

## CHRISTMAS '86

# A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN?

CHRISTMAS, it is said, is a time for children. But this Christmas will see 150 million children world-wide working in the most unbelievable conditions.

These are the findings of a survey carried out by the International Federation of Trade Unions (IFTU).

Thirteen-year-old Mohammed Asaghai makes cigarettes for a living. He has to crouch on the floor of a windowless basement room approximately 6ft square.

Squeezed into this same space are more than 30 other child workers.

Mohammed lives near the capital of Bihar, in India. He produces, on average, 1,000 cigarettes a day.

For this he is paid 6 roupees. With the money he buys 4lbs of rice. Without his wages his family would be in an even worse state.

He has been earning his living like this since the age of nine, and has never been to school.

'What's the use of reading and writing?' he asks. 'They won't buy you food or a bus ticket to the city.'

Mohammed is no exception: 55 million children under the age of 15 are forced to work in factories with scarcely any air or light, on plantations and in mines.

Child exploitation on such a gigantic scale graphically illustrates the barbaric lengths to which capitalists are prepared to go in their unrelenting drive for greater and greater profits.

What is the answer of the IFTU? It can only say: 'The possibility to become a healthy and skilful worker is destroyed if children have to start work before they have an education and have been able to build up their strength.'

'Apart from the lowest possible wages being paid to children, which makes them the cheapest workforce amongst the many on the market, children can hardly expect to get a job later in life without an education.'

In India 1,000 cigarettes are sold for 20 roupees, more than three times Mohammed's wages. The cost of raw material, transport and storage is low; thus a large

BY TRUDI JACKSON

number of traders make their profit.

In comparison, 12 year-old Pien in Thailand is of greater value, as she is used as a prostitute in Bangkok.

Or the 8-year-old Pedro from Colombia: plagued by eczema and other infectious diseases he goes through the rubbish tips of Bogota with his bare hands and feet, trying to find anything of use.

Working children are at the very bottom of the capitalist hierarchy. There are no minimum wages or measures for the protection of their health.

In many countries trade unions are illegal.

Child labour was commonplace in Europe at the beginning of the industrial revolution. From the age of six, children, mainly in the textile industry, had to work under the most deprived conditions, 14 hours a day, seven days a week.

At the beginning of this century, children were working in the mining industry or in farming, and had to do piecework at home for the factories.

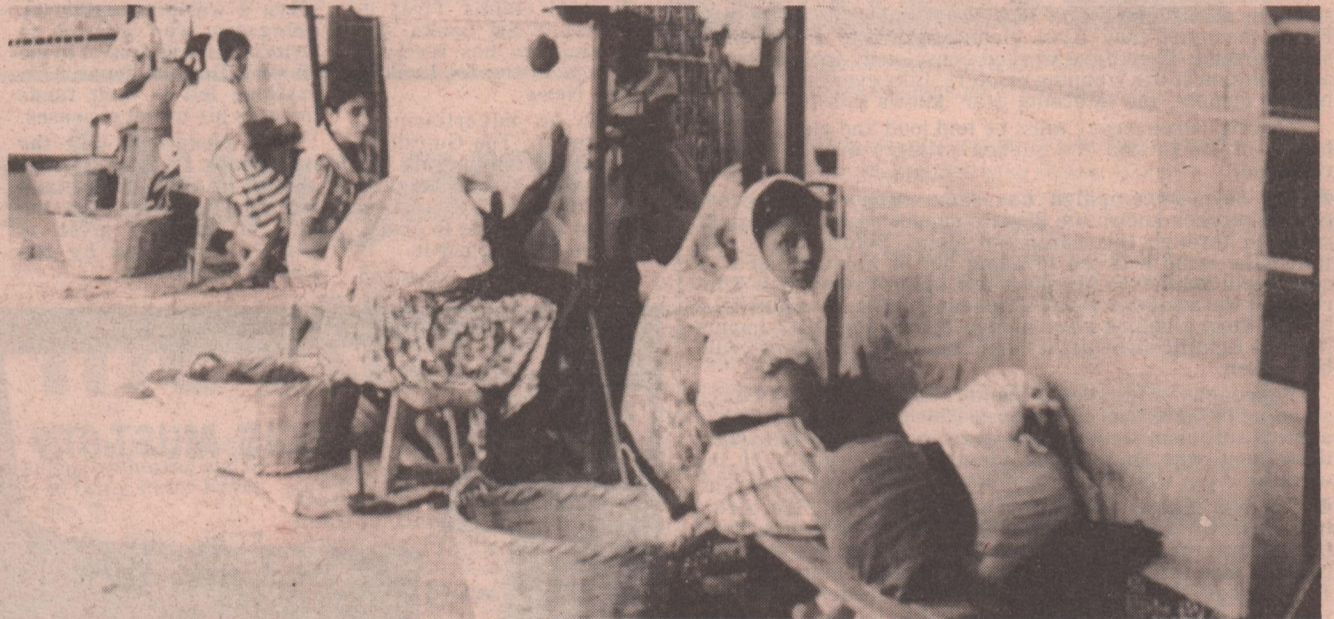
In Europe today child labour has far from disappeared.

Italy, for instance, has an estimated half million children working in agriculture, the leather goods industry, textile and clothing manufacturing, or in bars and restaurants.

In countries such as Spain, Portugal and Greece, boys and girls under 15 are an indispensable part of the 'grey' labour market which is increasing rapidly.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America child exploitation is even worse. One and a quarter million children are working in the Pakistani carpet industry. Three million under-15s are working in Bangladesh. In India, children represent 20 per cent of the workforce, in Mozambique 26 per cent, and 30 per cent in Tanzania.

## Slave labour for millions



TUNISIA: 10- to 15-year-old girls weaving carpets

Child labour is most common in countries with the highest unemployment rate.

The survival of families depends more and more on children being forced into the most inhuman conditions.

These facts alone should remind every socialist that whatever the ruling class will no doubt be saying this Christmas, there can be no 'brotherhood of man' under capitalism.

Despite the almost limitless possibilities for production which modern science and technology have brought, millions of people, including millions of children, are condemned by capitalism to slavery.

As the New Year approaches this can only make us step up the fight for a socialist world which alone can give every child a real future in life.



LATIN AMERICA: These children carry bricks instead of playing

Workers Press sends its warmest greetings to all political prisoners who will be forced to spend Christmas in the jails of imperialism, forcibly separated from their friends and loved ones. Their 'crime'? To have fought on behalf of the working class and the oppressed against the brutality of imperialism.

We particularly remember and salute those now in jail for having continued the struggle for Irish liberation. We also have in our thoughts those miners — Gary Blackmore, Michael Stephenson, John Matterson, Terry French, Dean Hancock, Russell Shankland — in prison for fighting the Thatcher government's attempt to destroy their indus-

try. They have been joined by Mike Hicks and Stephen Savage, jailed print workers, whose crime has been to fight Murdoch's plans to destroy their jobs.

Nor do we forget all those in Botha's South African jails, locked away because of their fight against the hated apartheid regime, the main prop of which is British imperialism.

Workers Press also salutes those many political prisoners throughout the Soviet Union, eastern Europe and China, imprisoned for fighting against the detested Stalinist bureaucracy.



# 'Morning Star's' betrayal of Wapping

MIKE HICKS will spend Christmas in Wormwood Scrubs. He was convicted for alleged assault against the police. His real 'crime' was that he fought for the jobs and working conditions of the Wapping printers.

Mike Hicks is a member of the SOGAT executive. He is also a prominent supporter of the 'Morning Star' and chairman of the Communist Campaign Group. This paper represents the Moscow wing of Stalinism which has recently split from the 'Euros'.

Where does the 'Morning Star' stand in the Wapping struggle? In their December 13 issue, under the head 'How to get under Murdoch's skin' they say: 'Now is the time to take the battle to free Mike Hicks, to defend the Wapping printers and our whole democratic movement into every factory, every office, every public library, market place and shopping precinct.'

Two days earlier, they carried a front page with the slogans: 'Mass turnout at Wapping on Saturday', 'Free Hicks, step up the NI boycott and back printworkers', 'Demand TUC leaders back congress policy', 'Recall congress if TUC leaders stall'.

This is empty and deceitful rhetoric.

● Right from the very outset of this almost year-long struggle the TUC has not merely 'stalled'. It has done everything possible to undermine the Wapping dispute. To demand a TUC recall if the leadership 'stalls' is a fraud! Willis and company have no intention of mobilising the strength of the movement to bring Murdoch to his knees. From the start they have given support to Hammond's scab-herding. They have worked consciously for the defeat and isolation of the Wapping printers. Like every participant in this dispute, the 'Morning Star' knows this full well.

The TUC bureaucracy must be told loud and clear: act on behalf of Hicks and the sacked printers or you will be removed!

● The boycott campaign has some support. But every serious worker knows the dispute cannot be won nor Hicks released through this campaign alone. Before Hicks was jailed the issue was the bringing out of Fleet Street in a concerted counter to Murdoch and his Tory backers. That remains the issue now. SOGAT leader Brenda Dean and NGA leader Tony Dubbins have hidden behind the TUC, hoping that the fighting strength of those engaged in Wapping could be broken.

The tenacity of the sacked printers has been the only force standing in the way of their hopes. This determined struggle alone is sufficient answer to the sceptics in the working-class movement who in practice identify the strength of the working class with the Labour Party's electoral prospects.

● The fight must be to bring out every worker on Fleet Street in support of Hicks and to mobilise every ounce of support throughout the working class movement in his defence. Nothing else will do! NGA leader Dubbins' demand for 'Sun Free Zones' is a conscious evasion of leadership in the struggle. He wants to foist responsibility for the fight on to the individual 'consumer'.

The 'Morning Star' provides a conscious cover for Dubbins and Dean. The struggle is not between Murdoch and his readers but between Murdoch, backed by the capitalist state on the one hand, and the working class on the other.

● The other burning issue is the expulsion of the scab EETPU. Here the silence of the 'Morning Star' speaks loud and clear. For months they have said the EETPU should instruct their members not to cross picket lines and that if they refuse they should be expelled. But they know that Hammond will do no such thing.

In practice the 'Morning Star' are opposed to the driving out of this scab union. Hammond's EETPU represents the only type of trade unionism which Thatcher and the ruling class will tolerate. It is the sort of trade unionism which the right-wing TUC leaders favour.

What they dread above all is the mobilisation of the strength of the working class against the employers and the Tory government. The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party has now condemned the jailing of Hicks. Dean has joined in with the other reformists in shedding tears for Mike Hicks. They are crocodile tears. The TUC has no intention of translating their pious words into effective action to free Hicks.

The threat posed by the Wapping dispute to all print workers is underlined by the the 'Daily Telegraph's' intention to sack over a third of its pre-press staff, move to dockland and introduce the new technology.

The 'Morning Star's' Wapping cover-up job is no accident. Both wings of Stalinism support the peaceful road to socialism. According to this fairy tale, the employers can be persuaded to give up their power through mass pressure exercised through Parliament. Both wings of the Stalinist movement are prepared to enter into alliances with all manner of anti-working class forces in pursuit of this end. Hicks' jailing reveals yet again that this is dangerous nonsense which can only mislead workers and lead to their defeat.

We have said before: whatever our political differences with Mike Hicks we will stand shoulder to shoulder with all those fighting for his release, just as we will with those who set out to secure a victory for the Wapping printers.

But we warn all workers that this victory cannot be gained under the leadership of Stalinism. For that a new leadership is required which will now aim to weld together the strength of the working class in a united struggle against the Thatcher government.

During the coming year Workers Press will play its full part in this decisive task.

# VIRAJ MENDIS CAMPAIGN

## Waddington makes his move

**THE Home Office has chosen Christmas to attempt to deport Viraj Mendis to Sri Lanka where he faces persecution and possible death.**

After his final appeal was dismissed by the tribunal on July 16, Viraj's MP Bob Litherland asked to meet Home Office Minister Waddington.

Waddington did not reply for five months — and then called the meeting on Thursday 18 December, giving just six days notice in the week before Christmas.

It is painfully obvious that Waddington hopes to deport Viraj on the quiet.

Waddington says he would only reverse the decision in the face of 'compelling compassionate factors'.

He has already decided these do not exist, on the strength of a letter from the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Mr. C. Monerawela, which says that Viraj will be in no danger if he returns.

The Commissioner states that the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign is a piece of propaganda being carried out in a vicious campaign to tarnish the name of Sri Lanka.

He also claims Viraj is unknown in Sri Lanka, yet the campaign has received coverage in the Sri Lankan 'Daily News'.

After an advertisement appeared in 'The Guardian' on October 14 opposing the deportation, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner wrote a letter of complaint to every one who had signed it.

The Campaign received

numerous threatening phone calls.

The High Commissioner says Viraj would be safe in Sri Lanka. Amnesty International have documented atrocities committed in Sri Lanka against opponents of the regime.

There have been mass executions of Tamils and persecution of Sinhala socialists.

Between 1985 and February 1986, 2,578 Tamil people were killed by the security forces.

In December 1985 over 100 Sinhala socialists supporting the Tamil struggle were arrested.

Viraj is a Sinhalese sup-

porter of the Tamil Liberation struggle.

At a press conference on December 15, Viraj asked if Waddington would have deported an anti-Nazi to Hitler's Germany if he had had similar assurances from a representative of that country.

Val Stevens pledged the support of Manchester City Council.

Following Waddington's assertion that Viraj had not put down roots in the community (because he has no job), she asked: 'How could a black person facing deportation be expected to find work?'

The Viraj Mendis Defence

Campaign is organising a national march in Manchester on December 20 (see details page 13).

Viraj Mendis and the Campaign will carry on fighting even in the event of a deportation order.

● The VMDC urge all supporters to join Saturday's march.

● Write to Waddington c/o Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

● Buy and sell the pamphlet 'Viraj Mendis Must Stay', £1.05p (including p&p) from VMDC c/o North Hulme Centre, Jackson Crescent, Manchester M15. Tel 061-234-3168.

## Scottish tour wins support

**BACKING for Viraj Mendis' campaign against his deportation was built up last week with a speaking tour arranged by support groups in Scotland.**

Viraj began the week by addressing the Stirling trades council, where he was given a warm reception by delegates who agreed to write a letter of protest to the Home Office and donated everything left in their funds towards his travel expenses.

They pledged to take the issue back to their various unions in central Scotland and expressed concern at the lack of publicity given to Viraj's campaign by the Labour leadership.

The trades council also agreed to write to shadow Home Secretary Gerald Kaufman demanding that he publicly supports the campaign.

Students in Glasgow gave Viraj enthusiastic backing.

A lunchtime meeting at Glasgow University Students' Union agreed to set up a support group and plans to call an extraordinary general meeting of students to demand of the SRC that greater support is given to the campaign, such as organising transport to the demonstration in Manchester.

Viraj was later invited to address hundreds of students at a gig given by a local band.

At Langside college in Glasgow, a meeting organised jointly by the EIS teachers' union and the NUS put forward delegates to participate in the local campaign support group.

And Labour Club members at Clydebank college agreed to write in protest to the Home Office and organise a postcard-sending campaign through the SRC.

Viraj also put his case to a committee meeting of the Scottish anti-racist movement, who voted along with representatives of the Scottish Asian Action Committee to protest to the Home Office and to raise the campaign in their local organisations.

He travelled as far north as Aberdeen to speak to a meeting of trade unionists and their supporters. In a very positive discussion, many ideas were contributed towards fighting the deportation.

Members of the Aberdeen trades council were confident they could win immediate executive action on the case and representatives from the teachers union EIS and NALGO promised to agitate for full support in their union.

Local anti-apartheid activists joined in plans to take the campaign on to the streets with leaflets and petitions.

On the last day of his tour, Viraj was welcomed by miners at the Polmaise colliery where the political nature of his deportation was immediately recognised.

Finally, he visited Dundee to confirm the many pledges of support already made by the trades council there.



All night picket of Home Office on Wednesday night

## Apartheid day-school planned

GLASGOW Trades Council has taken a major step forward in their battle against apartheid by planning a Day School on trade unions and the fight against apartheid.

The motion from the NUJ Glasgow branch, which had been recommended for rejection by the trade councils executive, condemned the tyrannical oppression of trade unionists by the South African government.

'We declare our support for those South African trade unionists fighting for basic rights and freedoms,' it continued.

'We are especially concerned at both the large scale censorship of news, the government attacks on South African journalists, and the Media Workers Alliance of South Africa.'

'We condemn the Tory government's stand against economic sanctions against South Africa. We note that South African trade unionists are calling on British trade unionists to implement

sanctions themselves, and believe that this must be taken up by the TUC, STUC and by all trade unionists.'

The resolution ended with a call for a day school on trade unions and the fight against apartheid, including the use of trade union sanctions.

### Feature

The executive committee put forward a counter-proposal that the next meeting of the trades council feature the issue of South Africa.

The delegates correctly rejected this manoeuvre to limit action to the Stalinist 'People's boycott'-type campaign and passed the NUJ resolution.

The day school will be held on 17 January 1987 and further details will be announced soon.

## FREE BRUTAN PERERA!

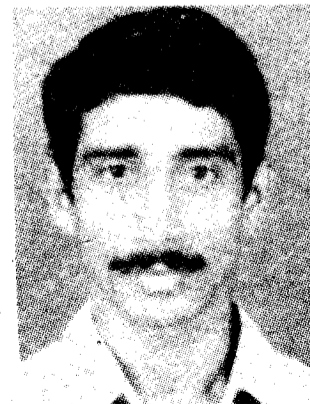
### Letter from Paris

Dear Comrades,  
We have received your letter informing us about the campaign of repression unleashed against the Revolutionary Communist League of Sri Lanka and its leaders.

We completely agree to join in an international campaign for the release of Comrade Perera and the dropping of all legal actions against the Sri Lankan Trotskyists.

In fact it is necessary to oppose these attacks, which form part of a whole plan by imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracy of the Kremlin which aims to crush all working-class organisations and especially those that profess the proletarian revolution.

We shall inform our readers and send a telegram of protest to the Sri Lankan embassy. Meanwhile please



BRUTAN PERERA

send us any further information you may have.  
Yours fraternally,

J. Borovi  
For the Group of Opposition and Continuity of the Fourth International Paris

# Limb fitters need Christmas support

**THE WOMEN'S Support Group of the J.E. Hanger's sacked artificial limbmakers at Roehampton have called for increased support over the Christmas.**

The wives, girlfriends and mothers of the men in the three-month-old dispute are organising a Family Day on December 20 at 2p.m. in St Margaret's Hall, Putney Park Lane.

They will be catering for over 50 children with a party, toys, games and a puppet show.

Miners and firemen know full well the pressure that builds up on their families just prior to the festive holiday.

Graham Croucher, a committee member, has three children. He told Workers Press at the mass picket this week that they faced a very bleak Christmas.

'We each have a £10 meat voucher and the Trades Council are supplying a dinner,' he said.

'Most of the men have worked continuously for decades and they are not used to this situation. It has been a political education for them.'

The Women's Support Group, with advice from the Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures and SOGAT Women from Wapping, have been active in making collections, speaking at meetings

BY MIKE BURROWS

and organising the odd jumble sale.

Caroline Croucher and Anne Michael believe that as they are getting more involved the women have become a real force in the dispute.

'We were very green two months ago but we feel the injustice so much and we have learnt a lot,' said Caroline.

'You are made to feel no longer in charge of yourself, no longer capable of surviving on your own. We have felt the stress and strain of paying our bills in instalments and at the same time wanting to return to an ordinary family life.'

'It is hard to think of Christmas. Our families are very understanding and will see us through.'

'Afterwards will be the crunchtime!'



Delegations from the Hangers dispute have been enthusiastic supporters of the Wapping picket. Above: The banner at last Saturday's march

The dispute began in September when management increased productivity levels with no consultation with the two main unions, TASS and FTAT.

Shop stewards were sacked when they informed the night shift of a union meeting's decision to ban overtime.

All the workers voted to go on a one-day stoppage the

following day, September 17, in support of the four sacked men.

One-and-a-half hours later, 300 dismissal notices were served — even to workers on holiday!

Messages of support and donations can be sent to: The Hangers Strike Appeal, c/o TASS, Wessex House, 520 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey. Tel 01-788 9598.

## RELEASE JAILED TRADE UNIONISTS

### S WALES MINERS

**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 MINER

**TERRY FRENCH:** Betteshanger — Four year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Northeye Prison, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex

### PRINTERS

**STEPHEN SAVAGE:** SOGAT Casuals — Three months from October 1986, Sheerness Prison.

**MIKE HICKS,** SOGAT NEC, Imperial FoC London Wholesalers — Four months plus eight months suspended. As we go to press, being moved from Wormwood Scrubs.

## Dublin Hungary meeting

A SUCCESSFUL meeting commemorating the Hungarian Revolution was held in Dublin last week.

It was organised by the local branches of Peoples Democracy and Irish Workers Group in collaboration with Irish supporters of Workers Press/WRP.

Opening the meeting, chairperson Paul Billings said the significance of this event was two-fold.

### Sectarian

It was the first time the Hungarian Revolution had been publicly honoured in Ireland. This was a conscious turn by Trotskyists to break out of their previous sectarian practices.

Although the attendance of 40 was relatively small, it was a successful achieve-

ment to have jointly organised such a gathering and to be able to bring Peter Fryer to address it.

Before the main speech was given, tribute was paid to the memory of Comrade David Fry, a founder member and National Secretary of the Workers League, by Norman Macmillan and a minute's silence was held.

Peter Fryer presented a graphic account of the 1956 revolution. He compared the Hungarian workers' struggle against domination by the USSR to the national liberation struggle in Ireland.

He emphasised that the Hungarian workers were fighting for independence for a socialist Hungary and not a

return to capitalism.

**John Meehan of Peoples Democracy** described the continuation of workers' attempts to achieve political and economic control from East Germany in 1953, Hungary and Poland in 1956 and Solidarnosc again in Poland in the 1980s.

He said that it was the task of Trotskyists to show that Stalinist oppression was not the only alternative to capitalism for the working class.

Trotskyists had the duty to defend all basic democratic rights. In Ireland this meant supporting such campaigns as for the repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act which denied Sinn Fein the right to speak on any topic on radio or television.

**Martin Malony of the Irish Workers Group** said the Hungarian revolution was not just a struggle for democratic rights. It was for workers' power, for workers' control of their state.

### Marxist

In dealing with the reasons for its defeat, he pointed to the absence of a Marxist party.

This allowed sections of the Hungarian Stalinist bureaucracy, centred around Imre Nagy, to maintain the political confusion of the masses. Despite their intentions, these leaders fostered illusions in the possibility of reforming the Stalinist apparatus.

After a period of open discussion, the meeting ended with the announcement of plans for further joint ventures in 1987, including the commemoration of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

## Babcock job losses

BABCOCK engineering company in Renfrewshire were busy spreading Christmas cheer on Monday. The management called union leaders in to announce 620 jobs are to be lost.

This brings the number of jobs shed by this one company to over 2,000.

Local MP Allan Adams said: 'Renfrewshire has lost 20,000 jobs in the last seven years. It simply cannot go on. What are the next generation going to do?'

As these latest redundancies were announced the strange scheme for creating jobs was put forward by Graham Day,

head of the Rover group.

His plan is to build a leisure and shopping complex on the site of the deserted British Leyland factory at Bathgate.

The car factory which once employed 6,000 people would 'create' 4,000 jobs by being turned into a leisure centre.

An official of Lothian region's planning and development committee was quoted as saying: 'This project may look good on paper with 4,000 jobs promised, but what will happen to the other shopping centres in the area? It will be like robbing Peter to pay Paul.'

This is the truth of the matter. Retail and leisure jobs will not be created but merely taken away from other areas of the Lothian region. It is a fraud and an insult to Scottish workers to claim that any jobs will be created.

**1986 Scottish job losses:** March: Gartcosh British Steel 500. May: Shipyards 800. May: British Rail 1,100. July: Lawson 550. September: Brit Oil 750. November: Scott Lithgow 1,600. December: Guinness 430. December: Burroughs 360. And now December: Babcocks 620.

## ANNOUNCING A NEW EDITION OF

# HUNGARIAN TRAGEDY

The Hungarian revolution of 1956 and its brutal suppression by Russian tanks was a watershed in the history of socialism.

In October 1956 Peter Fryer was sent to cover these events for the Daily Worker. He reported what he saw — only to have his despatches suppressed and to be suspended and then expelled from the Communist Party.

He saw people in arms demolish a regime of fear and poverty and take power in their own hands. He saw security police atrocities — and the people's terrible revenge. Then he watched appalled as a nation's new-born freedom was relentlessly crushed.

Peter Fryer's eye-witness account, first published in December 1956, had an immediate impact, bringing home to many things which they wished were not true.

Thirty years later his Hungarian Tragedy, now published by New Park Publications with a new introduction by the author, still stands as a model of journalistic insight and integrity and is as valuable now as it was in 1956.

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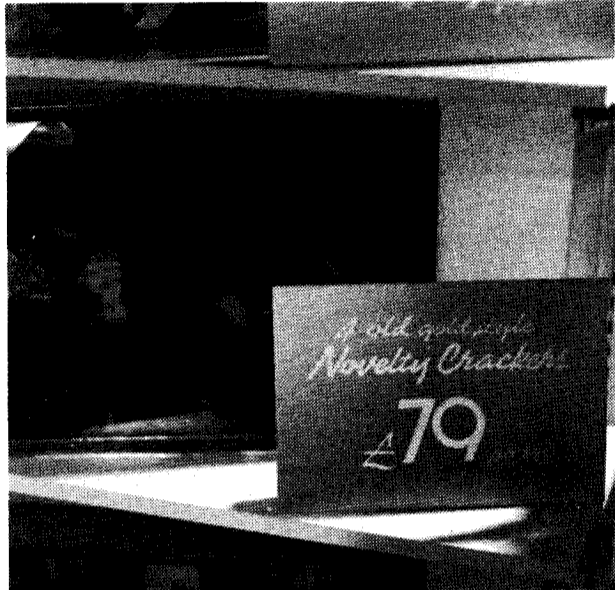
**BOOKS**



# Still in a flap over Christmas?



**Christmas 1986:**  
There are now only three shopping days left, so we sent the Workers Press consumer team to visit London's West End stores. They came back with some suggestions for last-minute stocking fillers for the particularly well-heeled.



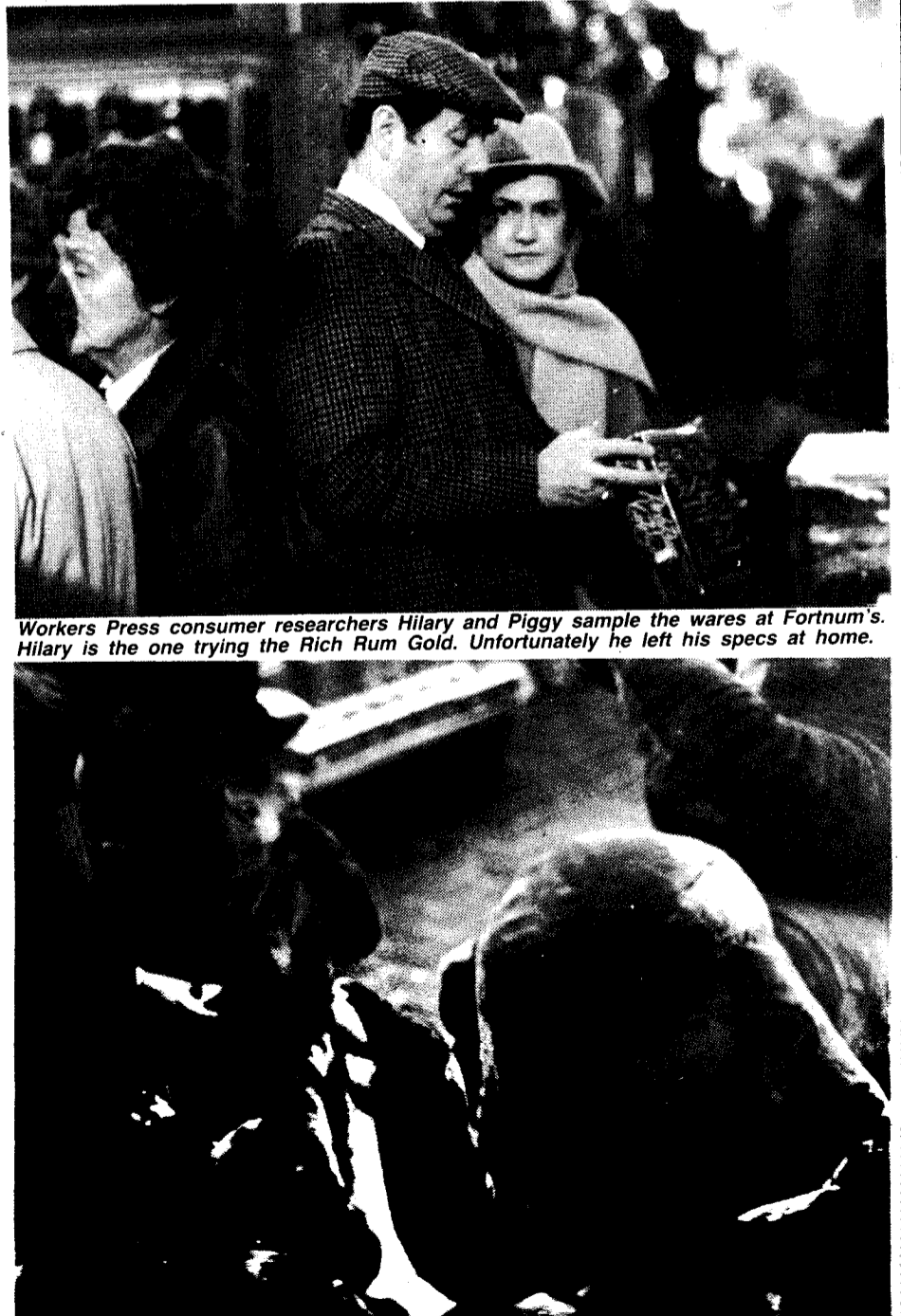
Harvey Nicols have just the right thing to make your table go with a bang — the novelty crackers at a modest £79 for a box of four. But if you are feeling the pinch then the UPPER CRUST CRACKERS are a snip at £55 for four.



Fortnum's Hamper this year includes a variety of tinned meats, preserves and pies. If you prefer your Xmas dinner on the lawn, what better than to picnic off this £550 worth of goodies. And you can put your laundry in the basket once you've finished.



If little Candida is still refusing to spur her pony over the sticks, what about the next best thing? This stuffed life-sized mount at Harrods is a bargain at £995. No mucking out and no oats needed.



Workers Press consumer researchers Hilary and Piggy sample the wares at Fortnum's. Hilary is the one trying the Rich Rum Gold. Unfortunately he left his specs at home.

Or perhaps a touch of the David Attenborough's this year? These cuddly, purring, uncut jumbos at around two and a half grand the hero.



# On the estates . . .

**THIS will be the 12th Christmas Frances Borton has managed on social security — and it doesn't get any easier.**

Now a single parent, she lives in Mayhill estate in Swansea with her three children: Catherine aged 13, Lee, 9, and James, 7.

Each week she receives a grand total in benefit of £57.83 after rent and fuel payments are deducted.

This includes £25 family allowance and £2 a week heating allowance for her youngest boy, who is asthmatic and epileptic.

Until four months ago she received an allowance for a special diet, but this is now stopped even though James cannot eat tinned food and squash as he is hyperactive.

This week Frances cashed her double benefit for Christmas, and now has £6 left to last until December 29.

'I bought about £40 worth of toys because I won't see the children without on Christmas morning.

'They wanted a new TV and bikes, but what they'll have is from the discount stores and I know it won't last much after the first day.

BY MARION BURROWS

'We all need new clothes, especially Catherine now she's getting older, but everything has to be given.

'The rest of this week's money went on TV repairs and food. Nothing luxurious, just ordinary food. I couldn't buy a turkey, and put by a piece of pork from the market for £2.99.'

Frances won't be going over Christmas. 'Not that that's new', she said.

'The last time I went out was two years ago, but the children will have a trip to the pantomime because we saved with the rest of the street since the summer.

'I'd love to go to town and buy decent toys and clothes for the kids,' she said.

'People who can do it don't realise what it's like.'

■ Frances Borton in her Swansea home



## BRENT: Opportunism cannot defeat race attacks

COMMENT BY GERRY DOWNING

ALL working-class organisations must reject the open season declared on the left-controlled Labour councils, particularly the inner city ones with large ethnic communities.

The Tory government, the capitalist press and right-wing labour leaders, taking their lead from Kinnock, have fuelled an outrageous racist, anti-gay, anti-lesbian witchhunt against these councils.

The political aim of the Tories is to discredit the Labour Party and politically destroy any leadership that might express the anger and frustration of these most deprived and oppressed sections of the community.

The aim of Kinnock is to rid himself of left-wing opponents as he has no intention of restoring any of the Tory cuts if elected.

But the problems of working class leadership are far more complex than the recognition of the direct class enemy, the Tories, and right-wing Labour traitors, as events in Brent over the last three months have shown.

The McGoldrick affair sees Brent under attack not only from the gutter press, Kinnock and Tebbit but also from the Stalinist-led Brent teachers who are using the courts against it.

Ms McGoldrick herself is, without prejudging her guilt

or innocence, fronting for this assault.

The Brent Socialist Teachers Alliance and the Brent Black Teachers collective have correctly supported Brent against the NUT.

Brent Council, in a shameful capitulation to anti-Irish hysteria emanating in the main from the same people who are supporting Ms McGoldrick, have voted to evict en masse the Irish travellers on Fryant Country Park.

Some of the abuse hurled at Irish Labour councillors Colum Maloney and John Ryan was fascist.

Travellers were referred to as 'filthy sub-human scum'.

The former Labour anti-racist councillor Ambrosine Neil crossed party lines and handed over the council to the Tories during the last administration.

How a black anti-racist left became a right-wing Tory overnight was never politically explained by the Brent Labour group.

Ken Livingstone, the former stalwart of the PLO and Sinn Fein and political co-thinker of Brent council leader Merle Amory remained for a long period strangely silent over the McGoldrick affair and the Irish travellers.

The question here posed is how to fight this racist

assault that has rallied the right wing and created so much confusion among the workforce.

The approach is vital and it must be said that the methods of Russell Proffitt, Chief Race Relations Adviser in Brent, Councillor Ron Anderson, pro-Zionist chair of the education committee, and Merle Amory, the leader of the council, have been disastrous.

Political opponents have been labelled racist to advance the careers of politically ambitious opponents.

An article appeared in the December issue of 'Labour Briefing' by a member of Brent NALGO.

It says: 'Brent by itself did not create the McGoldrick affair . . . the Left has created the conditions in which McGoldrick-type situations are bound to occur and that, frankly is no bad thing . . . So before we run for cover and start talking of vague "class solidarity before race" . . .

Who needs a class analysis with leftists like this?

Colin Adams, a Brent teacher has a far better approach.

In the same issue he says: 'Unfortunately councillors spent too much time in the committee rooms and on TV neglecting grassroots activists . . . councillors also have a habit of agreeing policies and doing very little to implement them'.

He might also have pointed to the cynical way opportunists like Living-

stone have used anti-racism and support for Sinn Féin to get his seat in Westminster while abandoning the fight to rally the working class in London against rate-capping.

This enormously exacerbated the conditions of dire poverty, the fertile breeding ground of racism.

The middle class like the teachers or the residents in Brent North close to Fryant Country Park will be driven into the arms of the racists if they blame the working class, blacks or Irish for their conditions.

No amount of bureaucratically administered equal opportunities policies will substitute for a mobilisation to get rid of capitalism itself.

In fact much of the equal opportunities policies may be diverted by careerist and middle class elements for their own advancement.

Equal opportunities policies must be supported as well as the right of ethnic minorities to form their own groups in the trade unions or the Labour party.

Like religion, and nationalism, we must support the defencist racialism of the oppressed ethnic minorities against the chauvinistic imperialist racism of the oppressors.

Only revolutionary Marxism can teach the workers how to fight and defeat the capitalist system on these class principles.

## Sellafield

### issues evaded

THE Health and Safety Executive's threat to shut the Sellafield nuclear re-processing plant in Cumbria has highlighted the dangers which protest groups have been campaigning about for years.

The two-volume report wants no less than 29 changes, following the listing of a series of dangers including 'too many small leaks', radiation doses to workers that 'were not as low as they should be' and lax basic safety standards.

BY MIKE BURROWS

The ten-month report by the mainly government body called for improvements in management, control and instrumentation, containment, ventilation . . . decontamination . . . maintenance . . . and staff training.

The report is an excuse for doing nothing.

John Rimington, the Health and Safety Executive's Director General, said this was 'a major jolt for the management'.

And then (as a threat?) he said: 'We are quite prepared to stop reprocessing temporarily'.

Eddy Ryder, Chief Inspector, stressed they found nothing 'new, serious or fundamental' affecting the public — though one item would have had serious consequences for some site workers!

Neville Chamberlain, the British Nuclear Fuel's Chief Executive, said they would meet inspectors to start on an action plan for February 1987.

Pressure groups like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth could provide more efficient and scientific reports but they could never

be implemented under capitalism.

They know that warnings are not enough and that action is required but they are not convinced that a planned economy for energy is impossible under the laws of profit-making.

Workers at these plants and the families living near them must demand the right to control them.

This is the only way in which adequate safety standards can be enforced.

● Eighteen years after an American nuclear-armed B-52 bomber crashed in Northern Greenland, more than 500 Danish workers who helped in the clean-up operation are sick and 98 of them are suffering from cancer.

This has been revealed after an official report maintained there was no risk to human health.

An unknown number of the same group of workers are said to have died as a result of exposure to radiation released in the accident.



# SOUTH AFRICA

## Draconian press laws

**THE WEEKLY MAIL**  
 THE PAPER FOR A CHANGING SOUTH AFRICA  
 25 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE  
 BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER  
 THE EMERGENCY MADE SIMPLE

Should you intend discussing any of the following topics:

- Security force action
- Boycotts
- The treatment of detainees
- The release of any detainee
- 'People's courts'
- Street committees

Simply phone these numbers to ask for permission:

MR BOTHA (State President)	(021) 45 7271	MRS BOTHA (State President)	(021) 45 7271
MR BOTHA (Minister of Foreign Affairs)	(021) 45 7272	MR BOTHA (Minister of Defence)	(021) 45 7273
MR BOTHA (Minister of Information)	(021) 45 7274	MR BOTHA (Minister of Justice)	(021) 45 7275
MR BOTHA (Minister of Labour)	(021) 45 7276	MR BOTHA (Minister of Transport)	(021) 45 7277
MR BOTHA (Minister of Water Affairs)	(021) 45 7278	MR BOTHA (Minister of Welfare)	(021) 45 7279
MR BOTHA (Minister of Health)	(021) 45 7280	MR BOTHA (Minister of Education)	(021) 45 7281
MR BOTHA (Minister of Environment)	(021) 45 7282	MR BOTHA (Minister of Arts and Culture)	(021) 45 7283
MR BOTHA (Minister of Tourism)	(021) 45 7284	MR BOTHA (Minister of Finance)	(021) 45 7285
MR BOTHA (Minister of Trade and Industry)	(021) 45 7286	MR BOTHA (Minister of Energy)	(021) 45 7287
MR BOTHA (Minister of Agriculture)	(021) 45 7288	MR BOTHA (Minister of Housing)	(021) 45 7289
MR BOTHA (Minister of Public Works)	(021) 45 7290	MR BOTHA (Minister of Communications)	(021) 45 7291
MR BOTHA (Minister of Environmental Affairs)	(021) 45 7292	MR BOTHA (Minister of Social Services)	(021) 45 7293
MR BOTHA (Minister of Natural Resources)	(021) 45 7294	MR BOTHA (Minister of Community Development)	(021) 45 7295
MR BOTHA (Minister of Land Affairs)	(021) 45 7296	MR BOTHA (Minister of Human Resources Development)	(021) 45 7297
MR BOTHA (Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Game)	(021) 45 7298	MR BOTHA (Minister of Correctional Services)	(021) 45 7299
MR BOTHA (Minister of Transport, Freight and Logistics)	(021) 45 7300	MR BOTHA (Minister of Police)	(021) 45 7301

Section 34(a)(ii) of yesterday's new Emergency Regulations authorises any minister, deputy minister or government official to allow discussion of these forbidden topics. See PAGE 3 for details.

THE Johannesburg anti-government 'Weekly Mail' last week devoted its whole front page to a list of telephone numbers — starting with the State President P. W. Botha — to be phoned for permission to discuss various topics. New measures under the Emergency Regulations prohibit:

- Information on what is happening to Emergency detainees — at a time when there have been many allegations of maltreatment.
- Reports on the activities of the municipal police in the township strife. Allegations of abuse are rife.
- Statements discrediting or undermining compulsory military service. This effectively bans the campaign to end conscription.
- The publication of court testimony relating to Emergency detainees, unrest and Security Force action until the court has made a finding. This is a major inroad into access to information, as court reports were one of the few sources of information available to the public.
- The use of blank spaces, deletions or omissions in newspapers to indicate censorship.

The regulations hold up the threat of ten years imprisonment for anyone who 'whether orally or in writing makes any subversive statements or causes such a statement to be made' — even in casual conversation or in private notebooks.



## Conference on union sanctions

DELEGATES representing 58 trade unions, trades councils and Anti-Apartheid groups met in Birmingham last weekend to continue the campaign, begun last July, for trade union sanctions against South Africa.

Catherine O'Reilly of the Dunnes Stores strikers spoke of the long and bitter struggle by 11 Irish shopworkers against the handling of apartheid goods.

After two-and-a-half years on strike and a campaign which involved the collaring of Labour MPs, churchmen and the leadership of the Irish and British trade unions, 11 ordinary workers succeeded in changing the laws of a whole country:

From 1 January 1987 the Irish Republic will no longer

import South African agricultural products. But as Catherine said, this is not enough. Sanctions must include all South African goods and services.

She told how four of the strikers, all women, were attacked by 30 police, injured when thrown against the police van — and then arrested for assault.

As none of the strikers were over 5ft and all of the police were at least 6ft tall, the charges were dismissed.

Other delegates described the actions they were taking in their own unions.

NUPE health workers from Leicestershire were trying to achieve the same success that Brent health workers had in imposing a ban on South African goods.

NUJ members were fighting for their union to implement its excellent policies on sanctions.

All delegates agreed the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Labour Party, Tory party, the TUC and the unions nationally had made no serious attempt to carry out any determined policy on sanctions.

Three workshops drew up plans on work within the Anti-Apartheid Movement, within the trade unions, and on targeting of significant areas of contact with South Africa: the seamen's union, dockers, airline workers and the transport union.

A national steering committee has been set up to ensure the conference decisions are carried out.

# Weapons of criticism and the criticism of weapons

WRP opposition to the arming of Azanian workers throws its political line on S. Africa into considerable confusion. Not only does it undermine the need for the political and politico-military independence of the working class, but it parallels directly Botha's demand that the ANC renounce the use of violence.

Botha aims to police the ANC. Is the WRP now to police the Azanian proletariat?

Whilst calling for defence of the armed struggle the WRP denies the need for the arming of Azanian workers, despite their militarily besieged position at the hands of the racist bourgeois state.

Whilst correctly calling for the building of a revolutionary leadership on the concrete question of the arming of the working class, Azanian workers are given a Stalinist reply. Subordinate yourselves to the armed struggle; do not think of relying upon your own class, your own organisations and your own arms.

The wrong political line is now beginning to bear unwholesome fruit. Thus G Barr feels ambiguous about the use of (armed) force by Azanian workers. (WP Nov 1)

The roots of revolutionary violence lie in privatised property relations and the inability of Imperialist-capitalism to develop the productive forces in the interests of the world proletariat.

Revolutionary violence is not the product of deficient minds but the inevitable accompaniment of enormous social upheaval and intensified class antagonisms in the epoch of wars and revolutions.

Within S. Africa revolutionary struggles by the working class for bourgeois democratic demands and its

State engineered 'divisions within the black community' or any other such abstraction. They are class actions launched by the working class against its enemies and the racist capitalist state, in the overwhelming majority of cases.

After opposing the arming of unarmed workers engaged in clear-sighted, consistent and revolutionary opposition to the racist bourgeois state armed to the teeth, the wrong policy logically counterposes to this, defence of an armed struggle led by class-collaborationists whose declared aim is retention of the bourgeois state.

Some searching questions should be addressed to this armed struggle. What are its aims? Which class forces lead it? What is its relationship to with the class struggles of Azanian workers? Why does recourse to arms take the form of guerilla warfare? Why doesn't the ANC arm the entire Azanian working class?

Umkhonto We Sizwe is the military wing of the class-collaborationist, nationalist petty-bourgeois democrats, the ANC/Stalinists who aim not to smash but to inherit the bourgeois state shorn of its racist, anti-democratic character and to retain private property relations.

The armed struggle therefore is directed not against the bourgeois state for its revolutionary overthrow, but solely against its apartheid structures. Kept at a

### COMMENT BY NORA WILDE

deliberately low intensity, out of 10,000 armed forces no more than 400 are reported to be in the field. (Weekly Mail)

Largely the corollary of ANC/Stalinist commitment to peaceful change, they also aim to conserve their forces in preparation for the day they hope to take control of the state, for use against workers in order to submit them to continued economic exploitation.

The guerilla struggle is not integrated with, but divorced from workers struggles. Those workers who wish to take up arms against the state are taken out of the class struggles and out of the country.

Consequently, whilst the armed struggle and its bourgeois democrats aims has to be defended, it is essential to recognise guerilla warfare as the universal petty-bourgeois alternative to the independent military activity of the working class mobilised by revolutionary leadership for the revolutionary overthrow of the racist bourgeois state.

Why doesn't the ANC arm the Azanian working class? Because that is a fundamentally revolutionary measure which Trotskyists internationally can and must demand of the ANC.

Because though all workers struggles draw the fire of the state, the nationalist petty-bourgeois democrats fear

a working class armed with the means to smash the state.

Because the ANC/Stalinist are counter-revolutionary through and through in relation to the strategic interests of the working class, the armed dictatorship of the proletariat, committed as they are to the two-stage theory.

The working class must be armed as a defensive measure against the repressive might of the military state; those who are prepared to die in struggle have a right to defend themselves with arms.

For revolutionaries within and outside of S. Africa, the question of arming Azanian workers is a tactical demand in strategic agreement with the armed dictatorship of the proletariat.

Addressed to the ANC/Stalinists it will expose to workers internationally their counter-revolutionary commitment to the bourgeois state.

Arming workers will not overcome the crisis of revolutionary leadership; it is but one element in the struggle for its resolution.

Therefore such a demand should not be held up until such a time as revolutionary leadership emerges. Only through beginning with the objective needs of the unfolding revolutionary struggle can the crisis of leadership begin to be resolved.

The demand has to be fought for within S. Africa, side by side with the struggle for bourgeois democratic rights; for democratic proletarian Soviets, and demands transitional to the dictatorship of the proletariat such as the nationalisation of industry and land under workers control.

For the defence of workers struggles in the creation of armed workers detachments, constituting in embryo the revolutionary socialist army. And for their relationship with the class-collaborationists' armed struggle to be based on the principle 'march separately, strike together' against the racist capitalist state, in preparation for its entire overthrow.

The question of the arming of the Azanian workers therefore should not be counterposed to the need for revolutionary leadership, nor denounced as reactionary in favour of the class-collaborationist armed struggle.

So may I conclude by urging the WRP to discuss the need to correct its wrong political line and thereby cease to be the unwitting instruments of the ANC/Stalinists.

That the Central Committee place a statement and resolution to this effect in Workers Press, and as part of its commitment to root out Healyism, one of the characteristics of which was subordination of the independence of the working class to class-collaborationism.



# THE END FOR REAGAN?

- President Ronald Reagan prostrated by a politically well-timed prostate.
- CIA chief William Casey having possibly pulled his last stroke.
- Vice-President George Bush caught right at the centre of the scandal over gun-running to right-wing Contra terrorists.

**THAT was the latest state of play last week in the leadership crisis of the mightiest imperialist power.**

News that Reagan would be entering hospital for a prostate operation came soon after it was reported the President might be asked to appear before the Congressional committee investigating the Iran arms and Contra-funding scandal.

White House staff were trying to find him a lawyer.

After sacked National Security Council members Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North had pleaded the Fifth Amendment to avoid incriminating themselves, papers normally sympathetic to Reagan speculated he might persuade his former aides to drop this and answer the committee's questions.

Instead, Reagan asked the Senate to grant the two immunity from prosecution, so they might be persuaded to testify.

This from the man who built his early political career denouncing what he used to call 'Fifth Amendment communists' — those who refused to answer questions from McCarthy!

Polls show Reagan's credibility even with the most credulous US voters has slumped drastically since the 'Iran-Contragate' affair broke.

## Off the record

White House officials have remarked off the record that their President 'is out of touch with reality'. A comforting thought for Christmas when you think what's at the end of that little button.

Meanwhile CIA chief William Casey was rushed to

hospital after collapsing with what was called a minor cerebral seizure, the night before he was due to resume testifying before the Senate Intelligence committee.

Casey took charge of the CIA after running Reagan's 1980 election campaign. When he was under attack over CIA terrorism, sabotage, and mining Nicaragua's waters, Reagan assured him: 'You're my man at the CIA as long as I am President.'

How long will that be? Casey's stroke came within hours of the President announcing he would let White House chief of staff Donald Regan go before the committee.

Regan told the committee he knew nothing about money from the Iranian arms deals being diverted to the Contras fighting Nicaragua. Asked how this could be, Regan's loyal aide explained:

'It is simple, the National Security Council does not report to the White House Chief of Staff, it reports to the President.'

The scandal over the secret deals with Iran — which Reagan plainly knew all about — and funding for the Contras, has shown the born-again President lying to the American public and his allies, and conspiring with a

hard-right clique in the military, intelligence and big business realms to decide real US policy.

## Meanwhile back in Texas. . .

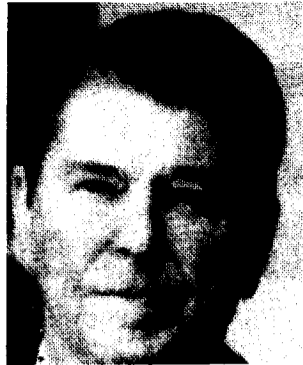
THE ramifications of the scandal have shown how the world's great capitalist 'democracy' is really ruled.

Democratic Congressman Kika de la Garza could not figure out who was behind television commercials attacking him during the mid-term elections. Now he knows.

Because Texas congressman la Garza criticised military aid for the Contras, he was one of several targeted by the wealthy right-wing pro-Contra network mobilised by Colonel North. It is being suggested that some of the millions made from the Iran arms deal were used for such political operations inside the United States.

The smear job on la Garza included depicting him surrounded by pictures of Gorbachev, Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, Castro and, ironically — Ayatollah Khomeiny!

Although political campaigning by serving officers is illegal, — as is using government cash — these are minor matters compared with some of the 'dirty



REAGAN



CASEY



BUSH

tricks' Reagan's aides have been involved in.

In California, the FBI were called in last week to investigate the theft of documents belonging to Iranian-born businessman Albert Hakim from a lawyers' office near San Jose.

Hakim, a partner of North-associate Major-General Richard Secord has not been seen since his name cropped up in the Iran-Contra affair. His name was reported to be one of those on Colonel North's secret Swiss bank account.

'It was a professional job,' said local police lieutenant Tom Davis. 'Apparently they knew what they were looking for. Because of the ramifications, what it may lead to, we brought in the FBI.'

The documents missing concerned the Iranian arms deals and funds for the Contras, and included details of a 'South Korean connection'.

(The Korean-based Unification Church — the 'Moonies' — have been tied in with right-wing political forces backing the Contras, such as the World Anti-Communist League.)

Political groups opposed to Reagan's Central America policy have reported 25 break-ins against them in the past two years.

A few weeks ago, the International Centre for Develop-

ment Policy, headed by ex-President Jimmy Carter's ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, had its offices ransacked.

'I would bet \$10,000 to a doughnut we had a photographic intelligence mission run on us,' said a staff member. 'It looks like they took pictures of every document in my office.'

Although most of the break-ins against left-wing or anti-Reagan groups were seen as a form of harassment and intimidation, the political burglars who raided the Centre had more specific objects. One of the documents stolen dealt with arms runs by Southern Air Transport, a CIA-linked firm, to the Contras.

## At the top

NICARAGUAN President Ortega's proposal last week to release captured US flyer Eugene Hasenfus could be viewed with mixed feelings by the Reagan administration, or what remains of it. Would Hasenfus have too much to say when he got home?

It was admitted last week that 'former' CIA agent Felix Rodriguez, running Contra supplies while Congress had officially cut off funds, rang straight through to Vice-President George

Bush's office when Hasenfus plane was shot down on October 5.

The National Security Council and the White House situation room were told. Bush, a former CIA chief, now admits having met Rodriguez several times, though claiming they never discussed Contra activity.

Why should a 'private' plane crash have to be reported to Reagan's top security chiefs straight-away? Don't ask daft questions!

Bush is front-runner for the Republican nomination next year. But last week officials said the vice-president would not be taking over while Reagan was in hospital.

Two of Reagan's top National Security Council staff resigned last week, one of them being Middle East expert Howard Teicher who headed the Office for Politico-Military Affairs and is thought to have gone to Tehran with Colonel North and National Security adviser Robert McFarlane.

Teicher was also named as a leading figure in the row over CIA disinformation fed the press to whip-up war hysteria against Libya.

White House press spokesman Larry Speakes said further resignations could be expected as new Security Adviser Frank Carlucci brought his own people in. Speakes has said he intends quitting the government himself to go make more money on Wall Street.

The 'Iran-Contragate' affair is not just a scandal but a major political crisis, and not just for Reagan and his lackeys but for the ruling class he represents.

So much was invested in the Hollywood hero who was going to rescue capitalism and put the 'bad guys' and communists to flight.

The working class in the United States, many of them engaged in bitter and protracted struggles over jobs, pay and union rights, must be asking serious questions about the kind of people who rule them, about the political system, and about why they are still waiting for their own, workers' party.

They must note the link between corrupt sell-out union bosses at home and CIA operations abroad, and the fact that leaders of the AFL-CIO unions have kept a de-meaning silence over the government crisis.

We in Britain have no room for complacency. Tory prime minister Thatcher has been called Reagan's poodle. Labour leader Neil Kinnock has been busy trying to prove to US leaders he's just a pussy-cat.

Besides being US imperialism's most docile ally, the British ruling class are just as devious, corrupt, and reactionary.

As the farce played out in a Sydney court room should remind us, one reason we've not yet had a 'Watergate' or 'Contragate' is that the Tories here have had the security services and the media much better sewn-up. And the Labour leaders haven't really challenged this.

# Hillsborough has changed nothing

BY CHARLIE WALSH

THE Hillsborough agreement — the Anglo-Irish agreement — now more than a year old, has recently been 'celebrated' by the Coalition Government in Dublin, their fellow travellers and arch-collaborators the Redmondite SDLP, and by sections of the capitalist media in Britain and Ireland as a great achievement and advance in Anglo-Irish affairs.

It has changed nothing.

The Hillsborough agreement has brought to the surface a renewed sectarianism in the Six Counties, orchestrated by Paisley and Robinson and aided by the more sinister neo-Nazi groups such as the UDA, UVF, TARA, UFF and the Ulster clubs.

The strip searching of Irish women political prisoners goes on unabated at Maghaberry Prison; plastic bullets are still used by the Army and Police, killing and maiming men, women and children.

'No Jury' courts are still in operation.

The agreement had and still has only one aim — to smash the IRA and Sinn Fein.

The Agreement is also an attempt to legitimize the illegitimate and illegal bastard state.

It also attempts to justify the British occupation of the Six Counties and the role of imperialism in Ireland.

The future of the working class in Ireland is bound up with the struggle to free Ireland from the influence and domination of imperialism and its lackeys like Fitzgerald, Haughey, Paisley and Molyneux.

Its future as a class can only be safeguarded by the building of a revolutionary workers party based on the needs of and in the interests of that class.

This party, in order to set about the establishment of a Workers Republic and socialism in Ireland, will have to deal not just with conspiracies like the Hillsborough Agreement.

It will also have to smash the Loyalist state in the Six Counties and with it the Green Tory State in its Twenty-Six Counties.

These two states are the bulwark of Imperialism in Ireland.

## REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

### LONG LARTIN

HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ  
LIAM BAKER: 20-year sentence, 464984.  
JAMES BENNETT: 20-year sentence, 464989.  
EDDIE BUTLER: Life sentence, 338637.  
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 131877.  
GERRY CUNNINGHAM: 20-year sentence, 132016.  
JOHN McCOMB: 17-year sentence, B51715.  
ANDY MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461576.  
PATRICK MULRYAN: 20-year sentence, 461575.

### PARKHURST

HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX  
NOEL GIBSON: Life sentence 879225.  
PATRICK HACKETT: 20-year sentence, 342603.  
GERRY McDONNELL: Life sentence, B75882.  
PAUL NORNEY: Life sentence, 863532.  
TOMMY QUIGLEY: Life sentence 69204.  
PETER SHERRY: Life sentence, B75880.

### WAKEFIELD

HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG  
NATALINO VELLA: 15-year sentence, B71644.

### ALBANY

HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS  
MARTIN BRADY: Life sentence, 119087.  
HARRY DUGGAN: Life sentence, 338638.  
BILLY GRIMES:  
SEAN KINSELLA: Life sentence, 758661.  
SEAN HAYES: 20-year sentence, 341418.

### GARTREE

HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP  
RONNIE McCARTNEY: Life sentence, 463799.  
STEPHEN NORDONE: Life sentence 758663.  
JOE O'CONNELL: Life sentence, 338635  
ROY WALSH: Life sentence, 119083.

### FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham  
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG: Life sentence, 119085  
BRENDAN DOWD: Life sentence, 758662.  
PAUL HOLMES: Life sentence, 119034.  
CON McFADDEN: 20-year sentence, 130662.  
EDDIE O'NEILL: 20-year sentence, 135722.

### LEICESTER

HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ  
PAUL KAVANAGH: Life sentence, 1888.  
BRIAN KEENAN: 21-year sentence, B26380.  
PATRICK McGEE: Life sentence, B75881.

### WORMWOOD SCRUBS

DONAL CRAIG: 4 years.

### LIVERPOOL

HUGH DOHERTY: Life sentence, 338636.

### WANDSWORTH

VINCE DONNELLY: Life sentence, 274064.

### DURHAM

HM Prison Durham, Old Elvert Street, Durham.  
MARTINA ANDERSON: Life sentence, D25134.  
ELLA O'DWYER: Life sentence, D25135.

### REMAND PRISONERS: BRITTON

HM Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London SW2 5XF.  
MICHAEL J MCKENNEY: L46486  
G. (DANNY) McNAMEE: L48616  
REMAND PRISONER: WORMWOOD SCRUBS  
HM Prison, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, London W12 0AE  
LIAM QUINN: L49930

### INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:

CAROLE RICHARDSON: 290719, HM Prison Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire  
PATRICK ARMSTRONG: HM Prison Gartree.  
PAUL HILL: 462778. HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
GERARD CONLON: 462779, HM Prison Long Lartin.  
JUDITH WARD, HM Prison Durham.  
HUGH CALLAGHAN, 509499, HM Prison Gartree.  
JOHN WALKER, 509494, HM Prison, Long Lartin.  
BILLY POWER, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
GERARD HUNTER, 509495, HM Prison Frankland.  
RICHARD McILKENNY, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs  
PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree.  
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.



# 1986: CLASS STRUC



Anti-clockwise, from top left:

Parents of missing children search through lists of detainees in Johanne  
Danish youth march against racism.

Nicaraguan masses demonstrate their support for the Revolution.

USA — Members of Local 65, United Steelworkers of America, (USWA) picket  
company has locked out 45,000 workers across America, 6,000 of them in  
Demonstration in Chihuahua, Mexico against the government.

A million students fill the streets of Paris against the University Reform  
The funeral procession of union leader Rolando Olalia in Manila, Philippine  
thousands demonstrated in a protest at the murder of Olalia and his driver  
forces.





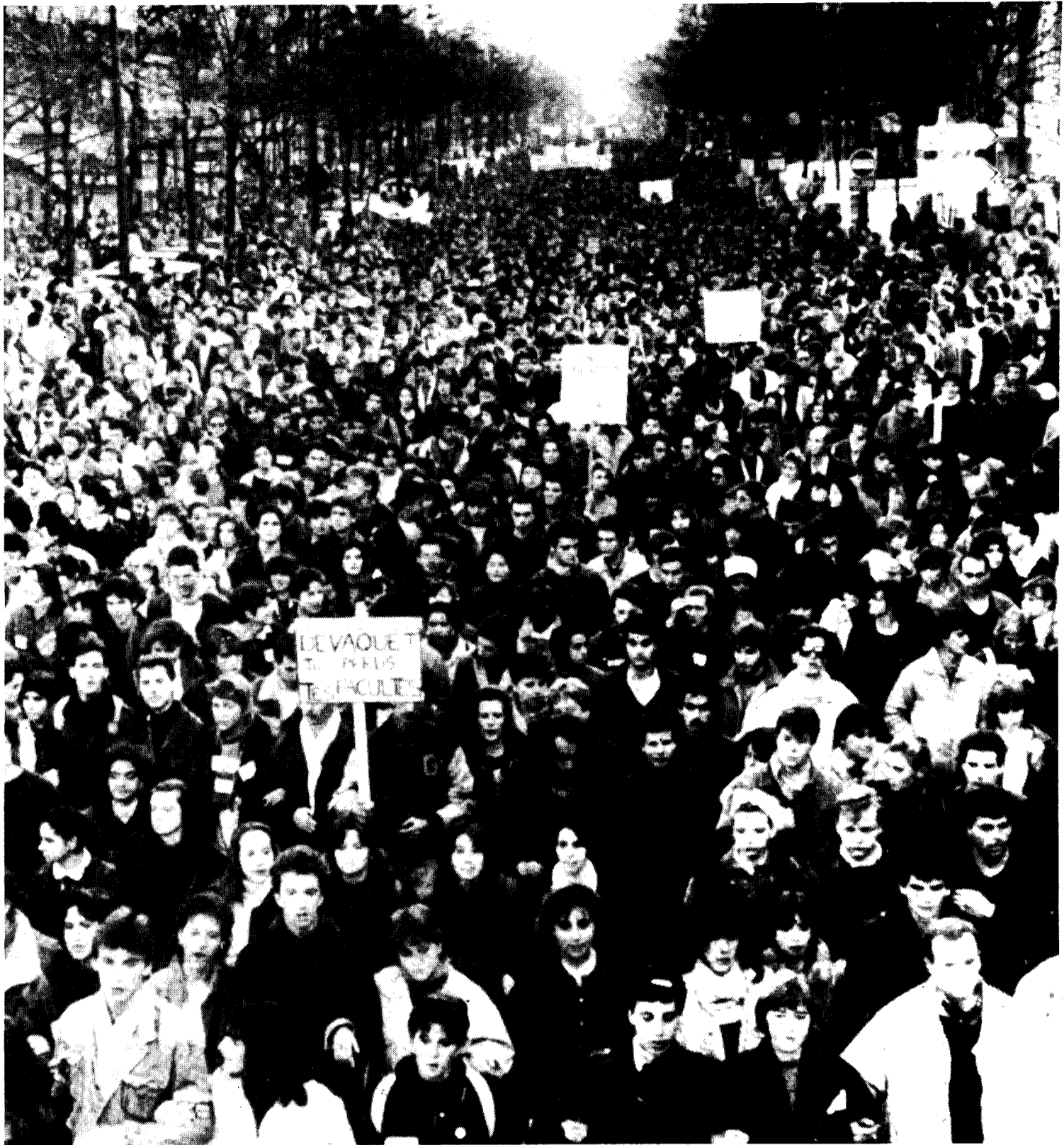
# GGLE WORLD WIDE



burg.

USX plant, Gary, Indiana. The  
Gary.

ill.  
in November. Hundreds of  
— presumably by the armed





# VIETNAM AND TROTSKYISM

# 1945: VIETNAM

THIS week we present the third part of a Workers Press series on the history of the Trotskyist movement in Vietnam, one of the countries where the Fourth International won the leadership of decisive sections of the working class during the 1930s.

In August 1945, the defeat of Japan in the second world war sparked off a revolutionary upheaval in Vietnam. These events, and the part the Trotskyists played in them, are described in this week's article. In the next issue, we will recount the way that the French and British imperialists, aided by the Stalinists of the Vietminh, crushed the revolution and its leadership.

These articles are by Simon Pirani. We are indebted to comrades of the Ligue Ouvriere Revolutionnaire (Workers Revolutionary League) in France, who collaborated with historical research.

AUGUST 9th, 1945. The United States opened up the age of nuclear war, dropping the H-bomb on Hiroshima; Japan surrendered to the allies five days later, ending the second world war.

Under US president Truman's 'Strategic Order No. 1', the Japanese forces throughout eastern Asia were to surrender only to authorities designated by the Supreme Allied Commander, US general Douglas MacArthur.

In line with Stalin's Potsdam agreement with US and British imperialism, made in July, the Soviet Union took the Kurile Islands from Japan, and elsewhere the Communist Parties sought to restrain revolutionary and nationalist movements, to enable the imperialists to regain control.

The Indonesian Communist Party called for the return of Dutch imperialism and denounced the bourgeois nationalist leader Sukarno when he first declared independence from the Japanese, only dropping this policy when re-occupation by the Dutch was clearly impossible; the Burmese Stalinists collected in weapons from resistance fighters to ensure the country was re-occupied by British forces; the Stalinist-led Malaya People's Anti-Japanese Army relinquished its administrative control to the British.

The policy of the Stalinist-led Viet Nam Independence League, or Viet Minh, at the end of the war, was also worked out in line with Potsdam: it sought to establish a bourgeois national state, with French imperialism re-occupying at least the southern part of the country.

## Vietnam: the background

French imperialism had first reached Vietnam in 1867, subjugating the fiercely nationalist population twenty years later with the creation of the Indochinese Union, which remained part of the French empire until 1941. The taking of Paris by Hitler's armies was the signal to Japanese imperialism to invade into Indochina, and its forces remained there throughout the war. In March 1945, as the allied victory neared, the Japanese installed a puppet emperor, Bao Dai.

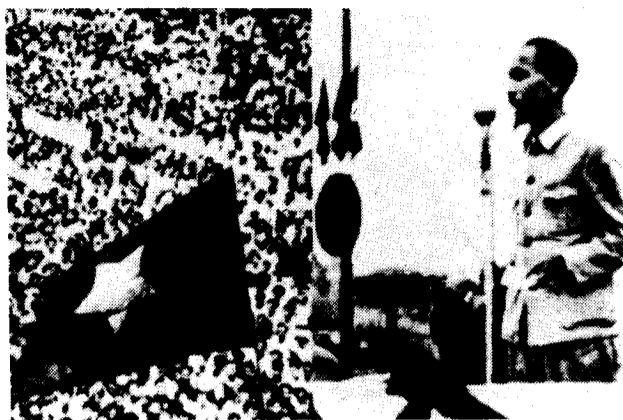
Japan's imminent demise, and the impotence of the Vietnamese bourgeois and landowning classes, caused administrative chaos and a devastating famine through the summer. The working-class political parties that had gone underground or disappeared during the war re-organised.

Foremost among them were the Trotskyists, who led both workers' and peasant movements throughout the 30s, and one section of whom carried on a 'united front' electoral activity with the Stalinists until 1937, when on the insistence

of the French Communist Party the latter broke the alliance in order to collaborate with the Blum 'popular front' government.

In 1945 the Trotskyists pursued a defeatist policy against all foreign imperialisms, calling for the national liberation struggle to be combined with social revolution, and basing themselves on the working-class centres, particularly Saigon. The Struggle (La Lutte) group, which had pursued the united front policy in the 30s, re-constituted itself in May 1945, its leader Ta Thu Thau who had recently been released from the Poulo Condor island concentration camp travelling north to organise the movement there. The International Communist League led by Ho Huu Thuong (formerly the 'October' group) issued a manifesto on March 24th calling for the struggle against Japan to be combined with the struggle for workers' power; members of this group led the workers of the Go-vap tram depot near Saigon, who later organised a workers' militia which played a vital role in the August revolution.

The Stalinist strategy, on the other hand, was to wage guerrilla war against the Japanese, receiving aid first from the Chinese Kuomintang and then from the



Crowds in Hanoi in September 2nd, 1945, greeting the announcement of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam by Ho Chi Minh.

Section, and General William Donovan of the OSS (forerunners of the CIA). (Details in 'Ho Chi Minh', by W. Warbey, pp78-80 and 'Vietnam' by Stanley Karnow pp. 138-9). (Of course revolutionaries have often accepted aid from imperialist powers during war, but it must be remembered that here the policy of the Vietminh was not defeatist, but supported the 'democratic' imperialists of China, France and the US against the axis powers).

The Vietminh sought to avoid confrontation with the French forces, replacing their slogan 'drive out the Japanese and French' with 'drive out the Japanese fascists'. (Quotations from VCP documents, reprinted in

2. To wrest the power from the hands of the enemy; 3. To be in a position of power when receiving the Allied forces'. (Factual Records of the Vietnam August Revolution, an official publication, quoted in Trager, p.151).

While condemning De Gaulle's intention of re-establishing imperial control in their propaganda, they simultaneously contacted him for negotiations. One bourgeois historian points out that 'the Vietminh had even communicated to the De Gaullist French a memorandum which accepted the principle of the temporary re-establishment of French sovereignty in Vietnam.' (Trager p. 151).

## The August revolution

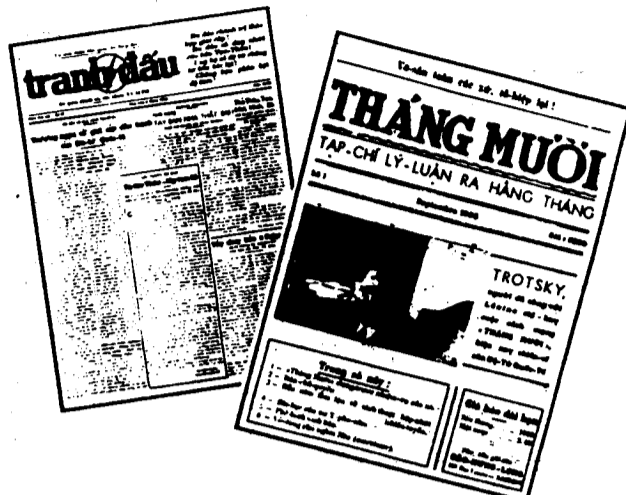
A revolutionary situation erupted in Vietnam on August 16th 1945 when the Japanese surrender was announced. In the provinces of Trung-Bo, Bac-Bo, Sadek and Long-xuyen, resurgent peasants killed their landlords and expropriated the land.

But the centre of the revolution was Saigon. Huge demonstrations demanding national independence, and freedom from all types of oppression, took place: of 300,000 on August 21st, and one million on August 25th. The slogans of the Trotskyists for workers' power swelled their contingents by thousands.

More than 150 popular committees were set up (this policy was actively fought for by the Trotskyists of the ICL), the first one at Banco on August 19th. They took administrative power in many Saigon suburbs, starting with Phu Nuan on August 19th.

A conference of the committees issued a programme which insisted 'that the national bourgeoisie will be completely incapable of playing the role of the revolutionary vanguard, and that only the popular alliance of industrial workers and rural toilers will be able to free the nation from the domination of the foreign capitalists'. (Some Stages of the Revolution in the South of Vietnam, mimeographed by the Trotskyist group, 1945).

As in all revolutionary situations, no amount of organisations or publications could satisfy the masses' thirst for political leadership. 'Tranh Dau', the paper of the Struggle group, became daily; the ICL at one point issued bulletins every three hours from a newly-established headquarters



Newspapers of the two main Vietnamese Trotskyist groups.

Hundreds of Vanguard Youth committees were set up, some under Stalinist leadership, all of whom declared their readiness to die for national liberation. The bourgeois and petty-bourgeois parties also proliferated; according to an ICL report no less than 50 new ones sprouted up.

## How the Vietminh stepped in

Who was in control of Saigon? The differences between various accounts show how volatile the situation was.

Certainly the United National Front (UNF), which had a programme for national independence and included bourgeois nationalists, the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious sects, and the Vanguard Youth, was handed power by the collapsing Bao Dai administration on August 14th, and passed it on to the Vietminh a week later.

(John Spencer, a supporter of the anti-Trotskyist Banda group, has recently made the stupid allegation that 'at least some of' the Vietnamese Trotskyists 'took part in the formation of the UNF under Japanese auspices on August 14th, 1945', a 'grouping which was clearly intended as a counterweight to the Vietminh'. (Vietnamese Trotskyism and the August Revolution of 1945).

Spencer is obviously trying to give some 'scholarly' weight to the Stalinist lie, originated by Ho Chi Minh, that the Trotskyists were working for the Japanese.

But at least one authoritative account says that the UNF 'included a small Communist minority', as well as the Trotskyists of the Struggle group. (Vietnamese Communism: its Origins and Development', by R. Turner, p. 39). The same account explains how the Vietminh leader Tran Van Giau arranged for the UNF to hand over power to him by negotiation.

Secondly, a report from the Struggle group to the International Secretariat of the Fourth International 'The August Revolution and the "Struggle" Group', in files of the ISFI, Library of International Contemporary Documentation, Nanterre University, Paris) states that they proposed to the Stalinists a united front on the policy of national independence and agrarian reform, the latter turning it down 'because they believed that they could count on the aid and compliance of the allies

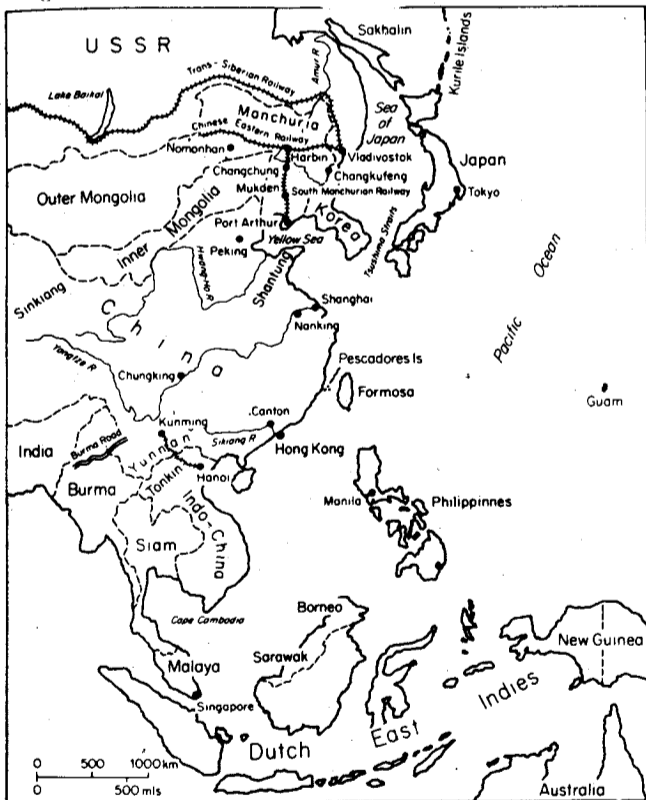
to achieve a "democratic republic of Vietnam" through diplomatic means.' It was after this, and after the Vietminh assumed administrative control, that they took part in meetings with the bourgeois nationalists — at which the Stalinists were also present, accusing the Trotskyists of 'sabotage'.

A few weeks later, when British troops were welcomed into Saigon by the Vietminh, the Trotskyists certainly found themselves in a de facto alliance with the bourgeois nationalists — both advocated armed resistance to the re-imposition of imperialist control. Spencer does not express his own opinion on the small matter of the British invasion, relying on a quotations from various sources supporting the Stalinist view that opposed those who resisted the British as 'crazy', 'provocateurs' and 'ultra-lefts'.

On August 22nd, after two weeks of revolutionary turmoil, the Vietminh held a meeting with UNF representatives who agreed to hand over control of the city. At 5:00 am on August 25th, the day of the million-strong demonstration, the Vietminh occupied all the government buildings and formally set up a 'Provisional Executive Committee of the Southern Vietnam Republic'.

The policies of this administration were two-fold: to maintain if possible the tottering Vietnamese bourgeoisie and land-owning class, and to welcome the allied troops under conditions where a deal on the country's future would be negotiated with them.

Stalinist leader Tran Van Giau proclaimed that 'democratic liberties will be secured and guaranteed by the democratic allies'. (Quoted in 'Some Stages...' in 'Quatreieme Internationale'). Another Vietminh official, Nguyen Van Tao, was more explicit: 'All those who have instigated the peasants to seize the landowners' property will be severely and pitilessly punished... We have not yet made the Communist revolution, which will solve the agrarian problem. This government is only a democratic government, that is why such a task does not devolve upon it. Our government, I repeat, is a bourgeois-democratic government, even though the Communists are now in power.' (Vietnamese Communism: its Origins and Development', p. 43). Historian Philippe Devillers recounts that Vietminh leader Duong Bach Mai spoke of 'calming the tempestuous ardour of rank-and-file militants, in showing them that the task of the moment was not to



Eastern Asia at the end of the war.

American imperialists. The Vietminh front was founded in 1941 in Kwangsi, southern China, which was then under Kuomintang control. 'From the beginning, the Vietminh asked for aid from the Chinese Kuomintang government. The Vietminh offered its services in gathering information in Indochina and creating a vital military force for an action against the Japanese'. (Marxism in South-East Asia, ed. F. Trager, Stanford University 1946).

Ho collaborated with the American imperialists from 1942-45, giving tactical assistance and intelligence to General Wedemeyer, Head of Southern Command (Chungking), General Galagher of the Special Combat

'Breaking Our Chains' (Hanoi 1960), p.11).

The Vietminh, which was effectively a 'popular front' including the property-owning classes, had a programme of national liberation and agrarian reform, but in line with the Stalinist theory of 'stages', specifically excluding the establishment of workers' power.

In May 1947, as Stalin envisaged the Stalinists established a liberated zone in six northern provinces. The property of foreigners was taken over, but that of Vietnamese bourgeois and landowners preserved. The Stalinists' aim, in their own words, was: '1. To disarm the Japs before the entry of Allied forces into Indochina;



# Part Three

# S REVOLUTION



Vietminh units training together with officers of the OSS (Forerunner of the CIA). Ho Chi Minh's collaboration with the allies — which was not only military but political — was a fatal factor in the defeat of the revolution.

make a proletarian revolution but to smash "colonialism" by calling on all the people to struggle against it.' (*History of Vietnam 1940-1952*, by P. Devillers, p. 181). Buttinger says that the Vietminh government in Saigon 'went so far as to decree the death penalty for attacks on private property'. (*Vietnam: A Dragon Embattled*, J. Buttinger, vol. 1, p. 347).

(Spencer, attempting to 'place into context' the slaughter of the Vietnamese Trotskyists, claims they were 'unambiguously hostile' to the Vietminh's 'revolutionary administration'. In fact this administration was counter-revolutionary, i.e. determined to prevent property take-overs at all costs, even when popular committees and peasant uprisings had already im-

plemented them on a large scale).

## In the north

Ho Chi Minh's guerrilla force was able to take power in Hanoi by walking into a political vacuum which followed the Japanese surrender.

A bourgeois writer says: 'A genuine popular revolution took place that surpassed the wildest calculations of the Vietminh, though they alone were prepared for the events as an organised force with a definite programme. Claiming the support of the Allied powers and pointing to their previous activity, the Vietminh won acceptance by

the people, particularly in North Vietnam. The Japanese authorities looked on benignly while Vietminh partisans occupied the public buildings in Hanoi. They also turned over local stocks of arms to the Vietminh'. (*Trager*, p. 152). (Spencer, and other pro-Stalinists anxious to prove that the Trotskyists worked with Japan, please note).

On August 22nd, Emperor Bao Dai was ready to ask the Vietminh to form a government, but instead abdicated on receipt of a telegram from the Hanoi General Association of Students, which passed a motion put by the Trotskyist Ho Huu Thuong calling on the Vietminh to form a government of national independence and oust Bao Dai. (Thuong was condemned by other

Trotskyists who claimed this was a capitulation to the Vietminh). The Vietminh formed a provisional government and proclaimed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2nd.

There is little historical evidence concerning the Vietminh's relationship with the workers' movement in the north. But one report in the files of the ISFI says that after the Japanese surrender, a workers' government was set up in the large mining town of Hongay. (A "Moscow Trial" in Ho Chi Minh's *Maquis*, ISFI files in Paris). The imperialist administration was dismantled, and its officials arrested along with factory bosses, and socialist measures including equal wages and workers' control of all industries passed.

The report states that the workers' administration was broken up by Vietminh militia who arrived in December, after the defeat of the Saigon revolution and the internment of non-Stalinist militants in Hanoi.

From their own accounts, it is clear that the Stalinists stressed the 'democratic' nature of their administration (the declaration of independence was based on the American one of 1778), and concentrated on preventing clashes between workers and Kuomintang units who came in to Vietnam in early September to disarm Japanese soldiers.

## The allies move in to Saigon

By the beginning of September, the Saigon working class was agitated. Fearing the return of the hated French imperialists, they demanded guns. The Stalinists called on them to welcome the 'democratic' allies and attacked the Trotskyists in increasingly frenzied tones.

On September 1st, the Vietminh's Nam-bo (southern Vietnam) propaganda commission sent loudspeaker cars into the streets calling on people to welcome the allies. The response was a demonstration of 400,000 people: many were armed with bamboo pikes; the Struggle group called for an armed demonstration and weapons were carried among its 18,000-strong contingent.

As the march passed Saigon cathedral, right-wing French colonists opened fire on it, killing 40 and wounding 150. Armed Struggle supporters, led by veteran tram workers' leader Le Van Long, arrested the provocateurs, planting the flag of the Fourth International on the roof from which they had fired. The assassins were handed over to the Vietminh police, who released them almost immediately. (This account taken from *The August Revolution and the "Struggle" Group*, ISFI files, Paris).

As the British invasion grew nearer, conflict sharpened between the Stalinists and all those who were ready to take up arms against the allies.

On September 7th Tran Van Giau ordered the disarming of all non-governmental organisations.

Three days later, the British troops came in, with French aircraft overhead. The Trotskyists of the ICL issued a statement denouncing Stalinist collaboration with the allies and calling for



Ho Chi Minh announcing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

armed resistance to the imperialist armies.

The Stalinists responded by arresting popular committee delegates as they met in conference on September 14th; the ICL-dominated conference, although armed, gave themselves up peacefully, perhaps underestimating the readiness of the Vietminh to carry through their bloody threats.

On September 16th the Stalinists announced their readiness to negotiate with the allies about Vietnam, or part of it, becoming part of the French Union. But General Gracey, the British commander, was not interested. Instructions had come from the Foreign Office to tolerate no Vietnamese power: Labour Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin had concluded a secret deal with France whereby the French would get south Vietnam back but would stay out of Syria and Lebanon. (See *Ho Chi Minh*, by W. Warbey, pp. 47-54). It was this agreement, and not simply Gracey's imperial arrogance, that gave impetus to the allied occupation of Saigon and sunk the Vietminh's hopes of doing a deal.

The British, aided by French troops and remnants of the Japanese army which came under allied command according to the terms of Japan's surrender, took over Saigon city centre and all administrative buildings. Encouraged by the passivity of the Vietminh, the French re-occupied the barracks of the Second Colonial Infantry, the airport, the arsenal, the port and other strategic positions.

The general secretary of the Saigon-Cholon regional council, Trotskyist Le Van Vung, was assassinated: Phan Van Hum, another leader of the Struggle group, called for the evacuation of non-combatants from the city centre. A bitter struggle ensued between the allies and revolutionary workers, who were joined by deserters from the Japanese army.

In these struggles, the workers and peasants did their duty, alongside the Trotskyist militants who proudly flew the flag of the Fourth International, the Struggle report to the ISFI stated. 'But those who fought these early battles fought alone. Tran Van Giau refused to replenish their pro-

visions, or to supply arms or ammunition.

In the Thi-Nghe sector, of 214 combatants, all Trotskyists, 210 were cut down. On the third day of the struggle, Tran Van Giau issued leaflets calling for the arrest and disarming of the Struggle resistance fighters, who had fought without orders from his government, which had been preparing itself to welcome the 'liberating allies'!

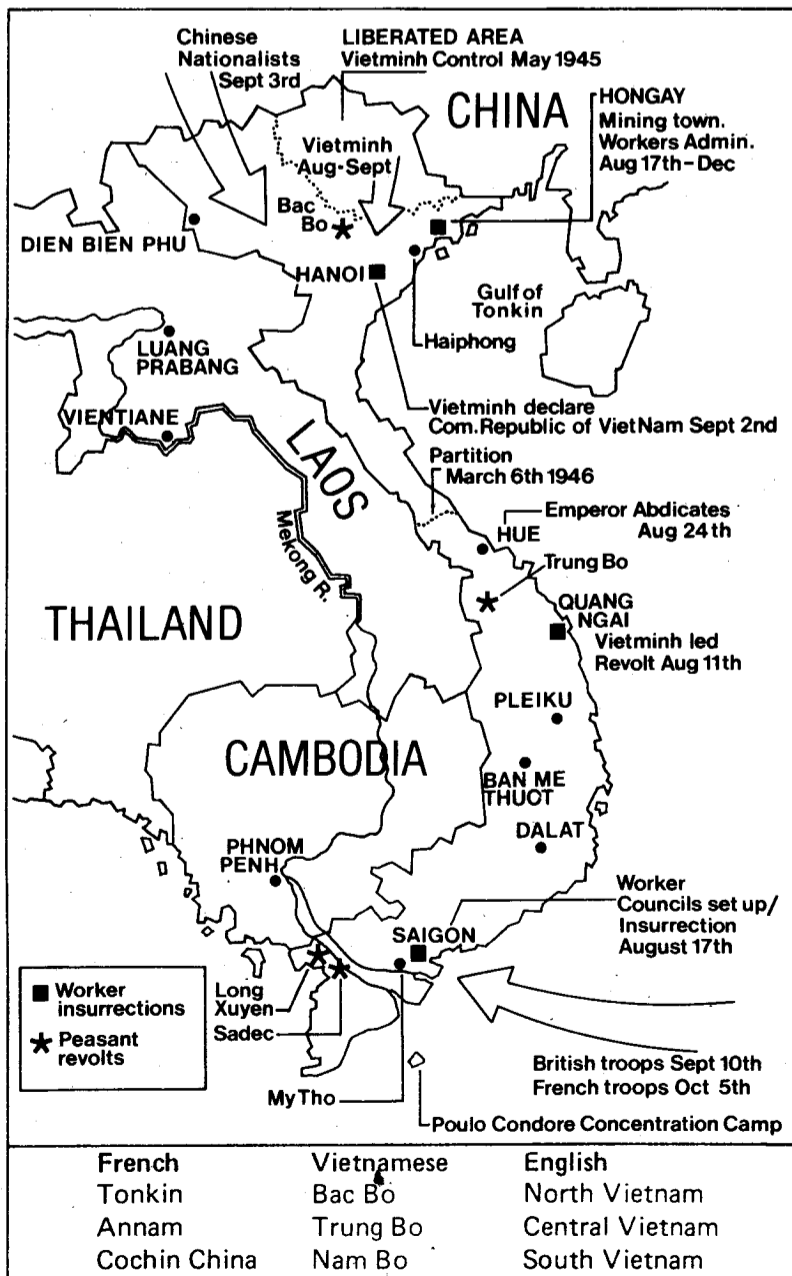
In spite of their superior weaponry, there were insufficient numbers of French soldiers, and they often had to turn back before resistance detachments, whose weapons were hopelessly inferior but who had decided to die in the fight against French imperialism.

Of course this was neither the first nor last time that the imperialists would encounter such stubborn heroism in Vietnam. But in this case, when imperialism worldwide was threatened with revolutionary movements and was at its weakest, the Stalinists acted to ensure that a movement outside their control was physically destroyed.

(John Spencer claims that the Vietminh did not contest the British order to disarm, 'though they clearly had no intention of obeying it themselves'. The above quotation from the Struggle group answers this nonsense, which is proffered in an attempt to give the Stalinists 'revolutionary' credentials).

The Struggle report contains another piece of evidence to answer those like Spencer who claim that the Trotskyists collaborated with the Japanese against the 'revolutionary' Vietminh. It states that following a meeting in which the Stalinists specifically accused the Trotskyists of 'sabotage', the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao peasant-based religious sects (the former armed with 900 rifles and four 45mm cannons which they had received from the Japanese) offered to join the Struggle group to fight the Vietminh — but the Trotskyists rejected an alliance with such unreliable forces, not being prepared to 'lead them to a slaughter'.

**NEXT ISSUE: How the revolution was defeated.**



## ACCUSER of CAPITALISM

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Speech from the dock, May 9th 1918

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# CHRISTMAS QUIZ

READERS are invited to have a go at this not entirely serious quiz. You are warned that the questions vary in difficulty, obscurity and seriousness. Two points for a correct answer, one for a near miss.

1. Name the authors of the following:

- 'The Communist Manifesto'
- 'The ABC of Communism'
- 'Communism and Terrorism'
- 'Communism: A New Civilisation?'
- 'Principles of Communism'

2. Who said that verbal agreements weren't worth the paper they were written on?

- Marx (Groucho)
- Vanessa Redgrave
- Rupert Murdoch
- Cecil B. de Mille

3. Name the organisations bearing the following initials: SWP; CPGB; RCP; RCG; ILP; SDP; SV; SPGB; IWA; IWW.

4. Who held that war was the continuation of politics by other means?

- Engels
- General Montgomery
- Clausewitz

5. Who claimed that a week was a long time in politics?

6. Who said that politics was the language of priorities?

- L.D. Trotsky
- J.V. Stalin
- Aneurin Bevan

7. Which prominent Trotskyist was cricket correspondent for the Daily Telegraph?

8. Which early English Marxist played cricket for Cambridge?

9. Who said that if he had his way, he would dig up Lords cricket ground and grow vegetables on it?

- Percy Thrower
- Geoffrey Boycott
- W.G. Grace
- Leon Trotsky

10. Who took the advice in Question 9 seriously, although at another cricket ground? When and where was the advice taken?

11. Name the authors of the following well-known, not so well-known and in one case almost totally unknown publications. A further mark if you can name a bookshop which stocks item (f)

- The Descent of Man
- The Novum Organum
- The Science of Logic
- The Rights of Man
- In Defence of Poetry
- Studies in Dialectical Materialism

12. Who said that in the long run we're all dead?

- J.M. Keynes
- Ronald Reagan
- Adolph Hitler
- Sebastian Coe

13. Name the author of 'Death of a Salesman'.

14. The novelist who wrote 'Death in Venice'?

15. Provide the following information about Marx:

- his favourite colour
- the vice he most excused
- his favourite occupation
- his favourite maxim
- his favourite motto
- his favourite food.

16. Who claimed that the love of money was the root of all evil?

17. Who complained that her son should have spent less time writing about money and more time making some of it?

18. Who had a bad habit (and maybe still has it) of screaming down the telephone: 'Never mind the politics, just get the money in'?

19. Who held that 'Facts alone are wanted in life'?

- Neil Kinnock
- Francis Bacon
- Gradgrind in Dickens' 'Hard Times'.

20. Which two things, according to Lenin, were required for communism?

21. Name the famous scientist who after his trial declared: 'But it does move'.

22. . . . and the scientist who implored: 'Physics beware metaphysics'

23. The 20th century physicist who preferred Mozart to Beethoven?

the highest scientific integrity?

30. Who called economics a 'dull and dismal science'?

25. 'The discipline of Colleges and Universities is in general contrived, not for the benefit of the students, but for the interest, or more properly speaking, for the ease of the masters.'

Who said this?

- The Education Minister Kenneth Baker
- Sir Keith Joseph
- Adam Smith
- One of the 'four professors' (please specify).

31. Which English philosopher claimed: 'Books must follow sciences and not sciences books'?

32. Who believed that 'politics was not an exact science'?



Picture question: Where is this man now?

- Baghdad
- Sydney, Australia
- News Line Editorial Office, London SE1
- A wine bar in Lambeth

24. The physicist who said: 'If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.'

26. Of whom was Oscar Wilde speaking when he said: 'A man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing'?

- an economist
- a cynic
- T.G. Healy when purchasing cars and/or printing equipment

27. Who said he couldn't afford morals?

- Corin Redgrave
- Machiavelli
- L.D. Trotsky
- Arthur Doolittle in Shaw's Pygmalion

28. Who according to Marx 'sinned against science'?

29. Again, according to Marx, which economist displayed

AS the year draws to a close, Workers Press feels that it would be useful to remind our readers of last year's New Year Statement by the 'Central Committee of the WRP' (Healyites).

The second paragraph of that far-seeing article stated: 'This will be the year of major revolutionary changes all over the world and will bring to a climax the struggle for power in Britain.' (our emphasis).

So as not to leave any of their members or supporters in doubt, the statement went on to say that 1986 would bring 'a major political showdown in which the

seizure of power by the working class will be the agenda'. (sic).

No doubt there will be more of the same, come January 1, 1987.

If the Healyites wish to give a learned explanation of how such a prophecy can be reconciled to reality, or indeed how their method of 'analysing' the objective situation in writing the aforementioned rubbish is still basically correct, Workers Press will be delighted to answer them.

If not, then we will simply remind them that there are only eleven days to their 'major political showdown'.

36. Name the town or city in which:

- Marx first met Engels
- Engels wrote *Conditions of the Working Class*
- The Hermitage Museum is to be found
- The four Internationals were established
- Trotsky was murdered by the GPU
- Sir Robert Armstrong was recently made to look a wally amongst the Wallabies.

37. Who amongst the following are believed by MI5 NOT to have spied for the Russians. (Government warning: A correct answer to this question will seriously damage your health.)

- Philby
- Macleane
- Burgess
- Alex Mitchell
- James Bond
- Mr Denis Thatcher

38. Explain carefully the following terms as employed in T.G. Healy's long out of print *Philosophical Dictionary*:

- 'Casualty' (as used in philosophy rather than the ambulance service)
- 'The practise (sic) of cognition'
- 'The other of the first/the first of the other' (optional)
- Non-classified physics

39. Name the birthplaces of:

- Karl Marx
- Charlie Chaplin
- James Connolly
- Oliver Cromwell

40. Who was the father of:

- English classical economics
- The father of Russian Marxism
- The Pope of European Marxism

41. Who said: 'I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception!'

- Marx (Groucho)
- Engels
- Lenin
- Thatcher

42. Who said: 'At the approach of this kind of syllogism we are at once seized with a feeling of boredom?'

- Neil Kinnock
- GWF Hegel
- S. Torrance

43. Who said: 'If I had been an Italian I would have been with you from the beginning to end!' and to whom?

44. Who shouted: 'Ignorance never helped anyone' and who did they shout it at:

- G. Healy
- K. Marx
- K. Baker
- C. Smith

45. Who wrote: 'All the work of practical organisation of the insurrection was conducted under the immediate leadership of comrade Trotsky'

- Trotsky
- Lenin
- Stalin
- M. Banda

46. Which of the following were citizens of Turkey?

- Lenin
- Castro
- Arafat
- Trotsky

47. What was the name of the Wild Colonial Boy?

- Jack
- Fred
- Bruce
- Alex

48. Who was rightly considered the favourite of the whole party?

49. Who, apart from Lenin, wrote 'What is To Be Done'?

50. Who was a man of outstanding will and outstanding value?

51. Who did Lenin say was too rude?

52. Who said: '——' (expletive deleted)?

53. Who wrote: 'Religion is the cry of the oppressed creatures, the heart of a heartless world'?

54. What name connects SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION with a magic mountain?

55. Who were

- Beltov
- Krux
- Maring
- Reiss
- Orthodox

56. Who wrote

- 2 tactics
- 3 Sources and Component Parts
- 6 characters
- 11 theses
- 21 points
- 27 reasons.

## ANSWERS

- Marx and Engels; Bukharin and Preobrazhensky; Trotsky; Sidney and Beatrice Webb; Engels
- Cecil B. de Mille
- Socialist Workers Party; Communist Party of Great Britain; Revolutionary Communist Party; Revolutionary Communist Group; Independent Labour Party; Social Democratic Party; Socialist Viewpoint; Socialist Party of Great Britain; Industrial Workers Association; Industrial Workers of the World
- Clausewitz
- Harold Wilson
- Aneurin Bevan
- C. L. R. James
- M. Hyndman
- Richard Board
- Trotsky
- Peter Chappell; Headingley Cricket Ground; August 1975
- Charles Darwin; Francis Bacon; Hegel; Thomas Paine; Shelley; T. G. Healy
- J. M. Keynes
- Arthur Miller
- Thomas Mann
- red; quillibility; bookworming; No-thing human is alien to me; Doubt everything; fish
- Jesus
- Marx's mother
- S. Torrance
- Richard Nixon
- Soviet power and electrification
- Gladgrind
- Gallei Galleo
- Isaac Newton
- Isaac Newton
- Albert Einstein
- Isaac Newton
- Isaac Newton
- Thomas Mann
- Marx
- Richard Nixon
- Stalin
- Trotsky
- Chernyshevski
- Bukharin
- Alex
- Lenin; Trotsky
- Churchill to Mussolini
- G.W.F. Hegel
- Groucho Marx
- Kautsky
- William Petty; Plekhanov; Ingdon
- Trotsky; Edinburgh; Hunt-
- Write in separately to the Editor
- Your guess is as good as theirs (Fourth); Coyocacan; Sydney
- London (First International); Brussels (Second); Moscow (Third); Paris (Fourth)
- London (First International); Brussels (Second); Manchester; Leningrad; Paris; T. G. Healy
- Engels
- Kepeler
- Bismarck
- Francis Bacon
- Malthus
- David Ricardo
- The Reverend Thomas Malthus
- Arthur Doolittle
- A cynic
- Adam Smith
- Mike Banda
- Lenin; Prandello; Marx;
- Poretsky; Axelrod
- Plekhanov; Trotsky; Sneevliet;

## LETTER

### Tactics in the armed struggle

CHARLIE Walsh's letter (Workers Press, December 6) only serves to confirm my suspicions that his view of the struggle in Ireland is both fundamentally mistaken and profoundly confused.

Comrade Walsh leaps blithely from the question of a particular IRA tactic (the 'warning' to workers — 'collaborators' — engaged in direct or indirect servicing of the security forces) to the question of general 'support for the armed struggle'.

Nowhere does he respond in any serious way to my criticism of that particular tactic.

The only conclusion I can draw from this is that Comrade Walsh is incapable of understanding that there is a difference between supporting the right of the oppressed Catholic minority in the six counties to engage in armed struggle, and politically endorsing everything done (or said) in the name of that struggle.

Hence the comrade's support of the IRA is, in reality, uncritical.

The underlying cause of sectarianism is indeed the undemocratic, anti-Catholic nature of the Six County State itself: we are in agreement on that.

But that does not alter that fact that certain tactics, as well as important aspects of the overall politics of the IRA, can and do heighten sectarian division within the working class.

The threat to 'collaborators' was a case in point.

Again, to recognise this does not amount to 'saying the IRA and UVF are one and the same thing': it just means having an independent, critical, working class viewpoint.

Charlie Walsh pays lip service to the cause of a 'united working class'.

But the hollowness of that lip service is exposed in the single phrase: 'Their (i.e. the IRA's) war is against the army and police and against those who collaborate with them whether they be builders or informers.' So army, police, informers . . . and building workers are all the same — all fair game?

What about the drivers who deliver the building materials? Or the petrol attendants who serve the cement lorries?

The very ambiguity of the IRA ultimatum made it essentially — inevitably — sectarian.

To their credit, the IRA leadership seem to have realised this, and withdrew the ultimatum, albeit belatedly.

Presumably, Comrade Walsh would criticise that decision as some sort of concession to the 'agents of imperialism'?

One final point. Comrade Walsh closes with the words: 'Until the national question is resolved and the loyalist state in the north is smashed, a real and lasting solution to the divisions in the working class cannot be found'.

Does this mean that a divided working class can solve the national question? Or that some force other than the working class can do it? And is it not a classic Menshevik/Stalinist 'two-stage' theory of the Irish revolution?

This formulation stikes me as especially odd coming from someone who (unlike myself) would proclaim the relevance of 'Permanent Revolution' to Ireland.

Jim Denham  
Birmingham



# LETTERS

Send your letters to Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board. Letters may be cut for reasons of space.

## Three cheers for Workers Press!

WORKERS PRESS rose this time last year from the ashes of the News Line.

I don't know if the name, the same as that of News Line's 1969-1976 predecessor, was inspired by thoughts of a return to a golden age in the party's history.

But now that that history has begun to be raked over in the pages of Workers Press itself, we can see that the SLL-WRP was never the sole and sufficient bearer of the Trotskyist tradition in Britain, as which it always paraded.

In May 1971 the 13th Annual Conference of the Socialist Labour League adopted a resolution declaring among other things:

'The launching of the Workers Press in September 1969 is the greatest achievement of the world Trotskyist movement.

'The fact that we were able to launch the Workers Press with the most modern technical facilities is itself a veri-

fication of the dialectical concept that the working class is moving towards a final conflict with the capitalist system.'

It added that the paper's editorial committee:

'... must be an integral part of our leadership and our struggle to develop dialectical thinking (sic). First, we must make our paper a workers' press in the sense that the working class speaks through its pages about its problems and conditions. This means training a staff of journalists through whom the working class can express these ideas.' (My emphasis.)

On this first anniversary of the new Workers Press (an occasion, thankfully, that we are not marking with a 'red day' rally) I would just like to say three cheers for its having shown itself a light-year removed from the bureaucratic-triumphalist notions that dominated the old.

Ken Moxham, Cambridge

## More on Healy's sexual abuse

IN replying to Cde. Varga, Liz Leicester and Clare Cowen make the surprising claim that the WRP split based on Healy's sexual crimes was not of a political and theoretical nature (Workers Press, 6 December 1986) a position defended primarily by Healy's supporters.

Severing the connection between the political degeneration of the SLL/WRP and Healy's sexual crimes reduces the latter to a purely social significance which may explain why an equation is made between sexual abuses in the family and those of Healy in the WRP.

To legitimate the equation an idealist interpretation is then made of the meaning of incest.

Incest is not as the Women's Commission claim 'sexual abuse by someone in a position of power.'

It is a sexual relationship between two closely related people as defined and proscribed by society, and arising not necessarily out of unequal power relationships.

Rape however is a sexual relationship in which one person compels another, using any degree or form of coercion, to engage with him/her in a sexual relationship.

And it remains rape even if that person eventually finds him/herself obliged to submit for reasons other than personal inclination.

Thus Healy criminally raped, but it was neither incest nor incestuous rape.

Sexual abuses however are nothing other than the sharpest manifestation of the alienated and pathological character of 'normal' sexual relations under capitalism, where the necessary socio-sexual reproduction of the species is alienated and subordinated to capital accumulation, the entire phenomenon working out according to its own specific laws and dynamics.

Whilst accumulation and its attendant socio-sexual alienation is the materialist basis of Healy's sexual crimes, they were mediated

not by a social institution (family) organised around the alienated reproduction of the species but by a political organisation organised around political ideas and practices

This fact alone transforms, therefore, the equation between familial sexual abuses and those of Healy within the WRP into a mystification, since it conceals the specific socio-political dynamics which governed the development of Healy's sexual crimes.

It is also idealist to claim that the women whom Healy abused 'were not coerced by law or tradition but every pressure was brought to bear upon them as revolutionaries'.

Those pressures (politically masked by Healy) are part of the socially and sexually coercive tradition of patriarchal class society towards women.

Although different in form from feudal law, far from eliminating those pressures and traditions, bourgeois law has merely modified those forms and removed certain excesses in the interests of capital accumulation, whilst introducing new features of its own.

Whereas no one enters the revolutionary movement free from the patriarchal prejudices, suppression of the question of women's double oppression and exploitation under capitalism, within the Fourth International for a colossal 45 years, facilitated the unhindered domination of this form of bourgeois ideology.

Consequently, not only did this enable the archetypal patriarch Healy to pursue his sexual crimes, but his victims were theoretically and politically disarmed, preventing each from understanding and opposing his assaults as a violation of their bourgeois democratic rights (which is the essential political content of the 'Women Question').

It is this which constituted the theoretical and political basis of the split in October 85.

Norah Wilde

We welcome letters from readers, but shortage of space means that letters over 500 words will normally have to be cut.

Please address your letters to: The Editor, Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT.

Letters should arrive by first post Monday of the week of publication.

### Write for the Workers Press!

Send in the news from your area or from where you work!

The Editorial Board is anxious to increase the growing number of contributors to the paper. We would like to build up regular correspondents in each area of the country who will send us reports on industrial and other developments. Tell us about any workers engaged in struggles, however big or small.

Let us know if you would like to write about television, plays or films. In the New Year we intend to publish a regular science column and would be glad to hear from potential contributors.

Send in your stories — contact us on 01-733-3058 or write to The Editor, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT.



### Notice for WRP members CHRISTMAS PARTY especially for children, but unaccompanied adults welcome

Sunday 21 December 2.30pm — 5.30pm

Phone Father Christmas for details on: 733-3058



### RELEASE BRUTAN PERERA!

(Jailed member of the Revolutionary Communist League, Sri Lanka)

PICKET Saturday December 20 11am — 4pm

of the Air Lanka Office 6-10 Bruton Street, London W1

### MARXIST DISCUSSION GROUP

Bryant Street Methodist Centre off West Ham Lane (nearest Underground: Stratford)

Sunday January 11, 7.30pm

CUBA

Speaker: John Lister

### LISTINGS

Listings are published free by WORKERS PRESS for organisations within the Labour movement. Please send details of any function or event you want to advertise to arrive by mid-day Monday for publication the following Friday.

NON-STOP PICKET OF SOUTH AFRICA HOUSE. For the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners in South Africa. For sanctions

against the racist South African government. Outside South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London. Organised by City of London Anti-Apartheid.

A STRIKING EDUCATION The story of the SILENT-NIGHT strike in photographs taken by the strikers themselves. Available for hire as a portable exhibition. To hire, contact: Josephine Kelly, FTAT Strike HQ, 9 Frank Street, Barnoldswick, Lancs., BB8 5AE (0282-816709)

### HANGERS XMAS PARTY

2pm Saturday December 20 St Margaret's Hall Putney Park Lane

### VIRAJ MENDIS CAMPAIGN GROUP

1pm Saturday December 20 Hu lme library, Hulme Walk Bonsall Street, The Crescents MANCHESTER

(A coach from York Way, Kings Cross 8am; returns 9pm; £5 waged/£2 unwaged)

### MERSEYSIDE NON-STOP PICKET SUPPORT

has called a 24-hour Picket for Mandela from 5pm Tuesday December 23 until 5pm Wednesday December 24 In Williamson Square, LIVERPOOL

Petitioning; Singers from the Non-stop Picket Speeches to highlight British Collaboration Come to the Picket for an hour Come for 24 hours if you can For further details contact M.N.S.P.S. c/o Lark Lane Books, 82 Lane Books, Liverpool 17

### DEMONSTRATION FOR MIKE HICKS

At Wormwood Scrubs, Ducane Road W12 12 noon, Saturday December 20 Organised by Greater London Association of Trades Councils

## Read WORKERS PRESS

WORKERS PRESS leads the fight for Trotskyism and Marxist principles in the labour and trade union movement nationally and internationally.

WORKERS PRESS is committed to tell the truth and uncover corruption in the workers' movement.

TAKE OUT A POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION OR HAVE WORKERS PRESS DELIVERED EVERY WEEK!

Cost: 25p per issue, or inland postal rates:

10 issues: £3.80	Inland:	50 issues: £19.00
10 issues: £4.80	Overseas: surface	50 issues: £24.00
10 issues: £5.10	Europe, including Eire	50 issues: £25.50
10 issues: £5.30	Near East, Arab states	50 issues: £26.50
10 issues: £5.90	Americas, Asia, Africa	50 issues: £29.50
10 issues: £6.40	Far East, Australia	50 issues: £32.00

Name..... Enclosed £.....  
Address.....

SEND TO: WORKERS PRESS, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT

### £10,000 Special Fund

IN SO FAR: £6,688.22 TARGET: £10,000

THE Workers Revolutionary Party Special Fund of £10,000 was boosted this week by a donation of £5,000 from a member in London. We know that few members are able to match this, but we can make up the rest of the fund with the hundreds of smaller amounts from our members.

We are making a Christmas appeal to all our members and supporters to find ways of helping with this very necessary fund-raising.

We need the full £10,000 by February 1, 1987. Half the fund is needed for the international work of the party. The party is participating in discussions with groups throughout the world Trotskyist movement.

The other half of the fund is needed to cover expenses already incurred in moving the party headquarters to more suitable premises. Please send donations to: WRP, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT

### DECEMBER FIGHTING FUND

TARGET: £2,000

OUR aim is to publish a readable revolutionary paper, reflecting the policy of the Workers Revolutionary Party and open to views and comments of other working class parties and organisations. The raising of our monthly fund is necessary to realise this aim, and especially to develop the paper. We therefore ask our members and supporters to contribute to the monthly fund of £2,000. Each week we publish an accurate record of the money received.

December total so far: £835.64 Please send donations to: Workers Press, 21b Old Town, London SW4 0JT

WORKERS PRESS is the weekly paper of the Workers Revolutionary Party. If you wish to know more about us or are interested in becoming a member, why not fill in this form and send it to us?

## WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Please send me information about the Workers Revolutionary Party.

Name..... date.....  
Address.....

Trade Union..... Age (if under 21).....

SEND TO: Secretary to the Central Committee 21b Old Town, Clapham London SW4 0JT



# CRIMINAL TREATMENT OF THE ELDERLY

By Bernard Franks

VAST numbers of elderly people who need continuous support are receiving shockingly inadequate care and face appalling neglect as vital community services are reduced or overloaded.

This is highlighted in NUPE's report 'Time for Justice'. It is concerned with care for the elderly, especially those over 75.

Working people are 'written off', divested of all civil and human rights, yet an increasing number still have a quarter or more of their lives to live after retiring.

They are exploited by unscrupulous operators who keep a maximum number of inmates in so-called nursing homes — and at huge cost to the public purse.

Such undertakings are in line with Tory government policy for replacing considerations of care and social support with the priorities of the market place and profit-making.

NUPE's report finds the reward for a lifetime's labour is indignity and neglect.

Long term indications are that there will be nearly 9 million more people over 75 by the end of the century.

Yet provision for domiciliary support, sheltered housing, residential homes and hospital care are all being cut.

A main plank of Tory policy for more than a decade has been 'Community Care' — the sick and the disabled should ideally live in conditions as close to normal home life as possible, instead of institutions.

From the start, the Workers Revolutionary Party warned this was a fraud, aimed at cutting public expenditure by closing hospitals, selling off land and eliminating key geriatric services.

Since the 1970s there has been a boom in private nursing homes, which take off vast profits from the £150 to £200 a week DHSS board and lodgings payments, the one area in which unlimited government money seems to be available.

In 1979 £10 million went to keep old age pensioners in nursing homes.

By 1983 this was £102 million and since then it has doubled to £200 million.

Meanwhile: 'Staff in residential homes are caring for geriatric terminal cancer patients, care assistants are having to administer drugs without supervision and perform medical duties for which they have no training.'

A line of curtained windows along a street hides hardship, poverty and distress known only to home helps and social workers — and in many cases known to no one.

## Alone

Nearly a third of elderly people live alone, and in 1980 70 per cent (more than six million people) lived in households where no one was aged under 65.

NUPE estimates that 600,000 old people are housebound and 160,000 are unable to get out of bed unaided.

Carers are inevitably poor. They have lost jobs and higher pension opportunities, and face higher costs for high laundry bills, special diets and heating costs.

This can affect entire families where they are caring for relatives who need full-time professional care.

NUPE's report shows that cuts in hospital provision have had some of their greatest impact on provision for the elderly.

Apart from geriatric ward and hospital closures 30,000 ancillary workers' jobs have

been eliminated — the people who supply the domestic, catering, portering and laundry services.

The current policy of closing small local hospitals and centralising provision in large District Generals, means increasing difficulties and costs for visiting family and friends.

This has thrown an increasing burden on the residential homes run by local authorities and charities.

Staff are overloaded and ill-equipped to deal with inmates with severe physical or mental disabilities.

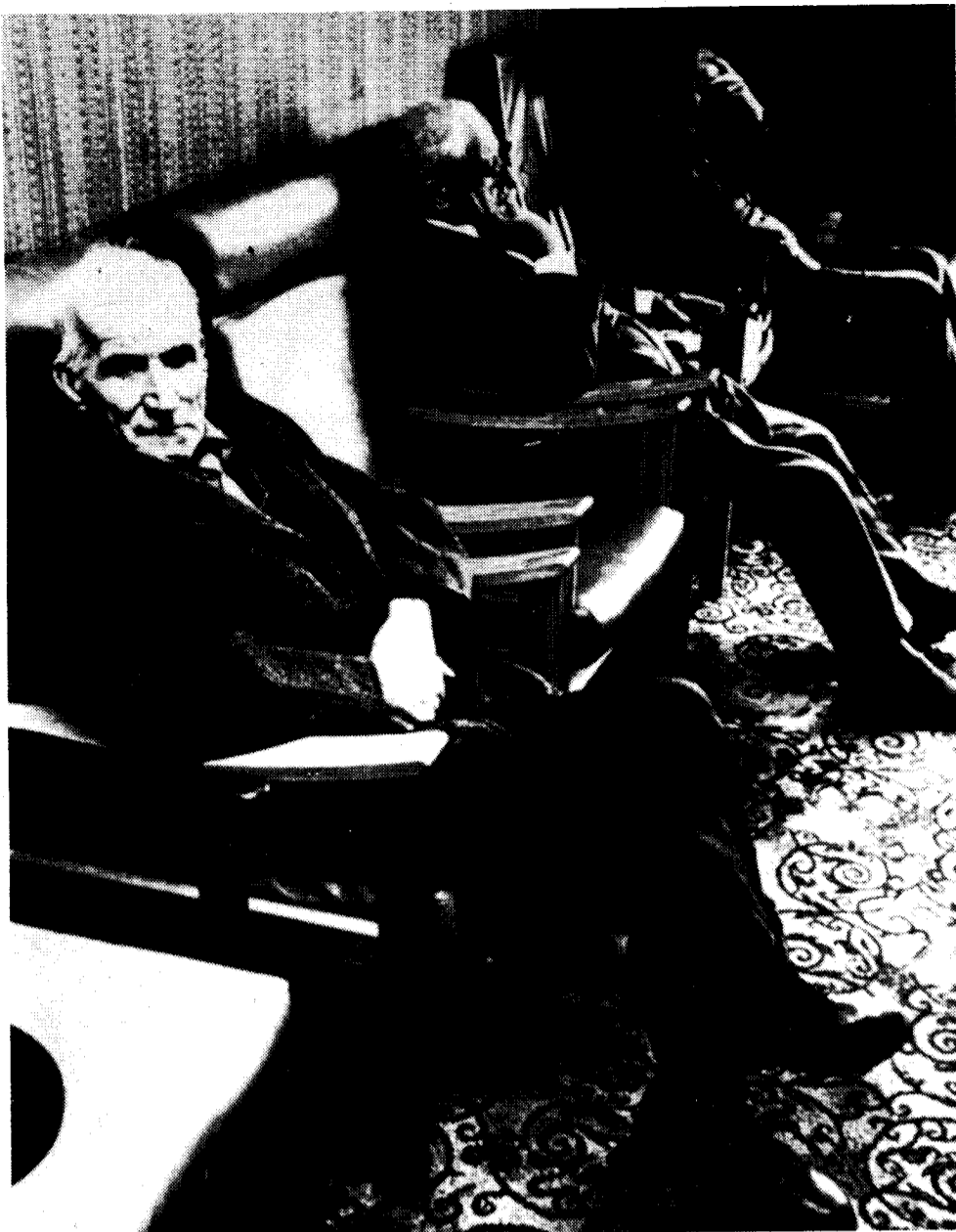
A NUPE shop steward is quoted as writing: 'We now have geriatrics who come into the homes at 90 years of age and onwards that hospitals will not take; mentally confused the mental homes cannot take; blind people the blind homes cannot take; we have diabetics, heart cases, Parkinson's cases. Thirty per cent of the residents are incontinent.'

Staffing levels are reported to be so low in some cases, especially at night, that the duty of putting residents to bed begins at 4.30 in the afternoon.

Another NUPE member commented: 'We are helpless, the rigid regime is like a concentration camp and reminiscent of the old and dreaded workhouses.'

An example is given of two care assistants looking after 40 residents.

Nine of them need help walking, 16 are incontinent, three blind, two bed ridden, four need two members of staff to go to the toilet, eight



The elderly who suffer further attacks with the proposed cuts in benefit

need one helper. Eleven are mildly confused, eight severely confused and 80 per cent need medication three times a day of up to six tablets per resident.

Abuses, horrific mistakes and accidents occur for which the authorities look for scapegoats at the point of application — to cover what are really the results of the criminal policies of governments.

This year the Tory government has imposed a 40 per cent cut, of £44 million on the amount local authorities can borrow for improving and building special accommodation units.

## Contrast

In sharp contrast to the cuts in expenditure for public provision has been the underwriting of the private sector with a blank cheque drawn on the Social Security account, to the tune of nearly £200 million last year.

A boom in the seaside town nursing home industry has occurred.

Their huge profits from generous DHSS payments are boosted by rate exemptions and use of cheap Manpower Services Commission YTS labour — 'With the MSC unable or unwilling to monitor abuses.'

Scandals and abuses are not isolated incidents but reflect a pattern in these 'homes' — of over-charging, poor food, harsh regimes, over-crowding, dangerous medication practices, atrocious working conditions, low pay and inadequate fire standards.

There is evidence of milk being watered, use of newspapers on beds, separation of old married couples and YTS members being requested to dispense drugs.

Private homes reject 'problem cases' of incontinence and dementia which became an increasing burden on the public provision.

Inmates and their relatives have no rights.

They are nervous of complaining at conditions and treatment because the resident concerned might be evicted.

Within the MSC Commun-

ity Programme, 15.8 per cent of all authorised places now go to services for the elderly.

In some areas, YTS trainees are used, and often given extensive responsibilities for which they have no training or experience.

NUPE warns of developments in North America, where property companies and oil corporations have diversified into this sector with aggressive takeover techniques, to exploit the more

lines on what public provision should be available in any particular area of care end in a call for an independent inquiry into care of the elderly.

## Good will

This depends in part on the good will and support of voluntary organisations, the same area on which Thatcher and Co. have put so much reliance.

*The report perhaps does not sufficiently stress the selfless dedication of tens of thousands of health and welfare workers... who have shown what can be done with adequate facilities... Their work and service is being undermined by the cuts and by the encouragement of contract labour and get-rich-quick owners of old people's containment units.*

marketable aspects of human misery.

The report does not sufficiently stress the selfless dedication of tens of thousands of health and welfare workers who keep the services going and provide real support and care, against all odds.

Their efforts show what can be done with adequate facilities.

Their work is being undermined by the cuts and by the encouragement of contract labour and get-rich-quick owners of old people's containment units.

NUPE's final proposals are unfortunately a patch-up affair. Some correct guide-

In fact Labour's policies are ominously lacking in any commitment to end the scandalous treatment of the elderly.

The concern of socialists should be not only to outline a plan of increasing provision towards eliminating poverty, misery and exploitation of the elderly, but also to mount a campaign uniting health and welfare workers, trade unionists, communities and the elderly themselves to fight for such a plan, whatever government is in power.

● *Time For Justice, NUPE's Report on Care for the Elderly, is available from NUPE, price £2.50*



A ninety-six year old woman who needs constant care

### Costs per year of Institutional and Domiciliary Care.

Old Person in hospital	£20,000
In an old people's home	£6,000
In sheltered housing	£5,000
Cost of support in own home	£3,500-£6,500

Source Department of Environment: 'Staying at Home Helping Elderly People', 1984.



# CHRISTMAS TV FILM CHOICE



(From left) Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, Frank Sinatra and Vivian Blaine in the Broadway hit musical 'Guys and Dolls' Thursday 23 Dec C4



Edward G Robinson and Buster Collier Jr. in the gangster movie 'Little Caesar'. Sunday December 21, C4

## FILM HIGHLIGHTS

CHRISTMAS has come to be known as the 'silly season' so far as feature films on TV are concerned.

At a time of year when TV's captive audience is greater than at any other, programme controllers pack their schedules with cinema products rather than invest in original TV programmes.

The excuse often alluded to is that we are too drunk to care, but the real reason is one of economy.

Having said that it is also true to say that a judicious selection of the films on offer can provide much enjoyable viewing.

For example, if you have a special interest, like musicals or animated films, you will have a field day.

What remains can be divided into highlights, low-lights and twilights — twilights predominating.

Among the highlights are the following:

**SAT 20 DEC: TRADING PLACES (ITV 10.15pm) and WAGES OF FEAR (BBC2 10.45pm)**

viewers will not need reminding, was a brutal thug.

★ ★ ★

**SUN 21 DEC: LITTLE CAESAR (C4 10.45pm) and ALL THAT JAZZ (BBC2 10.25pm)**

It is a great pity that these films clash, because they are both of considerable interest in their different ways.

Bob Fosse's racy semi-autobiographical film is irresistible. But those who might wish to play 'Spot the Mannerism' will opt for Little Caesar.

There is more than a rumour circulating in the labour movement that one T.G. Healy modelled himself on Edward G. Robinson who plays the lead part. Little Caesar is the story of Al Capone and Capone, as

**MON 22 DEC:**

★ ★ ★

A chance for a well-earned respite — strongly recommend an exchange of views.

★ ★ ★

**TUE 23 DEC: IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD (C4 4.25pm) and GUYS AND DOLLS (C4 8.30pm), NORTH BY NORTHWEST (BBC1 10pm)**

★ ★ ★

**WED 24 DEC: THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY (ITV 10pm), THE WIZARD OF OZ (BBC1 2.25pm), THE SEVEN YEAR ITCH (BBC2 4.45pm) and MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (BBC2 11.45pm)**



Dustin Hoffman in the role of 'Tootsie' the out of work actor who decides to try his hand as an actress. Sunday Dec 28 BBC1 7.50pm

★ ★ ★

**THU 25 DEC: EDUCATING RITA (BBC1 10.40pm) or FEDORA (BBC2 11.10pm)**

★ ★ ★

**FRI 26 DEC: SOME LIKE IT HOT (BBC2 10.05pm) or THE VERDICT (BBC1 10.15pm)**

★ ★ ★

**SAT 27 DEC: DR STRANGE-LOVE (BBC1 12.05pm)**

★ ★ ★

**SUN 28 DEC: REBECCA (C4 2pm)**, an early Hitchcock based on a well-known TV commercial and **TOOTSIE (BBC1 7.50pm)**

★ ★ ★

**MON 29 DEC: NEW YORK, NEW YORK (C4 9pm) and MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (BBC1 11.45pm)**

★ ★ ★

**TUE 30 DEC:** The stunning documentary **KOYAANISQATSI (ITV 11pm)**, **BLAZING SADDLES (BBC2 9pm)** and **THE FORBIDDEN PLANET (BBC1 11.45pm)**

★ ★ ★

If your personal taste is at odds with the above selection try BBC2 on New Years Eve. They are showing Alexander Korda's **HOBSONS CHOICE**.



### Kids' TV

For those who were too young last year . . . **The Snowman**, Channel 4's award-winning animation of Raymond Briggs' enchanting story, can be seen again on Christmas Day at 5.50p.m. (above)

Also a first chance for TV viewers to see the film version of the award-winning musical **Annie** on BBC1 (left).



Julie Walters, Michael Craig in 'Educating Rita' Thursday Dec 25 on BBC1 10.40pm



# Workers Press

Saturday December 20 1986. Newsdesk 01-733 3058

## Powerful show of support

**MARCHES and demonstrations last Saturday on behalf of the sacked News International printworkers and jailed print leader, Mike Hicks, were a powerful show of strength and determination.**

The mood of the three marches contrasted with the inactivity of the weak TUC leadership who have done nothing since Thatcher came to power in 1979. One march, from Tower Hill, was led by Rosemary Hicks.

The Printworkers Support Groups set out from Aldgate East, led by the 'Reclaim the Streets' Banner of local residents (see picture top right).

The Women Against Murdoch 'WAM' started from Butchers Row, with the General Secretary of SOGAT, Brenda Dean at their head.

This was the biggest demonstration at Wapping since the night of May 3 when riot police and police on horseback stormed into printers and supporters.

But just as the printworkers are gaining more and more support and the campaign is being stepped up to free Hicks, so Brenda Dean asks Murdoch to show some 'Christian spirit' and to reflect on the hard stance he has taken against the printers.

General Secretary of the NGA Tony Dubbins, like Dean, runs away from the

BY ALAN CLARK

political question of bringing Fleet Street out.

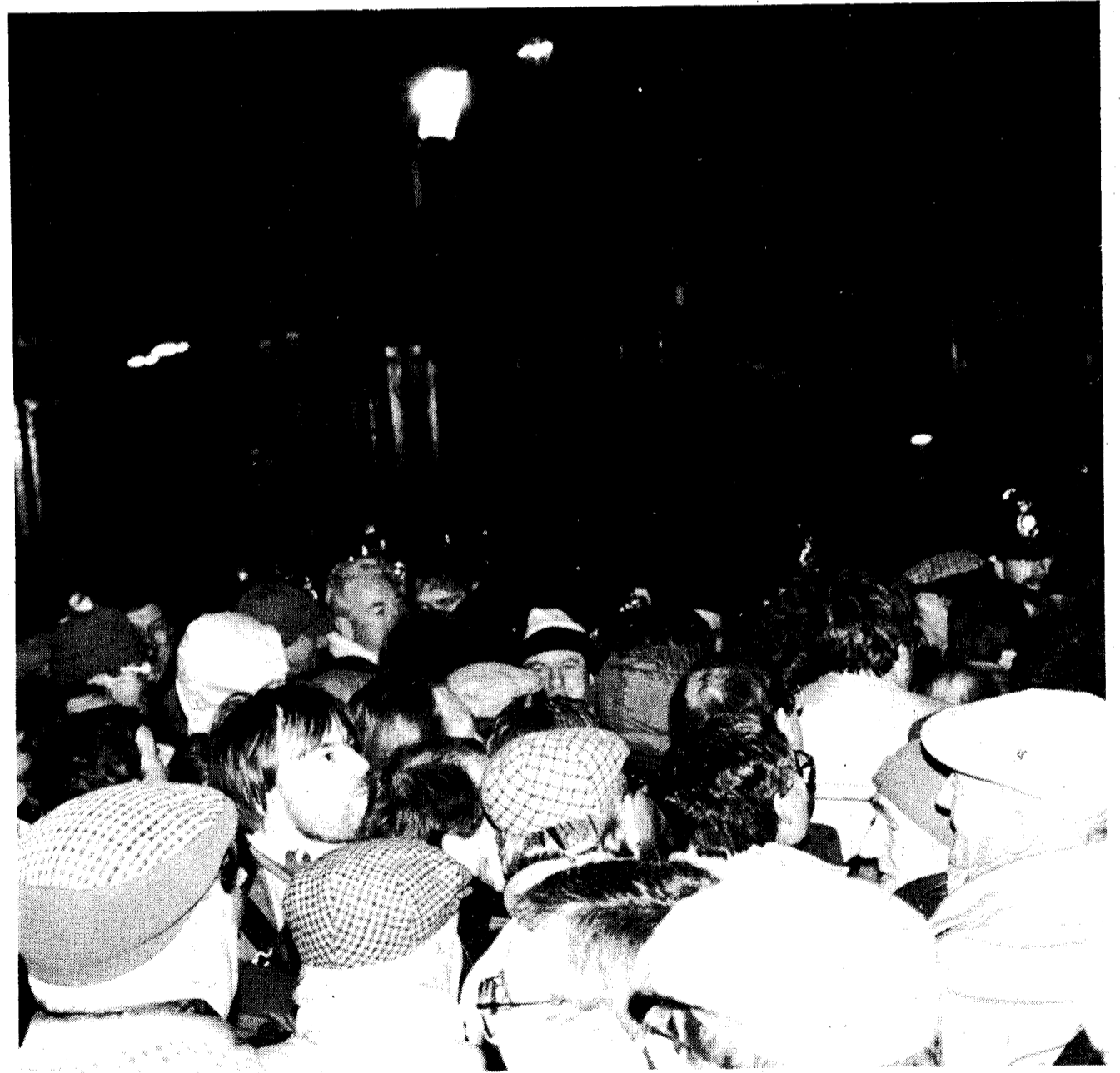
In last Saturday's 'Morning Star' he is quoted as calling for turning 'every factory, office, public library, market place and shopping precinct' into a 'Sun Free Zone' as the way to get Hicks out of jail.

What the printers need more than anything now is solidarity from their colleagues still working in Fleet Street. It is working-class action that will beat Murdoch (and Thatcher), not some kind of Christianity or 'Boycott Campaign'.

But Dean knows this. She is playing the Willis game, waiting for a Labour government to right all our ills.

In the meantime rank and file printers are demanding that Fleet Street be brought to a stop as the only way of freeing Mike Hicks from prison and at the same time helping to beat Murdoch.

# THE PRINTERS' FIGHT



## Sackings come to Fleet Street

AT least a third of the 'Daily Telegraph's' 1,800 pre-press workers are to be sacked in a move by management to switch the paper's advertising and editorial to direct input technology next summer.

The demand for 'Fleet Street Out' put forward by Workers Press and the Fleet Street Rank and File Support Group during the 11-month-old Wapping dispute is rapidly coming on to the agenda for sections of Fleet Street workers.

At least a third of the SOGAT clerical chapel are to get the sack and only 56 out of the 375 NGA members will keep their jobs.

The 'Telegraph' has already announced that nearly 1,000 machine room and distribution workers will be sacked — and all this is only the beginning of the 'changes' to be made during the move from the Fleet

BY CHRIS McBRIDE

street presses to new premises in West Ferry Road in London's docklands.

The sacking of pre-press workers announced last Wednesday will affect readers, composing room staff, copy takers and clerical workers.

Workers on the list to work in the West Ferry Road clerical area are being asked to accept the same 'arbitration' agreement already accepted by their machine room colleagues for the new premises.

The agreement contains a 'lay-off' clause on each employee's contract 'in case of industrial action'. The contracts also contain a 'good behaviour pledge'.

● The NUJ chapel at the Telegraph met last Wednesday and completely rejected management's proposals on the new technology after throwing out a management pay offer.

Top: Last Saturday's printworkers' support groups march was joined by local residents and their banners.

Above: A show of defiance as about 200 sacked printers stormed down to the gates of Murdoch's plant and held out for an hour in the early hours of last Monday morning

Right: Rosemary Hicks (wife of jailed printer Mike Hicks) speaking at last Saturday's demonstration at Wapping. She thanked the crowd with emotion for their messages of support. 'We have to stick together. If we do that then I know that we'll win because



we are right,' she said to cheers.

## Women against Murdoch

ALMOST 500 women assembled at Butcher Row to march to the Wapping plant. They carried hundreds of torches and sang the now familiar songs about Murdoch and the police. Spontaneous chants broke out: 'TUC get off your knees, Hicks out now', with the last line sometimes being changed to 'Willis out now'.

Brenda Dean stood at the front of the march, giving the TV cameras an exclusive view of her at Wapping, even if she didn't join in the singing. The march joined up with that from Guys Hospital and then marched to the plant to a big reception from the pickets.

### FLEET STREET OUT!

### FREE MIKE HICKS!