

Workers Press

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WEEKLY PAPER OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Commemoration of Russian Revolution

TROTSKYISTS will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution at an international public meeting on Sunday 8 November in London.

The struggle for international socialist revolution, of which the 1917 victory of the Russian working class was the first stage, is today centred on the task of building the Trotskyist Fourth International against Stalinism.

The Stalinist bureaucracy, which after Lenin's death usurped power in the Soviet workers' state, is today shaken by a profound crisis. What it fears above all is the developing political revolution in the Soviet Union and throughout eastern Europe.

Gorbachev and the bureaucracy as a whole is terrified by the striving of the working class to re-establish Soviet democracy and get rid of the parasitic caste which now more than ever threatens the gains of 1917. Gorbachev's response is glasnost — 'openness' towards Ronald Reagan and other imperialist leaders, and economic reforms which threaten to undermine the nationalised economy.

He sees the so-called 'openness' in the press, culture and education as a safety valve for the hostility of Soviet workers, youth and oppressed nationalities to the bureaucracy. But reports from the USSR indicate that an uncontrollable flood threatens to bust the valve. Soviet workers are protesting at the wage cuts and unemployment caused by economic reforms; the struggles of oppressed nationalities are being expressed in street demonstrations and riots.

Especially significant are the demands by Soviet students and youth for the

freedom to study the history of the USSR and the Stalinist terror of the 1930s. For in such a study lies the key to continuing the struggle for international socialism begun by Lenin and Trotsky's Bolshevik party, and cut off by Stalin with his counter-revolutionary 'theory' of 'socialism in one country' and the subordination of the Communist International to the counter-revolutionary requirements of the Soviet bureaucracy.

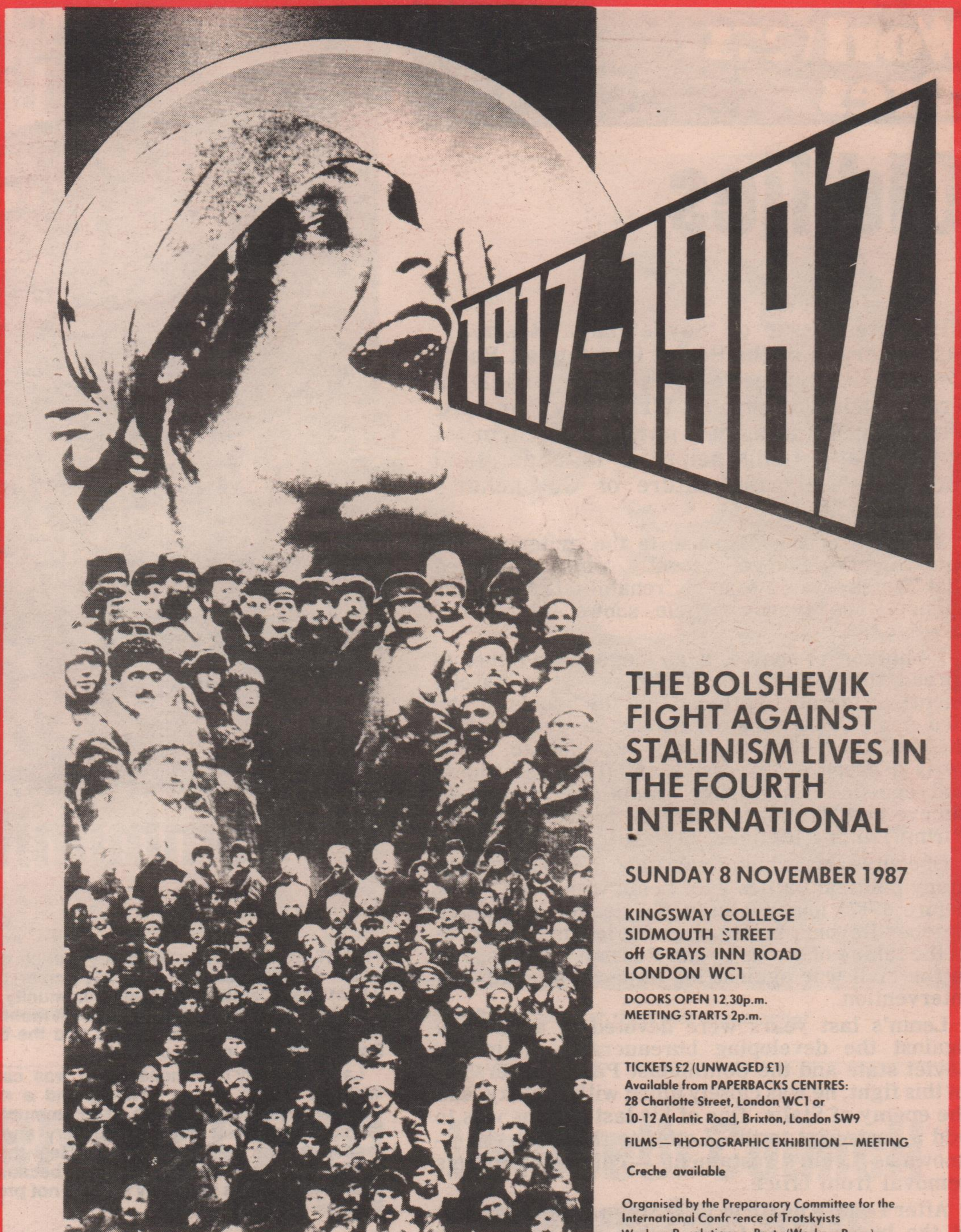
The aim of the Stalinist terror and the Moscow Trials — about which Soviet workers and students are today demanding the truth — was above all to destroy those Bolsheviks who fought against Stalin's bureaucracy for the continuation of the revolution internationally.

Stalinist terror failed! The Left Opposition survived the show trials, death squads and labour camps; it won to its ranks the best communists, and went forward to form the Fourth International in 1938.

The Bolshevik struggle was continued in the struggles of Trotskyists, against Stalinist repression and against revisionism inside the FI itself. Today it goes forward in the rebuilding of the Fourth International as the leadership of the revolutionary struggles of the working class.

Speakers at our meeting will include Trotskyists from western Europe, from eastern Europe, from Latin America and from the middle East; other comrades struggling against imperialism and against the bureaucracy will also be invited on to our platform. (Full details in future issues of Workers Press). The Workers Revolutionary Party, being privileged to host this meeting, invites all Workers Press readers and supporters to attend, and extends a warm invitation to all our international comrades to travel to London for the meeting.

● For further details write to WRP, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS.



1917-1987

THE BOLSHEVIK FIGHT AGAINST STALINISM LIVES IN THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1987

KINGSWAY COLLEGE
SIDMOUTH STREET
off GRAYS INN ROAD
LONDON WC1

DOORS OPEN 12.30p.m.
MEETING STARTS 2p.m.

TICKETS £2 (UNWAGED £1)
Available from PAPERBACKS CENTRES:
28 Charlotte Street, London WC1 or
10-12 Atlantic Road, Brixton, London SW9

FILMS — PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION — MEETING

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Organised by the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference of Trotskyists
Workers Revolutionary Party (Workers Press)

70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

KINNOCK TAKES THE S.D.P. ROAD

KINNOCK'S message to last week's Labour Party Conference was clear and simple.

As far as he is concerned the Labour Party will become an SDP look-alike — this is what his 'review' of Party policy means.

Kinnock will:

- Ditch any commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.
- Abandon any pledge to repeal the battery of anti-Tory legislation introduced by the Thatcher government since 1979. Kinnock said not a word about the unions in his entire speech.
- Drop any further nationalisation proposals.

Kinnock's speech was a hymn to capitalism. The industries privatised by Thatcher will remain privatised.

The policies of the right-wing were responsible for the last three election defeats. This same right wing

BY THE EDITOR

is using these defeats as the excuse for a further lurch to the right.

Kinnock's plans were passively accepted by the majority of the left delegates present. As the 'Guardian' accurately commented last Thursday:

'Few Labour Conferences can have accepted such a traditionally unpalatable sermon with so little demur . . . when Mr Kinnock told them they must accept home ownership they took it on the chin.'

'When he told them they must accept the spread of share ownership they raised no objection. When he signalled that he wants Labour to extricate itself from the commitment to unilateralism they did not bat an eyelid.'

'Something has happened to the Labour Party that

hardly seemed possible five years ago.'

WHAT has happened to the Labour Party?

There can be no return to the old 'caring' Labour Party, the Labour Party of the Welfare State, the Party that promised to look after the old and the sick.

The savage decline of British capitalism, the collapse of much of its manufacturing base, the loss of great slices of the former empire makes this impossible.

Kinnock's headlong rush down Thatcher's 'people's capitalism' road has been prepared by the Euro-Stalinists and their monthly paper 'Marxism Today'. This group has the dubious distinction of providing the intellectual baggage for Kinnock's stampede to the right.

Before the last election prominent Euro-Stalinist Eric Hobsbawm led those who called for a Labour/SDP alliance to oppose the Tories.

With the collapse of the SDP, Hobsbawm has taken the next logical step and called for the Labour Party to embrace openly the policies of Owen, Jenkins, Williams

and company. Writing in the October issue of 'Marxism Today' Hobsbawm says:

'The third principle is that modernisation requires a combination of public control and planning with markets. Using markets and private enterprise will be inevitable for any post-Thatcherite government, given the privatised economy in which it will have to begin operating.'

In other words, adopt Owen's 'social market' economy.

Along with this goes the open abandonment of any confidence in the ability of the working class to fight Thatcher.

'If Thatcher wants to go ahead with any project today, however unpopular, hopeless or absurd, in the short run there is nothing to stop it. This is as true of the poll tax as it was of the GLC,' says Hobsbawm.

If the Euro-Stalinists provide Kinnock's ideological ammunition, the pro-Moscow

wing of Stalinism, based on the 'Morning Star', provides the cover for the Labour left.

Commenting on Kinnock's Brighton speech the 'Morning Star' said last week:

'He poured out a torrent of words which still left everyone totally bemused and without any inkling as to what he means by a complete review of the Labour Party's policies.'

Who is the 'Morning Star'?

● Contd. page 5

5,000 SPECIAL FUND

IN SO FAR: £2,740.10

THIS week the Workers Revolutionary Party launches a campaign for the 8 November meeting to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Russian revolution. This is part of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference of Trotskyists.

It is the most ambitious Party project since our split with Healy two years ago. We intend to bring several speakers from overseas to take part in this celebration and make the rally a decisive step in building the Fourth International. But we will not realise this ambition without money. For that we rely on our members, supporters and readers.

Our Special Fund was established to spearhead the task of building the Fourth Interna-

tional. In the last few weeks the fund has stagnated. This is a dangerous situation which must be immediately reversed.

The Fund must be completed by 8 November. Unless Party branches give the matter their urgent attention and organise special money-raising events this will not be possible. We call on every Party member for a special sacrifice to give our Fund an immediate lift. Ask every Workers Press reader and Party supporter to give as generously as possible so that we can cover the considerable outlays needed to make the rally a real success.

● Send donations without delay to: WRP Special Fund, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS

Workers Press

Old lies

THE latest issue of 'Sovetskaya Rossiya', official organ of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, carries a long article on Trotsky and Trotskyism. Written by Professor Vladimir Ivanov, its particular form of bureaucratic lying helps us to understand more precisely the nature of Gorbachev's glasnost.

The article is a response to the material published in 'Der Spiegel' recently, which suggested that Trotsky would soon be 'rehabilitated' by Gorbachev. The Ivanov article shows this is impossible.

Its author, of course, is no longer able either to spread the old lies about Trotsky as a 'fascist agent', or merely to pretend that the founder of the Red Army never existed. Instead he goes back to the Stalinist distortions of, say, 1927 vintage. Trotsky is accused of 'excessive ambition, selfishness and egoism'. The writer wants his readers to believe that 'Trotskyism was ideologically crushed during Lenin's lifetime'.

Of course this is historical rubbish. Trotsky, after many political battles with Lenin within the Party before 1917, joined him in the leadership of the October Revolution. He played a leading role both in the taking of power by the Russian workers, and in the civil war against the imperialist armies of intervention.

Lenin's last years were devoted to a struggle against the developing bureaucracy within the Soviet state and the Communist Party leadership. In this fight, he was closely allied with Trotsky, and the enemy of Stalin. One of his last actions was to add a postscript to the 'Letter to the Congress' — known as 'Lenin's Testament' — calling for Stalin's removal from office.

After Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin, now the leader of the bureaucratic force within the Party, took control of the state and party apparatus, and over the next decade or so smashed all remnants of Marxism within the Party and the Communist International. In place of Lenin's conception that the Russian Revolution was the first step in the world overthrow of capitalism, the reactionary nationalist formula of 'socialism in one country' became unquestionable within the Communist Parties of the world.

Those who continued the fight for international communism were expelled, exiled and imprisoned. In 1929, the shooting of Oppositionists began, rising to the monstrous crescendo of the 'blood purges' of the 1930s. In 1940, two years after he and his followers had formed the Fourth International, Trotsky was murdered by Stalin's agent, Ramon Mercader.

In 1987, Gorbachev has to impress the Soviet people with the distinction between his 'openness' and the rule of Stalin. He cannot any longer avoid the issue of the historical role of Stalin's chief enemy, Trotsky. But to open up this question to public discussion must pose enormous dangers for him.

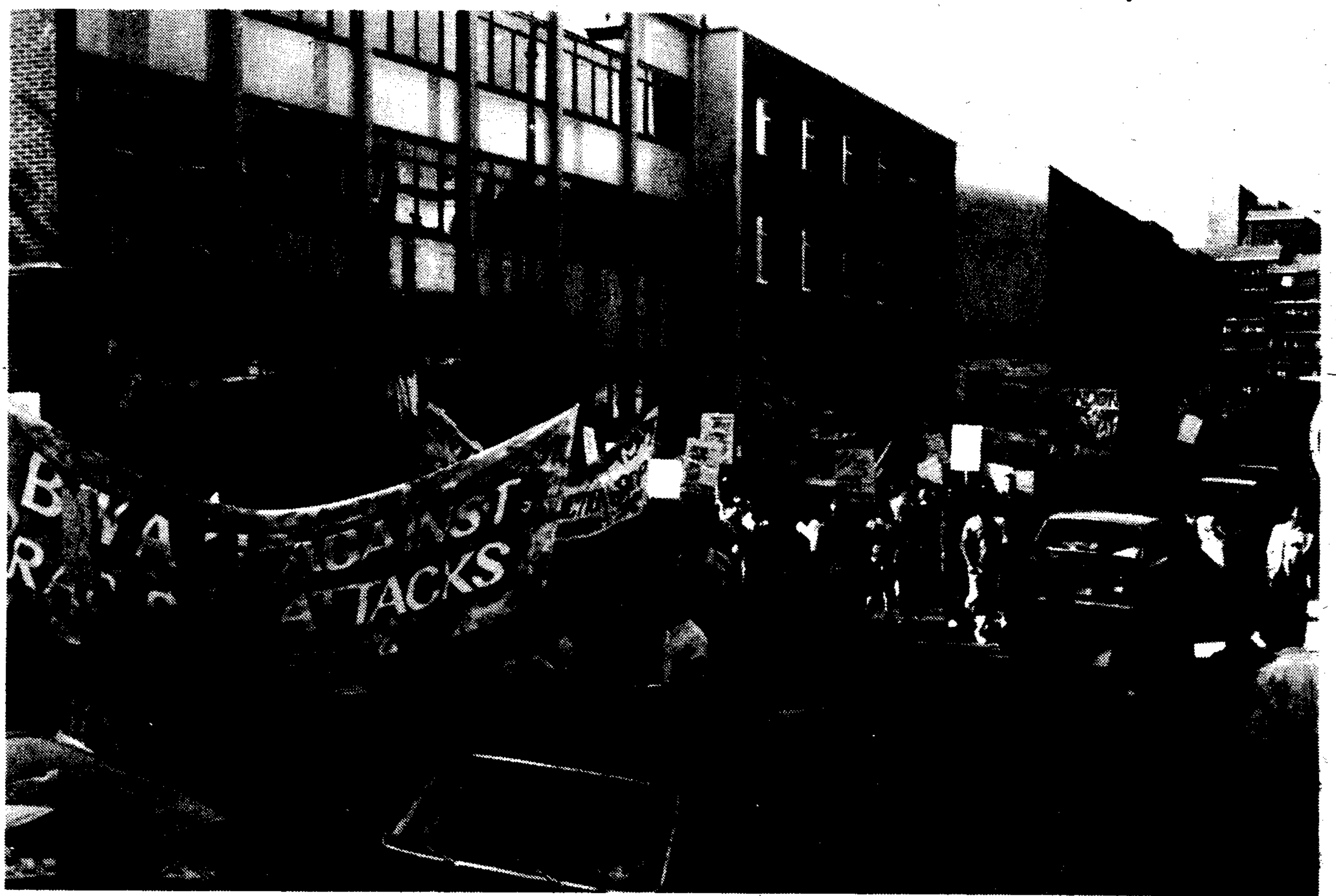
For Gorbachev is the leader of that same anti-socialist bureaucratic caste which was led in its usurpation of power from the Soviet working class by Josef Stalin. The enormous strengthening of the Soviet industrial power and above all of the Soviet working class, continually intensifies the crisis of the bureaucracy.

Trotsky fought until the day of his assassination against the conception that the bureaucracy was a class. This was not a matter of terminology, but contained the essence of his analysis of the destiny of the revolution. The bureaucracy was not an integral part of Soviet society, but a cancerous growth, a product of imperialist isolation. The healthy development of the Soviet Union demands both a political revolution to remove this parasitic excrescence, and the victory of the socialist revolution in the imperialist countries.

It is precisely because the bureaucracy is not a viable class that the history of its rise to power in the 1920s and 1930s is so crucial for it today. Gorbachev's accommodation to the pressure of world imperialism collides with his attempt to head off the developing movement of the Soviet workers.

More and more, the working class and, above all, the young people of the USSR will demand the truth on all these matters. No hack historian will fob them off with old Stalinist lies.

Trotsky's writings, especially 'The Revolution Betrayed' and 'The History of the Russian Revolution', will undoubtedly find their way to this generation of workers and intellectuals, by one means or another. They will become a powerful weapon in the movement to get rid of these new falsifiers of history, and in the building of the Soviet section of the Fourth International.



Community self-defence is vital

BY LOUISE CEROVECKI

THE STABBING of two Bengali youth by an organised gang of masked white racists on 5 September has caused outrage within the Camden Bengali community. Other attacks on members of the community in recent months include the racist murder of Abdus Sattar in May and the death of Mohammed Parkit whilst in police custody.

Last Saturday's demonstration was called by the Bengali Workers Action Group (BWAG) and a newly-formed group, Camden United Asian Youth. The community are alarmed at the increases in racist attacks and very angry about the police response. The youth in particular feel that the community is forced to organise to defend itself because the police do not take these attacks seriously and are not prepared to protect the Bengali community.

Among those supporting the demonstration were: The Pakistan Workers Association, Camden Black Workers Group, City AA, Left Out Lesbians and Gays, The Workers Revolutionary Party/Workers Press, Islington NALGO, Wages for Housework and the local Labour Party branch.

Over 400 marchers joined the demonstration which ended with a rally outside the Camden centre.

The wide support and determination shown by the marchers indicates the strength of feeling within the community about the increase in racist attacks in Camden and the urgent need to organise a defence.

● For further information contact BWAG or Camden United Asian Youth (telephone numbers: 01-388 7313, 387 8731).

Public Order Act used at Wapping

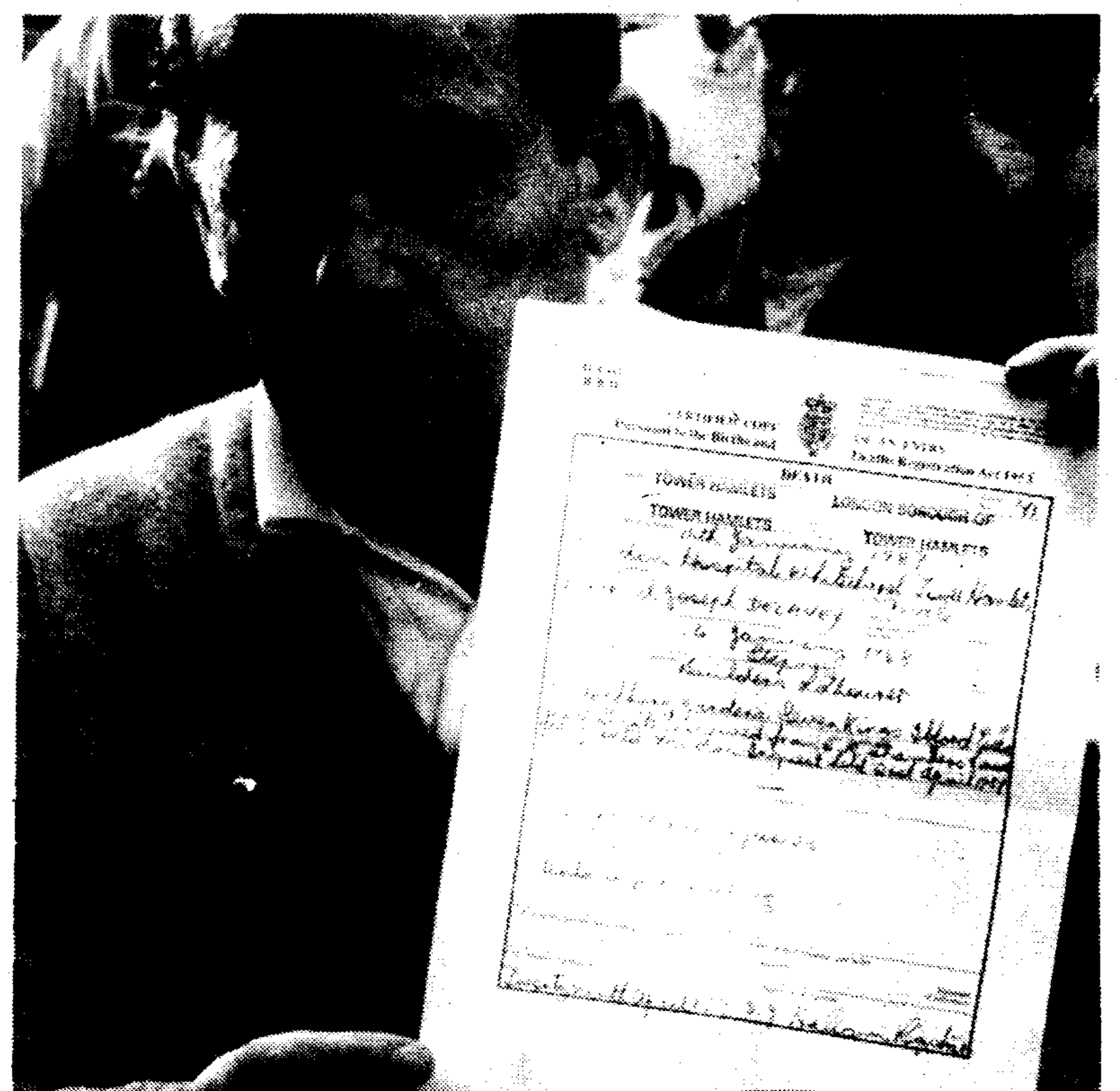
DELANEY family supporters and print workers marched last Friday from Butcher Row to Murdoch's News International site to protest at the attempt by Robert Higgins, the TNT scab driver who killed Michael Delaney on 10 January 1987, to overturn a coroner's jury verdict of unlawful killing.

Higgins, backed by TNT, the police and Attorney General Sir Michael Havers, is confirming the role of scabs in the working class movement. The state has no intention of prosecuting Higgins, and the family can't afford a private prosecution, yet Michael Delaney is dead and East End workers call for justice. In a revolutionary situation Higgins could be tried by a workers' court. That's what should happen, but it won't while people continue to have illusions in the role of the state.

We have to break those illusions through the development of demands which at one and the same time encapsulate the working class's feelings for justice and expose the state's role. That is why local people called for the public prosecution of Higgins. Only ultra-lefts fail to see this demand in its correct context.

The reality of the state's attitude to the campaign was revealed in the arrest of four young workers and the charging of John Rees, a local resident, under section 11 of the new Public Order Act for allegedly organising a demonstration without giving the police seven days' notice.

The significance of this Act is that if you tell the police then they can ban a demonstration, re-route it, declare it too large and prosecute organisers if there is any 'serious disorder'. If you don't tell them, they target demonstrators and known local activists to try and pin blame on them for having the temerity to participate in working-class activity.



Michael Delaney's father holds up the death certificate which clearly shows Michael was unlawfully killed

Pipe-dreams at SNP conference

THE CLOSURE of the Ravenscraig steel complex will be announced next February and could be complete within a year, a Scottish National Party executive member claimed last weekend.

Former Tory Iain Lawson told the SNP

Lawson said that if Ravenscraig were closed on the grounds of distance from major markets, the same argument would apply to many other Scottish businesses.

Scottish Nationalists must 'prepare for the biggest fight' of their lives, he insisted.

They would get involved in a campaign of civil disobedience against the Tory poll tax — scheduled for implementation north of the border in 1989 — only if there were a widespread spontaneous movement, declared

party leader Gordon Wilson in a statement typical of his careful balancing act between populist determination and legalistic inertia.

Spearheaded by Alex Salmond, MP for Banff and Buchan and newly-elected senior vice chairman of the SNP, the Nationalists believe that the intensification of economic crisis, further Tory cuts in public spending, and the ineffectiveness of the trade union and Labour leadership in resisting the destruction of the welfare state, will lead workers in Scotland to join with sections of the middle class in demanding independence.

Salmond describes the SNP as a 'moderate, left of centre, consensus' party; and Wilson — a lawyer and cautious political operator — envisages Scottish independence as 'possible within five to 10 years'.

Derived

Of course this pipe-dream is being puffed out of the opiates of the Scottish middle-class rather than derived from an analysis of the forces at work in world capitalism or even of the history of the working class in Scotland. But it is going on.

Renukaben wins right to stay

RENUKABEN LAKHANI, the young Asian woman who sought refuge in a Leicester Hindu Temple, has won the right to remain in Britain with her husband and baby.

In a case which is claimed to have made immigration history, Home Office Minister Timothy Renton announced his decision to allow her to stay but on 'an entirely exceptional basis'.

On 7 August, after a removal order was issued which meant that she would be separated from her 16-week-old daughter and her husband Vipin, who is a British citizen, Renukaben took sanctuary in the Shree Sanatan Mandir Temple. Her case was taken up by local MP, Keith Vaz and a community campaign launched which won the support of more than 100 organisations.

On 11 September she left the temple and placed herself in the custody of Vaz following ministerial assurances that her case would be reviewed. In his statement, Keith Vaz said 'The present immigration rules need to be looked at very carefully.'

A campaign spokesperson added: 'This is an historic decision not just for this family but for other families facing similar ordeals. Renukaben, who was overjoyed by the news, expressed her thanks to everyone who assisted with the campaign.'

● SEE letter page 12



Renukaben (holding letter), Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East (holding baby Riya), and husband Vipin Lakhani (far right with moustache) surrounded by members of the successful campaign.

West Glamorgan firemen in action

WEST GLAMORGAN firemen were due to strike from yesterday against cut-backs in the Fire Service agreed by the Labour County Council in a 47 to 11 vote. This action has now been called off because the council proposed talks on the day before the strike was due.

A massive demonstration of 1,500 firemen (see below), supported by brigade delegations from all over the country lobbied the council as they met

BY MARIAN BURROWS

last Friday, determined to resist proposals which will mean the loss of 40 full-time jobs and the closure of three fire stations in the county at West Cross, Swansea Central and Neath.

Councils throughout the country have drawn up reorganisation plans under Home Office instructions but elsewhere counter-representations by the FBU have forced withdrawal of cut-backs.

In West Glamorgan, councillors have decided on confrontation, apparently with full Home Office approval. Army

'Green Goddesses', not seen since the 1977 strike, have been dusted down and made ready for service as a work-to-rule has failed to halt threatened implementation.

Chairman of the Public Protection Committee, Frank Evans and Chief Fire Officer, Jim Windsor claim the changes which involve centralisation of services will improve cover. But FBU brigade secretary, Peter Snell, with the backing of national officers as well as the entire brigade, is adamant that 'peoples lives and those of fire fighters will be put at risk if the proposals go ahead, and all to save a few quid'.



Docklands development can't keep unions out

DESPITE efforts to keep the unions out of the Docklands Development in London there was a majority in a vote for union recognition by the 110 staff at the Docklands Light Railway Company.

Nevertheless the management refuses to negotiate saying that although there was a majority of votes (47 to 11), it does not constitute over 50 per cent of the workforce.

The EETPU is campaigning hard to encourage the workers to vote in a second ballot for that union to represent them.

It seems that the individually selected workers are not happy with their lot. Can it be that they are expected to work at great speed for low wages, and much discipline?

Air traffic controllers may black city airport

FIRST it was Murdoch setting up his scab printing operation at Wapping. Then the Docklands Light Railway bosses made it clear they don't want trade unionism.

Now air traffic control assistants have been angered to learn that Mowlem, operating the new London City airport, intends hir-

ing its own staff to do their work.

Assistants at air traffic control centres in and around London, who are members of the Civil and Public Servants' Association (CPSA), have refused to handle flight plans or information, connected with the new airport.

Lambeth Council votes for cuts

BY ED HALL

LAMBETH Council's Policy and Resources Committee, chaired by the Labour Group leader Linda Bellos, has approved a package of cuts to achieve savings of £40 million next year.

A further £20 million of cuts is required by government legislation.

The details of mechanisms to achieve the £152 million for next year required by rate-capping have not as yet been tabled.

The committee was lobbied by some 200 trade unionists, tenants, those in the community and in the ward parties.

The meeting was moved to the council chamber, but had to move again to the council chamber ante-room amid a blast of whistle-blowing — part of a demonstration against the council decision to break manifesto promises.

The meeting took 12 minutes to vote through papers which approved:

- reductions in staff of 1,000: that is, to 9,400 by 31 March 1989, to be achieved by 'strict limitation on recruitment';
- rent increases of £2.50 from 1 April 1988;
- extensive reorganisations and reviews of 'non essential expenditure'; and
- cuts to the grant funded sector.

A method of accountancy still open to the council, capitalisation (taking money from house-building and using it in the revenue account), will continue and possibly increase.

The Lambeth fightback campaign met following the committee meeting, to hear reports from those councillors in the meeting who voted against.

The Labour group has decided there is no possibility of a fight, and to campaign against cuts would mean, 'jobs and services would go

in a disorganised and chaotic way'.

Like Labour councils throughout London, Lambeth council will now attempt to organise the cuts. It is extraordinary that it still intends to campaign against them, and has asked the unions to join this campaign.

The council has taken the view that even if the government wanted, it could not put more money into Lambeth, as it is confined by its own laws.

It must view the disqualification of 31 Lambeth councillors only 18 months ago as some interesting historical martyrdom, unconnected with the principles of the provision of jobs, services to those who must require them and the right of the London boroughs to assess their own needs and be given the right to provide for them.

In one evening, Lambeth council has moved into isolation. It will not find support for its policies, they are not those of the people of Lambeth voted for in May 1986, and they do not represent the clear demands of the unions.

The 'new realism' and the 'sensibilism' of Margaret Hodge, chair of the Association of London Authorities, is only the currency of Labour politicians who have now to excuse their considerable political shift.

Fightback campaigns including councillors who will not vote for cuts will show the London councils that they have turned their backs on working people in error and that they should reflect how willingly the media accepts the renegade into the establishment fold.

Engineering flexibility

BY BERNARD FRANKS

THE FLEXIBILITY proposals drawn up jointly by the engineering employers and unions prepare the ground for a huge new job-cutting exercise to apply throughout the industry.

It will rest on a total restructuring of working methods and hours to enable a vastly reduced workforce to more than cover all existing production levels by working only when, where and however directed.

In the course of its introduction, rights conditions and trade union positions won in 100 years of struggle would simply be thrown away.

Since 1979, 2 million jobs have disappeared from the industry in a process primarily involving the union leaders' collusion with Tory government policies. According to the employers, 22,000 more will disappear from engineering manufacturing this year alone.

The implication is that even more jobs will go if their new plan is rejected. In fact the aim of flexibility is to raise work intensity so that four workers can cover the work of five, three of four and so on.

On this basis the horrific job loss for 1987 will be no more than a starter for ten times as many over the three-year period the agreement is to run.

If not thrown out, the 'Final Proposals' of 27 July 1987, drawn up between the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU), will apply to all manual workers employed in federated engineering establishments whether employed on daywork, nightwork, shiftwork, or on other methods of working.

Joint consultation and problem solving are proposed — but what for?

Certainly not to protect livelihoods. The aim is, on the contrary, to involve the workforce in the process of increasing its own workload and eliminating its own jobs.

Under the heading 'Employee Involvement — Joint Recommendation', the agreement states: 'The purpose is to enlist the constructive participation of employees in promoting the productivity, competitiveness and prosperity of the undertaking in which they work.'

True, an important role is reserved for the unions. However, it is not the traditional one of defending their members but one of imposing and policing the employers' requirements.

Under the title 'Efficient Use of Human Resources', it is the CSEU itself which specifically recommends that:

'The unions will use their best endeavours to secure the elimination of job demarcations between members of different unions so that tasks are performed according to a person's capabilities and not according to his/her union membership.'

'The union will not object to the use of tools and equipment associated with the job by supervisors or technicians where necessary and appropriate.'

'Though employees will normally be employed on their primary tasks the unions agree that they should be prepared to perform any tasks commensurate with their training and capabilities.'

In these respects the EEF intends to supply the necessary multi skill training and the unions will urge their members to take advantage of it.

Clearly there is an unwritten implication here of a movement towards single union agreements along the lines of that between the EETPU and Murdoch of Wapping — with all that means for jobs and conditions of employment.

Unions help employers draw up slave labour charter



The new flexibility proposals will lead to another jobs slaughter

Hours of work

THE plan to introduce flexible working times is tied to a promise to cut the working week from 39 to 37-and-a-half hours.

This is to be achieved in two stages of 45 minutes each. The first will occur sometime between 1 November 1988 and 1 May 1989 on a date to be agreed by each company. The second will follow 12 months after.

Union leaders have claimed that the shorter working week will lead to more jobs to cover the previous output.

That story is blown apart by the plan itself: 'This domestic agreement must be such as to ensure that production levels will be maintained at least at existing 39-hour levels and that costs are not increased as a result of reducing the working week.'

Then comes the real sting in the tail: 'The unions accept that the fullest possible use must be made of existing and new plant and machinery and that the employer shall establish the production hours of the plant and machinery on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis as appropriate in the establishment up to a maximum of 168 hours per week [that's the total hours in a week].'

In this regard — 'the hours may be spread evenly or unevenly over the week.' Also, any failure at company level to agree start and stop times will leave it as the 'responsibility of management to determine the times that shall apply.'

So much for 'joint consultation'!

As if this had not covered all possible aspects of flexible times the parties have also agreed that weekly working hours may be varied on an annual basis or other basis to accommodate seasonal or other fluctuations in the flow of work to establishments.

Also, where production needs cannot be accommodated within the flexibility allowed by these clauses 'the employer may determine domestically a pattern of

shiftworking to suit the particular needs of the establishment or part of the establishment.'

Meanwhile, for many already on shifts there will not even be a cut in hours because those working at or below 37-and-a-half hours will not have their hours reduced further.

Nor need they expect the unions to look for such a cut. The agreement states: 'No claim for a further reduction in working time to be made before November 1991.'

Flexi-schemes

FLEXITIME systems appeared in the late 1960s and were said to benefit workers by giving them some licence to come and go as they pleased around a central 'core' time.

In practice the schemes enabled employers to grab back lateness — it had to be worked off some other time in the week — and cut overtime by staggering the working day or week to suit production needs.

Such flexibility proved wholly to the employers' benefit.

Since then the position in Japan has come to light here. Already with no fixed working week, the deregulation of the work day coupled with new flexi-schemes is turning the combined working day and overtime into regular hours for extremely low paid Japanese workers.

This procedure is about to be legalised in a new 'Labour Standards Law' which the Tories may well see as a model for Britain should the system appear to be gaining ground in several industries here.

With flexitime, production can be covered in normal working time because any time is normal time.

The company's wage bill will be cut and so will the earnings of workers whose basic pay is so low that they have to rely heavily on overtime to live.

Measures are included in the engineering deal to apply this limitation by:

a) strictly enforcing a maximum of

65 hours overtime in any 13 weeks,

b) requiring that the parties 'commit themselves to the most cost-effective manning levels and the elimination of unnecessary overtime, including such practices as "one in all in".'

Pay

MAGNANIMOUSLY the agreement promises to hold to the national minimum wage rate for 39 hours for the new 37-and-a-half hour week.

At least in the 1960s when employers wanted to introduce productivity deals — to increase output and take out jobs — they tried

to buy them in with the offer of 30-per-cent and even 60-per-cent bonuses. Today, the promise is that there will be 'no loss of pay' in return for the huge increases in productivity expected.

Not, of course that there should be any strings to pay increases or any trade-off of jobs and conditions for cash. But this does reflect the confidence the employers have in today's trade union leadership to get them all they want without costing them a penny.

Decasualisation

IN FACT the unending trade union struggle for rigid, regulated working times and for decasualisation has been an important one against systems which wreck health, destroy family life and drastically cut the livelihood while turning the worker into a living appendage of the workplace.

Now a bunch of right-wing union leaders, who see their job as one of running an employers' enforcement agency are hell-bent on throwing away a century of gains in favour of turning each workforce into a pool of cheap and casual labour.

It is an inherent aspect of capitalist production that it must revolutionise and rationalise itself continuously to raise productivity and lower unit prices of its products below the general level.

As Karl Marx long ago pointed out, it finds no point in this process unless the workforce is cut relatively (to output) or absolutely. But as every other firm is doing the same, it is a never-ending process, even where near-monopolies and price 'agreements' exist.

Many firms closing plants and applying mass sackings today are not going out of business but are clearing the decks for a new round of modernisation and intensification of labour which they expect to lead to record sales and record profits.

Time was when trade unions had a built-in commitment not only to fight out the continued struggle to defend workers' pay, conditions and jobs but also to battle for a different social system, where production for profit is replaced by production for social need and the accelerating rat race is brought to an end.

There is clearly an urgent need to replace the current batch of union leaders, whose sole motivation is collaboration with employers, with members pledged to socialist ideals.

● Throw out the flexibility deal!

● For a shorter working week without strings!

● Throw out the traitors who want to give away hard-won rights and conditions!

● Commit the unions to the fight for socialism, not the defence of capitalism!

Youth for Socialism

MEETING

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER, 12 NOON

Brixton Recreation Centre, Station Road, London SW9

Solidarity with the struggles of young people in South Africa and internationally!

Build Youth for Socialism!

YOUNG people, whether in South Africa, Ireland or in Britain, are in the forefront of the struggles of the working class against unemployment, poverty and oppression. Here in Britain young people face more unemployment, more racism, and an onslaught against their basic rights under the Tory government.

The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) is being expanded to supply more cheap youth labour. This is the purpose of the compulsory two-year YTS for school-leavers, and the 'work for your dole' Job Training Scheme for 18- to 25-year-olds. At the same time, higher and further education is being cut, and schools are being brought more closely under Tory control. The Tories' efforts to divide the working class — unemployed teenagers from adult trades unionists, black from white — are being assisted by the Labour leaders and bureaucrats who refuse to fight this government.

Youth for Socialism is fighting to build a youth movement which will mobilise working-class youth in the fight against the Tories and the labour traitors. Central to this is the building of solidarity with struggles of young people internationally — like the South African youth fighting apartheid and Irish youth opposing the occupation of their country by British troops. At our meeting on Sunday October 11 in London, we hope to bring Youth for Socialism members together with young people who are fighting for union rights and against MSC scabbing, fighting racism, and fighting to build solidarity with international struggles.

Come to our meeting. Fill in the form below. (Tickets £1)

I wish to have more information about Youth For Socialism/come to the meeting

Name.....

Address.....

Return to Youth For Socialism, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS.



Photo courtesy of Janamor Newspapers

THESE LADS rescuing their livestock are among millions who have been made homeless by the floods in Bangladesh. Continuing heavy rains mean worse flooding is to come.

It is estimated the floods have destroyed three million tons of rice and wheat crops. Besides the famine

threat, another danger is disease caused by contaminated drinking water.

About a million homes have been destroyed. A relief worker said around 2,000 people are sleeping on Dhaka railway station. People were showing great resilience. He had seen people on the roofs of flooded homes in the

delta, washing their clothes.

For the Ershad regime, the floods were not without benefits. A hartal (general strike) in August had marked growing opposition, which has temporarily suspended activity because of the disaster. Conscious that the regime is under threat, the

army is keen to be seen directing relief operations.

Behind the ecological disaster, one cause was the greed of capitalist timber interests over years, destroying forests to the north of the country, causing soil erosion there and silting up of the river delta which makes flooding worse.

Release jailed Korean trade unionists!

ENGINEERING and metal workers around the world have been urged to take up the cases of fellow workers arrested in South Korea in the struggle for free trade unions.

In a message to 170 affiliated unions, the International Metalworkers' Federation says:

'Since the beginning of September, there has been a wave of arrests aimed at removing elected leaders of the newly-formed unions representing workers in the Daewoo car company (which is 50 per cent-owned by the American automobile multinational, General Motors) and in Ulsan, the industrial city dominated by Hyundai Heavy Industries.'

The Geneva-based federation says it is particularly concerned over the fate of Kwon Young Mok, union leader at the Hyundai engine plant, and Lee Hyung Gon, president of the Federation of Hyundai industrial unions.

The strike wave which erupted in July, affecting hundreds of companies, and backed with factory occupations and mass demonstrations, has brought a rapid growth in trade unionism.

capitalist monopolies establish huge modern industries, with 'Third World' sweatshop pay and conditions, free from union interference.

The economy so much admired by Margaret Thatcher rests on the backs of super-exploited workers often having to a 70 or 80-hour week, for low pay, making huge profits for the chaebols, as the industrial combines are called.

Study

A study carried out for the International Metalworkers' Federation earlier this year found a shipbuilding worker in South Korea had to work three times as long as his Taiwanese equivalent to earn enough to buy a pound of beef.

He would have to work three times as long as a Japanese worker to buy a car, and three times as long as a shipyard worker in Singapore to be able to rent a flat.

Lee Byung Chull, chairman of the Samsung group, said he would sooner shut down his entire chaebol than accept union organisation. At Hyundai, the workers held company founder Chung Ju Yung captive in his office till he agreed to listen to their demands.

A shipyard worker and a carworker were killed when riot police attacked demonstrations, and the government has been arresting trade union activists and organisers.

Calling on unions throughout the world to 'express support and solidarity for their brothers and sisters in Korea', International Metalworkers' Federation general secretary Herman Rebhan says they are at a 'historic turning point' in the struggle for political democracy and economic justice.

'We demand the immediate release of all arrested strikers, the opening of negotiations for full union recognition, wage increases and reduction in working time corresponding to world norms and the profitability of Korean industry, and the lifting of censorship in the Korean media on union activity in Ulsan.'

Doubled

A metalworkers' federation mission which went from Tokyo to see how South Korean unions were getting on reported that the metalworkers' union affiliated to the Federation of Korean Trade Unions had doubled its membership in six weeks.

Union leader Jung Sik Min, said recently that the union had organised more than 200 factories since the strike wave broke out, and an average of ten new plants a day were being unionised.

In many places, workers rejecting previously existing tame unions have successfully organised new unions to fight for their rights.

Until the repressive right-wing regime was forced to concede its 'Democratisation Statement' at the end of June, repressive laws, security police and military-style management had let

Women want film stopped

WOMEN'S organisations in India have called on federal Information Minister Ajit Kumar to ban shooting of a film based on John Master's 'The Deceivers' in northern Rajasthan state, because it depicts suttee, the practice of wives throwing themselves on the husband's funeral pyre.

People were shocked recently to hear that 18-year old Roop Kanwar, a Rajasthan widow, had committed suttee on 4 September, sitting calmly on her husband's head amid the flames. The custom was thought to have been eradicated a century ago.

Women marched on the government to show their outrage, and demand action. Some forty people from Roop Kanwar's home village have been arrested since then, on charges that they connived at suttee.

Tamil leader, 23, fasts to death

LEADING Tamil figure in Sri Lanka, Amarthilingam Thilepan, died a martyr on 26 September in Jaffna, after fasting twelve days to force attention on his people's disappointment and concern at what has happened since the Indian government's 'peace' accord with Sri Lanka.

News of his death released growing frustration and anger. As black mourning flags were raised around Jaffna and surrounding villages, Tamil women and children gathered outside Indian army camps to show their feelings.

Amarthilingam Thilepan was 23 years old. A leading political thinker with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, he had undertaken his hunger strike although he was seriously wounded in the stomach in a clash with Sri Lankan troops earlier this year.

Behind this fast until death — SATHYAGRAHA, in Indian nationalist tradition — was the strong feeling among the Tamil freedom fighters that having been persuaded to surrender their arms under Indian pressure, they had been betrayed.

The Tamil Tigers demanded removal of Sri Lankan military garrisons from their schools and villages, disbanding of the Sinhala Home Guards, whom they accuse of murdering and terrorising civilians, and a halt

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

to state-aided Sinhalese settlements in the North and East of Sri Lanka, the traditional Tamil homeland.

They accused the Jayawardene government of failing to keep its obligations under the accord with India, and Rajiv Gandhi's Indian government of failing in its assurances to them that these would be kept.

On Sunday 27 September, Indian troops opened fire on Tamil demonstrators setting fire to a bus near Batticaloa, according to police reports, wounding at least three people. It was the second time within days that troops of the 10,000-strong Indian 'peacekeeping' force had opened fire on Tamils.

Indian High Commissioner Mani Dixit had remarked on hearing of Thilepan's death the previous day that it was the Tamil Tiger's responsibility. He claimed the Indian government was trying to get the Sri Lankan government to agree to Tamil demands.

no longer even pretend to be able to deal with the low wages, collapsing social services, declining health provisions and appalling housing that millions of people in this country face every day of their lives.

This is a situation that every member of the Labour Party who wants to fight for socialism has to consider.

We ask all such workers to break from the Labour Party and join the Workers Revolutionary Party.

After recent incidents in the Tamil areas in which more than a hundred young people were killed, the Tamil Tigers have denied trying to crush other Tamil organisations. Many suspect the Indian intelligence services of engineering clashes to break up the Tamil movement.

Tamil Tiger commander Velupillai Prabhakaran accused India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of bringing groups it had armed and trained to fight the Tigers. The Indian High Commission said this was a 'mischievous' allegation.

Following talks between Indian High Commissioner Dixit and Prabhakaran last weekend, Dixit told President Jayawardene that the Tigers had agreed to support the accord, and would end their hunger strikes and other opposition, once the interim administrative council for the North and East had been established.

As the main force that has fought for an independent Tamil Eelam, the Tigers and their allies in the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation expect a majority in the council, which is to run the regions until elections.

However, if the Sri Lankan government continues its Sinhala, revisionist of Zionist policies in the occupied Palestinian territories (Sri Lanka has employed Israeli advisers, in fact), then a Tiger-led council is bound to clash with the government.

● Tamils in London held a vigil outside the Indian High Commission last Sunday in honour of Amarthilingam Thilepan, and to back demands that the military repression, intimidation and colonisation in Tamil areas be halted.

Fiji coup — workers act

TRADE unionists in Australia and New Zealand have backed Fijian cargo in solidarity with Fijian workers, whose union leaders are being held by the military rulers.

Fiji's capital Suva was under strict curfew last week, with soldiers manning roadblocks, after reactionary Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka staged his second coup in months, effectively displacing the Queen's governor-general, Ratu Ganilau, and saying he might proclaim a republic.

Fiji's prime minister Timoci Bavadra, deposed with his elected Labour government in May, is still being held in jail, along with several of his ministers. The mayor of Suva and several journalists are also among those being held.

In the countryside, workers have been staying away from the sugar fields in re-

sistance to the military takeover and racist attacks.

Second

British-trained Colonel Rabuka staged his second coup to prevent a constitutional compromise and further his stated aim of depriving Fijian Indians of political rights.

Behind his policy is a racist secret society, Taukei, which is using terror tactics against the Indian community. At a youth conference organised by the Army, which is suspected of orchestrating the anti-Indian attacks, Captain Isikeli Mataitoga said their aim was 'to restore Fiji to the Fijians'.

The landowning Great Council of Chiefs, a leftover from colonial backwardness, is also involved, notwithstanding issues of legitimacy between the colonel and Queen's man Ganilau, a pa-

ramount chief. Captain Mataitoga is a member of the Governor-General's staff, and Ratu Ganilau's son Captain Afreti Finau was a speaker at the same youth rally.

Labour

Brought to the islands as cheap labour for the plantations, the Indians have become an established part of the Fijian working class, and also formed a shopkeeping middle class. The overthrown elected government reflected an alliance of the labour movement and Indian middle class.

Fiji's Labour government was also an annoyance to US imperialism, having adopted a policy opposing nuclear bases and fleet visits. This has led many to suspect that while Colonel Rabuka is pursuing his own ambition, he has also had CIA encouragement.

● From page 1

trying to kid? There was no ambiguity in any word Kinnock spoke.

At Brighton Kinnock told the left: whatever you think, Humpty Dumpty can't be put back together again.

The working class is faced with the following situation:

- The only unions the capitalist class will tolerate are those like Hammond's electricians.
- The Labour Party leaders

British killer's Beirut carnage

AMERICA's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hired an ex-SAS mercenary to carry out a car-bombing that killed 73 innocent people and wounded hundreds more, it has been revealed.

The car-bombing in Beirut in March 1985 resulted from an order by Ronald Reagan authorising the CIA to carry out so-called 'pre-emptive' murders of people considered a threat to US imperialist interests.

According to a new book by American investigative journalist Bob Woodward, whose Watergate exposures helped bring down President Nixon, it was late CIA chief William Casey who persuaded Reagan to authorise the operation, then got the Saudi reg-

ime to arrange and pay for it.

The target was supposed to be Sheikh Fadlallah, a Shi'ite Moslem religious leader whom the US intelligence agency was blaming for attacks on US targets in the Middle East.

But he escaped injury, and according to Woodward was later bribed by the Saudis instead.

Hundreds of ordinary Lebanese citizens who happened to be passing in the street at the time of the bombing at Fadlallah's headquarters were not so fortunate.

Woodward says the Beirut bombing was arranged after talks with Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan. Casey wanted to avoid a direct US link being traceable.

'The Saudis came up with an Englishman who had served in the British Special Air Service. The man travelled extensively in the Middle East, and went in and out of Lebanon from another Arab state. He would be an ideal leader for a sophisticated operation.'

The English hired killer set up 'operational compartments' to carry out different parts of the bombing operation, none of them linked with each other except through him, Woodward says.

Lebanese intelligence officers were hired by him to carry out the actual bombing.

Besides exposing the worldwide terrorist activity of US imperialism's agents, including CIA operations in Western Europe, Woodward's book, 'Veil: The Secret Wars of the CIA', has once again pointed up the threat posed by British professional killers from the SAS.

Millionaire mercenary boss Major David Walker, whose KMS company was used in CIA-backed contra operations against Nicaragua, and whose other firm, Saladin, provides bodyguards to Saudi prince Bandar, has let it be known through his lawyers that 'neither he nor anyone connected with him' had anything to do with the Beirut bombing.

Labour MP George Foulkes last week called for an urgent inquiry into the facts raised by Woodward, and said the ex-SAS bomber should be identified and prosecuted.

WORKERS PRESS says the labour movement must investigate the intelligence services, turf out the CIA and its agents, and smash the SAS and its private-hire offshoots!

Solidarity with Turkish and Kurdish political prisoners!

Interview with a hunger striker

'IT IS as if death were approaching,' says Pamuk Yildiz, describing a hunger strike of 47 days in which she took part. As Turkish and Kurdish Left-wing political prisoners continue their campaign of hunger strikes and protests against torture and ill-treatment, we print this interview with a veteran of such struggle.

Workers Press is calling on trade unionists and socialists in this country and around the world to add their voices to those of the Kurdish and Turkish workers in solidarity with the prisoners, against the Ozal regime.

Pamuk Yildiz was arrested in 1980 and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. In 1984 she took part in the 47-day hunger strike at Mamak military prison. After her release this year, she spoke to Yeni Gundem of 'Hatice Aydogdu' magazine.

WHAT was the fundamental reason for the hunger strike by the convicts and detainees in the prisons?

YILDIZ: WE faced inhuman practices at the Mamak prison. Our bodies and the soles of our feet were constantly beaten. Three people were thrown naked into 1 metre by 1 metre cells. The counting of prisoners would last until 4 o'clock in the morning.

The men have their body hair ripped off and their genitals crushed. When they took us outside we would be beaten unconscious. Even when we were taken out for air we were forbidden to look in any direction but straight ahead, to laugh or to speak.

The political prisoners were forced to wear uniforms. The hunger strike began because of these practices. Every inhumanity imaginable was being inflicted on people.

WAS there any change in the attitude of the prison administration towards you during the hunger strike?

THE physical and psychological pressures were even greater. Every half-hour the cells would be searched and the stuffing emptied out of the beds. Everything would be strewn about. And they wanted the cells in order and the beds refilled by the next search half an hour later.

In addition, they didn't allow any salt or sugar inside during the hunger strike. In one place the hunger strike turned into a fast to the death.

They hadn't allowed salt or sugar during the ten-day hunger strike at Mamak in 1981 either, whereupon the women ate packaged syrups. But, as the prison administration had noticed this too, they removed all the syrups from the cells during the 1984 hunger strike.

WHAT do you feel is the reason for choosing the hunger strike as a form of protest?

TAKING part in a hunger strike is truly a difficult decision. Going hungry is even worse in unhygienic condi-



PAMUK YILDIZ

tions. But this is not a means used for pleasure. Besides, the hunger strike is the only weapon available. Other methods can't be resorted to in these conditions. The hunger strike is seen as the only solution.

DID you ever think about death during the hunger strike?

YOU both think about it and don't. It is as if those around you were approaching death. Everyone moves slowly, as life disappears.

STOP IRAN-IRAQ WAR!

THE warmongers of the Islamic regime in Iran are now celebrating the seventh anniversary of this criminal war which continues to cause enormous destruction of human and material assets in two countries much in need of all the very scarce resources that they possess.

It is estimated that there has been so far over half a million deaths and probably more than a million permanent injuries because of this war.

In Iran, where the human suffering has been more widespread, there is hardly a neighbour-

Statement by the Campaign Against Repression in Iran (CARI)

hood in which some family has not suffered a loss. The extent of the material damage is said to be at least \$500 billion.

Both countries would have to export their oil at full capacity for the next 20 years simply to recover the material losses. And there is no end in sight.

Without for a moment forgetting the reactionary role of the Iraqi government, who are at least equally guilty of having started this war, it is, however, the Iranian regime which shows no intention of ending it.

Its very survival depends on its ability to constantly turn tens of thousands of Iranian youth into cannon fodder for the war fronts.

The social and economic crisis in Iran caused by the reactionary policies of the clerical regime can only be justified by continuing with this war.

Furthermore, the very political stability of the regime depends on its policy of keeping its forces of repression such as the Pasdaran

Army and all the various vigilante groups fully mobilised and ready to strike against every section of the population.

The best way of justifying the enormous resources that have to be spent for their upkeep is to continue with the war. It was not by accident that Khomeini called this war 'a godsend'.

BECAUSE of this criminal war every conceivable form of hardship is being imposed on the already poverty stricken population.

In an oil-rich country, all the basic items of foodstuff are rationed and every housewife has to spend hours in queues simply to obtain the daily necessities.

The youth are forcibly drafted into the army and parents 'induced' through every possible means to send their children to the fronts.

And when all else fails, the repressive forces of the mullahs organise raids in buses and schools to search for possible victims for their criminal war.

Because of this many are forced into seeking exile abroad. Workers are forced to give part of their meagre wages for the war effort, and any protest against the continuation of the war is brutally suppressed.

RIGHT-WING governments in the West such as Thatcher's or Reagan's are also not interested in bringing this war to an end.

Despite all the recent rhetoric they have constantly supplied both sides with the necessary armaments to continue this criminal war.

As long as no side wins and as long as their interests are not threatened, they would prefer them to bleed each other to death. This would

simply place both regimes at their mercy and create enormous financial opportunities in future.

Any intervention in the war by the West has, therefore, simply been geared to the task of removing any imbalance which may come about because of successes by either side or of containing the conflict within 'acceptable' limits.

In this way they not only ensure the continuation of the war but also help both regimes in the suppression of all internal protests.

The latest 'peace keeping' efforts of the trigger-happy Reagan and Thatcher governments in the Gulf must also be seen in the same light. The loss of any credibility by the Reagan administration after the Iran-Iraq affair and the revelations about the collusion of the Thatcher government has forced them to try to show that they really want an end to this war.

But all the indications (including the method of gunboat diplomacy) are proving that this is not the case. The Iranian regime continues to operate freely in obtaining arms with the approval of Western governments and still enjoys their material and moral support.

The west may not find Khomeini's regime the best possible choice but it has certainly supported it in its reactionary drive against the progressive aspirations of the Iranian population.

The Labour Party conference must demand an end to this war and condemn the activities of those governments (including Thatcher's) which not only have made it possible for both regimes to continue with this war, but also for their own cynical interests have created further tensions in the entire region.

● Break all links with Khomeini's regime!
● For an end to Iran-Iraq war!

September 1987

Reds making the beds?

SOUTH AFRICA's white ladies have been urged to be alert in case the Black houseservants are really Red subversives plotting the end of civilisation-as-we-know-it, that's to say capitalism and apartheid.

'You, as a passive madam (sic), could unwittingly be a fellow-traveller of the communists-Marxists-radicals,' warns an alarming 12-page booklet put out by 'Women for South Africa', a body probably not unconnected with state security organs.

Accusing the African National Congress of wanting to impose 'a Marxist tyranny in an impoverished South Africa where Christians will

be persecuted,' the booklet urges the patriotic duty of white women to interrogate the servants on their political attitudes.

Madam should explain to the domestic staff that Communists are 'dishonest white people who live across the sea,' and that under communism black people would be 'mere slaves without possessions'. Unlike their present prosperity, of course.

Meanwhile, white madams already nervous enough about the growing threat to their possessions have been taking it out on their black servants with increasing violence. And the latter have been organising into a union.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST APARTHEID

Sanctions conference targets British companies

CONSOLIDATED Gold Fields and British Tyre and Rubber (BTR) have been named as the targets for a 'coordinated, concentrated, non-stop campaign' because of their key 'union-busting' role in South Africa.

The campaign aims to end all contracts held by these companies with central and local government, end tax concessions on South African profits and the mobilising of the trade union movement in Britain and internationally against BTR and Consolidated Gold Fields in solidarity with the South African National Union of Mineworkers (SANUM) and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA).

This decision was taken by the second conference of the Campaign for Trade Union Sanctions Against Apartheid (CTUSAA).

Attended by over 40 delegates from trade-union, anti-apartheid and labour-movement organisations, the conference was addressed by Dave Douglas (Hatfield Main NUM) and a South African trade unionist from the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa (CCAWUSA), third largest affiliate to the trade union federation COSATU.

Reports were taken on developments in the campaign over the past year and delegates discussed the direction

and to support and give publicity to all such boycotts (on an internationalist basis);

2. To build solidarity within British trade unions for specific workers' struggles in South Africa;

3. To campaign for the release of trade union and political prisoners and detainees and specifically for the release of Moses Mayekiso;

4. To encourage the formation of trade union direct links, following any guidance from the South African trade unions;

5. To organise a coordinated, concentrated non-stop

campaign against Consolidated Gold Fields and BTR as the two most important union-busting companies in South Africa. This campaign to aim at:

a) the ending of all central and local government contracts to these companies

b) the ending of tax concessions on South African profits;

c) the mobilisation of the trade union movement in Britain and internationally for action against these companies, above all in solidarity with SANUM and NUMSA and other unions in-

involved;

6. To work within the Anti-Apartheid Movement to win support for the above aims.

The conference also voted to support the March for Mayekiso on 10 October and the Anti-Apartheid Movement March on 24 October, both in London.

● The Campaign for Trade Union Sanctions Against Apartheid is open to all trade union, labour movement and anti-apartheid organisations

● SEE details of Free Moses Mayekiso March on 10 October — page 16

BY WAYNE POULSON

needed now, particularly in the light of the massive and unprecedented upsurge in activity of the South African working-class movement.

The conference passed the following resolution:

● This conference NOTES that:

a) The recent strikes and continuing state repression demonstrate again the need for international working-class solidarity action to hasten the downfall of apartheid and supports the struggles of the black South African working class;

b) The decision of the 1987 COSATU Congress to con-

Trades council threatened for Kitson support

THE TUC has warned Oxford Trades Council that action could be taken against it if it continues its campaign in defence of David Kitson.

The TUC has received a complaint from the TASS union claiming that this campaign interferes in the internal affairs of the union.

After warning the Trades Council of this alleged interference from TASS, the TUC letter says:

'If your council does not recognise this, or if it does but chooses not to follow this advice, and continues to involve itself in the specific matter which is internal to TASS, your Council's interference in the internal affairs of an affiliated union will be referred to the TCJCC. I very much hope that in future your Council will confine its activities to those areas for which it is recognised by the TUC.'

David Kitson was released from prison in South Africa in 1964 after serving an 18-year sentence arising from his membership of the ANC and his struggle against the apartheid regime.

For 20 years a TASS member, he was promised financial support from his union. Aged 65 and with no pension, TASS funded a scholarship for Kitson at Ruskin College, Oxford, which Kitson would retain as long as he wished.

But Kitson's wife and family had fallen foul of the leadership of the Communist Party of Great Britain — which included prominent TASS members active in the Anti Apartheid Movement.

These elements tried to use Kitson's prestige to condemn the Non-Stop Picket of the South African embassy which had been mounted as part of the fight to get Kitson released.

David Kitson refused, whereupon he was suspended by the London branch of the African National Congress. TASS then used this Stalinist-inspired suspension to withdraw their financial support.

Oxford trades council has been amongst those bodies that has taken up Kitson's case in the labour movement.

It must refuse to bend under this Stalinist pressure and widen the fight in support of David Kitson.

campaign against Consolidated Gold Fields and BTR as the two most important union-busting companies in South Africa. This campaign to aim at:

a) the ending of all central and local government contracts to these companies

b) the ending of tax concessions on South African profits;

c) the mobilisation of the trade union movement in Britain and internationally for action against these companies, above all in solidarity with SANUM and NUMSA and other unions in-

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday 22 October 7.30p.m.

Conway Hall
Red Lion Square
London WC1
(Holborn tube)

Entrance: 50p waged, 25p unwaged

Victory to the South African Revolution!

● Free Moses Mayekiso and all political detainees!

● Trade union sanctions against the Apartheid state!

Speakers: Peter Gibson (WRP Central Committee)

Wayne Poulson (WRP Central Committee)

Paul Trehwala (City of London Anti-Apartheid; in personal capacity)

Saturday, 24 October.

AAM National Demonstration for Sanctions. London. Assemble 12 noon EMBANKMENT. March to Hyde Park for 3p.m. rally. Chief speaker: Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO. Details: 01-387 7966.

Moses Mayekiso must not hang!

PUBLIC MEETINGS

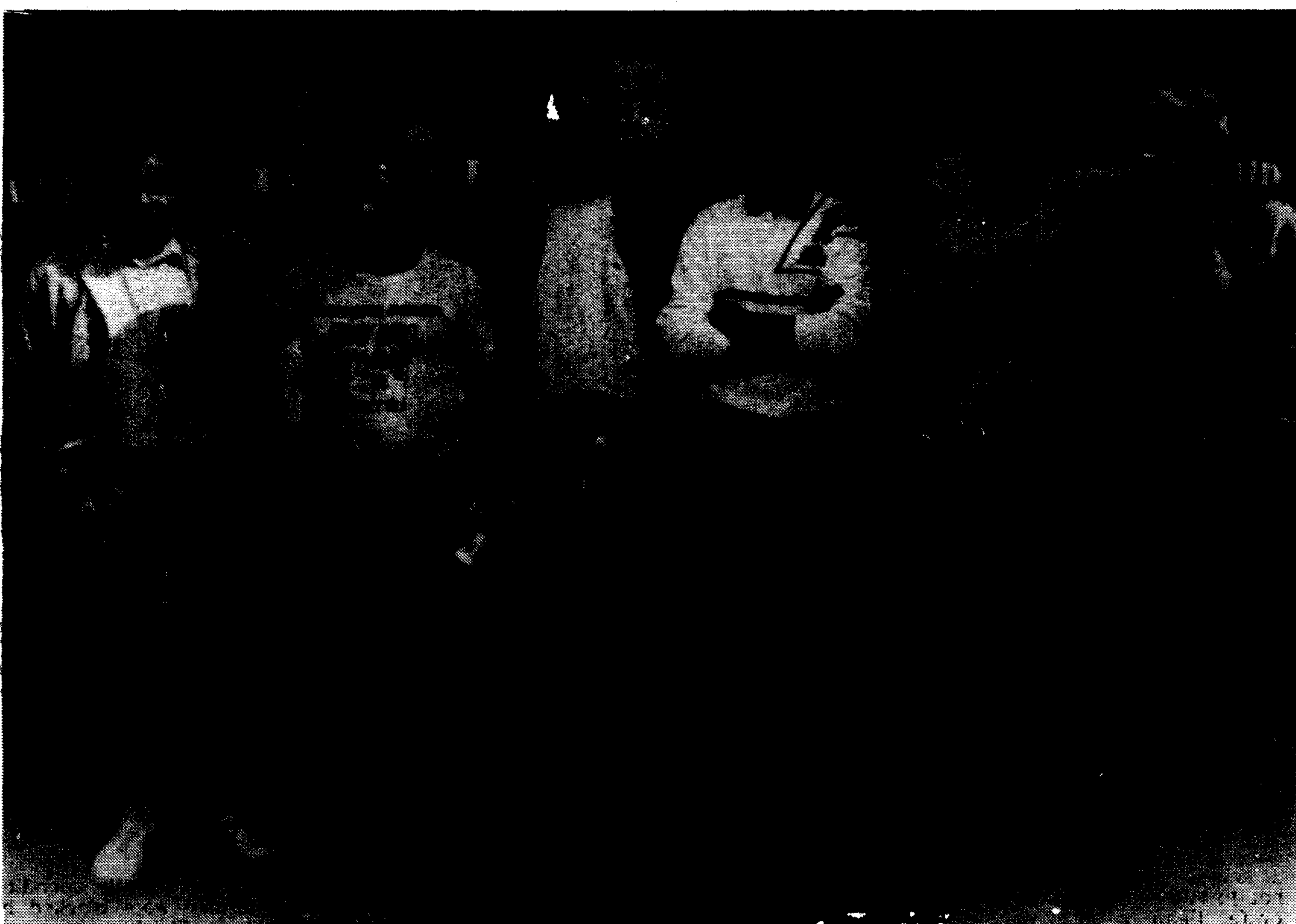
BROADWATER FARM

Tuesday 6 October 7.30p.m.
Stapleford Social Club

Speakers from City Group AA and Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign

LAMBETH

Thursday 8 October 7.30p.m.
Room 119, Lambeth Town Hall



The SARMCOL workers joined Dunlop workers on their picket line. Both are victims of BTR management.

Successful Dunlop strike

BY PAUL HENDERSON

THE strike of BTR workers at Dunlop in Leicester is over, with management stepping down over the main issue in dispute — their right to decide who should work new machinery at the plant.

The 500 transport union members at the Leicester factory felt that jobs on the new machinery should be offered on a 'longest service' basis, rather than on management criteria which included good records of behaviour, timekeeping and 'attitudes to work'.

Wanted

Senior steward Dave Richardson said that the workforce had got what they wanted. 'We've cut out interviewing,' he said.

'Management was trying to enforce their right to manage,

like the coal board is doing, but we thought long service should be rewarded and we have won our case.'

The Dunlop workers had been visited on their picket line by the SARMCOL workers from BTR in South Africa, who have been on strike for two-and-a-half years in support of union rights.

On Tour

The SARMCOL workers have been on tour in Britain, showing their play 'The Long March' and a number of the Leicester workers on strike went to see it.

Dave Richardson's comment on the play was that he was impressed by the connections shown between his members' situation in Leicester and that of the South African workers.

'The play was very impressive,' he said, 'and these workers need all our support. They are fighting not only BTR, like we are, but the government and the whole system of apartheid.'

INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA

The struggle of tendencies within the South African working class

BELOW we print two significant documents that have recently appeared in the South African working class. First we reproduce the resolution of the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), the union of Moses Mayekiso. Second we reprint a statement from the South African National Union of Mineworkers adopting the Freedom Charter.

It is clear from these two statements that a serious struggle of tendencies already exists within the trade union movement COSATU. The NUMSA resolution was carried on the occasion

of the formation of the new, unified, union after Mayekiso's arrest. This is an expression of the leading role played by the metalworkers in the unfolding struggle of the South African working class.

The contrast between the mineworkers' resolution and that of the metalworkers is striking. The NUMSA statement, while recognising as a fact that the majority of members accept the Freedom Charter, in reality goes far beyond the political limits set by the South African Communist Party and the ANC and their resurrected trade union

corpse, SACTU.

This is the reason for the concerted campaign, spearheaded by the Communist Party and the ANC against the developing international campaign in defence of Moses Mayekiso.

The nature of this campaign is to kill this socialist current on behalf of the ANC leadership while acting in turn for the Oppenheimer empire. The strategy of the Anglo-American Corporation during the miners' strike was directed towards facilitating the pro-imperialist stance of a tenden-

cy within the COSA socialist program

This was the ex-busch Commission towards state rec

The whole force classes is directed leadership. It is maximum support for Mayekiso March and the working class opposed to this ca

The Freedom Charter and the struggle for Socialism

WHEN the Metal and Allied Workers Union and other affiliates of COSATU merged to form a 140,000 strong National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa, they adopted the following resolution.

Noting:

1. that the vast majority of the working masses of our country recognise the Freedom Charter as containing the basic minimum demands for a free and democratic South Africa.

2. that the Freedom Charter enjoys mass support amongst organised metalworkers nationally.

3. that the Freedom Charter has majority support amongst the natural, and most reliable, allies of the working class — the women, the unemployed, the youth and the students.

Believing:

1. that only the working class masses, under the leadership of organised industrial workers, can truly liberate our country from the chains of capitalist exploita-

tion and apartheid oppression.

2. that organised workers and their allies have a common interest in the creation of a worker-controlled, socialist society where there will be no exploitation, oppression or discrimination of any form.

3. that the national democratic struggle against apartheid oppression and the socialist struggle against capitalist exploitation are complimentary parts of the uninterrupted struggle of organised workers for control over the industry and government of a liberated South Africa.

4. that only under the leadership of organised workers over the mass democratic struggle of today and the government of tomorrow, will the demands of the Freedom Charter be fully and completely exercised in the lives of the working masses of our country.

We therefore resolve: to adopt the Freedom Charter as containing the minimum political demands that reflect the view of the majority of the metal workers' vision of a free and democratic, non-discriminatory South Africa.

2. to develop amongst metal workers in particular, and the organised working class and its allies in general, a coherent understanding that

the demands of the Freedom Charter, and all other demands of organised workers, can only be realised in the lives of the working class masses through the practical leadership of the industrial working class in the struggle for the establishment of a socialist society where workers' control of government and industry will be enforced in the practice of a liberated South Africa.

3. to struggle to uphold and advance the leadership of the working class in all spheres of society.

Political Policy

Noting that:

1. we are committed to building socialism.

2. we are committed to the leadership of the organised working class in the struggle.

3. the political policy resolution of COSATU calls for full discussion at all levels of the aims of the workers in the struggle.

4. workers leaders are increasingly playing a leading role in the community. The lack of initiatives and the confusion that exist within the community itself on political issues arises from the lack of a working programme.

5. the Freedom Charter is also a good foundation stone on which to start building our working class programme.

Therefore resolves that:

1. the organised working class can only take the lead in the struggle if it has a clear programme and aims, which clarify exactly what is wanted by the working class and what is meant by their demands.

2. the organised working class can only make correct alliances and lead these alliances if it has a clear programme and aims.

3. the working class and its allies can only build true socialism and democracy if it has clear aims and a clear programme of how to build them.

4. it should be a priority of the new union and other organisations of the working class to build a clear political programme.

5. the new union will discuss the aims and programme of the working class at all levels: factory meetings, shop steward councils, RECs, CCs, and the National Congress.

6. the new union will participate fully in all COSATU discussions on the political programme of the workers.

7. the organised workers should consult with their

allies, especially the organised youth, in order to build a programme which can bring together as many groups in society as possible.

The struggle for democratic socialist society

Noting that:

1.1 The unity of mine-workers in particular and workers in general as part of the working class is of paramount importance and a threat to the evil system of apartheid and capitalism:

1.2 The workers in this country are not only striving for better working conditions in the mines but for a democratic socialist society controlled by the working class:

1.3 The present form of government is based on racial oppression and the brutal exploitation of the democratic majority:

1.4 The workers' struggle in the mines cannot be separated from the struggle in the community:

1.5 There are other progressive organisations fighting the same battle against oppression and exploitation

(e.g. students' struggle for people's education, community organisations fighting against rent which people cannot afford):

1.6 Apartheid and capitalism are two inseparable evils that must be smashed:

1.7 The Congress of the People which was held in Kliptown on 26 June 1955 was representative of all the patriotic forces in our country when the Congress adopted a programme of minimum demands which came to be known as the Freedom Charter:

1.8 The Political Policy adopted by COSATU, that COSATU should not affiliate to any political organisation but should co-operate with other progressive organisations has caused confusion as many organisations claim to be progressive, resulting in many elements exploiting that situation.

1.9 Due to the confusion that has arisen within COSATU and its affiliates regarding the definition of progressive organisations we should co-operate with, it has become imperative that such organisations should be clearly defined.

We therefore resolve:

1. The Freedom Charter as adopted by the Congress of the People on 26 June 1955, is hereby recognised as a guiding document in our struggle

Alexandra's Action Committee — workers' control in the community

WHY was the Alexandra Action Committee formed?

PEOPLE were disorganised in Alexandra and they wanted to be united. There were meetings — little meetings — of residents discussing how to organise Alexandra.

held meetings street by street trying to hear how people wanted to organise Alexandra. People decided that they should form yard, block and street committees leading up to the Alexandra Action Committee.

WHERE did the major influence come from for those democratic structures?

MOST of these people were workers so the structures were based along the lines of trade union structures — accountability, elections every year and so on.

WHAT is the function of the AAC?

TO coordinate the affairs of the township and to deal with the political and social problems.

For example, we have be-

MOSES MAYEKISO INTERVIEW (1986)

FOLLOWING the 'six-day war' in February 1986 during which at least 27 people died and hundreds were injured, the township of Alexandra has frequently been in the news.

In the middle of last year a group of about 200 people — thought to be policemen because they were wearing blue shirts and blue trousers — went on the rampage in Alexandra's seventh avenue. Their target was the people's courts of the Alexandra Action Committee (AAC).

At least two people were killed in this incident and six houses and eight cars were gutted by fire. Three of the houses belonged to members of the AAC executive.

The acting chairman of the AAC was Moses Mayekiso, then general secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (which has now amalgamated with others to form NUMSA).

This is an interview with him about the AAC and its role in the Alexandra community, first printed in the 'South African Metal Worker'.

gun to deal with the problem of unemployment. We are planning to have unemployed co-operatives in each and every street, so that everyone who is not working will be doing something for the community.

We are also looking at child-care structures, transport problems, cooperative buying and a first-aid system — maybe in each street there will be one person who will learn first aid.

WHAT role do the people's courts play in these structures?

THERE are little courts and central courts. Each yard has a committee which deals with its own problems. If that committee cannot solve the problem it is taken to the block committee.

If it cannot be solved there it is taken to the street committee and then to the Action Committee.

All those committees are acting as courts. People at the central court are delegated to receive complaints and to mediate. We are not really acting in the same manner as the present courts. We would like to get people to come together and discuss their problems.

WHAT are the sentences?

IN Alexandra this is problematic, because how do you sentence a person? We do not believe in corporal punishment but we have been lucky because people listen to whatever decision is made there.

If the person listens then we don't need to implement any punishment. We have been discussing punishment for the person that does not listen, but we haven't reached a solution.

However the 'necklace' will never be used because we believe that the courts have an educational function. They are there to politicise the offender.



A crowd of mourners runs through the streets of Alexandra. Police attacks after a previous funeral started the 'six-day war'.

Most crime in the area is caused by the capitalist and apartheid systems, so we tell the offender that he mustn't allow himself to be used by them.

DO workers have an important role within the Alexandra Action Committee?

ALEXANDRA is very different from other townships as the majority of the people living there are workers.

Unlike Soweto, we don't have rich businessmen. Workers are directly involved in the various committees and they bring with them their experience of un-

ALEXANDRA

n the

On trial for treason: Alexandra thirteen

TU leadership opposed to the
e of NUMSA/Mayekiso.

ressed purpose of the Schle-
s recommendation of 1979
gnition of the unions.

of this reactionary bloc
d against NUMSA and its
his which makes vital the
pr the 10 October Free Moses
d the exposure of all those in
ho are implicitly and explicitly
mpaign.

MOSES MAYEKISO, commun-
ity leader of Johannesburg's
second biggest 'township'
Alexandra, and general
secretary of the 130,000-
strong National Union of
Metalworkers of South Africa,
is on trial for treason.

He is one of 13 Alexandra
activists facing treason
charges and will appear in the
dock with four of them: his
brother Mzwanele, 22, Obed
Bapela, 28, Paul Tshabalala,
38, and Richard Mdakane, 29.

According to the charge
sheet, the five are alleged to
have tried to 'overthrow,
usurp or endanger the author-
ity of the state, with seditious
intent to defy or subvert the
authority of the state'.

They are accused of run-
ning people's courts, street,
block and area committees,
and of forming an action com-
mittee. They are also accused
of plotting to seize control of
Alexandra or to render the
area 'ungovernable' by the
state.

In another treason trial,
eight young Alexandra men,
including a 17-year-old youth,
are also due to appear in the
Rand Supreme Court.

The eight are Ashwin
Zwane, 20, Vusi Ngwenya, 20,
brothers Andrew and David
Mafutha, 19, Arthur Vilikazi,
24, Albert Sebola, 21, Piet
Mogano, 28 and the 17-year-
old youth who may not be
named.

The eight originally faced
charges of sedition, but early
in May their charge sheet was
upgraded to treason.

The eight are alleged to
have conspired with the Afri-
can National Congress, the
United Democratic Front and
the trade union federation
COSATU to initiate 'organs of
people's power' to take over
the functions of the govern-
ment and township author-
ities in Alexandra.

Besides the 13 men, there
are also hundreds of Alexan-
dra activists who are detained
under the Emergency regula-
tions.



Wrecked cars block an Alexandra road, photographed weeks before last year's State of Emergency.

THE apartheid gov-
ernment has
announced that it will
spend millions on up-
grading Alexandra — a
slum that houses
200,000 people.

The residents are not
impressed. No one asked
our opinion, they say.

Operation 'Alex Upgrade'
was officially announced by
the 'township's' white admin-
istrator Piet Genis in May
who says that besides the
R95 million (about £30 mil-
lion) government donation,
hundreds of millions of rands
will be poured into the
township.

According to Genis, the up-
grading will involve the in-
stallation of western inter-
ceptor sewer connections.
'We are doing away with the
ancient bucket system,' he
said, 'replacing it with a
modern sewerage system
connected to inside and out-
side toilets.'

Other major projects
would be the building of new
roads, installation of a storm
water drainage system
(many Alexandra roads are
impassable after heavy
rains) and the demolition of
all mud houses and shacks
(possibly the majority of Ale-
xandra's houses).

Last year it was troops — this year: builders

BY LUCY BRENT

But township residents
argue the scheme is aimed
at undercutting government
operations — specifically the
Alexandra Action Commit-
tee — under the guise of
social welfare.

There is a simmering of
discontent in Alexandra be-
cause demands for improve-
ments in housing, security
and comfort have not been
met and — more sinister —
there is a suspicion that
the major goal of the upgrade
project is to give the army a
key role in running Alex-
andra.

This belief is strengthened
by the role played by the
Joint Management Centre,
part of the 'hearts and
minds' strategy which
emphasises the need for
socio-economic upgrading of
black townships.

'This strategy has arisen
out of the South African De-
fence Force's view that the
cause of the unrest was part-
ly socio-economic, and

therefore the solution lies in
upgrading', says Wits Uni-
versity political scientist
Mark Swilling.

The government refuses to
discuss political rights and
detained Alexandra leaders
under treason charges be-
fore proceeding with the up-
grading.

To replace the local admin-
istration established by the
Alexandra Action Commit-
tee before the Emergency
was declared last year, the
government-appointed Joint
Management Centre has
combined the military and
police forces, municipal
police and some civic bodies
to try to make the 'rede-
velopment' a reality. The
JMCs are ultimately
answerable to the State
Security Council.

For more than a year, the
'township' has been sealed
off by military roadblock
from the Alexandra Clinic,
the white homes and the fac-
tories that surround it. Sol-
diers lean their rifles on half-
metre-high walls of sand-
bags.

Outbursts against the
security forces have become
a regular feature of Alexan-
dra. Elina Serote, mother of
the exiled author Wally Ser-
ote, sees a township without
a sense of peace:

'Life is not normal here.
There is an underlying fear,'
she said, noting that young
children had been 'trauma-
tised by detention'.

Government strategists
hope that the new image of
Alexandra will spread to
other riot-torn townships. It
is cited as a model for ensur-
ing peace in volatile black
areas, a 'prerequisite for
successful counter-
revolution'.

ALEXANDRA is one of
the most highly-
politicised and democra-
tically-organised
'townships' in the country
and has been a major
focus of government
attention.

Since the late 1950s —
when the Alexandra com-
munity mobilised for three
months under the Alex Peo-
ple's Transport committees
to fight bus fare rises — the
government has tried to
break the township.

In 1959 the authorities be-
gan moving families to
Soweto and Tembisa, plan-
ning to flatten the township
and replace it with a huge

complex of single-sex works'
hostels.

Tens of thousands of peo-
ple were moved but the plan
never succeeded. And in
1982, Piet Koornhof, the
Minister of Cooperation and
Development (i.e. black
affairs), acknowledged Alex-
andra's right to exist.

But by then new forces
were developing in the
dilapidated old houses. With
the black mayor committed
to following Koornhof's poli-
cy of 'independent' town
councils and with residents
under increasing pressure
from a collapsing economy,
the people of Alexandra
looked elsewhere for lead-
ership in their struggle for
a better life.

They found it in the high
proportion of trade unionists
among the township and
community leaders — like
Moses Mayekiso.

Alexandra Action Commit-
tee adopted the street com-
mittee structures started in
Cradock in the Cape in early
1984 by slain community
leader Matthew Goniwe.

As the AAC took increas-
ing control of the township,
police and troops flooded in.

On Saturday 14 February
1986, as some 13,000 moun-
ers were returning home
after burying 19-year-old
Michael Dirding, they were
attacked by police. When
youths retaliated, police and
troops invaded in force —
starting the so-called 'six-
day war'.

For the next five days, the
entire township stayed away
from work, with the death
toll rising every hour. There
were continuous street skir-
mishes involving security
forces.

By the end of the week, the
official death toll stood at
close to two dozen. At least
300 people had been injured
in the clashes and hundreds
more detained.

In a pre-dawn raid on 12
June last year — the day the
national State of Emergency
was declared — hundreds of
heavily armed police and
troops invaded Alexandra,
detaining hundreds of resi-
dents, among them almost
the entire leadership of the
Alexandra Action Commit-
tee and the Alexandra Resi-
dents' Association.

The township was sealed
off by a wall of troops and
soldiers were moved in to
occupy strategic sites.

Although the builders'
have now arrived, the troops
are still there.



After a mass funeral in May last year. Only a few weeks later, the national State of Emergency was declared.
war' in the 'township' in which at least 27 were killed and hundreds wounded.

ions' democratic structures.
We believe that our strug-
gle must be led by the work-
ing class and therefore work-
ers should play a greater
role in community organisa-
tions.

In Alexandra shop ste-
wards play a leading role in
the community by being
elected on to block commit-

tees and so on. So there are
direct links with organised
workers.

Also, the Action Commit-
tee has sub-committees to
organise the factories be-
cause we believe that unless
those factories are organised
our struggle in the townships
is not going to be really suc-
cessful.

Saturday, 10 October.

National March for the release of Moses
Mayekiso. Assembling 12 noon Clerkenwell
Green, LONDON. March to South Africa
House. Bring banners! Organised by March
for Mayekiso Committee.

SEE MAIN ADVERT PAGE 16

Socialist opposition is organised in USSR

THE GROWTH OF POLITICAL REVOLUTION

IN 1986 a Soviet oppositionist wrote: 'It was here that Stalinism first arose. It was Russia that helped to discredit socialism. For this reason it must also help to rehabilitate it.'

And with this task in mind, the first open socialist opposition to challenge the bureaucratic state since Stalin suppressed the Left Opposition of Trotsky has been formed.

The 'Federation of Socialist Clubs' was founded recently in Moscow following an open and unsuppressed conference of oppositionists from independent socialist and peace groups.

The Federation declares its aim the achievement of a true socialist classless society as proclaimed by the October Revolution in 1917.

The formation of the Federation and the very fact that the conference took place is a major breakthrough and achievement for the new opposition.

Among the participants were socialist dissidents of the Leningrad Left-Opposition which grew up under Brezhnev in the late 1970s, like Boris Kagarlitsky.

Kagarlitsky was editor of the left-wing samizdat journal, 'Left Turn', which was published alongside another journal, 'Variations', until 1982.

'Left Turn' was aimed at the working class or the 'silent majority' as they called them, and 'Variations' sought reform from above through pressure from below. Both journals staunchly argued at the time that there could be no rapprochement with the powers that be.

BY PATRICK KANE

In the summer of 1982 Kagarlitsky and other oppositionists around the two samizdat journals set about establishing a larger socialist opposition organisation.

A Federation of Democratic Forces of Socialist Orientation was planned. Before it could get off the ground the authorities suppressed this earlier initiative. Kagarlitsky and six other of his comrades were arrested and charged with 'anti-Soviet propaganda' and 'creating an anti-Soviet organisation'.

Little is known about how many groups joined the federation but it is known that a number of other Left Opposition groups existed around this time meaning the appeal would not have fallen on fallow ground. At least eight such groups are known:

Since the suppression of the 'Left Turn'-'Variations' initiative, one socialist group after another has maintained a tradition of left-wing opposition in the USSR challenging the bureaucracy in the name of true socialist ideals.

A samizdat journal, 'Socialist 82', appeared for a period. In one article it described the rise of Solidarnosc in Poland as a 'revolution which was socialist in its goals' and posed the question: 'What does socialisation mean? The transformation of the workers from a hired labour force into owners of the enterprises they work in.'

In December 1984 the authorities arrested socialist dissident Vyacheslav Demin for his activities. His capture brought to light the existence of an underground group, the Russian Social Democratic Party.

Demin himself turned traitor, recanting and denouncing his former comrades to the KGB.

The RSDP formed during the summer of 1982 described in its programme the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as a 'group of bourgeois exploiters' and declared a 'decisive revolutionary struggle' against the bureaucracy under the slogan of 'All power to the soviets not the Party'.

Along with a wide range of socio-economic demands, the RSDP argued for a system based on trade unions and producers' councils (Soviets) and an end to the national oppression on the 'basis of autonomy and self-determination'.

Liberal

A more liberal socialist opposition programme reached the west and was published by the London-based Guardian entitled 'Appeal to the Citizens of the Soviet Union' by the 'Movement for Socialist Renewal'.

It argued reforms to bring about the 'involvement of all Soviet citizens in a genuine socialist self-government', but in the economic sphere it offered no solutions greatly different from Gorbachev's proposals.

THE present period under Gorbachev, just like the period of what was known as the 'thaw' under Krushchev, has seen a resurgence in new opposition groups particularly amongst the Soviet youth.

Reports now appear more frequently in the official press on the subject and indicate that the existence of independent youth organisations is more widespread than in the past.

These organisations reflect the discontent of working class youth at the harsh reality of life as opposed to the one portrayed by the state. They refuse to be lectured to by the bureaucratic state Komsomol (the official Communist Party youth movement) on 'what to understand and how to understand'.

The issue of ecology in the USSR features very much in the politics of the independent youth organisations. The catastrophe of the Chernobyl accident in Ukraine has fuelled discontent in this sphere.

Conscripts

Also these groups reflect an anti-war feeling amongst youth. Thousands have been killed or injured in the Afghan war since 1979, the mass of them young conscripts.

The largest and most active peace group is the Moscow Trust Group. It has organised numerous demonstrations and open protests — including after the Chernobyl accident — which have resulted in



Moscow 1917, Red Guards fire from an armoured vehicle converted from a freight car.

harassment from the authorities and the imprisonment of some members.

Alongside the independent peace and youth groups, the socialist opposition to the present regime has maintained its existence and is seeing a new growth.

The Club of Social Initiatives was formed near the end of last year by oppositionists like Kagarlitsky and Gleb Pavlovsky who were activists of the Left Opposition which existed up to 1982.

Along with this organisation there are a number of other groups such as the 'Young Internationalist Communards' and the 'Che Guevara Brigade'. The group called 'Perestroika' also has branches in Leningrad and Moscow.

The new socialist opposition includes a variety of views from those who advocate fighting for reforms from above and those who reject collaboration with the authorities, like the RSDP's programme.

The Club for Social Initiatives, itself split into three, decided in May to call a conference of opposition groups to prevent further splits occurring.

Five years on since the last attempt at a conference was suppressed by the regime, the event received official backing with the Moscow Party allowing them the use of a public hall and coverage being given in a small official Komsomol paper 'Sobesednik'.

According to one report the Moscow conference was attended by 600 Soviet oppositionists, the largest such event since Stalin's suppressions of his opponents.

Discussions covered press censorship and concern at the extent to which privatisation would go. It was decided that a campaign should begin for the erection of a memorial to the millions killed under Stalin — something proposed under Krushchev but never implemented.

The historic conference resulted in the founding of two new left opposition organisations, the first known as the 'Circle for Social Initiatives'. This group has a broad programme aiming to 'renovate social practice in the spirit of socialism, democracy, humanism and progress'. It has an open membership to those who accept:

- 'No to violence and the propaganda of violence.'
- 'No to ideas of national or racial exclusiveness and hostility to other nationalities.'
- 'No to claims to a monopoly of truth in opposition to other people's rights to search for it independently themselves.'

The second organisation founded is far more radical and known as the 'Federation of Socialist Clubs'. With 16 groups as initial founders they set their aim as a true classless society as proclaimed by the October Revolution.

The Federation declares that whilst it recognises the right of the Party as playing the leading role in

Rights

society in the Constitution, they also point out their legal rights to organise independently.

They point out that among the membership of the CPSU are those responsible for the 'abuses and miscalculations of the past' and who have cut themselves off from the needs of the people.

Whilst they declare their support for the progressive elements of the CPSU, they argue the type of perestroika needed must be for a democratic socialist system based on workers' councils. They advocate the rights of citizens to prosecute corrupt officials — something which was in the original programme of the Bolsheviks.

The programme of the socialist federation lays out what is needed for a true socialist state based on workers' self-management. Despite the fact that the Gorbachevists allowed the reformation of a major socialist opposition organisation, it is a major breakthrough for those opposed to the bureaucratic regime.

The new left opposition does not stand in the tradition of one or other section of élite as some have argued. Whilst supporting some policies of Gorbachev, they are challenging his tradition in the name of true socialism.

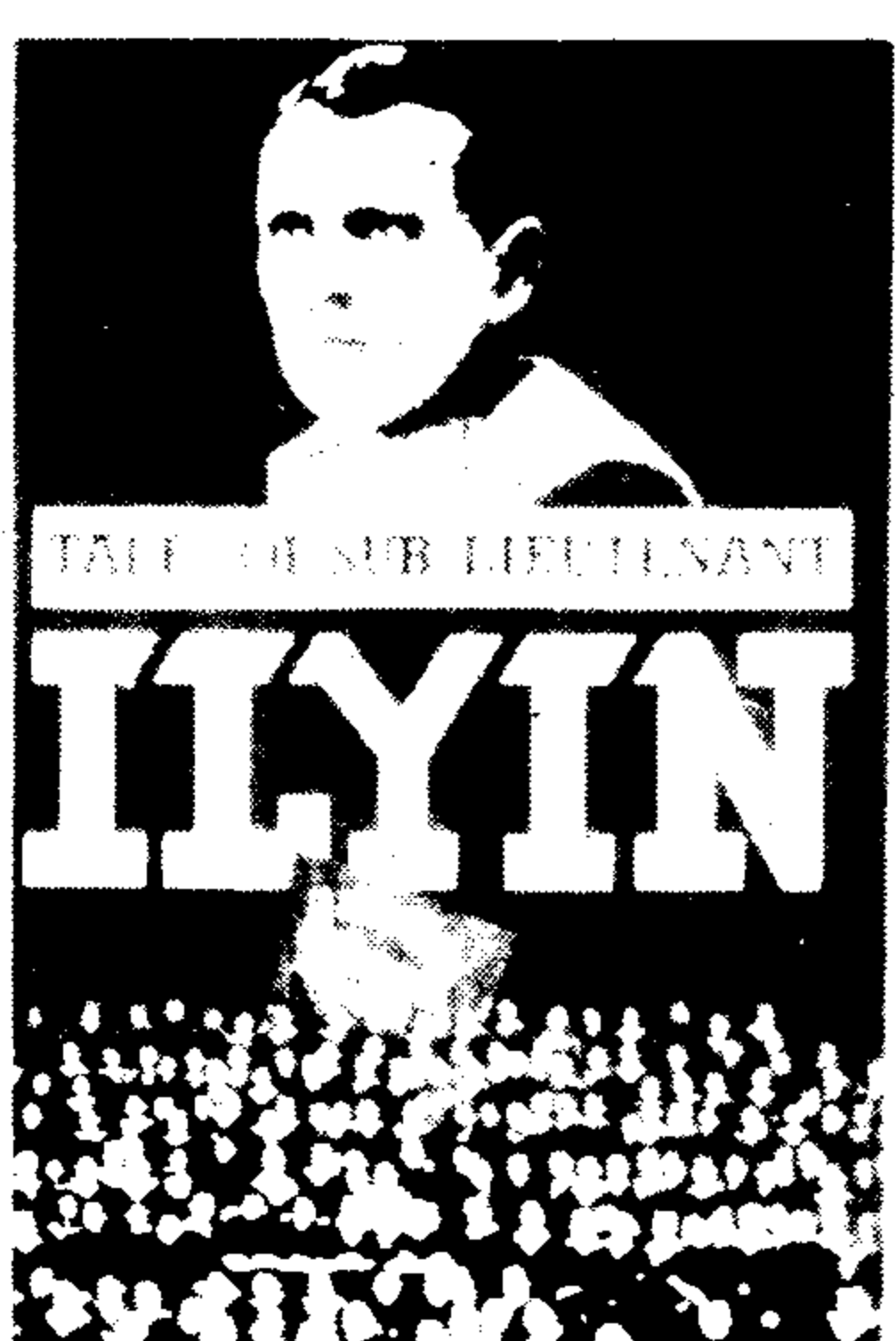
At the end of their programme they express their solidarity with revolutionaries and the left in the west. It is now the duty of the non-Stalinist workers' organisations to return the compliment.

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AMONG the betrayals of communist principles by Stalinism, one of the most serious is the abandonment of a Leninist approach to the national question.

BY DAVID DORFMAN

BULGARIA's Stalinist regime has claimed recently that the country's Turkish minority no longer exists.

There has been criticism for some time of the government's Bulgarisation policy, under which Turkish culture was repressed and people pressured to adopt suitably Bulgarian names.

According to Ljubomir Shopov of the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry's Balkan department, however, the Turkish minority disappeared after 1978, when an immigration treaty between Bulgaria and Turkey expired.

'All Bulgarian citizens now have Bulgarian as their mother tongue,' he announced recently.

Bulgaria gained independence from Ottoman Turkey under the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878. A sizeable Turkish minority remained in the country, as well as numerous Moslem Bulgars, or Pomaks.

From 1950-1952, about 120,000 Bulgarian Turks left the country to settle in Turkey. The Bulgarian government then closed the border. A 1968 agreement between Bulgaria and Turkey for reunification of families enabled a further 115,000 to leave over the next ten years.

Meanwhile, in the last Bulgarian census to include a question on nationality, in 1965, the number of Bulgarian citizens who called themselves Turks was 781,000.

Even the Bulgarian government's own figures put the number of Bulgarian Turks at around 500,000 a few years ago, while the Turkish government suggested the figures were nearer one million. Emigration cannot have removed all these people!

A similar phenomenal decline in population was commented upon by the Yugoslav daily 'Borba' in 1967: 'Where have the Macedonians disappeared to?', it asked.

According to official Bulgarian census figures for 1965, there were fewer than 9,000 Macedonians in Bulgaria. But, the Belgrade paper pointed out, nine years earlier the census had referred to 180,000 Macedonians in the country.

Behind the Bulgarian Stalinists' bizarre arithmetic is a bit of typically bureaucratic logic. We have decided you ought not to exist — therefore we will not recognise that you do!

Following the adoption of a new Bulgarian constitution in 1971, Turkish-language teaching and radio broadcasts for the Turkish minority were phased out. There were allegations in later years that Moslem religious practice was being restricted too, although the authorities denied this.

Allegations of a forced assimilation policy were brought to a head two years ago, when reports appeared in the foreign press of clashes between Bulgarian security forces and Turks in southern and eastern Bulgaria.

The Yugoslav paper 'Danas' claimed in March 1985 that the Bulgarian authorities had uncovered a plot to create a special republic and its secession, as in Cyprus, and that 'several thousand Turks' had been arrested. The paper said Turks were being coerced to change their names and religion.

In Turkey, the reactionary Ozal regime saw the opportunity to boost anti-communism with patriotic

feeling. The press reported Turks had been killed by Bulgarian security forces. There were big demonstrations in Turkey.

Turkey's ambassador to Sofia was temporarily recalled. Prime Minister Ozal announced Turkey was ready to take 500,000 refugees or more. En route for Washington, he promised to raise the issue of Bulgarian Turks in international forums. The Islamic Conference Organisation denounced Bulgaria's treatment of Turks.

Foreign diplomats were shown mosques to prove that Islam was not being suppressed. But foreign reporters were not allowed to visit Turkish areas and investigate conditions.

The Bulgarian government insisted that there was no coercion, that anyway this was an internal matter, and others had no right to interfere.

It was also able to point out that the Turkish rulers' longstanding repression of the Kurdish people and other minorities hardly qualified them to give lectures on human rights.

However, this comparison could be looked at another way. Whether or not repression of the Bulgarian Turks is as brutal as the treatment of Kurds in Turkey, it involves the same denial of national existence.

Kurdish

The Turkish rulers ban mention of Kurdish nationality, referring to people as 'Mountain Turks'. The Bulgarian Stalinists insist Bulgarian Turks no longer exist, that those who remain are simply Bulgarians who were forcibly Turk-ised in the past, and are now becoming Bulgarians again.

Dimitur Stanishev, a secretary to the Bulgarian Communist Party central committee, declared in a speech in 1985 that Bulgarisation of 'Turko-Arabic names' was a 'spontaneous and voluntary' movement which had developed in recent months throughout the country.

Bulgarisation was not a forced assimilation, he said, 'but the return of what had been torn out of the heart of our people by bloody force... into the united Bulgarian family.' There was no need for emigration, or talks on the issue, since 'there is no part of the nation that belongs to another nation'.

Stanko Todorov, chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly, declared the Bulgarisation process complete, stating everyone must now be aware that Bulgaria was a 'one-nation state'.

The insistence that states must have a homogeneous 'national culture', — with the clear corollary that minorities must 'assimilate' or be repressed as disloyal — is a bourgeois nationalist-bureaucratic outlook, not a communist one.

LENIN despised the 'Russifying' policy of Tsarism as backward and autocratic, an obstacle to real unity between workers, and strongly condemned its emerg-



Processions, portraits, and patriotism: The late Georgi Dimitrov, hero of the Reichstag trial and Bulgarian Communist Party leader who died during Soviet 'medical treatment' in 1949 (centre); the more pliant present Stalinist leader Todor Zhivkov (getting equal honours, right) may expect a more peaceful end. The bureaucracy recently announced no more lavish May Day marches, and fewer portraits of leaders. But Stalinist nationality policy remains.

ence in the Soviet bureaucracy. Early Soviet nationalities policy reflected his view.

For Stalin, national theory was subordinate to bureaucratic requirements, but above all Great Russian chauvinism was rehabilitated as the leader identified increasingly with the Tsars.

In Poland, when official ideologues began extolling the virtues of a nationally homogeneous state (the result actually of Nazi genocide, post-war border changes, and forced migrations), they naturally acknowledged kinship with the pre-war right-wing capitalist politician Roman Dmowski.

The working class does not need national conformity of this kind. Its historic class interests are enough to unite it. National privilege divides workers.

It is the bourgeoisie, and the bureaucrats stepping into its shoes, who try to conceal sordid material interests and social contradictions behind slogans of 'national unity' and patriotism.

The Bulgarian Stalinist bureaucracy, renowned for its dogmatic loyalty to Moscow — which can draw on the tradition of 19th century Bulgarian nationalism's attachment to Tsarist Russia as a patron — is now stepping clumsily on to the Gorbachev bandwagon.

Expression

Any beneficial by-products of *glasnost* for the Bulgarian working class, such as freer political expression, have yet to be seen. What the bureaucracy is talking about is a freer market economy.

Antonas Papanizov, director general of the Ministry of Trade, said on 1 September that to respond to changing conditions in the world economy, Bulgarian enterprises must adopt a more market-oriented mentality to compete for survival.

They would have to depend less on the state to decide production levels and output, Papanizov said. Managers in future would be able to set their own productivity levels as well as decide on wages, salaries and company organisation. The criteria would be competition and profit.

Looking at neighbouring Yugoslavia, with over 1 million unemployed and thousands more being sacked as firms are bankrupted, or at the not dissimilar pattern developing in Hungary, Bulgarian workers must have misgivings about the proposed *perestroika* (restructuring).

A more welcome sign of political change came on 2

Bulgaria's 'missing minority'

September, when the politbureau announced that portraits and busts of party leader and president Todor Zhivkov and other living leaders would no longer be displayed all over the place as before. 'It is especially important to cease the glorification of leaders simply because of the posts they occupy.'

Possibly this is to save expense when top bureaucrats are replaced, rather than spelling any deep change in style of leadership. The politbureau statement also announced that 'excessive' state-organised May Day parades were to cease.

Besides wasting money, they had been 'marked by hypocrisy, vanity and formalism', the statement said, contributing to working people becoming alienated from the Party.

Henceforth, 'the pace and style of celebration' would be decided by the workers. Which sounds fine.

However, there could be another side to this. While May Day, the international workers' day, is being downgraded, the bureaucracy has announced that 3 March will be restored as a public holiday, National Liberation Day, commemorating the establishment of the first Bulgarian state in 1878.

This has not been celebrated since 1945. Although an extra public holiday may seem innocent enough, this commemorates not only a bourgeois state but an expansionist one.

The San Stefano Treaty had to be revised. It gave Bulgaria the whole of Macedonia, a large chunk of which is now the Macedonian Republic in Yugoslavia.

Is the bureaucracy celebrating victory over the Ottoman Turks in the last century, or proclaiming its chauvinism towards Macedonians and Bulgarian Turks today?

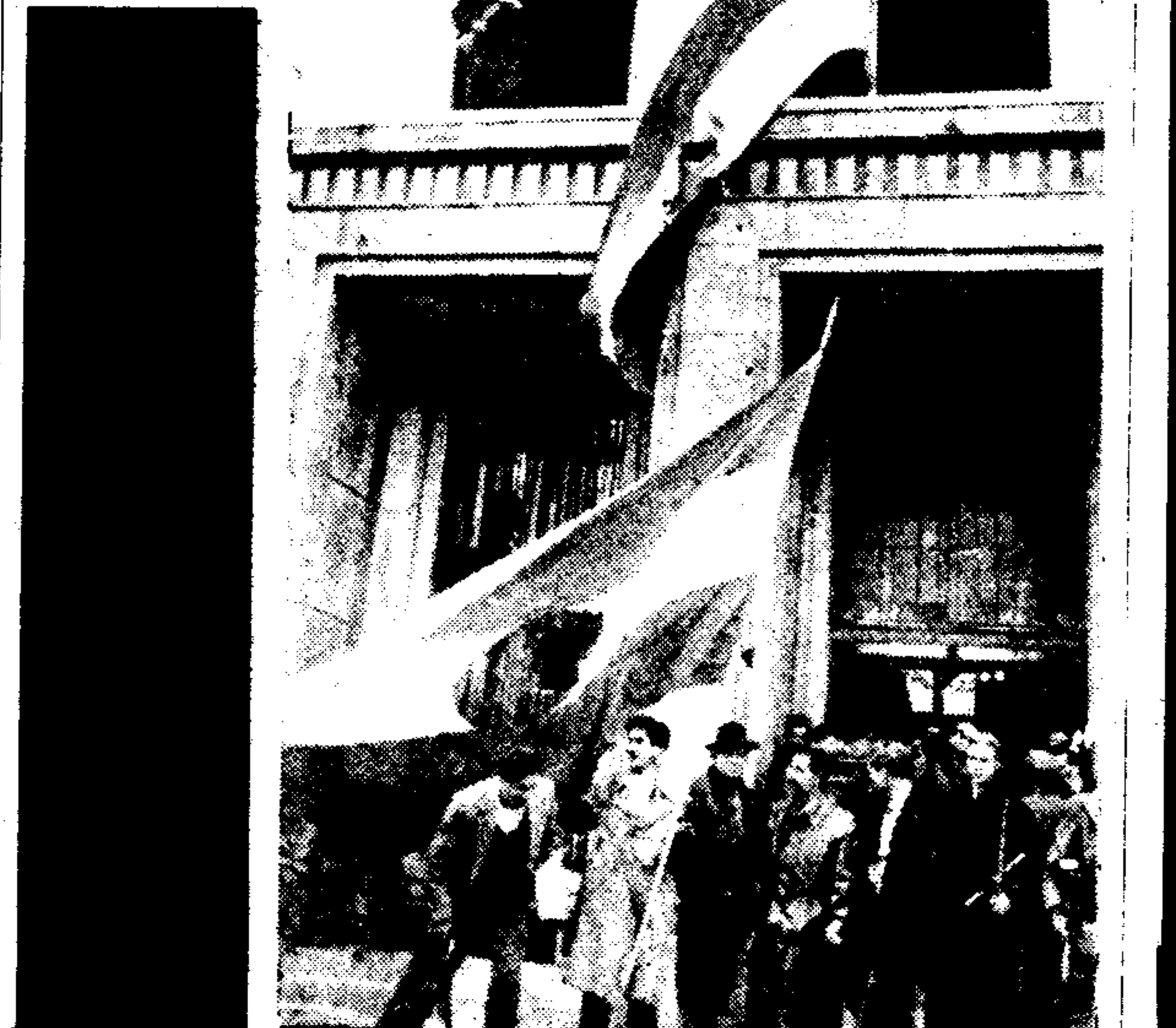
It will take more than the removal of portraits and economising on processions to

convince us that the Bulgarian regime is not still Stalinist. Its leaders may be resorting to the proverbial last

refuge of scoundrels — patriotism — to confront coming struggles with the working class.

HUNGARIAN TRAGEDY

PETER FRYER



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 as a nation's new-born freedom was relentlessly crushed.

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Science Column

HOYLE'S FRAUD

THIS is the first of a series of occasional columns dealing with developments in Science and their implications for Marxism.

THE PAST two-and-a-half years has seen the noted astronomer and science fiction writer Professor Sir Fred Hoyle lead an assault against that treasured bastion of Darwinian evolution: the half-reptile, half-bird *Archaeopteryx lithographica*.

The specimens of the famed intermediate fossil are Victorian fakes according to Hoyle and his co-authors. They were concocted to fit in with the just-announced theory of evolution propounded by Charles Darwin in his 'On the Origin of the Species'.

The first specimen of *Archaeopteryx* to be described appeared just two years after the publication of the 'Origin' in 1861.

The most amazing thing about the Hoyle scam is that it has lasted so long and been taken up avidly by the so-called quality press. Hoyle is after all noted for his outlandish claims of 'epidemics from outer space', 'evolution from outer space' and 'insects from outer space'.

This is at least a discipline he claims to have qualifications in. Vertebrate Palaeontology and Evolutionary Theory are clearly beyond his grasp.

Hoyle's claims spring from an idea propounded by the Orthodox Jewish creationist Lee Spetner (a rare beast this, most creationists are evangelical protestants).

After a cursory inspection of the London specimen of *Archaeopteryx* Spetner claimed that the feather impressions which surround the skeleton had been carved in a layer of cement which had been spread around the skeleton of a pterodactyl, an extinct flying reptile with an elongated little finger which supports the wing membrane in the manner of a bat.

Even a glance at the actual specimen shows such fine microscopic detail of the feather impressions that carving is out of the question. One of the first investigators of *Archaeopteryx* Andreas Wagner specifically looked for this type of forgery in the 1860s and dismissed it as impossible.

The skeleton is also almost identical to that of a small carnivorous dinosaur and completely unlike the skeleton of a pterodactyl.

Not to be put off, Hoyle and company came up with a different line of attack. The feather impressions were produced by laying modern 'chicken' feathers in a layer of cement paste around the skeleton of a *Compsognathus*, a small carnivorous dinosaur found in the same deposit as the famed *Archaeopteryx*, the Solenhofen limestone of northern Bavaria in Germany.

Scenario

When concocting this scenario Hoyle had a certain advantage — he had never seen any of the specimens. Incongruously the series of articles which expounded the 'fake' idea appeared in the 'British Journal of Photography' on the spurious grounds that new photographic techniques were being employed.

Hoyle must have known in advance that no reputable scientific journal would have touched his articles.

Just to give some idea of the level of scholarship evinced by Hoyle and his co-thinkers: they describe the tail seen in the photograph to have feather impressions down either side of the of it as a single huge feather.

They were also convinced that the Natural History Museum specimen was the only one in existence.

In fact there are five other specimens, including two other superb examples (Berlin and Eichstatt).

When Hoyle finally bothered to go and look at the specimen in the Natural History Museum he proclaimed: 'We haven't come here to see if it is a fake, we already know that, we want to see how it was done!'

The scientists at the museum remained unconvinced, but nevertheless ran several tests. Photographs using ultra-violet light failed to reveal any evidence of the expected binding agent necessary to fix the cement layer to the rock surrounding the bones.

Cracks

Minute cracks filled with the mineral calcite and impossible to fake in cement criss-cross the feather impressions, and fern-like growths of manganese dioxide match perfectly on both upper and lower slabs of the specimen and across the supposedly faked feathers.

This evidence did not impress Hoyle, he had a book to get out, '*Archaeopteryx* the primordial bird — a case of fossil forgery'. This is probably the worst book of pseudo-science currently in print.

Despite all the patient explanation of the museum scientists the pig-headed Hoyle stuck to his guns and constructed a conspiracy scenario around the alleged faking, involving the discoverers, Richard Owen who described the specimen and wanted to set a trap for the Darwinists, and Thomas Henry Huxley (Darwin's bulldog).

This conspiracy to back up evolution must have existed from at least three years prior to the publication of the 'Origin' because the first specimen of *Archaeopteryx* to be discovered (1855) was wrongly described as a pterodactyl and sold as such to the museum in Haarlem.

The forgers obviously knew of the theory of evolution already, faked their feather impressions to provide evolution with an excellent evolutionary intermediate then forgot all about it and sold the specimen as a common-or-garden pterodactyl.

The expertise in forging was obviously passed on down the generations as two more specimens turned up in the 1950s. Unfortunately the new forgers were just as forgetful as their forebears.

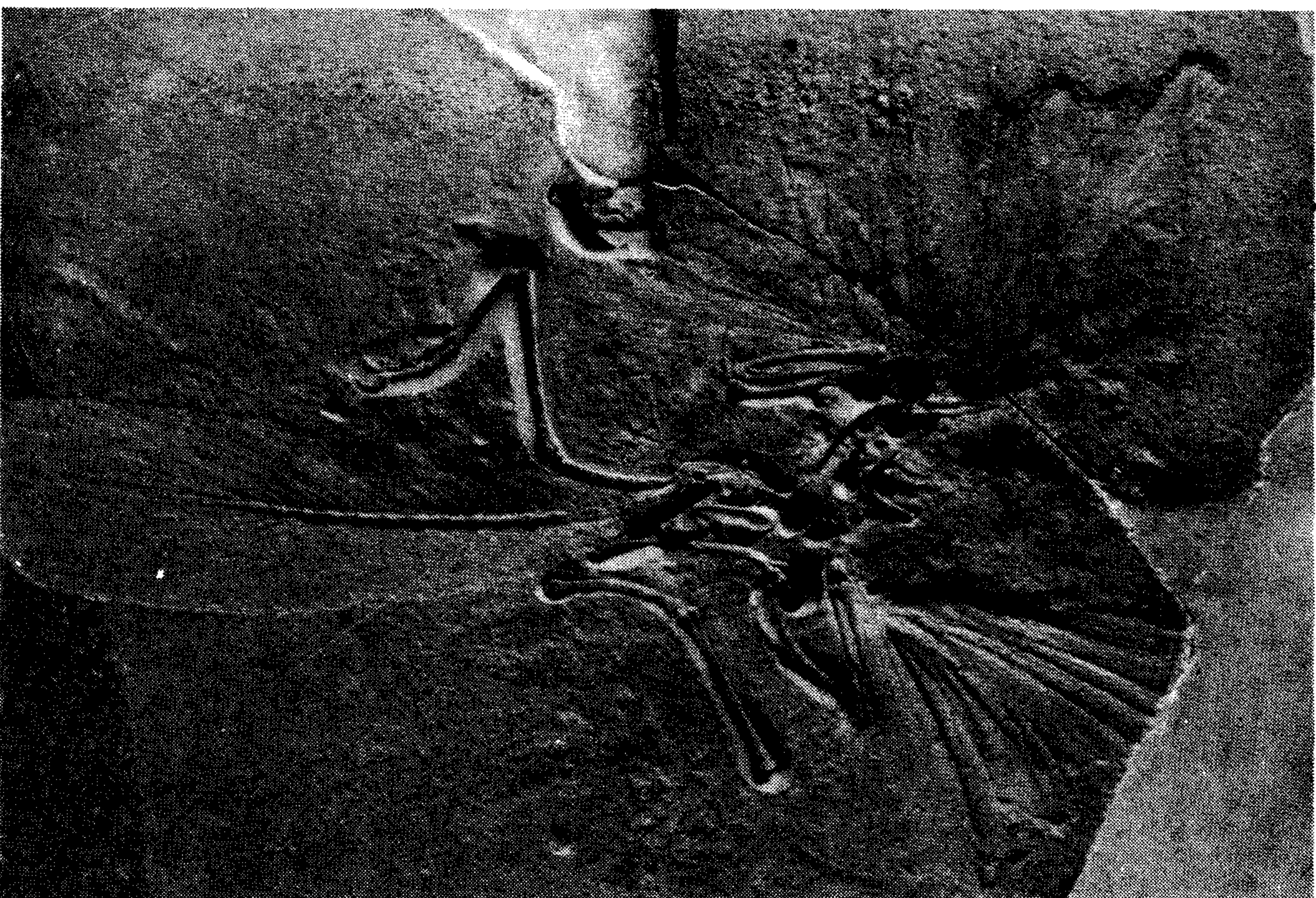
One specimen was initially identified as the dinosaur *Compsognathus* and was not recognised as *Archaeopteryx* for over 20 years, while the other lay unrecognised in a workman's cabin until a local geology student picked it out of a pile of discarded slabs in the corner.

In response to Hoyle and his compatriots the Natural History Museum has organised a new exhibition, 'The Feather Fly', which assembles all the latest information gleaned in their research to prove the genuine nature of the fossil.

The highlight of the display is the actual specimen, on display for the



An artistic impression of what the 'bird-reptile' *Archaeopteryx* might have looked like



The London specimen of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* now on display at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD — definitely not a fake

first time in 20 years and freshly cleaned up — it looks magnificent.

Unfortunately the display lays too much emphasis on the minutiae of the debate with Hoyle (close-up photographs of cracks loom large) and pulls its punches by not going on to the attack against the real fraud — Sir Fred himself.

They treat the Hoyle argument as almost worthy of serious consideration with the appeal to the visitor to choose between two competing hypotheses which are rather tastelessly presented in political guise.

If you favour the reality of the

Archaeopteryx then you have to go for the blue rosette, only followers of Hoyle plump for the red.

A much better job could have been done if the museum had arranged the exhibition as a full blown defence of 'Archie' with a blow-by-blow account of the idiocies put forward by the Hoyle camp.

One incongruity that mars the presentation is the restoration of the dinosaur *Compsognathus* which follows Hoyle in giving the animal three fingers, making it appear a good candidate for the basis of an *Archaeopteryx* forgery

— Archie has three digits on it's hand.

In fact *Compsognathus* has only two fingers, so the forger would have had to have faked an extra finger, as well as a furcula (wish-bone) to complement the feather impressions.

Anyone wanting to go and see the exhibition should also remember the new £2 charge for adults at the museum and the less well advertised fact that entry is still free between 4.30 and 6p.m. — on weekdays only.

MIKE HOWGATE

REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

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ANDY MULRYAN, 20-year sentence, 461576.
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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.
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RICHARD McLKENNY, 509497, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree.
PATRICK McLAUGHLIN, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.
They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

We thank An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for supplying and updating this information.

ROBSON'S CHOICE

Packaged to sell razor blades — not guns

IT was no surprise to learn that many viewers had been deeply moved by **Mandela** (25 September — C4). 'How tragic and unjust' said one, 'that these racists can lock up a man for life for fighting for his people — it shows what animals they are!'

Many others, those especially who through no fault of their own had scant knowledge of the liberation struggle in South Africa over the past three decades, or Nelson and Winnie Mandela's contribution to it, undoubtedly shared this sense of outrage.

A similar chord will be struck in every one of the 30 countries the film is due to be transmitted, of that I am quite sure.

Do we deduce from this response that author Ronald Harwood and director Philip Saville ('Boys from the Blackstuff') were fully justified in hi-jacking a complex and crucially important slice of modern history and turning a living struggle into soap? I think not.

Had the authors not trivialised and distorted history, had they not presented

Nelson Mandela as some kind of remote, Olympian god and Winnie Mandela as a passive, coy, simpering, wimp, a dolly bird in western clothing whose lips quivered for lack of lines, would audiences around the world have been less moved?

Had Winnie Mandela been shown to break new ground when she became the first black social worker in South Africa; had her early involvement in the political struggle (forced upon thousands of women in South Africa long before the 1970s) been brought out, would this have made her a less devoted wife and mother?

Had the Benny character (Mandela's 'driver') been shown as he really was: as an experienced underground member of the South African Communist Party (from which the nationalist leaders learned everything about clandestine organisation), rather than a local version of Woody Allen who could drive a straight line without hitting a fire hydrant, would this have diminished Mandela's stature as a leader?

Had it been made clear that the Sharpeville demonstration was called by the Pan African Congress (rather than by Mandela and the ANC), implying in so doing that there was more than one political doctrine competing for supremacy in the South African revolution, would this have bewildered audiences around the world?

Had the Sharpeville murders been committed by South African state forces who went berserk when confronted by a sea of determined black men, women and children and commenced shooting indiscriminately into the crowd even

before their superiors had given them the order to do so, would this have minimised the bestiality of their actions?

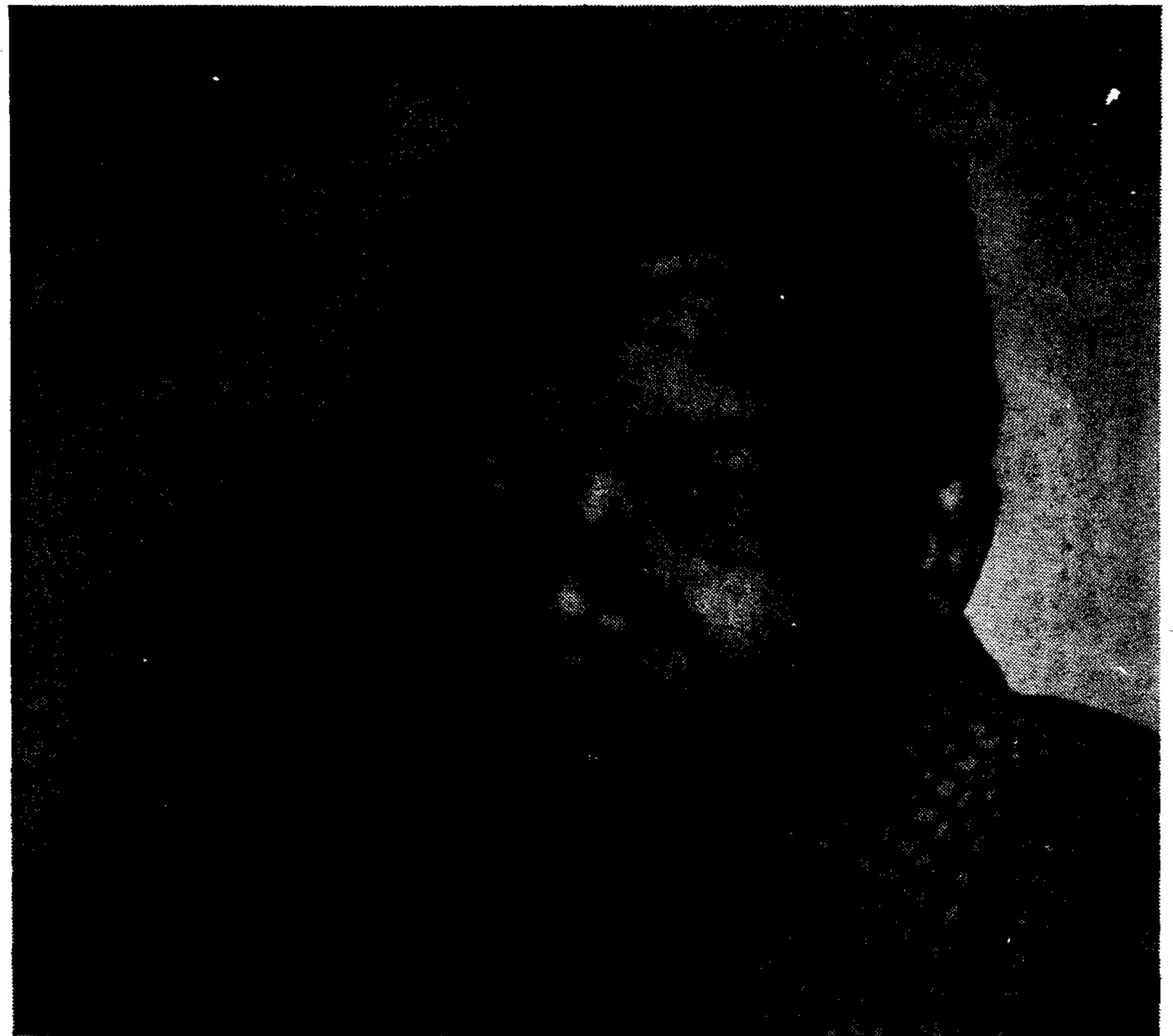
Had Bram Fisher (the leading SACP lawyer) and Nelson Mandela not had their roles reversed by the authors; had we seen the Fisher character recommend that the Rivonia trial be fought politically rather than legally, would we have demanded that Mandela Close, NW10, revert to its original name?

Had Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela's office in Johannesburg been less G-Plan and more like the dingy original it was — the best that circumstances permitted at the time — would audiences have recoiled in horror?

I could go on, but I won't. Suffice it to say that when producer Graham Benson of STV claimed in Right of Reply — in what must have been the weakest defence of a programme I have ever heard — that Oliver Tambo's son assisted with the research and advised the production team and that South African ANC members were on the set throughout the filming, he was either having us on or there are greater divisions within the ANC than we were aware of.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mandela was not packaged to arm the struggle by mobilising support internationally, but to sell razor blades. But not only that. When Winnie Mandela publicly disowned the film, insisting that it served 'no political purpose and was made solely for commercial reasons', I believe she was both right and wrong.

A key sequence showed Mandela in court. The ex-



NELSON MANDELA

cerpt from his speech highlighted by the authors included the following: 'I have never been a member of the Communist Party. Communists regard the parliamentary system of the west as being undemocratic and reactionary. But, on the contrary, I'm an admirer of such a system. I have great respect for British political institutions. The British parliament is the most democratic institution in the world. The American congress, that country's doctrine of separation of power, as well as the independence of the judiciary, arouse in me similar sentiments.'

This must have sounded like music to the bourgeoisie, especially since the recent miners strike that marked a new high point in the class struggle in South Africa.

SATURDAY, at 8.05p.m.(BBC2), **Dance from America** features the work of American choreographer Alvin Ailey. At 9.50p.m.(BBC2), Bob Rafelson's **Five Easy Pieces** followed by **The Shooting** at 11.30p.m.(BBC2).

On **Sunday**, at 2.30p.m.(Radio 4), Globe Theatre presents Michael Frayn's **Clouds**. At 7.50p.m.(BBC2), **The Great Philosophers** introduces Descartes. At 8.15p.m.(C4), the first of two French documentaries on the work of architect Le Corbusier. At 9.15p.m.(C4), Alan Bennett's **One Fine Day**. At 10.30p.m.(ITV), **A South Bank Show Special** presents Tony Palmer's film on singer Maria Callas. At 10.40p.m.(BBC2), Louis Malle's moody **Atlantic City**.

On **Monday**, at 10.30p.m.(ITV), Vanessa Redgrave in Fred Zinnemann's **Julia**. At 11p.m.(C4), a documentary tribute to the youth of South Africa: **We Are the Elephant**.

On **Tuesday**, at 7.30p.m.(Radio 3), Prokofiev and Stravinsky played by the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra. At 8p.m.(ITV), Spielberg's **Raiders of the Lost Ark**, a fast moving

package of special effects. At 9p.m.(C4), **The Politics of Food**.

On **Wednesday**, at 3p.m.(Radio 4), prize winning **The Old Ladies at the Zoo**, is the Afternoon Play. At 6.30p.m.(C4), **Working it Out**, looks at changing patterns of work with the introduction of new technology. At 8.30p.m.(Radio 3), Mozart's serenata in two acts, **Il re Pastore**. At 9p.m.(ITV), the second documentary on silent comedian Buster Keaton by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill: **A Hard Act to Follow**. At 9.40p.m.(BBC1), **Please God, Don't Let Peace Break Out**, an impressionistic portrait of the Paris Air Show and its formidable display of weapons. At 10p.m.(C4), **Buster Keaton in The General**.

On **Thursday**, I will go fishing. Other viewers might like to do the same.

On **Friday**, at 10.20p.m.(BBC1), Omnibus presents **The Arts and Glasnost**. This, the first of three films, likely to be well worth watching, concentrates on the cinema in Gorbachev's new dawn. At 11.20p.m.(BBC2), for sheer escapism, **Ride the Whirlwind**.

Tom Scott Robson

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SCOTS MINERS STRIKE

'Resign' call to leaders

BY TERRY BROTHERSTONE

MINERS at one of the Lothian coalfield's two remaining pits were on a 24-hour protest strike last week. At the other, men delivered a broadside against the Scottish area leadership of the NUM.

At Monktonhall pit near Edinburgh, the second one-day strike in under a month was staged against the employment by private contractors — who are cutting a new shaft linking the pit to Bilston Glen colliery — of miners who took redundancy. The Monktonhall men are incensed that miners who had left British Coal are being given jobs, in preference to local men victimised following the 1984/1985 strike, many of whom Brit-

ish Coal refused to reinstate despite being told to do so by industrial tribunals.

The Lothian coalfield had the highest rate of sackings nationally. More than 140 men, including virtually the whole of Monktonhall's committee, were sacked during the strike.

A packed meeting of Bilston Glen NUM last weekend came out strongly against the Scottish area leadership's position of sustaining only a minimal overtime ban. Calls for the resignation of Scottish president George Bolton and general secretary Eric Clarke were voiced, as the branch decided to send a telegram

to the union's NEC meeting taking place at the Labour Party conference in Brighton, calling for the overtime ban to be made more effective.

A recent article in the Communist Party's 'Seven Days' newspaper by Bolton, spelling out his acceptance of negotiating with British Coal on flexible working and advocating opening talks with the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers fuelled the men's anger. It is most unusual for a branch to approach the national executive direct, especially when the current 'softly softly' policy of the Euro-Communist-led Scottish executive was recently rail-roaded through an area delegate conference.

For a trade union inquiry into MI5

THE FOLLOWING resolution has been passed by the Guildford branch of the National Union of Journalists.

THIS branch views with great concern the revelations in Peter Wright's memoirs that MI5 plotted to bring down a democratically elected Labour government.

We also deplore and can only view with suspicion the acts of censorship by the Tory government.

We believe it is a question for the whole labour movement to find out the truth and to learn the political lessons. We therefore call on the NUJ leadership to initiate a campaign within the labour movement for a public inquiry which would include labour movement representatives.

Schemes and schemes

THE MANPOWER Services Commission last week chopped a Community Programme Scheme in Toxteth, Liverpool. The scheme, which employed 67 people, had the backing of Thatcher and the Prince of Wales.

Colin Serjeant, the project publicity supervisor, told Workers Press:

'They left it to the last minute, hoping everyone would leave quietly. But everyone here is determined to fight the decision.'

A number of black people

were among those employed on the scheme, in an area which is one of the worst in the city for unemployment. It provides a range of community support services, including support for victims of violence and advice on welfare rights.

The closure is part of the attempt to get rid of decently-paid schemes, which actually provide useful resources for the community. Instead, the government wants Job Training Schemes, geared to the needs of industry.

Dangers in engineers' leaders decision

REJECT THE DEAL!

THE decision of the engineering union national committee to send the union's leaders back to re-negotiate parts of a job flexibility deal and then put it to a ballot greatly endangers the conditions and jobs of over a million engineers.

The proposed deal was the outcome of three years of negotiations resulting in an agreement in July by the leaders of the 17 unions of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to recommend acceptance.

Last Thursday at Eastbourne the AEU national committee defeated outright rejection of the deal and voted by 50-68 to re-negotiate 'contentious' issues and then put it to a ballot that will give the alternative of acceptance or an all-out strike for 35-hours.

AEU president Bill Jordan said the national committee decision was not a setback.

The proposed deal includes eradication of demarcation lines on the shop-floor, allowing white-collar workers to do engineers' jobs, multiskills, eliminating jobs, and variation of hours 'to meet fluctuations in demand' — giving employers the right to fix working hours at any time in the seven-day week.

All this and more (see page 4) is in return for a reduction in hours to 37-and-a-half per week (at 39-hour production figures) phased over three years. Those who have already won the 37-and-a-half-hour week will gain nothing, but will be tied to the conditions.

Enormous anger has grown up against the deal among engineers and members of the other unions that make up the CSEU.

On Thursday last week 200

engineers demonstrated their opposition outside the Winter Gardens, Eastbourne, as the right wing-dominated national committee met inside.

At the beginning of the meeting three elected delegates from division 26 were excluded on the grounds that their division had been 're-organised' out of existence.

Official delegations outside represented 6,000 British Aerospace workers at Preston, Hatfield and Hull, GEC Preston, Rolls Royce at Barnoldswick, Levensden and Coventry, Weir Pumps (Glasgow), Chiswick Bus Garage, Acton railway workshops, Trico, West London, and others from Scotland, Manchester, Sheffield and the Midlands.

What is required in the AEU is the organisation of the membership to fight back against the right-wing onslaught, its 're-organisation' of the union aimed at turning it into another EETPU, no-strike deals, and 'company union' agreements as at Nissan, Sunderland.

- Reject the deal!
- Fight for 35 hours with no strings!
- Defend hard-won rights, conditions and jobs!
- Defeat the right wing!
- Lobby the CSEU on 5 November!



Two hundred angry engineers lobbied the AEU national committee on Thursday 24 September in Eastbourne demanding complete rejection of a deal to sell hard-won rights and conditions in the CSEU