

CHRISTMAS CONVOY HEADS FOR BOSNIA

SUPPORT for the Workers Aid Christmas convoy to Bosnia is pouring in from various parts of Europe.

Contingents were meeting in Germany on their way to Zagreb in Croatia.

They will be joining others, from Europe, in the Croatian capital today, Saturday 18 December.

From there the convoy will attempt to reach the Bosnian mining town of Tuzla along the 75km highway — the northern route — from Orasje, a Croatian border town.

In Germany, Bosnian refugees have collected over 50 tons of aid to put on the convoy. A team from Britain took four trucks to Stuttgart to take some of this aid to Zagreb.

A meeting of Bosnians living in Germany was held last Tuesday, addressed by Bob Myers, secretary of Workers Aid for Bosnia.

Joined

Supporters of Workers Aid in Germany have donated 8,000 Deutschmarks (£3,150) towards the expenses of the convoy.

Three representatives from Workers Aid in Spain joined the convoy. Last-minute difficulties with insurance stopped a truck from Barcelona joining.

The campaign continues to grow in Spain and it is expected that it will have a powerful presence on the convoy planned for early in the new year.

BY THE EDITOR

Irish supporters of the campaign living in London have financed a truck for the Christmas convoy. Irish workers from north-west London raised over £150 for the convoy and the Save Aras na n'Gael campaign donated £15 towards the lorry.

The Irish Workers' Group of the Unison public service union in Brent, north London, has sent in £125 towards the Irish truck.

Appeal

Sean Toibin, a member of the building workers' union UCATT, was driving the truck and an appeal from him for the convoy appeared in the 'Irish World' and the 'Irish Post'.

Trucks organised by trades unionists are being sent from Belgium. Bob Myers met them last week as they were making preparations for further strike action against the government.

In Switzerland Bosnians will be sending a truck and linking up with the main convoy in either Zagreb or Germany.

The campaign in Britain grows every day. A total of six trucks joined the convoy from Britain, one loaded in Brighton, another in the North West.

Strong support from trades unions continues and a sound basis is being laid for a powerful British contingent on the next convoy early in 1994 (see report page 3).

A group of young comrades who met on the first convoy form the core of the British contingent. The phone in Workers Aid's office in London has hardly stopped ringing, with offers of aid and requests to send parcels to Tuzla.

■ The Christmas convoy is part of the build-up for a European-wide convoy for early in the new year. The central purpose of this will be to continue the fight for the opening of the northern route to Tuzla.

The United Nations is deliberately blocking this road despite the fact that this is an approved route.

■ Help for the campaign is needed urgently. Please contact Workers Aid on 061-707 1584, or in London on 071-582 5462. Or write to PO Box 9, Eccles SO, Salford M30 7FX.

Season's greetings

THIS is the last edition of Workers Press before the Christmas and New Year holidays. The next issue will appear on 8 January 1994. We wish all our readers the warmest of seasonal greetings and look forward to your continued support in 1994.



Faruk Ibrahimovic and a Bosnian refugee handing in a petition last Saturday at the United Nations offices in London demanding that the UN open the northern route from Orasje, Croatia, to Tuzla in Bosnia
Photo: Anthony Myers

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WORKERS AID CHRISTMAS CONVOY HOTLINE: 071-582 5462

Trades unions rally to Christmas convoy

Hundreds sleep rough in capital

UNIONS are in the forefront of the support that Workers Aid has won for its Christmas convoy to Bosnia.

Shopworkers' union USDAW is to discuss the campaign at the December meeting of its executive council. The union's secretary Garfield Davies has written to Workers Aid saying that he will recommend support for the campaign and a donation from the union. Camden branch of the public service union UNISON has welcomed the convoy and is to ask the union's executive to sponsor a lorry to Tuzla as part of the next convoy. A speaker from the Tuzla Logistic Centre in Zagreb spoke to the annual

campaign, and will raise it with his executive with a view to launching a call throughout the Scottish trade union movement for a fight to open the northern route — which is the shortest — to Tuzla.

Donation

In response for a request for help, Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Bill Morris has sent a donation of £200 on behalf of the union. The Bakers, Food and

Allied Workers' Union has agreed to publish an appeal from the campaign in its union journal. General secretary Joe Marino has agreed to place before the next executive a suggestion that all branches be circulated asking them to back the campaign for opening the northern route. He has agreed to meet representatives of the campaign.

Aberdeen trades council is among the recent sponsors of the campaign. It congratulates Workers Aid on its campaign to get to Tuzla and has agreed to

call on the Scottish TUC to give its full support.

Separated

Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association has written to Workers Aid saying that opening of the Northern Route is very worthwhile campaigning for. He has said that his organisation is at the disposal of Workers Aid on the understanding that any trucks they finance will be separated from the political aims of the campaign.

MORE than 300 people are now forced to sleep rough in the West End of London. With others sleeping in the City, more than 400 people are believed to on the streets of central London each night, often in temperatures only just above freezing.

These are the results of a survey from the Association of London Authorities (ALA) and comes only days after the government's false claim that homelessness in the capital was declining.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg, says the ALA. Many hundreds are sleeping out in the suburbs. Over 40 people were recently found on the streets of Croydon in south London.

Brixton, Lewisham and Brent are among the London boroughs reporting sharp increases in the number of homeless forced to sleep on freezing streets.

POLICE with riot gear and sledgehammers cleared Europe's biggest squat, Rutland Mansions in north-west London. The squatters say that had told Brent council that they were prepared to move out peacefully by 20 December.

The police tipped off the media, who were there in force to see the show of force.

Many of the 40-odd living in the block have been there for almost ten years.

Last week the council sold the block to Paddington Churches Housing Association for £540,000.

THE Newham Monitoring Project has launched a campaign to combat the British National Party in Newham, east London.

NMP plans a mass leafleting of Rathbone Market, in Canning Town — an area where the fascists have been distributing their racist filth — this weekend.

Meet outside the NMP at 11am prompt, Saturday 18 December. Contact Arif on 081-552 6284.

Meeting defends Bosnian rights

Refugee driven to tragic death

BY DOT GIBSON

BY BRONWEN HANDYSIDE

THE war in Bosnia and the experiences of people from the former Yugoslavia who have come into conflict with their governments and with the UN forces were discussed at a London conference last week.

And the international network was extended of those working to defend the right of Bosnia to self-determination and to fight fascism.

Over 100 specially invited academics, politicians, diplomats and friends of Bosnia, including a representative of Workers Aid for Bosnia attended the conference on 8-9 December.

The theme of this gathering, called by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Information Centre in London and the Kuala Lumpur

Friends of Bosnia Action Group, was: 'Where Now for the Peace Process?' To guide the discussion four papers were presented.

Aims

Andreas Zumach, journalist for 'Die Tageszeitung', presented a paper on 'The Background to the Owen-Stoltenberg Plan' (which aims to break up Bosnia), and this was followed by 'Preventing and Punishing Genocide' introduced by Professor Marc Weller, a member of the Bosnian legal team.

Milos Vasic, a Serbian journalist on 'Vreme', spoke on 'The Military Situation and Prospects for the Continuation of the War'. The fourth paper 'Preserving Bosnian Pluralism' was presented by Branka Magas, author of 'The Destruction of Yugoslavia'.

LAST week Bosnian refugee Lejla Ibrahimovic committed suicide by swallowing a bottle of sleeping pills. She left behind her 20-month-old daughter, and a young son.

She was driven to her pitiful death by the foreign policy of the British government — which colluded in the greater Serbian expansionism which drove her from her home, and then denied her the right to be reunited with the husband she was forced to leave behind.

Lejla came to Britain in an 'unofficial' convoy of refugees organised by a British Muslim group, 'Human Appeal'. Her family had responded to an advertisement in a Zagreb newspaper offering a haven to Bosnians — but which excluded men over 15.

After arriving in Birmingham, she and her children lived for five days on mattresses on

the floor of the central mosque before being shunted around to privately rented houses. Lejla was put in a dirty three-bedroom house in need of repair. She and her two children were crammed into one room, and her sister-in-law's family and another woman shared the other two.

When they complained to the landlord he laughed at them, and asked them what else they expected. After he threatened them with eviction Lejla applied to Birmingham council to be rehoused. They told her there were too many British homeless for them to be able to deal with Bosnians.

Distress

But her greatest distress was caused by the separation from her husband. After the rest of his family had left he applied for a visa at the British embassy in Zagreb and was turned down flat.

Now that Lejla is dead, her

children are classed under Home Office rules as 'unaccompanied minors', which gives their father the right to come to Britain to look after them. He got a visa within 24 hours.

The effects on her children no doubt will last a long time. Her young son Mirza heard his mother wandering about the house and tried to persuade her to come to bed, but finally fell asleep. In the morning he found his mother dead on the couch. Her baby daughter asks for her mother, and cries when she sees her photograph.

Her husband, who arrived a week ago, says: 'What can you say? If I had been here everything would have been different.'

Of the nearly 7,000 refugees from the former Yugoslavia who have applied for asylum in Britain since May 1992, only 335 have been processed. That means that the other 6,665 are in the same position as Lejla — with no right to be reunited with their families.



Tower Hamlets Nine are innocent!

A PICKET is to be held at Thames magistrates' court this Tuesday (21 December) for nine young men appearing after their arrest following a police assault on a vigil for Quddus Ali, who is still in a coma after a racist attack.

The Tower Hamlets Nine — charged with riot, under section 1 of the Public Order Act, which carries a maximum of life imprisonment — are guilty of nothing more than defending themselves from police harassment and racist violence, says the defence campaign which is organising the picket. The vigil on 10 September,

called to show support for Quddus Ali and his family, was harassed by the police — who attempted to force it into a restricted area and then to violently arrest some of those present.

Injured

One of the youths arrested was so badly injured that he required immediate medical attention for head injuries.

'The police continue to patrol our areas in riot vans constantly stopping and searching and harassing us, yet they claim they are protecting us', says the

defence campaign for the nine. The defence campaign demands:

- Charges against the Tower Hamlets Nine are dropped;
- An end to police violence and harassment; and
- The arrest of the racists who attacked Quddus and the community.

A national demonstration is to be held on 19 March 1994, called by the Quddus Ali Support Committee, the Tower Hamlets Nine, and other community groups throughout east London.

Further information from the Tower Hamlets Nine Defence Campaign: 081-548 0099.

Campaign calls for struggles to be united

UNITING all groups in struggle to defend basic rights and quality of life into a national movement is the aim of the Community and Union Action Campaign (CUAC).

The campaign's first conference, held in February 1993 in Manchester, brought together leading trades unionists and people fighting inside community groups against the ever-increasing onslaught on our public services and benefits.

This was not the kind of conference with platform of famous speakers who tell the audience what to do, but one at which every person who came was able to participate on the most democratic basis in all of the discussions and decisions.

Deepen

Since February 1993 the campaign has worked to contact all those who wanted to organise a second conference, with a wider participation, to extend and deepen the discussion on how to forge the links between all those in struggle.

That second conference will now take place on 12 February in the West Indian Centre, Carmoor Rd, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester M13 0FB. All who agree with the aims of CUAC are most welcome to come.

The campaign has now produced the second pilot issue of its paper, 'Unite!'

Articles include: the history of anti-fascism in east London — by an ex-dockers' shop steward; updates on the Crawley bin workers' fight against privatisation — by a Crawley bin worker; the Timex strike — by a member of the strike committee; Lancashire Women

Against Pit Closures' report on their victory against British Coal; an analysis of the official inquiry into Orville Blackwood's death — by a member of the campaign; the battle against compulsory competitive tendering by the Hertfordshire cleaners; political poll-tax

prisoners in Britain; and much more.

To subscribe to 'Unite!', which costs 40p a copy, write to the CUAC c/o Lambeth Trade Union Resource Centre, 12-14 Thornton St, London SW9. Multiple orders of 20 or more cost 30p a copy.

UNITE THE STRUGGLES! CONFERENCE
Saturday 12 February
11am-6pm
Manchester West Indian Centre,
Carmoor Rd, Chorlton-on-Medlock,
Manchester M13 0FB
Creche available — please contact CUAC to advise how many children you will be bringing
£5 trades unions and TUCs, £1 community groups,
Free to unwaged

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Please send me information about the WRP
Name date
Address
Trade union (if any) Age (if under 21)
Send to: PO Box 735, London SW8 1YB

No return

IN July 1937 family and comrades were expecting Arne Munch-Petersen, a leader of the Danish Communist Party, back from a stay in the Soviet Union. He never turned up.

Months went by. First the Social Democrats daily, and then others, began asking where Munch-Petersen was. Communist Party members were told the former party secretary, member of parliament, and representative on the Communist International (Comintern) executive was doing vital clandestine work somewhere, perhaps in Hitler's Germany.

In 1939 the Soviet authorities claimed Munch-Petersen was no longer in the USSR, but had left over the southern border. For the party faithful this was further reason to think their comrade must be on a top secret Comintern mission. Fifty years later, the truth came out. In 1989, Danish newspapers reported that Arne Munch-Petersen had been arrested in 1937, the day he was due to return home, and died of TB in a Soviet prison in 1940.

IN THE latest issue (no. 3) of the journal 'Socialist History', Steve Parsons provides some of the details of Munch-Petersen's fate, drawing on Ole Sohn's book 'Fra Folketinget til celle 290 - Arne Munch-Petersen skaebne' ('From Parliament to Cell 290 - the fate of Arne Munch-Petersen'). Sohn, Danish CP general-secretary in the late 1980s, has delved into the Comintern archives, and those of Stalin's NKVD secret police.

These reveal that, although Munch-Petersen had loyally endorsed Stalinist policies, condemned Trotsky and Zinoviev in 1927, and supported the 1930s show trials, he was accused of taking part in an international Trotskyist conspiracy. Among charges was that in 1932 he failed to organise mass protests against Trotsky's visit to Copenhagen, and in 1934, while working for the Comintern, he had begun gathering Trotskyist literature (indeed he had, dutifully handing it to his superiors as part of the fight against 'counter-revolutionary' subversion).

According to one scenario produced by NKVD interrogators, Trotsky's accomplice was their former chief, G.G. Yagoda, and the conspiracy included Munch-Petersen, Bela Kun (former leader of the Hungarian Communist Party), Willi Munzenberg (a prominent member of the German Communist Party), and British Stalinists Harry Pollitt and Page Arnot! (Bela Kun was reportedly shot by the NKVD in 1937; Willi Munzenberg was murdered in France in 1940; Pollitt and Page Arnot were spared.)

Steve Parsons raises the responsibility of Comintern leader G. Dimitrov, to whom the Danish CP leader, convinced his arrest was a ghastly 'mistake', appealed unsuccessfully for help. It has been suggested the NKVD picked on Munch-Petersen because his colleague Aksel Larsen, being still a Danish MP, was not available.

Munch-Petersen's crucial role moving Comintern archives from Berlin after the Nazis took power could have made him a target. Having contributed to the defeat of the German working class, Stalin had to erase his mistakes, and others' memories. Munch-Petersen's pilgrimage to Moscow was to be a journey with no return.

'Socialist History', post-glasnost successor to the Communist Party's occasional 'Our History', is published by Pluto Press for the Socialist History Society.

Charlie Pottins

**Holiday television
Selected films**

Saturday 18 December

ECHO PARK (1985). Robert Dornheim's modest and rather neglected off-beat comedy drama about a group of Los Angeles artists (11.30pm, Channel 4).

Sunday 19 December

THE LADYKILLERS (1955). Classic Ealing comedy with Peter Sellers, Alec Guinness and Katie Johnson (3.30pm, Channel 4).

BATMAN (1989). With Jack Nicholson as the Joker. This full-length version promises bad language and violence (8.55pm, BBC1).

Monday 20 December

THE JOURNEY OF NATTY GANN (1985). Travelling across Depression-hit US to find her



Giulietta Masina and Anthony Quinn, Monday 20, BBC2

father, a 14-year-old girl teams up with a young drifter and a wolf. Terrific period atmosphere (3.30pm, ITV).

LA STRADA (1954). Federico Fellini's unforgettable tale of a brutish circus performer and his devoted waif-like companion. With Anthony Quinn, Giulietta Masina and Richard Baseheart (11.30pm, BBC2).

Tuesday 21 December

SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950). Now a highly successful stage musical - but this is the genuine article! William Holden and Gloria Swanson in Billy Wilder's classic about struggling young writer and



Marx Brothers 'At the Circus' with Jerry Marenghi (Sunday 26, Channel 4)

once-famous silent screen actress (11.10pm, BBC1).

AMARCORD (1974). Federico Fellini's semi-autobiographical view of provincial life under fascism in '930s Italy (11.30pm, BBC2).

Friday 24 December

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (1940). Katharine Hepburn, James Stewart and Cary Grant in George Cukor's sparkling champagne comedy (12.55am, BBC1).

Saturday 25 December

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART III (1990). In this, the final episode, Michael J. Fox travels back in time to the Wild West to rescue his mad-scientist friend Christopher Lloyd (4.05pm, BBC1).

(1987). John Duigan's touching coming-of-age film about young boy's infatuation with problem girlfriend (11.10pm, BBC2).

THE HONEYMOON KILLERS (1970). Truly spine-chilling horror about couple who prey on 'lonely-hearts' women. Written and directed by the remarkable Leonard Kastle, whose only film this was (12.55am, BBC2).

Tuesday 28 December

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS (1988). Steve Martin and Michael



Catherine Deneuve in 'Belle de Jour', Saturday 25, BBC2

Caine as professional con-artists trying to outdo each other on the French Riviera (8pm, BBC1).

RED RIVER (1948). Cattle baron John Wayne and his adopted son Montgomery Clift in superb Howard Hawks's epic western. Fingers crossed for the uncut version (1.35am, ITV).

Wednesday 29 December

MAD LOVE (1935). Peter Lorre as insane surgeon who grafts the hands of a murderer onto an injured pianist (1am, BBC2).

Thursday 30 December

STAND AND DELIVER (1988). A tour-de-force performance by Edward James Olmos as uncompromising teacher in a tough Los Angeles neighbourhood school (11pm, BBC2).

Friday 31 December

BONNIE AND CLYDE (1967). Arguably Arthur Penn's most celebrated film. Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the legendary 1930s bank-robbers (11.30pm, ITV).

Saturday 1 January

ROMUALD AND JULIETTE (1989). Coline Serreau's delightful romantic comedy about relationship between company boss and black cleaning woman (9.35pm, BBC2).



James Stewart and Katharine Hepburn in 'The Philadelphia Story', Friday 24, BBC1

JEFF JACKSON has once again schedules to bring us this bumper appears to have shown remarkable choice of films, and says that 'to be something for everyone, (no prizes for spotting it).



Katie Johnson with the gang in 'Ladykillers'



In addition to its two-part profile of H. Lloyd, Channel 4 is also screening its classic comedies: MOVIE CRAZY (3.30pm, Monday 27); SPEEDY (3.15pm, Tuesday 28); GIRL SHY (2pm, Wednesday 29); THE BROTHER (2pm, Thursday 30); HOT (2pm, Friday 31); SAFETY LAST (12.30pm, Saturday 1).

Holiday television

Programme guide

scoured the holiday
per batch of goodies. He
ble restraint this year in his
quite by chance') there seems
including the proverbial turkey



illers', Sunday 19, Channel 4



For some Marxists
Christmas wouldn't
be the same without
a season of films by
the Brothers.
Channel 4 obliges
with: **MONKEY
BUSINESS**
(12.50am, Saturday
25); **ANIMAL
CRACKERS**
(12.45am, Sunday
26); **AT THE CIRCUS**
(12.40am, Monday
27); **HORSE
FEATHERS** (1.15am,
Tuesday 28); **DUCK
SOUP** (1.10am,
Wednesday 29);
THE BIG STORE
(12.40am, Saturday
1).



BBC2 offers an
all-too-brief season of
short films by the
incomparable Jacques
Tati: **SOIGNE TON
GAUCHE** (8.40am,
Tuesday 28);
**L'ECOLE DES
FACTEURS** (8.40am,
Wednesday 29);
COURS DE SOIR

Saturday 18 December

BLOODY BOSNIA WINTER 1993: 'War Without End?' Jon Snow presents a special programme reviewing the year's events and examining the prospects for a resolution of the conflict in 1994 (7pm, Channel 4).

BLOODY BOSNIA WINTER 1993: TRUE STORIES — 'The Unforgiving'. A repeat showing of this harrowing account of a Serbian couple's search for their dead child's grave (10.05pm, Channel 4).

Sunday 19 December

MOVING PICTURES SPECIAL: 'Who's Crying Now?' The rise and fall of the controversial Palace Pictures which produced 18 films including 'Company of Wolves', 'Scandal' and 'Mona Lisa' (8.30pm, BBC2).

BLOODY BOSNIA WINTER 1993: SARAJEVO DIARY — 'From Bad to Worse'. Bill Tribe's original 'Sarajevo Diary' was part of the BLOODY BOSNIA season last August. This film records his return ten months later to find hope fading among family, friends and colleagues he left behind (8.45pm, Channel 4).

Monday 20 December

TIMEWATCH: 'Chairman Mao — The Last Emperor'. This profile, commemorating what would have been his 100th birthday, reveals Mao to have been a man of private excesses and brutality (9.30pm, BBC2).

Tuesday 21 December

FINE CUT: 'Hobo'. Welcome repeat of John T. Davis's outstanding documentary about an American railroad tramp — a tough, fast-disappearing way of life (9.50am, BBC2).

40 MINUTES: 'Latin Nights'. Follows two pairs of young ballroom dancers, on the brink of glittering careers, as they prepare for the main event of the year in Blackpool (9.30pm, BBC2).

FROM BEIRUT TO BOSNIA: 'To the Ends of the Earth'. Robert Fisk's concluding report comes



Tina Turner's complete story, 22 December, Channel 4; and her California concert, 24 December, Channel 4

from Bosnia where beleaguered Muslims are struggling for survival (9pm, Channel 4).

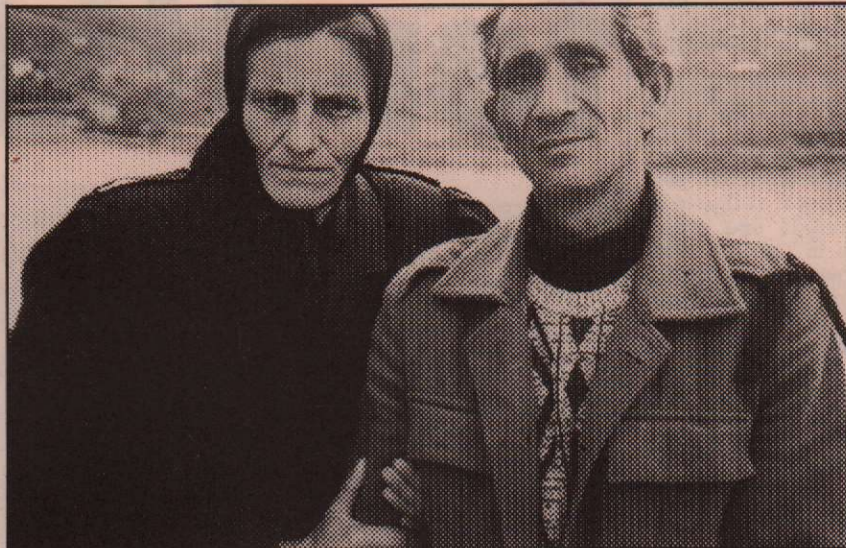
Wednesday 22 December

THE COMPLETE STORY OF TINA TURNER. The definitive documentary — from cotton-picking to superstardom (9pm, Channel 4).

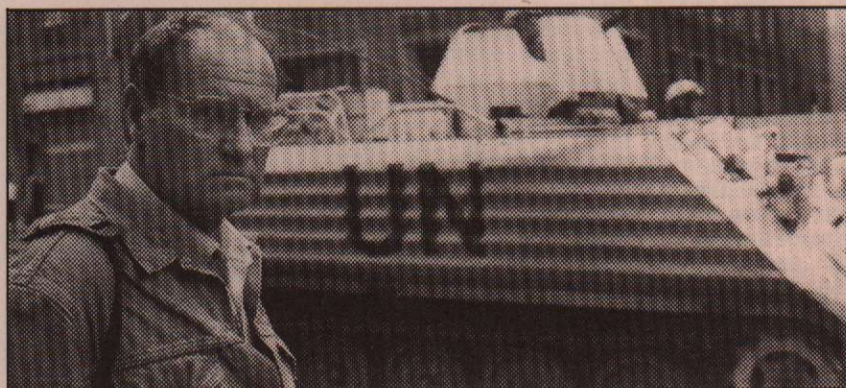
Friday 24 December

'Twist'. Chronicles the evolution of the rock 'n' roll dance craze (7pm, Channel 4).

ANIMAL DRAMA: 'Inura the Dingo'. A young female dingo struggles for survival in the central desert of Australia — which is one of the harshest environ-



Serbian couple Desa and Ilija Stojanovic search for their dead child's grave in 'The Unforgiving', Saturday 18 December, Channel 4



Bill Tribe returns to Bosnia to find hope fading in 'Sarajevo Diary', Sunday 19 December, Channel 4

ments on Earth (7pm, BBC2).

TINA TURNER: 'What's Love, Live'. Concert performance from California (9pm, Channel 4).

XMAS IN NEW YORK: 'Diana Ross, the Lady Sings'. Live performance accompanied by an orchestra of top-flight jazz musicians (11.05pm, Channel 4).

Saturday 25 December

'Harold Lloyd: The Third Genius'. Kevin Brownlow and David Gill's centenary celebration (in two parts) of the great comic movie stunt-artist (12.05pm, Channel 4 — the concluding half is tomorrow, 11.35am).

'The One And Only Groucho'. Portrait of the most famous of the Brothers Marx, by way of introduction to a short season of their films (1.50pm, Channel 4).

XMAS IN NEW YORK: 'The Alternative Queen's Message'. From the sumptuous surroundings of the famous Plaza Hotel, Quentin Crisp delivers a heart felt



Quentin Crisp addresses the nation on Christmas Day, Channel 4

Christmas speech (3pm, Channel 4).

'Swan Song'. Sir John Gielgud in dramatisation of the Anton Chekhov short story about an ageing actor. Directed by Kenneth Branagh (8.30pm, Channel 4).

Sunday 26 December

'The Harmfulness of Tobacco'. Edward Fox as the hen-pecked husband giving an impromptu talk to an all-female audience. Based on Anton Chekhov's short story, directed by Nick Hamm (8.30pm, Channel 4).

Monday 27 December

'The Queen of Spades'. Glyndebourne Festival production of Tchaikovsky's tragic tale, based on a story by Pushkin. The London Philharmonic is conducted by Andrew Davis (4.10pm, BBC2).

Tuesday 28 December

'Marilyn Monroe: The Last Interview'. Two days after giving this interview to 'Life' journalist

Richard Meryman, the Hollywood actress was dead (5pm, BBC2).

Wednesday 29 December

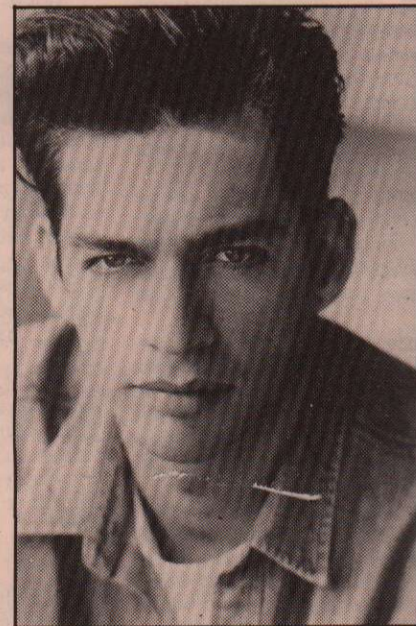
'The Decisive Moment: The Year in Pictures'. Photographers talk about the pictures which illustrated the key news stories of 1993, from Bishopsgate to Sarajevo, Washington to the Sudan (7.20pm, BBC2).

XMAS IN NEW YORK: 'Harry Connick Jr'. A performance given at the Paramount theatre (8.30pm, Channel 4).

'Deadly Currents'. An award-winning documentary in which Israeli-born Canadian film-maker Simcha Jacobovici records the action and voices of the West Bank, where the Palestinian uprising has created a world of soldiers, activists and international news crews (11.20pm, BBC2).

Thursday 30 December

'Magpie in the Dock'. Among the evidence presented at this mock trial of Britain's most resourceful bird there promises to be some spectacular film sequences (8pm, BBC1).



Harry Connick Jr croons in New York, 29 December, Channel 4

SCREEN TWO: 'The Railway Station Man'. Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland in Shelagh Delaney's dramatisation of the novel by Ulster writer Jennifer Johnston (9pm, BBC2).

Friday 31 December

'The Callas Conversations'. Soprano Maria Callas in discussion with Lord Harewood. First of two programmes, made in 1968, being shown on successive days (4pm and 6.20pm, BBC2).

'La Traviata'. A performance of Verdi's opera recorded at La Fenice, Venice. With Edita Gruberova as the doomed courtesan (7.55pm, BBC2).



Chubby Checker reputedly started the Twist, 24 December, Channel 4

FASCIST DANGER FACES RUSSIAN WORKERS

THE over-40 per cent vote given to the populist and right-wing nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy does not mean that there is a mass fascist movement in Russia. But it shows that there is the real danger of one emerging.

Zhirinovskiy's 'programme' was a combination of an appeal to a virulent Great Russian nationalism and an appeal to millions of people tired, cold, and hungry as a result of the pro-capitalist 'reform' movement of the Yeltsin regime.

Life savings have been wiped out by the almost uncontrolled inflation of the last two years. Unemployment is rapidly approaching 10 million. Industrial production has dropped by 10 per cent for the last two years.

Workers are owed months and months of back pay. Those in low-paid jobs cannot live off their wages, even if they get them.

Mafia

On the other hand the mafia grows apace. The rich flaunt their wealth in front of the poor. More BMWs have been sold in Moscow this year than in any



Some of Russia's millions of tired, cold, and hungry from the pro-capitalist 'reform' movement

other city in the world. The bureaucrats who plunder the state property are the richest of all. They are buying this property for a few roubles, exporting products from their cheaply acquired assets and salting the proceeds away in the Western banks.

Millions of Russians face this rotting form of capitalism — the only variety on offer in this epoch of history — with a past in which the names of 'socialism' and 'communism' have been

dragged through the dirt.

In the elections not a single candidate even claimed to represent the working class as a class.

The independent workers' organisations who until recently had given their support to Yeltsin called on workers to withhold their votes from candidates 'who were more worried about getting elected than in getting the workers their months of back pay owed to them'.

The Socialist Workers Union,

Russian section of the Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International, called on workers to boycott all candidates.

It was little wonder that many ordinary people either did not bother to vote or responded to Zhirinovskiy's rhetoric about punishing criminals and making Russia great.

In Russia the true internationalism of the working class was long ago replaced with the doctrine of the 'socialist father-

land'. Great Russian nationalism, directed against Ukrainians, Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — and above all in a racist way against the peoples of the Caucasus — has been nurtured by all 'Soviet' leaders from Stalin to Yeltsin.

As Marx observed, history repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce. So does 'anti-fascism'.

Yegor Gaidar, Yeltsin's 'reformist' prime minister, appealed to the 'Communist' party to unite against Zhirinovskiy.

He 'forgot' that it was the Stalinist bureaucracy which prepared for the chaos and danger of reaction that now stares Russia in the face.

Gaidar, whose mentor Yeltsin spent the election trying to bar candidates who opposed him, spoke in the name of 'democracy': 'Stalin opened the way for Hitler in Germany by splitting the anti-fascist front. It will be very sad if, by failing to work together, Russia's democrats play a similar role.'

This was followed by an appeal for unity against Zhirinovskiy with the very 'Com-

munists' who Yeltsin was trying to blow up in the Russian parliament building a few weeks ago.

Gaidar's historical analogy is false. The force that Stalin disarmed was not the anti-fascist front but the German and international working class.

Eliminated

Meanwhile Stalin terrorised the Russian working class, destroyed its organisations and physically eliminated almost its entire revolutionary leadership.

Gorbachev and then the openly restorationist Yeltsin arose on the basis of this destruction.

All talk of 'resisting fascism' outside the task of mobilising the working class as a revolutionary force is a cruel deception.

The potential for such a movement is clear from the strikes that swept Russia in the weeks before the election, with the uprising of the gasworkers in Nadym, the miners' strike and the condemnation of Yeltsin by the Independent Miners' Union, previously his close allies.

Capitalism kills more workers in China

BY MIKE COOKE

CHINA's workers continue to die in the special economic zones set up by the Communist Party government.

A fire in a textile factory killed 60 workers in south China within a month of a similar disaster in Shenzhen that killed 81 women and injured 40. In Shenzhen, the factory doors were locked to prevent theft and unauthorised work breaks (see Workers Press, 27 November).

The fire last Monday, in Fuzhou, took six hours to bring under control. The factory is a part-Taiwanese-owned joint venture.

A blowout at an oilfield in northern Hebei province killed six and injured 585. Crops were

ruined up to six miles around the well.

The Chinese Communist Party is letting foreign capital rip through its 'special economic zones' where investors can find dirt-cheap labour among the poor peasants who migrate towards the promised land of the cities.

In 1991, official figures show, 14,686 were killed in industrial accidents — that includes a massive 10,000 death-toll in the mines. Fourteen miners died for every million tons of coal produced.

Guangdong province, which includes the city of Shenzhen, had a 60 per cent rise in industrial killings and more than 1,000 factory fires last year.

An investigation revealed that workers were doing shifts of between 10 and 16 hours.

Rebuilding the Fourth International

Once again on Pablo and the United Secretariat

THE following letter has just reached Workers Press. It deals with the controversy surrounding the re-admission of Michel Pablo (Michael Raptis) into the so-called United Secretariat of the Fourth International.

It was Pablo along with Ernest Mandel who led the attack on the programme of the Fourth International in the early 1950s when they argued that Stalinism was a force that could lead the working class in the overthrow of capitalism. Pablo, today an unashamed Greek chauvinist, has never repudiated these views, even after the collapse of Stalinist regimes throughout eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union. Despite this and despite his current political views Pablo was re-admitted to USec by its leader Ernest Mandel. As this letter makes clear, this was in opposition to Mandel's own organisation in Greece.

The International Socialist Group, Mandel's organisation in Britain, has so far refused to comment on this matter.

TO THE UNITED SECRETARIAT OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FROM OKDE (GREEK SECTION OF THE USFI)

Dear comrades,
To our surprise we received the decision of the IEC to accept the accession of Pablo to the FI. Our disappointment grew when we learnt about the procedures used by the comrades of the IEC.

We regard it as unacceptable that the debate on the accession of the IRMT [Pablo's group] was held during the meeting of the IEC on 29 May, while the letter of the OKDE from 12 February had not been given to the members of the IEC. In that letter we expressed

our view of Pablo's group in Greece and also enclosed a translation of two articles which Pablo had published in 'Ta Nea'.

In our opinion, your procedure has nothing to do with the proper democratic functioning of the International. Your decision is also contrary to the statutes of the FI because only the World Congress has the authority to accept accessions of sections and consequently that of international tendencies.

Differences

But there are also political differences regarding questions of principles with Pablo's group in Greece. We don't know if there are similar problems in

other countries, but there is no doubt that Pablo is a Greek social patriot.

Even if we could take his support of Milosevic and Karadzic as an expression of some sort of anti-imperialism, it is impossible for us to accept his view that the Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, instigated and led by American imperialism, threaten Greece.

He states that 'in the event that Turkey attacks Greece we have to defend our country and in the case that Greece is proved to be the aggressor, we have to reject such an act'. As you understand, this attitude is not compatible with revolutionary defeatism. In propagating such a view he has been and is warmly invited by the daily press to write articles for them.

He has also been welcomed by the leadership of PASOK [the Greek Socialist Party]. He therefore lines up with the views of the Greek bourgeoisie in its political leadership and particularly with the views of A. Papanastasiou [now the Greek prime minister] which suggest that Greece should ally with Serbia as in World War I in order to defend its national interests.

The 'Christian-Orthodox axis' should be opposed with the 'Muslim axis' (Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Turkey) as well as with Catholicism which is trying to penetrate the Balkans through Croatia and a minority of the Albanian population. Behind this so-called anti-imperialism hide the most obscurantist and social-patriot views.

His articles, especially when they concern Greek affairs, create illusions in the policies of PASOK as the party which probably will govern in the future.

[PASOK has since been elected. In our opinion, a critical attitude towards PASOK can't be restricted to anti-right policies. As a typical Don Quixote he suggests a united front of the whole left, of course without explaining which policies it should follow.

Concerns

Pablo's group in Greece consists of three persons. We would not refuse to co-operate with them in the framework of united front tactics if they act, but it is clear that we cannot coexist in a unified organisation because concrete programmatic agreement doesn't exist. This concerns the type of organisation we want to build and the duties which derive from the analysis of the political situation.

After the proposal of the USFI we had some discussions with Pablo's group last winter. We inquired about the possibility of unification. In these discussions however the above mentioned difference appeared about which we informed the USFI in our letter dated 12 February 1993.

Unification with Pablo's group was considered impossible due to the political differences, which were, and are, the centre of the discussions and determinations owing to the growth of Greek chauvinism.

The views on the 'national question' expressed by Pablo in the bourgeois press would expose OKDE to the criticism of all the public which it addresses, without giving perspective in which to address other broader layers.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OKDE (7 November 1993)

Workers Press

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