

Al Fatah claims

ISRAELI TROOPS USE POISON GAS

THE PALESTINIAN liberation movement Al Fatah claimed yesterday that Israeli troops are now using poison gas.

The gas was used, said an Al Fatah spokesman, on commandos fighting Israeli forces in the South Jordan valley on Wednesday night. Apart from normal casualties, two commandos are now suffering from the effects of gas poisoning.

No doubt encouraged by the complicity of highly-placed French government officials in the Christmas departure of the five Cherbourg-built gunboats (now in Haifa), the Zionists are now stepping up their military pressure on the Arab people.

In the background, egging them on, while officially 'disapproving', is United States imperialism—the main source of arms for the Zionist government of Mrs Golda Meir.

Germany visit

It was also announced yesterday in Bonn that Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban is to visit West Germany during the second half of February.

Under the pressure from this increased imperialist support for Zionism, the crisis in the ranks of the Arab nationalists grows deeper.

The fiasco of the Arab 'Summit' has revealed the bankruptcy of Nasser's anti-Israeli demagoguery, for behind Nasser stands the pressure of the Arab revolution and its exasperation with the constant defeats of the capitalist and feudal regimes that claim to represent the interests of the Arab people.

Like all nationalist leaders in the Middle East, Nasser fears this pent-up force and would rather come to terms with Zionism than release it.

Unconditional support

But despite the reactionary nature of all these regimes the struggle of the Arab people for national unity and against imperialism (of which Zionism is the Middle-East spearhead), must have the unconditional support of all socialists.

It has already been proved that the Israeli forces have used napalm in attacks on Arab civilians.

If this latest claim is also proved correct, it will once more confirm that imperialism is the same bestial system the world over—even down to its weapons of terror and destruction.

The Arab people, like the Vietnamese, need all the solidarity we can muster.

ABOVE NORM

A RECENT survey made of 2,011 industrial companies in Britain has shown that the average profits increase for 1969 against the previous year was 19 per cent.

The biggest increases were in the shipping, oil, chemical, newspaper and tobacco industries.

The overall rise in dividends was 4.7 per cent, well above the 3½ per cent norm supposedly in force during the year.

OXFORD CAR PLANT HALTED

EIGHT HUNDRED assembly-line workers were laid off yesterday from Morris Motors car assembly plant at Cowley, Oxford, and production of three models was stopped due to a shortage of car bodies and a pay dispute.

A Palestine Solidarity Campaign demonstration in London in November 1969 makes clear the opposition to the Zionists for their aggression against the Arab workers and peasants. With news of the gas attacks this aggression takes on a much more sinister tone.



Spiro

'Curb the press'

Agnew in Saigon

WHILE his tour of Asia continued with a well-guarded visit to Saigon yesterday, US Vice-President Spiro Agnew was named by the International Press Institute as the most serious threat to freedom of information in the western world in 1969.

In its end-of-the-year review, the Zurich-based Institute criticized Agnew's repeated attacks on the US press and TV networks: 'The most serious aspect of these attacks was that although launched from an office which is traditionally of little effect in the



US vice-president Spiro Agnew.

United States government, it appeared that in fact they may have emanated from the presidential office itself.' Back in Saigon, Nixon's mouthpiece was being greeted by his opposite number in the puppet Thieu regime, 'Vice-President' Ky, who is noted for his hero worship of Adolf Hitler.

Discipline

Though only stopping the night—any longer would really be tempting providence—Agnew no doubt still found the time to exchange information with his Saigon protégés on how to discipline the press and broadcasting.

In this respect, as in many others, Ky has proved a worthy pupil of his hero.

Nasser forms new Arab alliance

THE INFORMAL alliance between the governments of Egypt, Sudan and Libya was consolidated yesterday with President Nasser's visit to Khartoum, where he conferred with Sudanese leaders.

It is Nasser's first trip to Sudan since the military regime came to power last May.

Following the collapse of the Arab summit talks in Morocco, where the last session broke up without a communiqué being issued, Egypt's two Arab neighbours, Libya and Sudan, have indicated that they favour closer links with the Nasser regime.

STOP WILSON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Surge ahead with the campaign

—Y.S. national secretary

'START the New Year with a massive surge forward in the campaign to stop Wilson's visit to Washington', Young Socialists' national secretary Sheila Torrance told the Workers Press yesterday.

The YS plan a massive publicity campaign over the next few weeks—with a new leaflet and posters on hoardings all over London—to make sure the January 11 demonstration against the proposed trip is a big success.

Several shop stewards' committees and trade union branches have already booked their coaches to bring supporters to the demonstration. 'We particularly welcome the support we've had from members of the Young Communist League in the areas', said Sheila Torrance.

'Many of them are supporting the campaign in conflict with their national leadership—who have rejected our call for united action to stop the visit and, like the King Street leaders of the Communist Party, have refused to sign our petition.'

Sheila Torrance's answer to YCL national secretary Barney Davis' contenting reply to her letter calling for united action will appear in tomorrow's Workers Press.

YESTERDAY'S batch of signatures supporting the campaign included that of Mersey side area YCL secretary R. Velleamer, an ASPD member.

SIXTY Swindon trade unionists—members of the AEF, EPTU and T&GWU—have signed a petition deploring the speeches of Brown and Stewart in defence of US policy in Vietnam.

Signatories include British Rail workshops AEF convenor R. Howells, BR EPTU convenor D. Lee, Pressed-Steel Fisher AEF convenor J. Williams and Yorkshire Imperial Plastics AEF convenor H. Murgatroyd. AEF district committee members F. Willis, M. McSweeney, J. Hackett and T. Taylor.

Unemployment may top 700,000 in 1970

FOLLOWING the announcement of the 3,500 redundancies in the Rolls-Royce aero-engine division, employment exchanges in the affected areas are pessimistic at the prospects of finding vacancies for workers put out of their jobs.

The 800 to be sacked at the Hillington, Glasgow, plant will be particularly hard hit—unemployment in this area is already well above the national average.

1970 threatens to be a year of increasing attacks on jobs

450 workers at the two Belfast factories of Short Brothers and Harland were told yesterday they would be made redundant at the end of next week.

As the employers use their only remaining weapon to stave off the crisis of the capitalist system—unemployment.

The latest unemployment figures, issued in mid-December, show an increase of 1,394 on the previous month, bringing the total to 573,299.

At the same time the National Institute of Economic and Social Research has predicted that if the credit squeeze is maintained by the Labour government the number of unemployed will rise above 700,000 by the end of this year.

Employers rebuff C.I.R.

Demands for 'teeth' on the way?

THE EMPLOYERS' reactions to the Commission on Industrial Relations' first three reports published this week should be studied carefully by all trade unionists.

They indicate very clearly how pressure is to be built up for anti-union legislation in the coming year.

The General Assurance Company rejected the CIR's recommendation that it should give limited recognition to the Union of Insurance Staffs (UIS), which has 1,600 members at the firm.

The CIR had only reported that the UIS should be given consultative and grievance procedure rights and not full recognition and negotiating rights.

Even this was turned down. The second CIR report backed the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs recognition claim at Associated Octel's Ellesmere Port plant.

Octel, which met the CIR only 'under protest', has already hinted that this demand will be refused.

The CIR's third report was, however, able to bring about a minor success—T&GWU recognition at two small Cornish fishing companies.

These rebuffs by the bigger firms—who are both believed to be in close contact with the Confederation of British Industries—could well indicate that the employers are seeking to expose the impotence of the CIR's present powers so that an incoming Tory government will have the right atmosphere for giving it 'teeth'.

Above all, the managements want the CIR to bring the power of the state to their aid in enforcing productivity deals and Measured-Day Work.

Its failure to do this has been brought home by the delayed inquiry into the five-week-old craftsmen's strike at International Harvesters' Doncaster and Carrhill plants.

Model deal

The deal signed there last June was boasted as a model of productivity bargaining in which flexibility between trades and speed-up measures—such as the elimination of tea-breaks—were included.

The CIR's inquiry was intended to reveal the way the deal had been implemented and maintained.

It has now been held up by the craftsmen's strike for a 1s 2d an hour wage increase.

Briefly

TUBE FARES UP AGAIN: The minimum fare on London's underground may be 1s. when decimal currency removes the 6d. from circulation in 1971.

This was predicted yesterday by Mr Anthony Bull, vice-chairman of the new London Transport executive, at a press conference to mark the handing over of London transport to the Tory-controlled GLC.

The 1s. minimum, with all other fares in multiples of a 1s., 'would have to be considered in the light of the financial situation at the time', he said.

However, the complaint of the new executive chairman, made as he took over, at the 'tiny' profits target of £2 million a year, makes these increases almost a certainty.

'600 KILLED AT MY LAI: A villager who used to live in My Lai has written a detailed account of the massacre there, charging US troops with killing nearly 600 people and piling the bodies four deep in a ditch.

The account is contained in a letter sent to the militant Buddhist church in Saigon, who would not reveal the writer's identity for fear of his safety.

The author was not present during the killings, but arrived home only three hours later. He described them as 'international and systematic genocide'.

His estimate of 600 dead is the highest made so far.

VIETNAM DEATH TOLL: 40,000 US soldiers have been killed in the last nine years of fighting in Vietnam, a US spokesman confirmed in Saigon yesterday.

NEW CZECH PURGE: The Czech Communist Party has announced another wave of expulsions.

The terms of the announcement in the Party newspaper, 'Rude Pravo', indicate that the targets for expulsion will be former Dubcek supporters who have shifted their allegiance to the conservative Dr Husak.

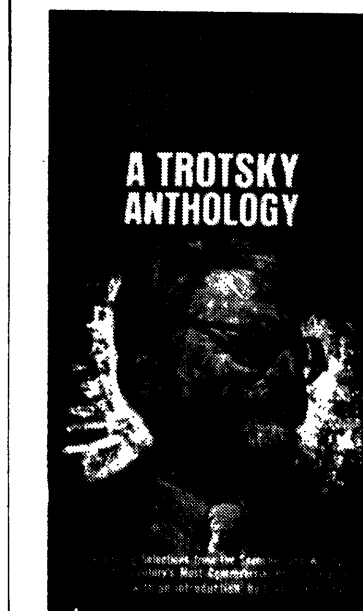
As none of Husak's earlier warnings against indiscriminate purges were mentioned, it is likely that Husak is retreating in front of pressure from those who want to move back to a Novotny-type regime.

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Australian greetings to the Workers Press

We have received the following greetings from the Victorian Labour College in Melbourne, Australia. This college is controlled by affiliated unions and runs evening classes for independent working-class education.

ON BEHALF of our Board of Management I desire to extend to you our sincere appreciation of your magnificent feat in producing what must surely rank as the first socialist daily paper based solely on working-class effort.

Also, we express to you our gratitude in your attitude of sending us a copy of each issue.

This is placed in our reading room and is greatly appreciated by our students;

especially in regard to the publicity you provide in historical documents and book reviews.

Through the Commonwealth Bank we are forwarding you only a very modest donation of £3, but trust you will recognize in this our very good wishes for success in this great achievement.

Yours fraternally,
E. Tripp, Secretary,
Victorian Labour College,
Melbourne.

A member of the Soviet opposition asks Who killed Trotsky?

ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1965, 'Pravda' printed a defamatory reference to Trotsky. Some days later 'Krasnaia Zvezda', the army newspaper, did the same.

The question is—why? Why does the word 'Trotskyist' ring in so many people's ears as a synonym for opportunism and betrayal?

Why was Trotsky, a true companion of Lenin's, not rehabilitated after 1956 or after 1961?

A professional revolutionary and conspirator, Lev Davidovich Bronstein (Trotsky's real name), who joined the social-democratic movement when he was very young, is today accused of factionalism.

Yes, Trotsky was a factionalist—and so were the August bloc and the 'Mezhraiontsi'.

Other members of the Russian Social-Democratic Party also belonged to factions: Lunarcharsky, Uritsky, Volodarsky, Bubnov, Rykov, Vorovsky, Dzerzhinsky—all militants whom no one accuses of every mortal sin, in fact quite the contrary.

Lev Davidovich Trotsky was one of the leaders of the October Revolution in Petrograd. John Reed, who later founded the American Communist Party, wrote that the October Revolution was Lenin's and Trotsky's Revolution (certainly not Lenin's and Stalin's).

Trotsky was president of the Petrograd Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies.

After the Second Congress of Soviets he became People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and then People's Commissar for Defence and for the Navy. He founded the Red Army and encouraged the development of young Red Army commanders, including Tukhachevsky.

In 1924 Trotsky relinquished the struggle for power, but this did not diminish Stalin's hostility towards him. A highly-intellectual man, an eloquent orator, an exceptional journalist, Trotsky aroused the unrelenting animosity of the crafty Georgian.

Aside from their personal disagreements, there were serious political differences between them. Trotsky upheld the theory of the 'permanent revolution': first world revolution and only then the construction of socialism.

Stalin, without rejecting proletarian internationalism, gave priority to 'socialism in one country'.

Even former comrades of Trotsky supported Stalin's theory as it upheld the interests of the state while Trotsky's programme was always changing and seemed to have no future. Thus Trotsky was replaced.

Trotsky himself was a remarkable personality, but at the same time he was extremely contradictory and changeable. He expressed opinions on every aspect of all problems combining a profoundly democratic spirit with a dictatorial manner.

Following numerous debates and intrigues, Trotsky was expelled from the Party and two years later, left his country.

First in Turkey, then in France, Norway and Mexico he organized his supporters with feverish activity which culminated in the creation of the Fourth International in 1938 at a conference of all the Trotskyist parties.

Trotsky's authority was so great that the International Zionist Committee in Paris

(which Rothschild, Leon Blum, Marshall and others belonged to) asked him to join their ranks.

Trotsky refused, affirming that the cause he defended was international. But he wished them success in the struggle for the creation of an Israeli republic.

Trotsky's activities never ceased to frighten Stalin.

Near the end of the 1930s, when the professional revolutionaries and conspirators had been expelled from their leading positions and the professional bureaucrats and the apparatchiki had replaced them, Stalin was afraid that Trotsky would seize the opportunity to increase his activities in the Soviet Union.

So Stalin ordered Trotsky killed.

A short time before his death the exiled Trotsky wrote:

'Once again fate has granted me a delay. But I know that this delay will be short-lived.'

An undercover NKVD agent, the Spaniard Ramon del Rio Mercader, was sent to Mexico to carry out the sentence pronounced in absentia.

It was not easy to penetrate the circle of Trotsky's friends (among his friends were such important people as the later President of Mexico, General Lazaro Cardenas).

Nevertheless, Mercader, using the pseudonym 'Jackson'

and posing as a 'representative' of the Spanish republicans, managed to get into Trotsky's home on May 28, 1940.

He visited again on June 12. Then Mercader-Jackson coordinated his criminal plans with the NKVD. He visited Trotsky again but unforeseen circumstances just stopped him from carrying out Stalin's orders at the arranged hour.

Finally on August 20, 1940, using the pretext that he wanted to show Trotsky an article, Mercader went to see him again. Two 'accomplices' also entered Trotsky's study. Three or four minutes later Trotsky's wife heard an agonizing cry. She ran to the study.

Trotsky was lying by the door with his head smashed in.

'What happened', she cried. 'Jackson', answered Trotsky, as if he were saying, 'It's happened', wrote his wife in her memoirs.

A grand funeral was arranged for Trotsky, but the night before it was to take place the house in which the body lay was burned down and only his bones could be buried.

Mercader hid his name and the force that drove him to kill for a long time. He stated in court that 'Trotsky destroyed my personal life'.

With Spanish passion he claimed that Trotsky had seduced his 'fiancee'—Trotsky's personal secretary. It should be noted that according to the criminals' plan, Mercader was to leave the house calmly after the murder and go round the corner, where his wife and mother would be waiting in a car. This car was to take the 'sacred family' to a nearby port from which a Soviet ship would set sail half an hour later.

In 1942 Mercader was sentenced by a Mexican court to 20 years' imprisonment. He has been living near Prague since 1960.

(In passing, let us point out that Stalin awarded the title and honour of Hero Of The Soviet Union to him in 1940.)

A great, erudite man and a brilliant politician, L. D. Trotsky always attracted the attention of many people who wanted to know the truth about him.

Even today he has supporters in many countries who call themselves 'Bolshevik-Leninists'.

The political influence of the Trotskyists is insignificant, but a number of them have linked up with various leaders: Raptis, general secretary of the Fourth International, for example, was an adviser to the former Algerian President Ben Bella.

Trotsky did not derail the train', wrote F. F. Raskolnikov to Stalin in 1939.

'As you know, I have never been a Trotskyist; on the contrary, on ideological matters,

I have struggled against the opposition in the press and at meetings. At present I do not agree with Trotsky's political position but I consider him to be an honest revolutionary. I do not believe and I will never believe the allegations about his agreement with Hitler and Ribbentrop', he continued.

All communists, all Leninists, all supporters of socialist democracy, all citizens of democratic spirit, will agree with Raskolnikov's statement, as will all people who want the truth to be known.

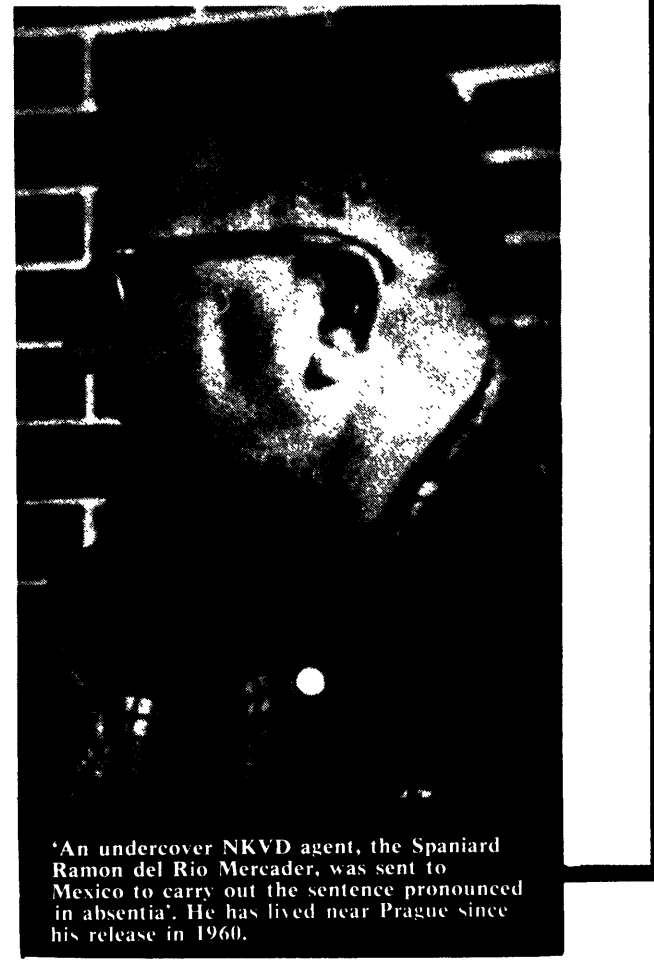
Long live historic truth! Down with falsifications of history!

Y.M., 1966



Trotsky?

This article was first published in the clandestine Soviet journal 'Notebooks of Socialist Democracy'



'An undercover NKVD agent, the Spaniard Ramon del Rio Mercader, was sent to Mexico to carry out the sentence pronounced in absentia'. He has lived near Prague since his release in 1960.

A comment by Robert Black

DESPITE its many inaccuracies and mistaken conceptions, this document of the Soviet opposition is perhaps one of the most significant that we have published.

It attempts to face up squarely to the question of Trotsky, his role in the Bolshevik Party, his relations with Lenin and the political ideas, which he defended in his struggle against Stalin.

It has been written with all the limitations imposed on the opposition by 40 years of Stalinist censorship and historical distortion.

How different from the conscious distortions of Trotskyism carried out over a similar period by the leaders of the British Communist Party, who, if they wished, could have studied all the materials of both sides, without the state pressure of the bureaucracy intimidating them into supporting the Stalinist line.

The author answers very well the charge that Trotsky was a 'factionalist'.

It is well worth referring here to Lenin's comment on the unification of Trotsky's Petrograd group, the 'Mezhraiontsi' (literally 'interdistrict group') with the Bolshevik Party in 1917. It is to be found in the recently published volume 41 of the English Edition of Lenin's Collected Works:

'It goes without saying that from among the Mezhraiontsi who have been hardly tested in proletarian work in our Party's spirit, no one would contest the candidature of, say, Trotsky, for first, upon his arrival Trotsky at once took up an internationalist stand; second, he worked among the Mezhraiontsi for a merger; [with the Bolsheviks R.B.] third, in the difficult July days he proved himself equal to the task and

a loyal supporter of the Party of the revolutionary proletariat. Clearly, as much cannot be said about many of the new Party members entered on the list' (vol. 41, p. 447).

His role as founder and leader of the Red Army is restored to its correct importance, as is the depth of the political, as distinct from personal, differences between Trotsky and Stalin.

The author, most probably because of a lack of access to the writings of Trotsky, presents the programme of the Left Opposition mechanically.

It is true that Trotsky, with Lenin, insisted that socialism could not be constructed in the Soviet Union, or indeed in any single country, without the aid of the world revolution.

But, at the same time, Trotsky was the foremost advocate of planning and industrialization within the Soviet Union, and never argued that until the advent of the revolution in the west, the Soviet economy had to stagnate.

Likewise Stalin is credited with not rejecting internationalism, while giving priority to 'socialism in one country'.

'Socialism in one country' was, in its very essence, a rejection of proletarian internationalism, for it undermined and finally destroyed the revolutionary communist international of 1919-1922.

It was not a question of emphasis—less internationalism, more of 'socialism in one country'—but of a fundamental antagonism between the two programmes.

The document is correct when it states that many of Trotsky's supporters in the first years of the struggle against Stalin—Radek, Smilga and Preobrazhensky being among the most prominent—capitulated to the bureaucracy when it swung to the left after the collapse of

the right-wing course of 1924-1927.

Their motives for so doing were undoubtedly mixed, but it is not correct to say that Stalin's theory 'upheld the interests of the state' and for that reason some of Trotsky's ex-comrades rallied to the bureaucracy.

They doubtless thought that the dangers of capitalist restoration were so great in the period prior to Stalin's collectivization drive that political differences had to be sunk with Stalin in a common struggle against the Bukharin-led right wing of the Party.

Trotsky denounced them for this political capitulation to Stalin, though agreeing that the main danger to the Soviet state did come from the pro-kulak right wing of the Party.

Critical support for the Stalin-led centre by Trotsky never went so far as to submerge or renounce principled political and theoretical differences.

Stalin's zig-zags to left and right create the optical illusion—if Stalin is taken as the centre of the political universe—of a reverse series of zig-zags by the left opposition.

During the ultra-left phase of 1928-1934, Trotsky was indeed 'on the right' of Stalin and the Communist International, just as Lenin was 'on the right' of the ultra-lefts at the Third Congress of the Communist International in 1921.

The author of the article has obviously made a genuine attempt to understand the evolution of Trotskyism.

He has gained access to information—much of it obviously the garbled versions available in official Soviet attacks on Trotskyism—on the formation and activities of the Fourth International and the assassination of Trotsky by a Stalinist agent in 1940.

FRIDAY TV

I.T.V.

11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. Out Of School. 2.00 Racing From Sandown Park. 4.15 Children's Art Exhibition. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Lost In Space. 5.50 News. 7.00 Wheel Of Fortune. 7.30 Randal and Hopkirk (Deceased). 8.30 On The Buses. 9.00 Manhunt. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Parkin's Patch. 11.00 Aquarius. 11.45 Hogan's Heroes. 12.15 a.m. Outlook '70.

REGIONAL I.T.V.

CHANNEL: 1.30-3.30 p.m. Racing. 4.50 Puffin's Birthday Celebrations. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 News. 6.00 Channel News and Weather. 6.15 Channel Report. 6.25 Crossroads. 7.00 A Date With Danton. 7.05 On The Buses. 7.30 Marcus Welby MD. 8.30 Feature Film: 'Ruby Gentry' with Jennifer Jones, Charlton Heston and Karl Malden. 10.00 News. At Ten. 10.30 Parkin's Patch. 11.00 Aquarius. 11.40 News and Weather in French followed by Weather. SOUTHERN: 11.05 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 1.30-3.40 Racing. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 News. 4.17 Hatty Town. 4.20 Crossroads. 4.35 The Forest Rangers. 5.20 Captain Scarlet. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.00 Scene South-East. 6.40 Out Of Town. 7.00 On The Buses. 7.30 Marcus Welby MD. 8.30 Parkin's Patch. 9.00 London. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 London. 11.45 Weekend and Southern News Extra. 11.55 Weather followed by Inquiry Into Christmas. WESTWARD. As Channel, except at following times: 11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 1.30-3.35 Racing. 4.15 News followed by Hatty Town. 4.25 News. 5.00 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 Woodbirds—Animal Doctor. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsview. 6.05 The Beverly Hills. 6.30 On The Buses. 7.30 'Prince Of Pirates' with Barbara Rush and John Derek. 8.30 Cartoon Time. 9.00 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.15 The Big Valley. TYNE TEES: 11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 2.00 London. 4.08 News. 4.10 Felix The Cat. 4.40 London. 4.53 After. 4.55 Cowboy In Africa. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 The Beverly Hills. 7.00 Parkin's Patch. 7.30 On The Buses. 8.00 The Peyton Place Hour. 9.00 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.15 The Untouchables. 12.10 a.m. News. SCOTTISH: 11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 1.30-3.30 Racing. 3.40 The Saint. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Cowboy In Africa. 5.50 News. 6.00 Scottish News. 6.05 Hogan's Heroes. 6.30 Wheel Of Fortune. 7.00 Parkin's Patch. 7.30 Peyton Place Hour. 8.30 Cliff In Scotland. Cliff Richard. 9.00 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.15 Curry And Chips. 11.45 Late Call. GRANADA: 11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 1.30-3.35 Racing. 4.15 News followed by Hatty Town. 4.25 News. 5.00 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 Woodbirds—Animal Doctor. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsview. 6.05 The Beverly Hills. 6.30 On The Buses. 7.30 'Prince Of Pirates' with Barbara Rush and John Derek. 8.30 Cartoon Time. 9.00 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.15 The Big Valley. WYBERNET: 11.00 a.m.-12.28 p.m. London. 2.00 London. 4.08 News. 4.10 Felix The Cat. 4.40 London. 4.53 After. 4.55 Cowboy In Africa. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 The Beverly Hills. 7.00 Parkin's Patch. 7.30 On The Buses. 8.00 The Peyton Place Hour. 9.00 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.15 The Untouchables. 12.10 a.m. News.

B.B.C. 1

1.00 p.m. Ryan A Ronnie. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 1.55-2.40 Out Of School. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Crackerjack. 5.40 Junior Points Of View. 5.50 National News and Weather. 6.00 Entertaining With Kerr. 6.25 Television Brain Of Britain. 6.45 The Virginian. 7.55 Not In Front Of The Children. 8.25 Golden Silents. 8.50 The Main News and Weather. 9.10 The Survivors. 10.00 Come Dancing: West Midlands v. West England. 10.30 24 Hours. 11.05 Late Night Horror: 'The Triumph Of Death'.

B.B.C. 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.30 p.m. Newsroom and Weather. 8.00 Wheelbase. 8.25 Cold Comfort Farm. 9.10 Italian Cinema: Federico Fellini's 'La Strada' with Giulietta Masina, Anthony Quinn and Richard Basehart. The story of an unsuccessful travelling showman and his partner, a half-witted peasant girl. 10.50 News and Weather. 10.55 Line Up.



'Trotsky founded the Red Army and encouraged the development of young Red Army commanders, including Tukhachevsky.'



Volodarsky (left) and Uritsky were leading members of the 'Mezhraiontsi' group with which Trotsky worked to bring about its merger with the Bolshevik Party in 1917.

After a decade of principled and consistent development

Into the 1970s

THE MOST significant aspect of the work of the Socialist Labour League during the 1960s was, without doubt, its consistent struggle against the anti-Trotskyist revisionists, reformists and Stalinists.



BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

with the SWP in the autumn of 1963. The correctness of such a course was proved by the abject capitulation of the majority of the Ceylon LSSP who were collaborating with the SWP and the 'United Secretariat' openly joined the capitalist coalition of Mrs Bandaranaike in June 1964. The rich experiences from this betrayal were fully discussed at the Third Congress of the International Committee of the Fourth International, held in April, 1966. As part of the International Committee, and in close collaboration with our French and United States comrades, the SL has been in the front line of the fight in the international movement against the liquidationist effects of Pabloism. Compare this experience

know what they are fighting for. Our theoretical conflict against all the opponents of Marxism makes them aware of the real issues involved in the class struggle. Without this emphasis on prosecuting the struggle against revisionism, which appears to our opponents to be our 'bad side', it would not be possible to make the advances such as the publication of Workers Press. This insistence on theory has also found us on all important occasions during the 1960s advocating policies in line with the political development of the working class. Despite the sharpness of the split between the Young Socialists and the Labour Party right wing, we were in the forefront of the campaign for Labour to take the power

prices and incomes legislation in winter 1965 and our demonstration of January 26, 1966 was one of the largest held in Britain. We were foremost in the fight against the Devlin plan on the docks and the attempts by the Labour government to smash the seamen's strike in the summer of 1966. In 1968 and 1969, we fought continuously against the threat of anti-union legislation and, in the summer of 1969, called for an emergency Labour Party conference where there would be an opportunity to discuss this dangerous policy. Because of these campaigns we can see the reason for the popularity of our present 'Stop Wilson going to Washington' campaign. Throughout the long years of the Vietnam war, we have fought to relate the experience of the working class in Britain to what is taking place in Vietnam, thus establishing a bond of international solidarity, directed against the main capitalist enemy, which is at home. The fight for Marxist theory is inseparable from the development of revolutionary perspectives, which take into account the stages of political experience through which the working class is passing.

Theory

But it would be very wrong to idealize the British working class as such. If our advances have been considerable during the 1960s, they are still only part of the preparation for political battle against the traditional theoretical backwardness of the British labour movement. The idealist philosophy of the English radicals merges closely with this backwardness and is indeed the other side of the coin. The biggest danger of all today, is to become submerged in spontaneity in what is still a movement with a slow development of theoretical interest and the philosophy of dialectical materialism, especially on the part of the youth. There is no room for complacency. The SL and the YS will continue their success into the 1970s provided we wage a ruthless struggle against idealism and the anti-theory outlook of the British working class. There can be no establishment of alternative revolutionary leadership without this task being clearly understood. The 1960s were the most fruitful ever in the history of British Trotskyism. We face the 1970s with confidence.



One of many SLL and YS demonstrations which included demands after 1966 that the 'left' MPs fight for socialist policies against the government's treacherous anti-working class policies.

on a socialist programme. This, we believe, was absolutely necessary in order to take the working class through the experience of reformism in action. When it was clear to advanced workers that the Wilson leadership had become a tool of the international bankers and were betraying the movement, we called upon the 'left' MPs to fight Wilson and change the Labour Party leadership, thus preventing a Tory government from returning to Parliament. The Communist Party and the revisionists opposed this policy and in doing so provided a left cover for Wilson. We were the first to begin the campaign against the

Contrast

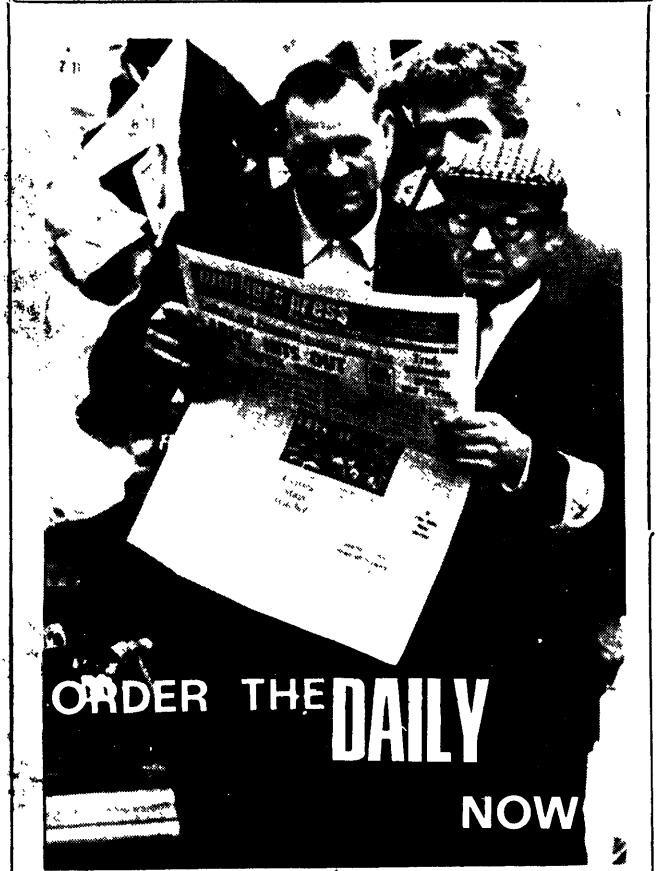
Despite all the claims by the revisionists that the student protest movement would hasten the revolution, their own forces not only remain pitifully small, but immersed in acute crisis as well. Contrast such a record with ours. In August 1964 at the time when Wilson was expelling the Young Socialists, we began a campaign to establish a daily newspaper within five years. This was laughed at by our opponents. It was an 'idle boast' they said. The turn on the part of the Young Socialists to work in the trade unions after their expulsion from the Labour Party was seen quite rightly by the SLL as the beginning of an entirely new chapter of British Trotskyism, one that would require a daily political newspaper. The Workers' Press appeared on September 27, 1969, exactly five years and one month after we decided to go ahead and publish it. This tremendous achievement was only possible because the political leadership provided by our movement was correct. Our members fight harder than anyone else because they

with that of those movements who do not believe in the development of theory. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament entered the 1960s in a position where it could mobilize half a million people in its annual demonstration. This movement has now, to all intents and purposes, disappeared as an effective force. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign which followed it has had a similar fate.

Education The experience provided the invaluable education for the Young Socialists, when, in the summer of 1964, Wilson and the Labour Party right wing set about expelling its leadership. The Young Socialists had won a majority for their policies and correctly believed that these were vital to the future of the Labour government. That is why they chose expulsion and split from the Labour Party, rather than capitulate to the treachery of Wilson. The revisionists joined hands with 'Tribune' and the right wing by making continuous pleas not to 'rock the boat' in election year. (They supported the expulsion of the YS.) Three years later in 1967, many of these same people slunk out of the Labour Party without making a single issue on policy and without one of their members being expelled because they fought for policy. That was the experience of the state capitalist 'International Socialist' group. In the winter of 1964 they announced that the Young Socialists would not last a few weeks but as we enter 1970 our youth have launched the biggest and most ambitious programme in its entire history. This success of the Young Socialists was owed entirely to the struggle for Marxist principles. Opposed Within the international Trotskyist movement, the SLL, from the end of 1960, began to oppose the tendency on the part of its former collaborators, the Socialist Workers' Party of the United States, to politically capitulate to Pabloism. This led to a serious split



In September 1964, soon after the Young Socialists had defeated the Labour Party right wing—which then began a series of expulsions—a giant rally and demonstration was held in London, warning of the forthcoming betrayals of a Labour government. In the same year the idea of a daily paper was projected.



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Trade unionists say 'No!' to T.U.C. 'guidelines'

I MUST agree with Bro. McLatchie in his comment on the TUC 'guidelines'—'finally the shop floor must decide' (Workers Press, December 30). The TUC seems to think that they and they only must take decisions. They want to cut down on the power of the shop floor because workers are getting too militant and the capitalists want to crack down. It has been shop-floor meetings and activities that have got the advances in the time that I have been in this factory. I was a seaman for four years and I knew then we could not do much about grievances such as arbitrary logging and fines. The biggest weapon the

bosses had against us was that it was illegal to hold meetings on the ship and to take action. Even now, when seamen have got representatives aboard ship (by their own action and not through the TUC and union leaders), they still cannot take immediate action on grievances—which means the employer has still got the whip hand. The employers and the TUC want to put all workers in the same position as the seamen—a position where we cannot

take immediate action. The big combines and their minions have Barbara Castle and trade union leaders representing them in the labour movement. Therefore workers of all companies and unions should fight for a leadership that speaks for them and them alone. Jim Pape AEF shop steward, Lucas Industrial Equipment, Fazakerley, Liverpool.

THREE of the 'four most dangerous points' mentioned in your article on the TUC 'guidelines' are already contained in the AEF's National Agreements handbook, the exception being ballots before strikes. To a large extent these have been got round up to now by strong shop-floor organization, and militancy—i.e. ignoring the rules and making them up as you go along. This stage of the battle seems to have ended. Capitalism can no longer afford to give a bit here and there to buy off struggles. Therefore these rules and agreements will be used more and more to discipline workers and frustrate their actions. If we look at the date and period when the national engineering agreements were signed, we see that it was during the period of reaction

after the First World War. At this time the AEU, as it then was, was negotiating not rises, but cuts in wages. For instance: July-August, 1921 . . . after discussions with the employers, a reduction of 3s. in the basic rate. November - December, 1921 and January, 1922 . . . reduction of 12½ per cent off time-workers and 71 per cent off piece-workers. (Then the Negotiation and Procedure Agreement, signed on June 22, 1922.) August-September, 1922 . . . more reductions. Now in 1970 we have a period when workers have had no decisive defeats; when trade unionism is at its strongest ever, and now Messrs 'Generals' of the TUC are trying to force these re-

actionary, criminal agreements on all workers. This is their plan of battle in the coming offensive. The only conclusion to draw from this is they are the direct agents of the capitalist class inside the working-class movement. Dave Coventry, F. White, T. Moss and G. N. Edson, AEF shop stewards, Skelmersdale, Lancashire.

ATUA-YS PUBLIC MEETINGS Stop Wilson's visit to Washington BIRKENHEAD Monday, January 5 8 p.m. Observatory Hotel Oxtou Road OXFORD Tuesday, January 6 7.30 p.m. Small Hall Blackbird Leys Community Centre Speakers: J. Power (leading local trade unionist) P. R. Bush (Young Socialist)

KEEP LEFT WEEKEND RALLY

Saturday and Sunday, January 10 and 11 1970 marks the 19th year of the Young Socialists' official newspaper. Selling at 4d for 16 three-colour pages and with a circulation of 20,000, it is the foremost youth paper in the labour movement today.

KEEP LEFT INVITES ALL ITS READERS TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, January 10 2.30 p.m. East India Hall, East India Dock Road London, E.14

Young Socialist National Speaking Contest DANCE IN THE EVENING East India Hall 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

The Crescendos The Element of Truth Special appearance LONG JOHN BALDRY East India Hall 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

FILM MAKING AND THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

CLASSIC CINEMA, POND STREET HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, N.W.3

STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT! FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM!

DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY JAN. 11 ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M. MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street. MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M. Details from 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 Tickets for the whole weekend 12s 6d

TRADE unionists should study the record of the Communist Party and the All Trades Union Alliance on the issue of the state and the trade unions. At every stage the ATUA has pointed the way forward through independent class action, while the CP has led straight into the latest trap—the TUC 'guidelines'. In Sheffield, the Stalinists were largely responsible for the 'left-unity' campaign which had as its purpose certain electoral goals in the unions. The most important of these was the election of Hugh Scanlon as AEF president. The Party then covered up for the engineers' 1968 wage settlement and Scanlon's acceptance of 'strings'. Its response to the movement in the working class against the government's proposed anti-union legislation was to mobilize workers on a

Stay home

FROM PAGE ONE that no cars could be produced. At Dagenham, there was a 20 per cent failure to turn in among the plant's 25,000 workers. Some 3,000 workers took yesterday off from Austin's Longbridge, plant. Car components workers at Birmingham's Lucas factories—5,000 of them—were not at work. Hundred of South Wales miners also observed the unofficial holiday. National Coal Board officials were unable to give exact figures. Several hundred steelmen at Newport's Spencer works were also away from work.

WEATHER

London area, SE and central southern England: Dull, misty. Occasional sleet or snow later. Wind westerly light or moderate. Cold. Maximum 5C (37F). E and W Midlands, central northern England: Dull and misty with occasional sleet or snow. Clearer later. Wind westerly light or moderate veering northerly later. Rather cold. Maximum 4C (39F). Channel Islands, SW England: Cloudy occasional rain or drizzle. Wind westerly light or moderate. Milder. Maximum 6C (43F). NW England, Glasgow area, N. Ireland: Rain or drizzle at first with snow on high ground. Becoming brighter with sunny periods and scattered showers. Wind westerly veering northerly moderate or fresh. Near normal. Maximum 6C (43F). Edinburgh: Rain or snow at first, then showers and bright intervals. Wind west veering northerly fresh locally strong. Below normal. Maximum 5C (41F). Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Cold northerly winds. Snow or hail showers in the North and East, but also sunny periods especially in the West. Widespread frost.

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