were escorted back onto the plane.

'As we left, we just said, "We'll be back, when South Africa is free."

'By this time the strike was a year old.

Pressure

'We continued with the picket; we continued to put pressure on the church; we continued to put pressure on the government.

'We had had a lot of support from British trade unions and I think that shamed the Irish TUC into giving us support, which they finally did.

'But at first everybody wanted to cop out, everybody wanted to say that it wasn't their problem.

'We went to dockers and they said that they couldn't just refuse to handle South African goods because the next week they'd have someone asking them to ban Chilean goods and then Russian etc.

'They said they would impound goods for Dunnes and they did, but Dunnes started to get their goods in from Belfast.

'In December 1985, the business figures for our store were down by 80 per cent.

'The Government asked if we'd lift our pickets to give them a chance to work on sanctions. They said that they'd give us the results by the end of March 1986.

'In March this year the Irish Government agreed to introduce agricultural sanctions next January.

'Our store only handles food and so they think agricultural sanctions will be enough.

Consideration

'I think they took us into consideration when they did that.

'So we'll stay on strike until January and when we do go back to work, we're going to campaign because we should have complete sanctions, not just cosmetic sanctions.'

I asked Cathryn how she thought the strike had changed her.

'It's changed everyone, it's opened so many doors. I mean before the strike we didn't know much about South Africa.

'I knew black people had been discriminated against because of the colour of their skin, but I never thought what I could do that might help them.

'I was like most people, you just work from Monday to Friday and you get your wages and wonder what you're going to spend it on.

'Everything else that's going on around you doesn't seem to involve you, but once you open your eyes to a

lot of things going on you realise that it does involve you.

'It even opens your eyes to the injustices going on in your own country. For example a lot of the things that are going on in the North of Ireland are the same things that are happening in South Africa.

'People have said to me that we shouldn't have Sinn Fein on our picket line because they're men of violence, but they're no different to the ANC. They've tried a peaceful struggle for so long it didn't work.

'There were children going out and fighting with their hands and they were getting plastic bullets. I mean there's only so much people can take.

'This strike hasn't really changed my attitude to the North but it's made me try to get people in the South to realise what's happening there at the moment.

'Some of us have become involved in a stop strip search campaign, we've campaigned for the Repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act (the ban on Republicans speaking on radio

movement and different religious groups.

'Anti-Apartheid did invite us to their annual conference and they did award us with certificates and Mandela medallions, so they have been good to us, but I think they could have been better.'

I asked Cathryn if they had any idea where the strike would lead them when they first started it.

'No, never in a million years. I can't say why we decided to take the action, we just did, we never really thought about it.

'If someone had said to me two years ago, that I'd be going on strike for people thousands of miles away and that I was going to get up at public meetings and go to South Africa I'd have laughed at them, because I would have thought, there's no way.

'I mean I would always go up and fight with any manager and I'd fight for what I believe is right, but I could never imagine myself getting up at a conference or something.

'Now I've addressed enormous meetings at Labour Party conferences, spoken

congratulating us and thanking us for the action we'd taken.

'He then went on to talk about his wife and daughter who'd been killed in South Africa by a parcel bomb and he described the way they were found, just a mass of pulp.

'This man had spent twenty years in in prison in South Africa and he had lost his daughter and his wife and he was congratulating us.

'We felt that we'd done nothing, but it was really touching, everyone came out with a lump in their throat and crying. It made us all more determined.'

Cathryn also had lots of suggestions for the sort of action people could take while we wait for the TUC to impose sanctions.

'Everybody you talk to knows how wrong the system

CATHRYN O'REILLY

in South African is, but it's not just good enough to talk about it, it's well and truly time to do something.

'You don't have to be employed, you can complain in your local supermarket if they have South African goods on sale and you can ask them to take them off sale.'

'In colleges or schools you can ask them to stop selling South African products in the canteen.

'If you do work, you can refuse to handle South African products and make sure that your union has a policy on South Africa and are prepared to support you if you do take action.'

STOCKPORT BAN VOTE

'NO FOOD OR COMMODITIES of any type from South Africa' voted Stockport council on July 22.

This was part of a ten-point model plan adopted by Stockport council against apartheid.

It also included disinvestment and non-involvement in any cultural or sporting links with apartheid.

In another move against South Africa, Grassroots, a well-known left bookshop in

Manchester, is refusing to accept any cheques drawn on Barclays.

They are advising customers who bank with Barclays to change their accounts to another bank.

Grassroots say that the only banks not involved in South Africa are the Co-op Bank and Trustee Savings Bank, but it is Barclays that has the greatest involvement in South Africa.

Martin Ralph

or television) and got involved in a lot of other things.

'At the beginning of this strike I didn't even know there was an Anti-Apartheid movement.

'At the time they were very small, they only had four branches. Now they have 30 or something, that's how aware people in Ireland have become.

'At the beginning not many of the Anti-Apartheid people came down to the picket line.

'They gave us financial donations but it seemed as if they were a lot of middle-class people, just involved in a nice cause. They had their name on a sponsorship list, but they weren't prepared to get out and do anything.

'I mean there are people in Anti-Apartheid that do get out and do things, but there are them who sit back in their armchair and say, "oh, isn't it shocking!" and that's about as far as it goes.

'At first the AA thought it was really great that someone had taken action about South Africa, but when it started going on I don't think they were too pleased with us.

'None of us were members of Anti-Apartheid and we did what we wanted to do whether they thought it was right or not.

'They had no control over us; I think some of the action we took, they wouldn't agree with.

'At first the Irish Anti-Apartheid didn't even ask us to meetings or anything.

'The British did but in Ireland all the meetings we did were through the trade union

at an International Women's conference. Now these are things that we've all done.'

The strike has obviously been very solid for two years and I asked Cathryn whether that solidarity had ever been threatened.

'No, I mean, we have had our arguments and if one person was down the rest would rally round and try to pick them up.

'Sometimes you get down, and you think, God, nobody gives a shit about us, we're just left here.

'It was a hard time for us when the Labour Court told us to go back to work but we knew we wouldn't go back.

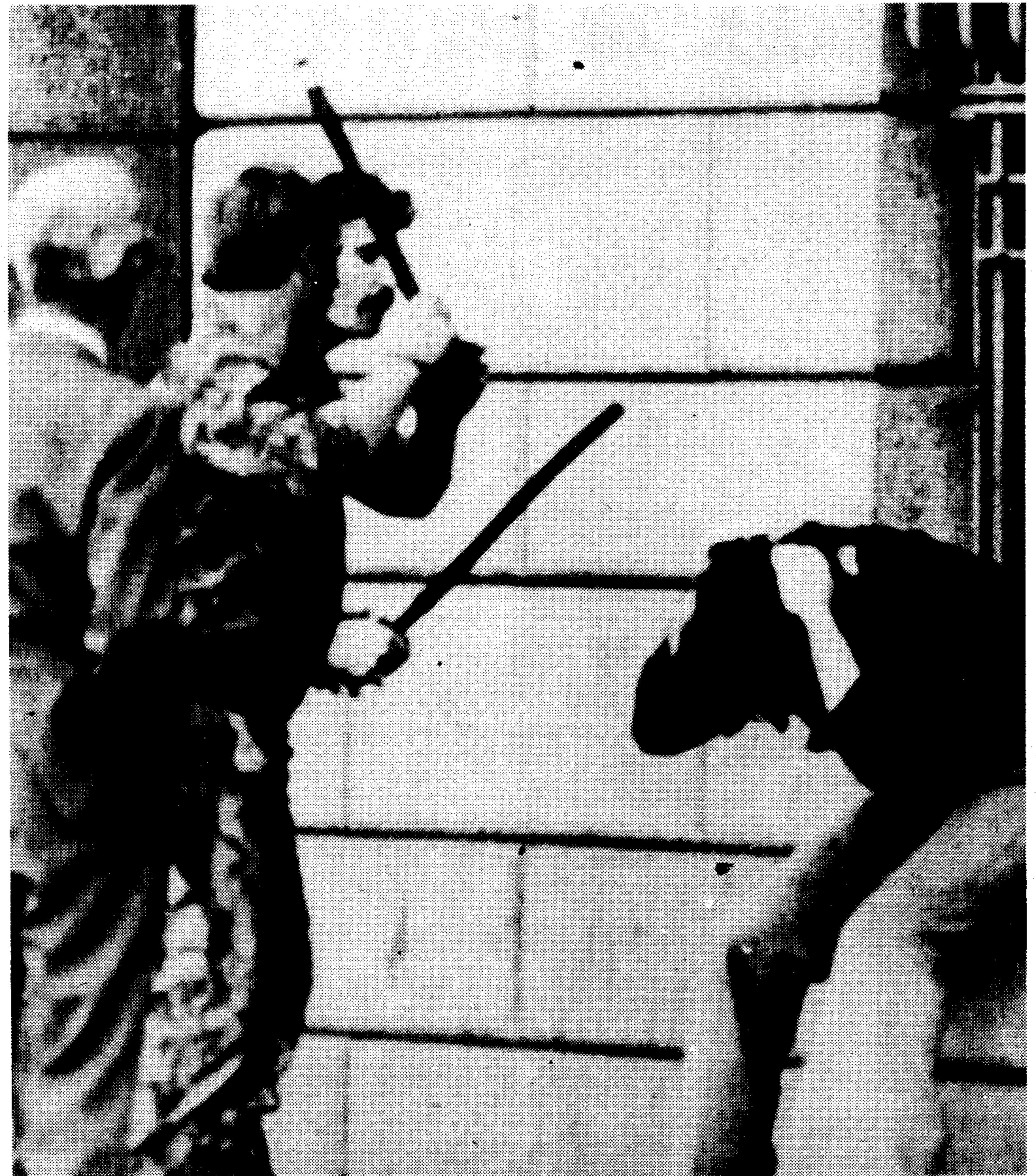
'Even if our union had told us to go back to work we would have stayed out, that's how strong we felt about it.

'I think the miners helped us as well. We met miners at the beginning, they used to come over to raise money and they'd stand on our picket line with us and we'd joke with them about who'd been out the longest.

Strong

'When they went back to work, we were real sad. When we found out about it we were in bits, but it made us strong too, we said "they're not going to do that to us."

'At other times we were given real encouragement. I remember Marius Schoone came to Ireland when our strike was only two months old, he got up and started



MPs' links with apartheid

NEARLY A QUARTER of Tory MPs have company interests in the apartheid regime, and donations to the Tory Party from apartheid-linked companies amount to £1.2 million, says the latest issue of *Labour Research*.

Cabinet minister Tom King is one of the 71 Tory MPs who are directors, shareholders, parliamentary consultants or advisers to 85 companies which directly or indirectly have a financial stake in South Africa.

Babcock and Pritchards pay the lowest wages in South Africa; three Tory MPs are connected with them.

The Labour Research report lists all the MPs with South African business links. Three of them are Labour MPs.

Dr. John Cunningham is an adviser to Albright and Wilson and Dow, two che-

mical companies whose US parents have South African subsidiaries.

Gordon Oakes, MP for Halton, is a consultant to Tate and Lyle, which has a subsidiary in the apartheid state.

Roy Mason, former Tory Home Secretary and MP for Barnsley Central, is a consultant for Imperial Tobacco, part of Hanson Trust which has six subsidiaries and one associate company employing 1,652.

Crawley Branch WRP

Day Schools

Sunday, August 17 'Historical Materialism'
Sunday, September 21 'Political Economy' Geoff Pilling

10.30am — 4.30pm

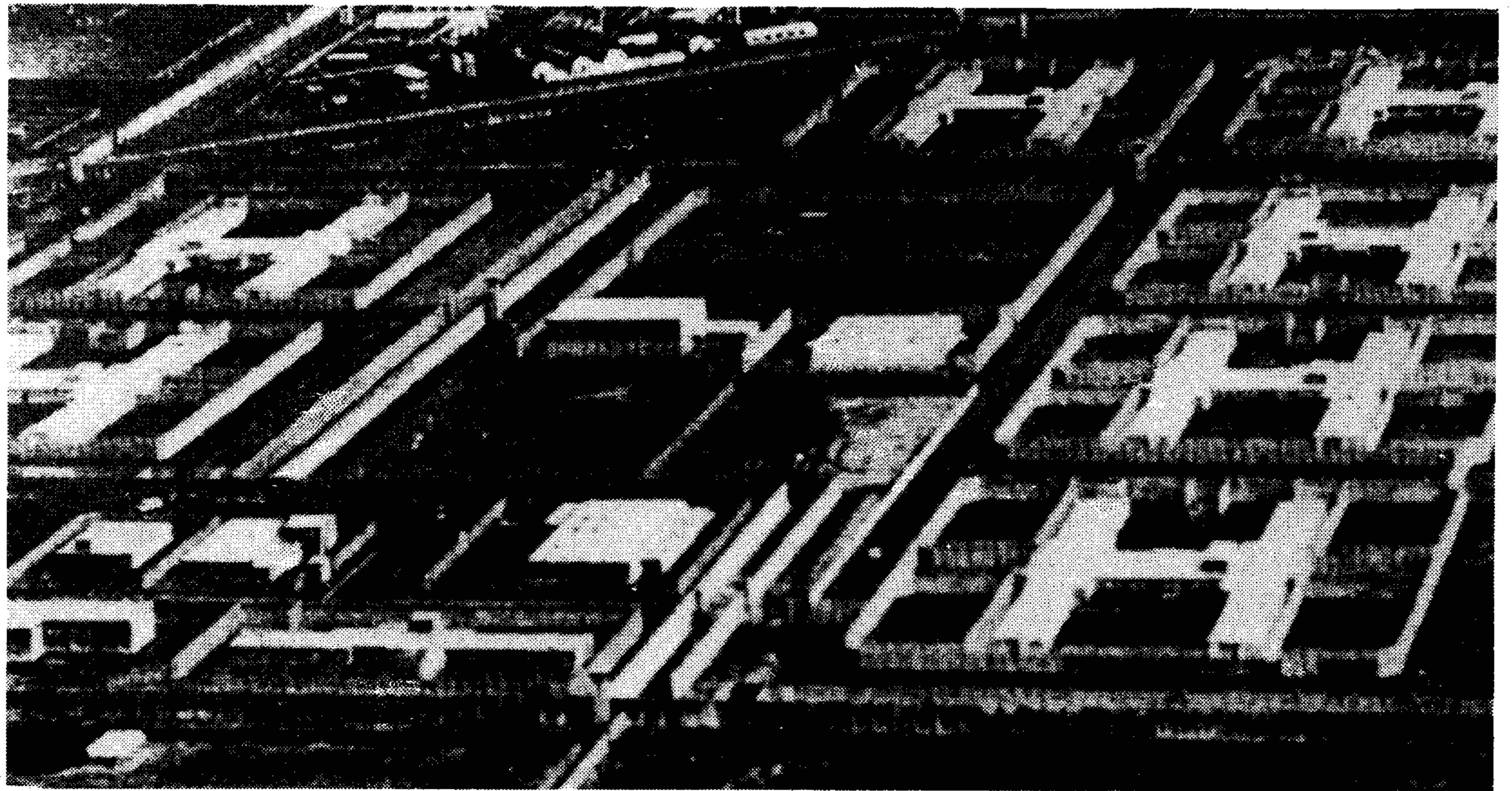
Ifield Community Centre, Ifield Drive, Crawley

Entrance: £1 per day

Creche and refreshments available

August 9, 1971:**Report from
Sarah Hannigan**

Torture again became official government policy

Fifteen years since internment in the six counties

FLASHBACK: 1,836 men and women were interned without trial in Frongoch Concentration camp in north Wales after the 1916 Easter Rising. The nationalists used the opportunity to organise, and when they were released later in the year they went back to strengthen the liberation struggle in Ireland

FOR fifteen years, internment without trial has been a mainstay of British government 'rule' in the north of Ireland.

On August 9, 1971, the occupation army rounded up 300 men in dawn raids in Armagh, Belfast, Cookstown, Derry and other Catholic areas throughout the Six Counties.

This was done under the dubious legality of the Special Powers Act.

Hundreds more were interned in the next few days and by the end of the year nearly 3,000 people had been jailed without charges.

It was to be years before some were released.

As the shocked families waited anxiously for news of husbands, sons, fathers and grandfathers, it became clear that 'suspects' who had been dragged from their homes were being subjected to horrifying and degrading tortures in the detention centres at Girdwood Barracks, Crumlin Road, Magilligan Camp, Ballykintar and the infamous Palace Barracks, Hollywood.

Newspaper reports painted the allegations of torture as Republican propaganda and at one stage claimed detainees had burned themselves with cigarette ends and inflicted bruises on themselves!

Yet over the next five years the British government paid out over half a million pounds in compensation for injuries sustained at the hands of the police and the army.

In 1977, the European Commission on Human Rights found the British government guilty of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment.

A year later in Strasbourg the European Court of Human Rights, after much pressure from London, modified the verdict by dropping the 'torture' decision on a technicality.

Yet the Court found Britain's army of occupation guilty on the following counts:

● Using 'sensory deprivation' interrogation techniques'

● Hooding suspects, harassing them with noise, depriving them of food and drink in breach of Article 3 of the Human Rights Convention banning torture

● Establishing such torture as an officially-approved 'administrative practice'; this was in response to official suggestions that the beatings and brutalities were the action of irresponsible soldiers who had acted outside their orders

● Obstructing the Court's Commission of Investigation over its four years of hearings.

In fact, the sanitised reports from Strasbourg fail to describe fully the terror which faced internees when they were rounded up.

All the raids were conducted between four and six in the morning; men were not allowed to dress properly — those who did manage to find their shoes had them removed again when they were lined up outside the so-called 'interrogation' centres.

Then, handcuffed or with their hands tied behind their backs, they were marched inside, personal details were taken and they were made to sit bolt upright for hours on end.

Any communication attempt was punished by severe beating with rifle butts and kicking, usually administered by military police.

Next stage of the 'softening up' procedure was the helicopter treatment. A suspect was dragged/frogmarched to a waiting helicopter, blindfolded to disorientate him, taken up into the air and then, when he thought he was high in the sky, was pushed out and made to crawl back into the holding centre.

A local 'obstacle course' was described repeatedly by men who had been taken to Crumlin Road.

They had been forced to run barefoot or crawl over broken glass, rough stones and a rubbish heap while being batoned, kicked and bitten by dogs.

After a night in a stinking cell, the real 'interrogation' began. Those selected for this treatment were made to stand for hours on end in the search position with arms and legs spreadeagled.

When they collapsed, they were beaten until they stood up again. In some cases men were given a pair of overalls and a bag put over their heads and kept unchanged for up to 48 hours at a time.

This further refinement was accompanied by the 'white noise' treatment which totally confused and disorientated detainees.

The brutalities were all the time accompanied by outspoken death threats, insults and racial abuse.

Of course, it was no accident of misplaced enthusiasm on the part of British troops that the torture was inflicted and is still being inflicted in the north of Ireland today.

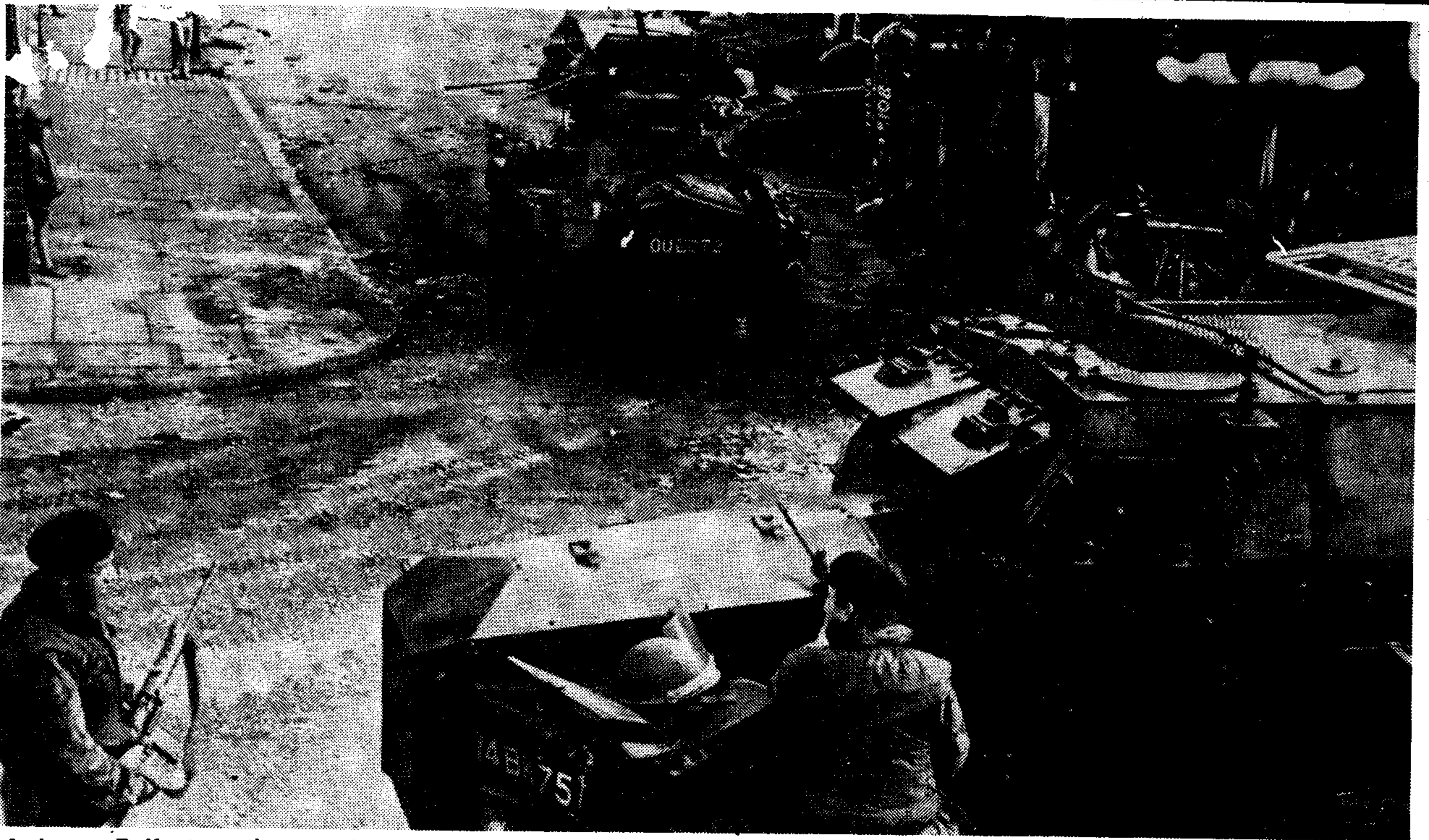
Five months before internment in 1971 there was a secret meeting in Belfast between senior British intelligence officers and members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch to discuss the most effective way of obtaining intelligence on the IRA.

The British officers were from the English Intelligence Centre, a top-secret military establishment which, as Peter Taylor points out in 'Beating The Terrorists', was 'the storehouse of the experience the British had gained in coun-

MANCHESTER IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE**PUBLIC MEETING****Free the Guildford Four!****August 27, 7.30pm****Conference Hall****Town Hall, Albert Square****MANCHESTER****Speakers: Liz Hill, sister of Paul Hill
plus a speaker from MISC**



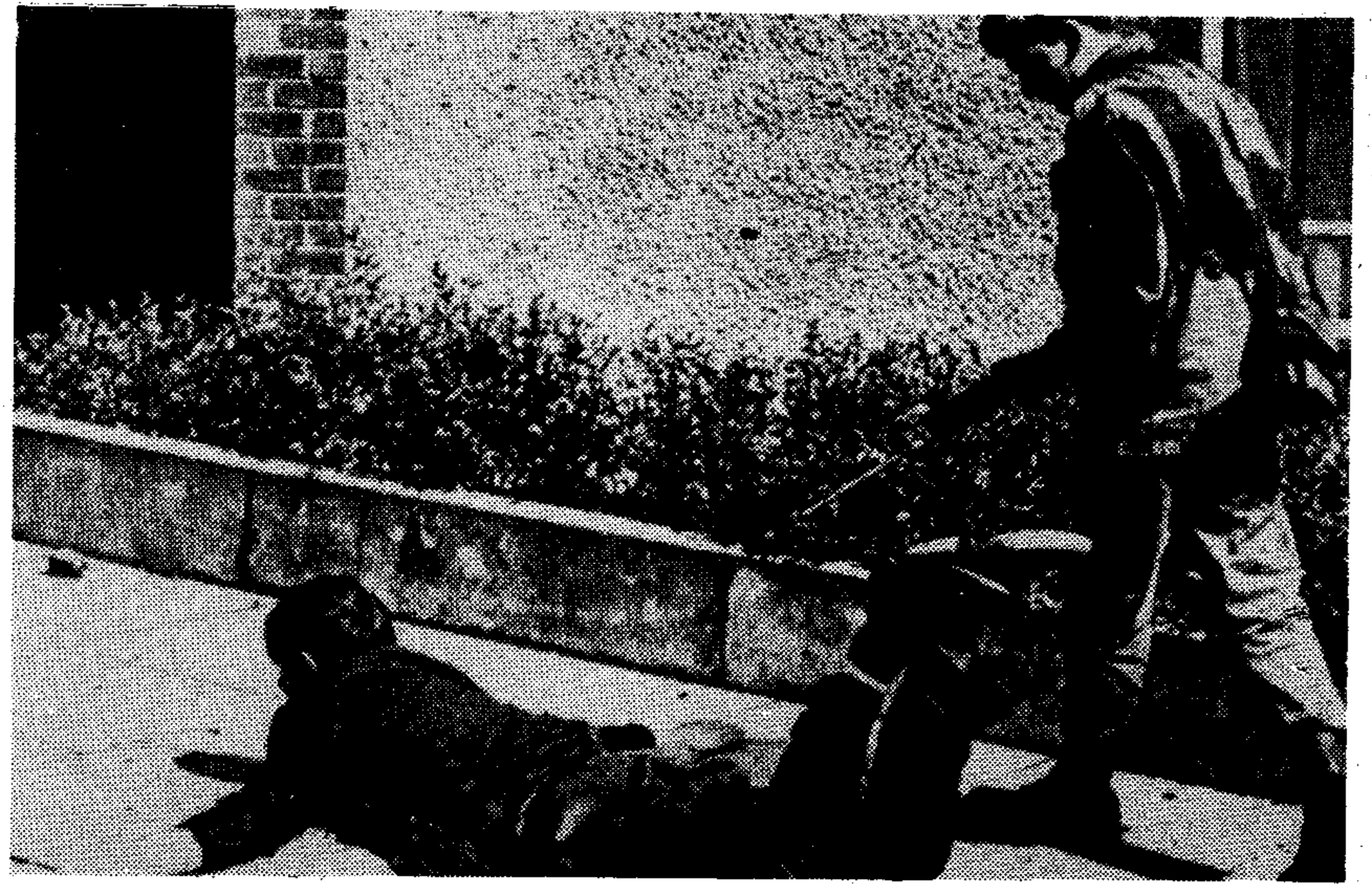
Paras smashing down doors in the Markets area of Belfast in 1971



Ardoyne, Belfast, on the morning of August 10, 1971, after the initial round-up



Prisoners were first tortured, then chained in batches of six and airlifted by helicopter onto HMS Maidstone on Belfast's dockside



A youth arrested for rioting in immediate aftermath of the introduction of Internment

ter-insurgency operations in her colonies in the post-war years.

'The interrogation techniques which the army had used against insurgents in the colonies which fought for their independence — Kenya, Malaya, Cyprus and Aden — were never published or written down.

'It was the English Intelligence Centre which received and transmitted them orally to others.

'The "five techniques" of interrogation taught at the Centre consisted of hooding the subject, subjecting him to a high-pitched noise, making him stand against the wall and depriving him of sleep and proper diet — all classic techniques of sensory deprivation.'

It was the Heath Tory government which first used these methods in the Six

Counties, but it was a Labour government which defended their use.

Former Labour Attorney-General Sam Silkin told the Strasbourg Court that ill-treatment of suspects had ceased.

It was generally agreed that the European Court overturned the torture verdict primarily as a result of Silkin's testimony.

When some of the original detainees came together at a press conference in Dublin in January 1978 to comment on the revised verdict, all were unanimous that Castlereagh Interrogation Centre had taken on the mantle of Palace Barracks as Europe's torture centre.

In fact, it was while Roy Mason was Secretary of State for Northern Ireland that systematic and sustained abuse of detainees be-

came the main plank of British policy for containing the IRA.

It was also the period during which Special Category status for Republican prisoners-of-war was abolished and the policy of criminalisation introduced.

This led eventually to numerous hunger-strikes and the deaths of Bobby Sands and nine other prisoners in Long Kesh in 1980.

Within months of Silkin's assurances to the European Court, the Labour government was presented with a report from Amnesty International detailing continuous assaults on prisoners undergoing interrogation at Castlereagh and Gough Barracks.

Two police doctors subsequently provided their own evidence of injuries sustained by men undergoing

questioning — these related to nearly 200 cases from 1977 to 1979.

Kevin Hannaway who was jailed for five years after the internment swoop of 1971 — without ever being convicted — pointed out in 1978 that under the no-jury Diplock courts, at least 80 per cent of convictions were based on signed statements obtained after 'interrogation'.

In spite of repeatedly denying that torture was still in daily use in the north of Ireland, the Labour government was eventually forced into establishing an enquiry.

The Bennet report was published in March 1979 amid a smear campaign against one of the police doctors who had provided evidence of long-term brutality.

Its conclusions led to immediate denunciations of Britain from America and a

ban on the sale of US guns to the RUC.

Within two weeks the Labour government had fallen, its Lib-Lab pact in ruins and its wage-cutting policies shattered.

The General Election that followed brought Margaret Thatcher to power and in the north of Ireland a new set of policies was established.

This has taken the form of the supergrass system under which prisoners are detained for lengthy periods on the perjured evidence of an alleged accomplice.

If one set of charges is thrown out of court, then the 'word' of another informer can put a prisoner in detention immediately.

The supergrass, his task completed, is provided with a new identity, a false passport and thousands of pounds to establish a new life out-

side the Six Counties.

As the Thatcher government does its level best to uphold apartheid South Africa — while mouthing vague denunciations of its policing methods — the leader of the British TUC is giving 'advice' to the African National Congress.

This is the same Norman Willis who refused to back the miners in their fight and who over the past 15 years has turned a blind eye to atrocities in the Six Counties.

The TUC and the Tories, like the Healyite rump 'leaders', suffer from the British chauvinist disease — the further from home, the more militant you can afford to be in supporting national struggle.

When its on the doorstep, it must be stamped on no matter what the cost.

These guilty men . . .



EDWARD HEATH: his government rounded up hundreds of prisoners and was the first to use sensory deprivation, with hoods and 'white noise'



ROY MASON: Labour Home Secretary who continued the systematic torture of Republicans, and abolished 'special category' status to criminalise the prisoners



SAM SILKIN: Labour Attorney General persuaded the European Court in Strasbourg that the government was not torturing prisoners

THE MOSCOW

1936: Stalin directs the murder of the Bolshevik Old Guard

AMONG the crimes of Stalin the wiping out of the Bolshevik old guard, which culminated in the assassination of Trotsky, holds a place of ignominy.

While many were liquidated with a bullet in the back of the neck in the Lubyanka prison or perished in labour camps in Siberia or the frozen north without benefit of a trial, a selected number were indicted and tried in the glare of worldwide publicity.

The first of these show trials took place in Moscow in August 1936, the accused being Zinoviev and Kamenev and nine other old Bolsheviks and five unknowns, obvious tools or agents of the GPU.

The indictment, published without any warning on August 15, 1936 accused the sixteen of having formed a 'terrorist centre' with the object of killing Stalin and a number of other leading figures of the regime.

The whole plot was said to have been master-minded from abroad by Leon Trotsky and his son Sedov, who were thus the principal accused in their absence.

It was evident from the court proceedings that the accused had been interrogated intensively before the trial began. In fact it only lasted five days.

No appeal

The accused confessed their guilt and were hustled from the court room almost directly to the firing squad. There was no question of an appeal.

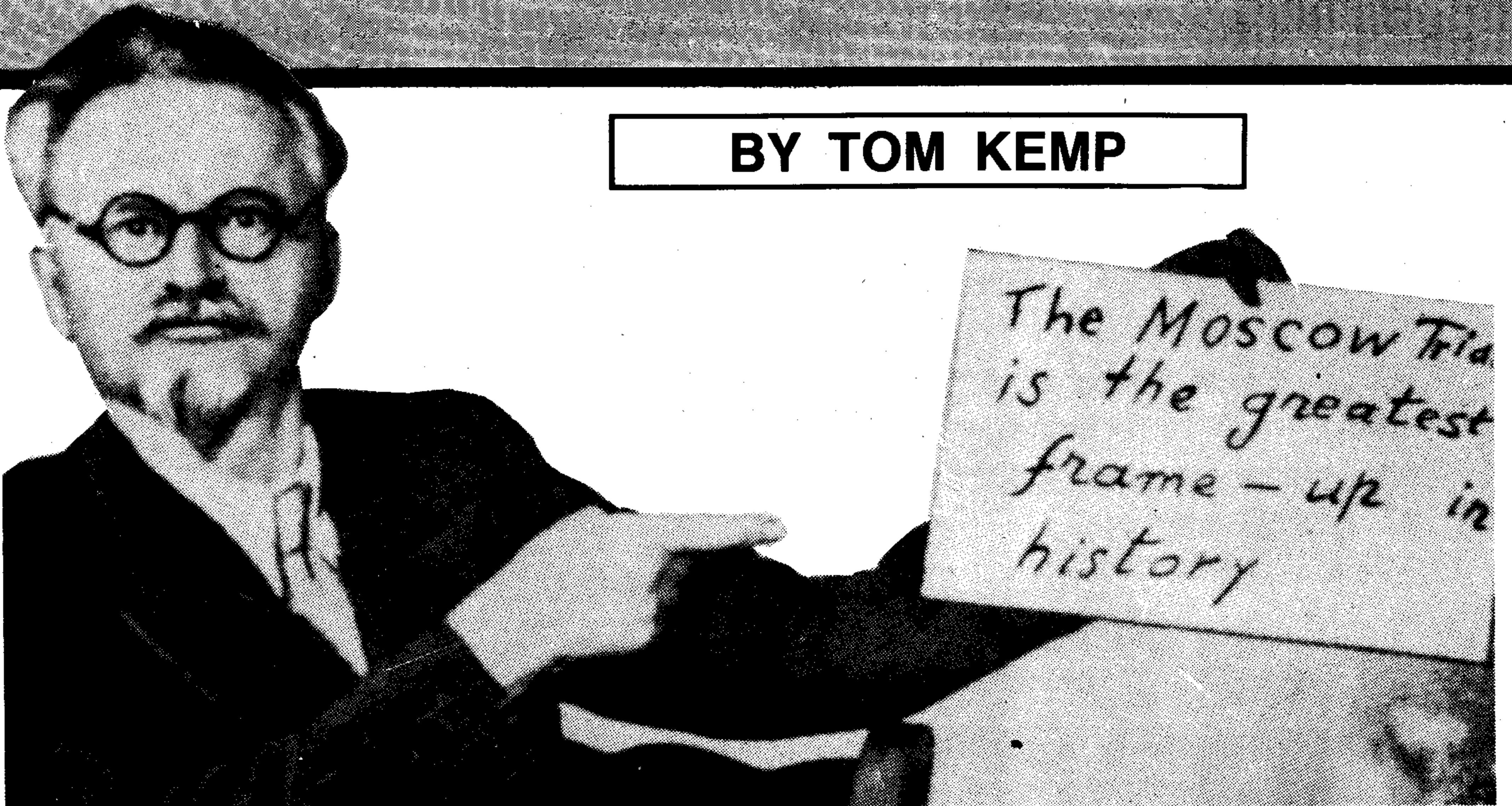
The haste with which the sentences were carried out was only one of the anomalies of the trial. To begin with, the accused had no legal representation — 'having declined the services of counsel', according to the official report.

There was a paucity of material evidence and no statements from the secret police (GPU) which had supposedly dismantled the conspiracy. In a trial of genuine terrorists weapons, bomb-making equipment, explosives manuals, plans and documents are usually produced.

Among sixteen dedicated terrorists at least one or two could have been expected to defy the court and defend their actions.

But these were no ordinary defendants.

They gave a full account of their alleged crimes, abjectly admitting their guilt (though with some reluctance on the part of the one-time leading Oppositionist, I.N. Smirnov) accepting the words put into their mouths



Trotsky in 1936; he and his son Sedov were accused in their absence of masterminding terrorist plots against Stalin

BY TOM KEMP

garding military service in a capitalist country would hardly have been likely to disturb his Soviet employers.

Besides Oldberg, born in Latvia but brought up in Germany, was a stateless person. In any case, Germany had no compulsory military service at this time, and Oldberg was well over the normal age for conscription in other countries.

As conspirators and assassins the group were among the most inept known to the history of terrorism. Their attempts to shoot at Voroshilov were thwarted because his car was always travelling too fast.

Weapon

They failed to get near enough to Zhdanov in a May Day procession. Their attempts to kill Stalin were dogged by ill fortune.

As the only weapon they possessed (though never shown in court) was a Browning they had to be close to the target. Unfortunately it was difficult to get that close to Stalin.

They hoped to get into a plenum of the Communist International which it was presumed he would attend. Apparently this was a ticket-only affair and they failed to get in.

Then they were hoping to get Stalin at the Congress of the Comintern.

The accused Berman-Yurin handed the Browning to another defendant, Fritz

activities were supposedly set up by Sedov and Trotsky with whom the GPU tools claimed to have had various meetings, the most famous being at the non-existent Hotel Bristol in Copenhagen.

People with whom Trotsky had broken years before, such as Ruth Fischer and Maslow, were dragged into the imaginary conspiracy.

According to one defendant the Trotskyists had support from the German Gestapo, though according to the dates it began before Hitler took power and this political police organisation came into existence.

But, if the Gestapo was involved later why didn't it provide the hit-men in the Soviet Union with some more effective weapons and support?

As it was, Trotsky had to convey his orders to shoot Stalin in the form of a message in invisible ink written in the margin of a German film magazine which was conveyed from Warsaw to Moscow by the sister of one of the accused who was not called as a witness.

According to the statement the order was in Trotsky's own handwriting and was signed.

Official

In the period covered by the trial (1932-36) only one high-ranking Soviet official was assassinated, namely Sergei Kirov in December 1934.

In fact in January 1935 at a trial held in Leningrad, Zinoviev, Kamenev and others had already been found guilty of forming an underground counter-revolutionary group which had, amongst other deeds, organised the Kirov assassination.

Two major questions arise: who did organise the murder of Kirov and why?

We now know, from what was said about the matter by Krushchev at the 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, that Kirov was 'removed' on Stalin's orders.

The gun may have been held by a disgruntled young communist, Nikolayev, as the official report claimed at the time, but the killing was organised and directed by the GPU on Stalin's orders. Subsequently, Stalin had the responsible officials disposed of in a 'car crash' arranged by other GPU men.



Stalin's public prosecutor, the former Menshevik Vyshinsky

During 1933-34 the support for Stalin, even within the bureaucracy, had fallen to a new low.

Following on forced collectivisation discontent was endemic in the rural areas. The pace of industrialisation aggravated social and economic strains and imposed incredible hardships on the working class.

A section of the bureaucracy supported Kirov as the most capable alternative to Stalin.

It may well have been that Kirov, or some of his supporters, made some kind of contact with the Left Opposition or even with Trotsky himself. If so Leon Sedov would have occupied a key role.

Some of the meetings referred to in the trial probably took place, though with a different purpose to what was alleged.

At the same time the Left Opposition was still a force inside the Soviet Union, a pole of attraction for all those hostile to the Stalinist course.

Some of the Oppositionists who had capitulated to Stalin in 1929 had probably done so

on tactical grounds and now saw the possibility of a resurgence of the Opposition.

Likewise the Zinovievites, or some of them, who had broken with Trotsky in 1927 and capitulated to Stalin then and subsequently may also have been seeking to resume contact.

It was significant that none of the accused in this trial were Trotskyists although they were accused of working under Trotsky's direction.

Purge

This trial, like the two major show-trials which were to follow, were only the most visible part of the mass purge ordered by Stalin in these years which left scarcely a family in the Soviet Union unaffected.

Millions were imprisoned, sent to labour camps or shot by the GPU.

Stalin was determined to wipe out all opposition to his rule which he knew to be widespread; he feared most of all the Left Opposition



Krushchev with Stalin; Krushchev revealed some of the secrets behind the Moscow Trials in 1956 as part of his factional struggle inside the Soviet bureaucracy

provide a target for a would-be assassin.

Once there Oldberg had no difficulty in getting a job as a teacher of history. However, as the official report puts it 'As he had no documents regarding military service, he was obliged to return abroad and went to Prague.'

His lack of documents re-

David, who said that he got into the Congress all right but 'he was sitting in a box in which there were many people and there was no possibility of shooting'. Or, perhaps he went to the wrong place since he dates the Congress as September 1934 when it was actually held in July-August 1935.

These fruitless terrorist

OW TRIALS



Meeting of the bureau of the 9th Congress of the CPSU in 1920 when many of the Bolshevik Old Guard later murdered by Stalin were prominent. Left to right: Yenukidze (executed), Kallnin, Bukharin (executed), Tomski (committed suicide when he was about to be arrested), Lashevich (disappeared), Kamenev (executed), Preobrazhensky (executed), Serebriakov (executed), Lenin. In front: Rykov (executed)

which remained a force until the mid-1930s when most of its members fell victim to the purges.

The Moscow trials were intended as a warning to all critics and opponents.

They attempted to link any opposition with foreign agencies, such as the Gestapo, and associate it with economic sabotage.

The trial victims thus performed the role of scapegoats for the enormous hardships being suffered by the masses.

The accused in these trials were carefully pre-selected and processed before their public appearance.

Victims of Stalin's 'beat, beat and beat again treatment' (referred to by Krushchev in 1956), perhaps promised, if not their own lives, then those of their families if they would confess, they acted out the gruesome scenario prepared by the clumsy hands of the GPU.

Hence the absence of legal representation. No lawyer would have permitted the line of questioning adopted by Vyshinski without challenge or failed to point out the inconsistencies in the statements of the accused and the terrorised witnesses hauled into court by the GPU.

It was noteworthy that the trial came at the height of the Popular Front period, when Stalin was angling for an alliance with the democratic capitalist states. What better way to prove his eligi-

bility as an ally than to wipe out the old revolutionaries of the Comintern's heroic years?

The point was not lost in bourgeois circles. Much of

might have on 'anti-fascist' unity.

Features of the trials — like lack of legal representation, absence of the right of appeal and instant carrying

apologetics in 'Soviet Policy and its Critics' were published by the Left Book Club of Stachey, Laski and Gollancz but not a single work critical of Stalinism was ever published.

At least some of the veil of secrecy about the trials was lifted by Krushchev as part of his factional struggle inside the Soviet bureaucracy in 1956-62.

Although he revealed a crucial secret (that even Trotsky was unable to penetrate) regarding the assassination of Kirov — that it was organised by Stalin — it was obvious that he had exposed a raw nerve of the bureaucracy even more dangerous to it than the 'relations' of 1956.

Cover-up

Almost as soon as the question was raised, which would have required a full examination of the trials and purges and the role of the bureaucracy itself in Stalin's crimes, the whole matter became the subject of a synchronised cover-up.

Almost from that time the process of 'de-Stalinisation' came to a stop.

Krushchev had gone too far and his end was only a matter of time.

As a result many factors behind the trials, and many aspects of them, must remain a matter for hypothesis rather than fact.

Crucial evidence has probably long been destroyed by

the GPU or remains locked away in its archives.

Only when the Soviet working class overturns its bureaucratic masters will the truth (or some closer approximation of it) become known.

One thing is certain: that the trials were directed against the Left Opposition and Trotsky as its leader. The verdict of the court in the trial of the sixteen ended by saying that Trotsky and

his son Sedov 'having directly prepared and personally directed terroristic acts against the leaders of the CPSU and the Soviet state, are subject, in the event of their being discovered on the territory of the USSR, to immediate arrest and trial by the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR'.

Stalin could not wait. Four years later, almost to the day, a GPU assassin sunk an ice-pick into Trotsky's skull in Coyoacan, Mexico.

'...the trial came at the height of the Popular Front period when Stalin was angling for an alliance with the democratic capitalist states.'

the press accepted the validity of the trials.

The fellow-travelling press, like the 'New Statesman' in Britain, refused to print critical reports because of the effect they

out of the death sentences — which would have raised an outcry if they had happened in a capitalist court (not to speak of a fascist one) were accepted without comment. J.R. Campbell's notorious

ADVANCE NOTICE

PUBLIC MEETING
October 26 1986
30th Anniversary
of the
HUNGARIAN UPRISING

Speaker: Peter Fryer

Eyewitness to the events in Hungary
as correspondent for the Daily Worker
and author of 'Hungarian Tragedy'

Manning Hall, University of London
Union,
Malet Street, London WC1

STALINISM AND THE MINORITY MOVEMENT

WORKERS PRESS has carried an article by KEITH HASSELL on the Minority Movement. He argued that its early years carried valuable lessons for today and that such a movement is the organisational form of the bridge between today's consciousness and a revolutionary consciousness.

In this reply, CYRIL SMITH argues that such a 'bridge' to revolutionary consciousness remains the party and questions too formal a comparison between the problems facing the working class then and now.

I WAS pleased to see Keith Hassel's article on the National Minority Movement reprinted in Workers Press.

He is absolutely right to say that 'a close study of the formation and degeneration of the NMM is indispensable'.

This does not mean merely recounting a story of past struggles, as if we already completely understood their significance.

What is needed is really to work over these experiences of the working class from the standpoint of its present-day problems.

However, when it comes to understanding the rise and decline of the fight for revolutionary leadership in the British trade unions in the vital period of the 1920's, I think Comrade Hassel is sometimes wide of the mark.

Let us begin with the term 'rank and file' itself.

When he speaks of the 'interests of the rank and file' and when he counterposes these to 'the interests of the bureaucrats', what exactly does he mean? I feel that he

is introducing some non-Marxist conceptions.

Marxists talk about the struggle of classes.

Within each class there are layers, or strata.

In the epoch of imperialism, there develops within the working class a labour aristocracy, whose privileges, whether lavish or meagre, are drawn from the superprofits from imperialist exploitation.

The trade union bureaucracy bases itself on these layers, and transmits the ideology of the ruling class into the workers movement.

The salaries, cars and knighthoods of individual bureaucrats are only part of their ties to the established order.

The impression I get from Keith Hassel's use of the term 'bureaucrat' is that it refers to an individual whose political actions directly reflect his own personal privileges.

This, I believe, is not Marxism, but some kind of mechanical sociology.

It is very similar to the conception of bureaucracy current in the 'state capitalist' theories of the SWP and its predecessors.



TROTSKY with members of the Left Opposition in 1928

The syndicalist idea of a 'rank and file' movement, which grew up particularly in the period of rising militancy which preceded the first world war, is a spontaneous attempt to make the trade union movement independent of this bureaucracy and so of the ruling class.

But we know that these aims can only be realised

through the building of a Marxist party.

Only in fighting for Marxist theory, preparing the class as a whole to smash the capitalist state and establish its own power, can the revolutionary party enable the class to gain its independence from the bureaucracy along with all the other agencies of capital.

When the Communist Party of Great Britain, under the guidance of the Communist International and the Red International of Labour Unions, began to work systematically in the unions, it infused rank-and-file organisations with new content.

Expanded

(The decision to develop the National Minority Movement was actually taken in Moscow, in June 1923, when the CPGB leaders met the RILU).

As Hassel describes, the NMM expanded its influence rapidly until it reached its peak in 1926.

How are we to understand the significance of this growth?

How was it that, when the chips were down in 1926, the NMM was unable to lead a movement against the betrayal by all sections of the trade union leadership, above all by the 'lefts'? Why

was the NMM quite incapable of explaining this betrayal after the event?

I do not think that Keith Hassel's article gives the answers to these questions that we so badly need.

He accounts for the rise of the NMM by the fact that it had a correct programme, that of the United Front.

Quoting from the decisions of the Third and Fourth Congresses of the Communist International, he goes on to say:

'Such a united front programme, then, represents a bridge from today's consciousness to a struggle for power under communist leadership.'

The organisational form of the bridge in the trade unions is the rank and file movement.'

Left at that, this misses out, I believe, the main point, the point which had been established at the first two Congresses: The existence of the Communist Parties, as part of the CI, and the struggle for Marxism within them.

In Britain, especially, this fight for theory was — and remains — the vital issue.

Hassel gives us a far too optimistic account of the state of the CP.

Was it really 'reforged in the image of Bolshevism' in 1921-1923?



MARDY miners and their families with Soviet banners — 1926

Six Counties: Collaborators have been warned!

THE IRA issued a warning on Tuesday last week to all contractors building, rebuilding or repairing police or military barracks in the north of Ireland and to all those who collaborate in any way in providing services to the crown forces: cease this work immediately or face the consequences.

This has been condemned by all the establishment politicians in Britain and Ireland.

And it has been condemned by Terry Carlin of the Northern Office of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

He said that in an area of already high unemployment — 130,000 are out of work — these threats were not acceptable.

Yes, there is massive unemployment in the six counties and Catholic workers have suffered higher unemployment than any other section of the working class in either Britain or Ireland.

But surely Britain and the

loyalist bigotry it has carefully nurtured over 60 years is responsible for this state of affairs, and not the IRA.

The capitalist media see only one enemy and one problem in the six counties — the Republican movement.

Never imperialism, its army of occupation, its sectarian police force, its torture centres and concentration camps.

For revolutionary socialists however the struggle to

free Ireland from the jackboot tyranny of British imperialism and its collaborators in Ireland has to be supported all the way down the line.

It is in this context that the IRA's warning on collaborating with the building of torture centres of the enemy has to be seen, understood and supported.

The police barracks of the RUC and UDR and the military barracks of the British army are the centres of torture, repression, beatings, hoodings, threats on lives and the infamous forced confessions as often as not beaten out of the person being held there.

Castlereagh, Gough Barracks and Girdwood have seen the most barbaric acts of torture perpetrated against members of the Catholic community.

Some of the worst acts of repression took place during the 1970s under a Labour government and at the behest of the then head of the RUC, Sir Kenneth Newman, now head of the Metropolitan Police in London, and of the most hated of all the direct rulers, Roy Mason.

In the eyes of the Catholic working class and its only defender, the Republican movement, these police centres are not just like your

ordinary police station in London or any other city in Britain where you report your car stolen.

I repeat: these police stations, barracks, fortifications, call them what you will, are the centres where the most degrading and inhuman treatment is carried out against the Catholic working class.

You can read in any issue of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, the weekly paper of Sinn Fein, numerous examples of people being mentally and physically abused while being held in police custody. The Bennett Report, the Amnesty International Report and the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg confirmed it.

The boom in building work at these centres of repression can be seen as Britain's attempt to increase the Ul-

sterisation of the problem by giving more power to the RUC and UDR.

Thatcher's Ulsterisation requires the co-operation of Fitzgerald's government in Dublin and is linked to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The latest phase of collaboration from Dublin was agreed at last week's meeting between Peter Barry, Irish foreign minister, and direct ruler Tom King when Barry agreed to step up 'border security' and agreed to co-operate more with the occupying crown forces.

A final — use your influential position in the ICTU to oppose the building of these torture centres and for a programme of building hospitals, schools and houses to replace the squalor of overcrowding and disgusting conditions and tower blocks.

COMMENT By Charlie Walsh

'By the end of 1923', he says, 'it had purged it of its organisational flabbiness and armed it with a programmatic method capable of effecting principled mass work despite its small size'.

I don't believe it.

This is in no way to denigrate the struggle for bolshevism conducted in Britain at the time.

But we must not underestimate the tremendous problems still facing those who battled to overcome the legacy of the propaganda and syndicalist groups from which the CPGB had been formed in 1920.

These problems are typified by the 1924 discussion between Murphy and Pollitt, referred to by both Woodhouse and Pearce in their writings on the history of the CP.

(By the way, I think Hassel's lack of reference to this work is to be regretted.

It remains the most important attempt by Marxists to investigate this history.)

Murphy wrote: 'If I were asked what are the principal defects of the party today, I would unhesitatingly answer, formalism, organisational fetishism, and lack of political training.'

As if to make Murphy's point, Pollitt answered:

'The greatest hindrance to the growth of our party is not lack of political training, it is a number of practical difficulties



A traction engine overturned by strikers during the General Strike

Difficulties

Ask any local organiser in South Wales or Scotland what their biggest problem is, they won't say it was the absence of "the will to revolution", they will say it was the lack of a common meeting place.'

Only if we face up to these theoretical difficulties of the fight for communism in Britain can we begin to understand the real causes of the failure of the NMM and the betrayal of the General Strike.

And this brings me to what I think is the chief weakness of Keith Hassel's article.

The degeneration of the CPGB and its trade union work, the degeneration of the Communist International, and the rise of Stalinism, cannot be explained except in terms of the ascendancy of the Soviet bureaucracy over the Russian working class and the workers' state.

Instead of this, Hassel says:

'This is largely accounted for by the centrist degeneration of the CI, increasingly coming under the hold of Stalin, in league with Zinoviev.

Guiding the line of the 5th

Congress of the CI, Zinoviev refused to recognise the partial stability that imperialism had attained, preferring, in Britain, to see revolution around the corner.

Since the British working class were not yet ready to rise to the level of Zinovievite schemas, the CI shifted attention to the TUC "lefts" in the hope of accelerating the revolution through gentle flattery.

'As 1925 progressed, the policy of the CI under Stalin was changing.

On the basis of the reactionary utopia of "building socialism in one country", the main plank of Stalin's foreign policy was to pacify the international bourgeoisie — to buy time to "build socialism".

And the main agents of this pacification in Britain? The same "lefts" that were to have been a catalyst for the revolution nine months earlier!

This makes Stalinism seem like a series of 'errors'.

But Lenin, in his last fight against Stalin, already saw the problem in terms of the growing power of the bureaucracy.

To describe this process merely as 'centrism' is

dangerously misleading.

In Britain, the Stalinisation of the CP started early in 1924.

The theoretical weakness of the CP leadership led them to fall in line with these developments in the International without the slightest tremor.

As Brian Pearce has shown, Stalin often held up the CPGB as a model of what a communist leadership should be like, getting on with the job, and not worrying their proletarian heads over theoretical niceties.

Surprising

One of the most surprising things about Hassel's article is that it ignores the existence of the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee (ARC).

This emerged from the trip to Russia of the delegations from the TUC General Council in 1924.

It is best characterised as a unity of two bureaucracies — the Soviet and the British trade union varieties.

Not for the last time they found a great deal in common.

The subsequent history of

the NMM is largely explained by its subordination to this bureaucratic outfit.

Hassel mentions the January 1925 Conference of the NMM.

He does not refer to the fact that it was meant to be addressed by the delegates just back from their Russian visit and by Tomsky, the Soviet trade union representative on the ARC.

But the General Council not only forbade the delegates going anywhere near the NMM gathering, but persuaded Tomsky to stay away too.

This was the start of the process of tying the NMM and the CP itself to the 'left' bureaucrats on the ARC.

(Calhoun's book *The United Front*, to which Keith Hassel referred, is an excellent source for this subject.)

It is most important to see that the most clear criticism of what was happening in the British labour movement on the eve of the General Strike was not made in Britain at all, but by the Left Opposition in Moscow.

Only Trotsky and his followers were able to grasp the developments in the trade union leadership and the inadequacy of the strug-

gle for revolutionary leadership.

And after the TUC leaders, including Stalin's friends the 'lefts', had betrayed the strike, leaving the miners to the mercy of the ruling class, only the Opposition was able to draw the real lessons of the struggle, not just for the British working class, but for the whole International.

But nobody in Britain knew anything about this at the time.

Small

Only three years later, with the beginnings of the first small Trotskyist groups, could these lessons begin to be brought into the workers' movement here.

This brings me to my final point.

It is enough for Hassel to conclude:

'Today the foundation stones of a new Minority Movement must be laid around a similar programme

The new Minority Movement must be built independent of all sections of the

union leadership, and it must be won to a programme that leads inexorably to the conquest of power by the working class'.

I don't think so.

In the last thirty years, these tendencies to tie the trade union leaders to the imperialist state, which were still just beginning in 1926, have gone much further.

The response of the working class must be on a much higher political level.

This makes even more vital the struggle for Marxist theory and for a democratic centralist party to fight in the unions.

Above all, Marxism must not be taken for granted, as if it reached a complete form at some date in the past.

Its foundations must be deepened and its applications widened constantly to take account of the changes inside capitalism and in the working class.

These are some of the reasons why I felt Keith Hassel's article was inadequate for its undoubtedly important subject.

And the Beat Goes On. Channel 4.

THIS WAS THE SECOND in a series of three 'Access' programmes on contemporary policing, and the first of two giving the police viewpoint.

Is this Channel 4's idea of 'balance'?

The first programme, presented by prospective Labour MP Paul Boateng, centred on three instances of police riot — against anti-racist demonstrators (one of them, Blair Peach, truncheoned to death) at Southall in 1979, against pickets at Orgreave during the miners' strike, and against Stonehenge-bound hippies last summer.

Based on filmed evidence of police mayhem and interviews with the victims and civil libertarian lawyers, it left the police much to answer for.

But this programme, alleged to be about the different job experiences of five 'ordinary coppers', answered nothing.

It was contrived as a diversion from the question of police brutality.

TV REVIEW

None of the paragons shown here — a PC in leafy Croydon, a West Midlands 'community liaison officer', a female member of the Soho vice squad, a Devon 'country bobby' and a graduate recruit to the 'Met' training school at Hendon — works at the sharp end of the kind of violence witnessed in the first programme.

This was underlined when they were invited to comment on the results of a recent survey among 1,200 police officers in Merseyside which showed that 40 per cent knew of other officers who regularly used unnecessary force in their dealings with the public.

But clearly the police chiefs are not interested in letting the urban gorillas speak for themselves.

The only representative thing about those who appeared in this police advert was the petty bourgeois philistinism for

which policemen and women are self-selected.

Identification with the status quo is to them common-sense which your parents teach you.

This mindless conservatism and the middle-class pretensions that sustain it were voiced by the Hendon cadet.

'Those people whom I knew at university, who were, how shall I put it, politically extreme, normally on the left if you like, left wing... they think of me as perhaps a bit too establishment.

'After all a doctor is providing a service under the National Health Service.

'All I'm doing is providing a service — just two different services.'

Not the happiest choice of comparison, for a doctor testified in the previous programme how police stormed the medical centre where she was caring for victims of the Southall violence and dis-

pensed their own special treatment — which left her in need of a doctor.

Though hand-picked to present a deceptively 'human face' of the police force, all the participants in this programme endorsed the measures being taken to militarise it, which they said would only affect 'a minority', i.e. those in the industrial areas and inner cities.

Between the neighbourhood policeman and his armed colleagues there is no disagreement about ends or means, only a division of labour.

Thus the community liaison man, who claimed never to have used a truncheon in his life, asked for plastic bullets, please, 'as an ultimate deterrent, where nothing else will suffice.'

'I would like to see the role of the police to be a part of the community, a community resource.

'After all, we work in the same area as the social services, the probation services, dealing with the same community, and I'd like to be able to integrate the police service as part of the same resource pack for that com-

munity to call upon.'

What is this but Dixon of Dock Green (the police as a caring profession) in reformist newspeak?

Here, within a police advert, we get a plug for Kinnock's 'enabling state.'

For more on the question of where the state is going, see the final programme in the series, 'The Force of the Future', on August 28, when the police chiefs have their say.

Ken Moxham

STILL AVAILABLE

Essays on the history of Communism in Britain

By Brian Pearce and Mike Woodhouse

Essential background reading

Includes:

- Marxism and Stalinism in Britain 1920-1926
- Some Past Rank and File Movements
- British Communist History
- Early Years of the Communist Party of Great Britain
- The Communist Party and the Labour Left 1925-1929
- From 'Social-Fascism' to 'People's Front'
- The British Stalinists and the Moscow Trials

£3.50 plus 75p P&P

Available from: New Park Publications Ltd, 21b Old Town, London, SW4 0JT and Paperback Centres, Hope Street Book Centre or order from local bookshops

LETTERS

Brixton's 'drugs raid' — nail police lies!

THE POLICE raid on Brixton's Railton Road Afro-Caribbean Centre on Thursday July 24 was carried out under the pretext of an anti-drugs operation. This lie must be firmly nailed.

According to police figures, 340 officers took part in the raid itself, while a further 1,500 were held in reserve.

The Sunday Times of July 27 documented the official line that the action was 'aimed at smashing the drugs trade at the centre'. This account has been virtually uncontested since then.

Yet an unusually well-briefed article in the London Standard the following day, July 28, contained the following comments:

'For nearly a year before the raid, detectives in cars and on foot had tailed the more serious suspects arriving and departing from the club.

'But none was arrested in Brixton... The police waited until they got well away.'

If 'drugs' were the real issue, why was this procedure not repeated against other 'serious suspects'? The answer is simple. Drugs were not the issue.

The linking of the raid to drugs (mainly cannabis) by the police and bourgeois media is a cynical and opportunist exploitation of the current panic over heroin.

Alarm over rising heroin use has been turned against the black community.

Ethnic minorities, long familiar with police racism, have again replaced miners and hippies as the 'enemy within'.

Race and crime thus be-

come linked and every bourgeois newspaper in the country underlines that spurious link.

The timing of the Railton Road action merits close attention.

Only three weeks earlier, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Newman warned that a repetition of last autumn's London riots could well mean police retaliation on a Northern Ireland scale.

The same day, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd announced in the Commons that he had empowered the police to buy 24 bullet-proof vehicles and 80 armoured personnel carriers, along with 700 additional radios and 1,500 long truncheons — 28 inches long, to be precise. (The Guardian, July 3).

Barely a week later, it was revealed through The Guardian (July 12) that, pending the arrival of this hardware, the Met. would borrow ten armoured Ministry of Defence Land Rovers — in Hurd's words, 'for use only in serious disorder.'

That is, in the type of situation the police felt likely to follow the provocative Brixton assault. (It was considered necessary to maintain a network of road blocks for five hours following the raid).

What must be stressed is the anti-working class nature of this racist attack.

If any worker doubts this, let him or her wait for 1,500 police, including D11 marksmen, to be held in reserve while the doors of the white Hampstead cocaine fraternity are smashed in. It will be a long wait.

The 'anti-drugs' operation set out to provoke antagonism within the working class along 'racial' lines and to



reinforce suburban racist fears.

It also marked a further application of police techniques to both trigger and contain social disturbances involving the exploited and oppressed.

For the state, these situations are a testing ground for militaristic techniques of coordination and repression in preparation for use against organised labour, such as occurred during the miners' strike.

There is every indication that the state wants this to be a long and very hot summer. For the moment, the 'front line' areas and specifically their black populations are the main target.

But no worker or unemployed youth — black or white — should be fooled by this.

Quasi-military methods pioneered in the inner cities and refined in the coalmining villages are — with modifications — transferrable elsewhere.

Growing unemployment and attacks on the welfare state drive workers and the unemployed into conflict with a ruling class which aims to impose the burden of the economic crisis on the working class.

Whilst the state therefore turns towards police milit-

ary techniques both to monitor and disorganise the working class, trade unions and working class communities must also learn monitoring techniques as part of the struggle to defend themselves against increasing state attacks.

We must watch and understand the state as closely as it watches and tries to understand us, whichever capitalist government is in office.

Richard Bobinska



'Worker-Journalists' — a real step forward

NOT SO long ago a worker writing regular articles for the News Line would have been unthinkable.

Writing a letter and hoping to have it published was to indulge in pure fantasy.

Coming from a working class background was a disadvantage in the Workers Revolutionary Party under Healy, with its semi-masonic relationship sect around the guru.

The expulsion of Healy and his supporters has opened new horizons for the development of the party's press.

Workers Press has won enormous respect in the short time of its existence, opening its pages to the working class movement for honest critical debate and discussion.

The development of worker-journalists (as opposed to Healy's middle-class hacks) was the subject of a day school on journalism held in Newcastle.

The school was attended by WRP members from Newcastle, South Shields, Manchester, London, Durham and Liverpool as well as local unemployed activists.

The course was broken down into three main sessions.

The first session covered reporting and constructing news stories, and the structuring of articles.

An article will be more readable if you economise on your words and minimise your comments.

Try to develop a disciplined framework of one idea per paragraph.

Remember not to try to cram the whole theory of Stalinism or revisionism into one paragraph.

The most prominent points of a feature story should be used to bring out the essence of an article in the first sentence.

Avoid the drab journalist techniques of the Mitchell/Rudder/Vevers school, i.e. the empirical listing of events which lead to any desired conclusion.

The second session of the school covered interview techniques and interview practice.

A mock press conference was held for this session, where comrades gathered notes and information, asking specific and selective questions.

It ended with the construction of a story, bringing together all the information given.

The third session involved taking notes of a 15-minute speech, making a report of it and then 'sub-editing' it.

The day school was invaluable to comrades in the areas who want to play a part in the development of the Workers Press, either writing articles, news stories or letters.

The school ended with instruction on the layout of the paper and some comrades enquired about learning shorthand techniques.

Kevin Townsend

Sounding brass and tinkling cymbals

SUMMERSCOPE is under way on the South Bank until the end of August.

Euphemistically sub-titled 'A celebration of our century', any slightly discerning observer glancing through the list of attractions will quickly conclude that here is yet a further attempt to present culture on the cheap.

It is a series of concerts based on 20th century music and fringe-related activities trying to fill seats with the 'family audience' of holidaymakers in London who would traditionally not be attracted by the middle class aura of the Proms.

This does not imply disrespect for any of the acts taking part during the month-long entertainment.

Unquestionably some of the groups involved are first-

rate artistes and many more will be equally glad of the exposure such an undertaking provides.

But if this is 'a real opportunity to discover some of the great arts riches' of our time, then we are forced to admit the bankruptcy, not of the creativity and vitality which are going into the performances, but of the capitalist system which fraudulently seeks to exact from them a measure of credibility for the purpose of its self-aggrandisement.

And whilst admission charges are in general lower than normal, with plenty of free side-shows, the food and drink are typically Festival Hall over-price.

Another point. Artistic director, Michael Vyner, who is also music director of

the London Sinfonietta, envisages such festivals as ways of promoting contemporary music to a prospective new audience at present critically remote from any of the newer developments in the field.

I can only say to that, having read his interview in one of last week's Guardians, the ideas he puts forward — for example, a more informal approach for the benefit (?) of curious but uninitiated members of the public — are seriously out of touch with the demands made upon their audiences by today's leading avant-garde composers (whose names, by the way, are very largely absent here).

Of course, I do not think Mr Vyner would be in such a position of responsibility

towards the arts if he were not at bottom an entrepreneur in the strict meaning of the word and therefore considered by the establishment to be capable of injecting lots of wonderful ideals for papering over the cracks in decaying capitalism's charade at concern for culture.

Despite the colourful poster which is everywhere displayed, the super-abundance of brochures and free programmes (they certainly haven't stinted on the printing) this is less a 'celebration' but rather a vindication for urgent transition by revolutionary means to a society committed to the cultural, educational and social well-being of its productive forces.

Jeff Jackson

LETTERS

Out of the frying pan – into the fire

STEVE MASTERSON (Workers Press July 19) claims that I distorted what he had said about the miners' support groups. It is not true.

It matters little how many paragraphs he spent doing it: the fact is he, as secretary of the Union of Printers Support Groups, characterised the miners' support groups as collectors of 'money and beans' and claimed that he and Workers Power had created a new concept with the UPSG by bringing politics into it.

I wanted to put the record straight on the miners' support groups, which were after all a very important component in the most important strike since 1926.

I won't repeat the arguments here.

The burden of Masterson's letter, however, is not dealing with this point.

He shifts the ground to our approach to the debates around the WRP and, naturally as a brand-new member of Workers Power, denounces everyone as centrists.

It is typical of the bone-headed sectarianism which he will need to expound now that he has made the sectarian leap from Gerry Healy's frying pan into Workers Power's fire.

If he wants to be a glutton for punishment that's his problem — but he is right to accuse us of having a very different approach to the present repositioning taking place in the Trotskyist movement in Britain to his own.

Workers Power consider that the Fourth International 'collapsed into centrism' in 1949 after one (wrong) vote on Yugoslavia.

According to them, there were no Marxists on the entire planet until they broke (so they claim) from Socialist Workers Party state capitalism 32 years later in 1981!

Now Steve Masterson tells us they are going to 're-found a revolutionary international', presumably a Fifth International.

He is wrong, however, to accuse us of being in any way manoeuvrist towards the WRP.

From the outset we have approached the WRP as a whole, seeking to get involved in the discussion denied to many of us when we were expelled by Healy in 1974.

We think the crisis of the WRP, the expulsion of Healy

and the subsequent profound rethinking which is taking place in the WRP as a result, offer the possibility of a much-needed development for the Trotskyist movement in Britain.

The Workers Power approach of intervening to rip off a few members (of which Steve Masterson himself is an example) is a small-minded approach to a major opportunity for the Trotskyist movement.

Nor could we have been more open and forthright in pursuing this policy.

We have posed from the outset the possibility of regroupment and particularly our hope that ourselves, the WRP and the International Group could be a part of it.

As far as the USec is concerned, we have been prepared for a long time to work within that grouping if the right conditions arose, and we still hold that view.

This is not because we agree with all the politics of the USec majority, far from it.

For example, we don't agree with them on Nicaragua.

But in sharp contrast to the other international groupings, we are convinced that sufficient democracy exists inside the USec for us to argue our line internationally — as a minority if necessary.

We see internationalism as a principle and are not prepared to accept national isolation.

We have made this view clear at every discussion we have had with the WRP, including our discussion with Cliff Slaughter early in the year.

We will strongly argue for a regroupment precisely be-

cause of the depth of the crisis in the Trotskyist movement.

We will argue for it because we want to see the WRP discussions form the basis of a lasting development.

At the same time, we hope that our experiences of the last ten years in breaking from Healyism and achieving a genuine fusion, within the Socialist Group, with a group of comrades from the ICL and comrades from other traditions will put us in a position to make a contribution to that kind of development.

Such a regroupment project we think is difficult but possible.

It would require a lot of discussion, a lot of understanding and a firm principled political basis.

It would need to be a grouping which could accept sharp differences within it.

Notion

It would require a rejection of the notion that any one grouping has a monopoly of truth or wisdom.

It would require an acceptance that we are all a part of a world movement in serious crisis — all of us, the Socialist Group, the WRP, the International Group, the USec, Workers Power and many more.

It would require a recognition that we all have a responsibility to try to resolve that crisis, not by looking towards a Fifth International but by rebuilding the Fourth International on the basis of its programme.

All this would require, in any regroupment, a genuinely democratic centralist structure and a common



PHOTO: SIMON BURGESS

The TUC lobby of July 23 calling for trade union sanctions: the urgency of the tasks posed by the crisis provides the ground for regroupment of Trotskyist forces

approach to the labour movement in Britain.

The starting point, however, is a break from the dead-end sectarianism reflected in Steve Masterson's letter.

He can denounce such a regroupment in advance as a 'centrist lash-up', but again that's his problem.

Alan Thornett
Socialist Group

The WRP at the BM

LAST SUNDAY saw a small but enthusiastic group of WRP members and supporters foregather on the steps of the British Museum.

The reason was a tour of the special exhibition on 'Money' which provided an ideal opportunity to examine the development of the 'pound in your pocket'.

The exhibits provided excellent illustrations of the development of money from its most primitive form as a means of settling social obligations in tribal society, right up to the nebulous world of international credit.

What emerged most forcefully was the relationship between the amount of labour expended on the production of the 'money commodity' and its intrinsic value.

This existed right up to the 1920's when paper credits began to replace real, bullion money.

This important transition and the causes of inflation could hardly be touched on as closing time brought the visit to an end.

Special interest was expressed in the early development of money.

By 1,800 BC, official edicts

were calculating the value of both commodities and labour in terms of silver bullion although it was not until 1,200 years later that official coinage made it's first appearance.

Everyone was agreed that actually seeing the exhibits made the talks on Marxist economics more understandable to initiated and uninitiated alike.

A further visit is being organised to the museum exhibition on October 5. Meet on the museum steps at 4.30 pm.

Mike Howgate



JAMES CAGNEY, plotting his escape from the pen, in 'Each Dawn I Die' one of the films in the Channel 4 Cagney season all this week. Sunday August 10, 10.00pm

TV Preview

Saturday August 9

10.55pm, Channel 4. **20/20 White Heat.** 1949. Classic gangster film, starring James Cagney as a mother-fixated psychotic. Cagney turns in a compulsive performance as the nut-case racked with migraines who breaks jail to avenge the death of his mother, and is blown up on top of an exploding petrol storage tank in the climactic final scene.

Monday August 11

12.30pm, ITV. **Medicine Matters: Will My Baby be OK?** The programme examines the current scope for development and prevention, in genetic counselling.

7.30pm, BBC 2. **Open Space — Homelands: State of Limbo.**

The story of the hundreds of political refugees who have fled Pakistan under Zia. The programme examines the problems that people encounter with a British hospitality much qualified by a colonial past and state reaction to the large Pakistani community here.

9.30pm, BBC 2. **Horizon: The Mind of a Murderer.** Repeat of Horizon's 1984 study of the mentality of mass killer Kenneth Bianchi, who strangled 12 young women and claimed to be a split personality with no awareness of having committed the murders. 'Horizon' acquired the original police video tapes of Bianchi's interviews with psychiatrists. Six doctors concluded that he was a victim of 'split personality', the police were not con-

vinced. The documentary throws grave doubts on the value of psychiatric evaluation and hypnosis in criminal cases, according to the producer.

Tuesday August 12

9.00pm, BBC 2. **Horizon: the Mind of a Murderer.** Second part of the documentary about Richard Bianchi's case and the questions it arouses.

Wednesday August 13

9.25pm, BBC 2 **Asinamali (Nothing to Lose).** This play, by Mbongeni Ngema, is a powerful and comic account of how five blacks in South Africa end up in jail — for crimes ranging from shooting a security policeman to having sex with a white boss's wife. By the same author who wrote 'Woza Albert'. It was first

Thursday August 14

5.00pm, Channel 4. **The Bride came COD.** 1941. The second-best of the films in the Cagney season this week, Cagney completely changes character for this swiftly moving comedy.

8.00pm, Channel 4. **Equinox: Prisoner of Consciousness.** Examines the plight of a talented musician who, through brain damage, has lost his short term memory, and cannot remember anything for longer than 10 seconds. He is lost in a world which has always only existed for 10 seconds, but strangely he has not lost his musical talent.

BOOKS

LONDON · GLASGOW

The
Paperback's
Centres

28 Charlotte Street, London W1P 1HP
Tel: 01 636 3532

10/12 Atlantic Road, Brixton, SW9
Tel: 01 274 8342

389 Green Street, London E13
Tel: 01 470 1388

321 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 3PT
Tel: 041 332 8881

BOOKS

DEFIANT SPIRIT

AS WOMEN GO TO WAPPING



A MAGNIFICENT march and demonstration from Tower Hill to Wapping by women supporting the sacked printworkers from Rupert Murdoch's News International took place last Saturday (Aug 2). Certainly there was no room for pessimism or defeat here.

The march, organised by the SERTUC women's section, was a response to Thursday's Court decision restricting the dispute to marches controlled by the police and ending peacefully at Well Close Square, well away from Murdoch's plant.

The women were going to have none of that.

They marshalled the march themselves and demanded that when it reached The Highway it spread out right across the road.

The energy and feeling could be felt as the demonstration slowly moved along The Highway towards the plant.

The side of the road was lined by the husbands and the printers who gave the women a great reception as they approached Virginia Street (the road which leads to the plant entrance).

Many of the women were chanting 'all the way to Glamis Road' but it was clear that the police were not going to allow this to happen.

They displayed their strength by placing a thick 'blue' cordon of men about 100 yards past Virginia Street, backed up by police on horses just behind.

March organiser Ann Field stopped the march about 50 yards short of the police line, whereas the women themselves wanted to go as far as the line, if not to go through it, certainly to come face to face with it.

It was a pity that it was stopped, because it completely took all the strength and enthusiasm out of the march. People started to drift away.

Those who stayed listened to speeches from some of the invited women speakers.

Joan Maynard MP said that Thatcher's government attacks women all the time, and it is an anti child care government: 'what we need is a Labour government committed to policies that care for people.'

Maynard said we must send greetings to all the women of South Africa and that Thatcher must impose sanctions now.

Ann Field asked the demonstrators to give Brenda Dean a warm welcome as the next speaker, which many of them did (more out of courtesy than loyalty), but some of the men standing around could not contain themselves and booed her occasionally as she spoke.

Offer

Dean said we can demonstrate peacefully under the court ruling, but the dispute will only be over when the unions (SOGAT, NGA, and AEU) accept an offer.

She pleaded that Murdoch listen to the women.

Harriet Harman MP for Peckham said she was proud to be there.

Her main theme was that 'the women of Southwark are very angry' about what's

happening. She went on to explain what she meant:

'You hardly ever see a policeman on the streets of Southwark. They ought to be policing Southwark not policing for Murdoch.'

Ivy Smith Chairperson of the London Women's branch of SOGAT said she was thrilled to be there, the march had been a great success and there should be more of them.

Another group that had gathered just along The Highway were listening to Betty Heathfield.

She was saying that 'under this government it is not about choosing.

'800,000 people wait for hospital treatment under the National Health Service but the government are saying join a private health scheme.'

Ann Downey from GCHQ unions explained how she used to feel very comfortable in her job until two and a half years ago when they were told to leave their unions.

She could see that people here were standing up for their rights.

'I will not give up my trade union membership!' she said, to great applause.

Libby Crowley a local resident said it was fantastic to see so many women turn out.

'Only by unity will we win, this will be proved at the

next election by the ballot box.

'I hope more people will come out of their homes and demonstrate.'

An Iranian woman, who had to remain anonymous, was introduced to the crowd and brought greetings from all Iranian women.

She went on to explain how women are also fighting for their rights and justice in Iran.

Peta Vanderburgh from the NUJ said that 'the people who work in there' (pointing to Murdoch's plant) are not representative of the NUJ.

She said people came out for different reasons. They were disillusioned, not just about Wapping but what the papers were to become.

'The fight is against Murdoch and Thatcher,' she said, 'he produces propaganda on her behalf.'

Powerful

She went on to say that 'we will not be leaving the picket lines, we will not be leaving the dispute.'

It certainly does everyone a power of good, especially those sacked pickets who stand outside Murdoch's building day after day, to see such a powerful women's march, with all its strengths and confidence — singing their marching songs.

It picks up flagging spirits to carry on the fight a bit longer.

It is most clearly felt by the women that this fight against Murdoch is as much their fight as well. They know and understand that if the dispute is lost (or sold out) that it will affect them and their families for years to come.

Workers Revolutionary Party
PUBLIC MEETING

'WHERE THE WRP STANDS'

Thursday August 21st, 7:30 pm
Central Library, Wellgate, Dundee

Speaker: Simon Pirani (WRP Central Committee)
Discussion on the WRP Manifesto 'A programme for the crisis'