Margaret Thatcher: going, going...

Labour, Tories offer war, slump, inflation

Plenty of people will be happy to see the back of Maggie Thatcher, the vicious "butcher of the Belgrano", ghoul of King's Cross, raving anti-worker twine. But the attempted purge of Thatcher is being engineered by those who seek to restore an effective bourgeois authority. Thus, among the most vehement exponents of anti-Thatcherism is the Independent, which is also among the most rabid supporters of an imperialist military adventure in the Middle East.

It is not an accident that the government crisis broke out at a time of sharp economic downturn, with the unemployment rate recording its largest monthly increase in four years. Recession and the Gulf crisis are rendering many governments in the imperialist West shaky - from Bush in the US to Mitterrand's France. The weak British economy, ravaged by decades of capitalist neglect and devastation, offers no easy options to the bosses. Industry has been cut to the bone, rail and transport starved of investment, and industrial murder has become commonplace, from the North Sea to London Underground.

The executive committee of the British bourgeoisie are telling Thatcher that her services are no longer required as they rearm in the face of depression and impending war. What they have in mind is a regime better capable of waging the capitalist offensive against the working class and the poor - to cut jobs, to lower wages and if necessary to send them off as cannon fodder. As the Sunday Times (18 November) wrote in its editorial "A reluctant goodbye" of the Thatcher regime: "It now presides over an economy mired in stagflation. The poll tax - the conception of which was a mistake, its birth a mess and its infancy an expensive embarrassment - has proved to be the most unpopular tax in modern British history. All the perfumes in the government's boudoir cannot make it smell sweet."

The emerging dominant political forces are a more mainstream Tory party and a very right-wing Kinnockite Labour Party, whose policies are almost interchangeable. And whether a new government were to be headed by Kinnock or a Hurd or Heseltine, it is almost irrelevant, running a poor third behind Labour and the bourgeois nationalist SNP.
On the first day of its autumn term, the United States Supreme Court shut its door to another political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. On 1 October the court denied Jamal’s petition for review of his conviction and death sentence. Jamal, 36, had challenged the overtly political basis of his conviction and the exclusion of eleven prospective jurors solely because they are black, a challenge going to the heart of the racist political basis of his conviction and the action clears the way for Pennsylvania governor Robert Casey to sign a warrant of execution.

Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Jamal, a former Black Panther Party spokesman and supporter of the MOVE organisation, was president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists at the time of his 1981 arrest. Jamal became known as the “voice of the voiceless” because he spoke out for the poor and oppressed minorities, first from the streets and then from his radio booth. Because he was an outspoken critic of racist cop terror, he was framed on charges of killing a Philadelphia policeman.

Defeat imperialist aggression

As the United States, Britain and their allies invade the Persian Gulf, we defend the Iraqi and Arab peoples against American colonialist aggression, and want to see the defeat and humiliation of the imperialists’ military adventure. When Mussolini’s Italy invaded Ethiopia, a feudal kingdom, in the mid-1930s, Trotsky supported the Ethiopian resistance and condemned those leftists, such as James Maxton of the British Independent Labour Party, who took a neutral stand on the ground that both sides were reactionary despots. We print below part of Trotsky’s “A Letter to an English Comrade”.

It is with great astonishment that I read the report of the conference of the Independent Labour Party in the mid-1936, 1936. I really never entertained any illusions about the pacifist parliamentarians who run the ILP. But their political position and their whole conduct at the conference exceed even those bounds that can usually be expected of them. I am sure that you and your friends have drawn approximations to the same conclusions as we have here. Nevertheless, I cannot refrain from making several observations.

Maxton and the others opine that the Italo-Ethiopian war is “a conflict between two rival dictators.” To these politicians it appears that this fact relieves the proletariat of the duty of making a choice between two dictators. They thus define the character of the war by the political form of the state, in the course of which they themselves regard this political form in a quite superficial and purely descriptive manner, without taking into consideration the social foundations of both “dictatorships.” A dictator can also play a very progressive role in history; for example, Oliver Cromwell, Robespierre, etc. On the other hand, right in the midst of the English democracy Lloyd George exercised a highly reactionary dictatorship during the war. Should a dictator place himself at the head of the next uprising of the Indian people in order to smash the British yoke—would Maxton then refuse this dictator his support? Yes or no? If not, why does he refuse his support to the Ethiopian “dictator” who is attempting to cast off the Italian yoke?

If Mussolini triumphs, it means the reinforcement of fascism, the strengthening of imperialism, and the discouragement of the colonial peoples in Africa and elsewhere. The victory of the Negus (Ethiopian ruler Haile Selassie), however, would mean a mighty blow not only at Italian imperialism but at imperialism as a whole, and would lend a powerful impulsion to the rebellious forces of the oppressed peoples. One must really be completely blind not to see this.

Leon Trotsky, “On Dictators and the Heights of Oslo” (April 1936)

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Workers Vanguard


ty is “irrelevant”, and now refuses to hear an appeal about the deliberate exclusion of blacks from the jury that convicted Jamal.

The same day the Court turned down Jamal it also refused to review the death sentence of Joseph Giarratano, who has won wide acclaim as a self-taught legal expert who, while behind bars, has pre-

pared sophisticated legal papers for numerous inmates. Despite widespread support from liberals and conservatives alike, the Court rejected Giarratano’s request for a new trial because his lawyers in earlier stages of his case failed to raise the constitutional violations he cited.

If “Judge Death” Rehnquist is driving the “execution express”, Congress is feverishly stoking its engines. In the Senate confirmation hearings for newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Souter they didn’t even question his support for capital punishment. And on 4 October the Democratic-controlled House passed by a two-to-one margin an “anti-crime” bill which expanded the list of federal crimes to carry the death sentence. As frustrated Congressional opponents sarcastically chanted “Kill! Kill! Kill!” Wisconsin Representative David Obey ac-

Workers Vanguard
Anti-Semitism stalks Europe
Workers, minorities must crush fascist vermin!

Emboldened by resurgent pro-capitalist reaction in Eastern Europe and the imperialist triumphant over the "death of communism", the anti-Semites and fascists in Britain have crawled from the sewers and stepped up their attacks. As in France, where last May fascists exhumed and impaled the corpse of an old man at a Jewish cemetery in Carpentras, the skinhead and fascist Searchlight spew out their murderous race-hate campaigns against Asian, black, Arab and African peoples an increasing number of attacks against Jewish people, their synagogues and cemeteries.

Last month, the anti-fascist journal Searchlight reported the ominous chronicler of anti-Semitic attacks this year; the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Edmonton, North London twice; 25 headstones smashed in a Jewish cemetery in Leeds and daubed with "Crystal Night 90" (a reference to Kristallnacht, when in 1938 the Nazis unleashed state-sponsored terror against Jews). In Chelmsford, a Jewish schools were threatened with burning if he didn't leave the school and in London's Stamford Hill area, Hasidic Jews have been the targets of escalating attacks. On one occasion, however, two men caught defacing a car were surrounded by 20 Hasidics who lined them over to the cops after giving them a lesson first. But what has caused particular outrage in the Jewish community was an attack in which Jewish school-children were sprayed with a CS gas-like substance. As in the Glasgow and London branches as well as helping the workers, minorities must crush fascist vermin!

Workers Hammer greets our new subscribers

Congratulations to all comrades on the successful completion of the autumn 1990 Workers Hammer subscription drive. Participating along with the Glasgow and London branches of the Spartacist League/Union were the members of the newly-formed Dublin Spartacist Youth Group (DSYG). We exceeded our overall quota of 340 points by 35 per cent with a total of 430 points.

In addition to the 157 single subs to Workers Hammer, we also sold 66 joint subs to Workers Hammer and Workers Vanguard (fortnightly newspaper of the Spartacist League/US) and 67 subscriptions to Women and Revolution, journal of the Women's Commission of the SL/US. Comrade Debbie was the top sub seller with 570 points. We welcome our new readers and those who have renewed their subscriptions to our unique Marxist publications.

Concentrating on expanding our readership in Scotland and reinforcing our Glasgow branch as well as helping the DSYG with their first subscription drive meant that our regional trips in England were less extensive this year. Thirty-nine points were sold on the Leeds trip, centred on the university, while at the universities of Kent and Oxford we sold 30 and 20 points respectively. Door-to-door sales of subs in Southall not only brought in new subscribers from the predominantly Asian working-class neighbourhood but also resulted in renewing existing readers. The London campuses accounted for some 37 points, particularly among students at the London School of Economics and Goldsmiths College.

Highlights of the Glasgow sub drive included the regional trips to Aberdeen and St Andrews University. Twenty-one points were sold in Aberdeen, mainly to students at the university; this was a follow-up to an earlier successful trip in August where we sold subscriptions to striking oilworkers. At St Andrews, we sold 13 points, mainly to students at the school. We continued on page 9
Workers Power in Germany: taking it easy with Gysi

Arbeitermacht joins the PDS

The Spartakist-Arbeiterpartei Deutschlands (SpAD) is currently standing in the 2 December Bundestag elections on a class-struggle programme to fight the consequences of unification under capitalism (see “For workers resistance East and West!” WH no 117, October). We print below an article from our SpAD comrades exposing the contours of the German affiliates of Workers Power.

The group of anti-Soviet right-wing moving centrists around the journal Arbeitermacht, German organ of the League for a Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI) has applied to join the PDS and build a “Trotskyst Platform” in it. Those familiar with Arbeitermacht know that the LRCI rabbily denounced the SED-PDS and saw, not capitalist reunification, but “Stalinism” as the main danger facing the working people in the DDR. So what has changed? The LRCI has evidently decided that the PDS has crossed the Rubicon of social democratisation.

In the critical months leading up to the 18 March DDR elections, which marked a decisive electoral victory for the forces of capitalist reunification, Arbeitermacht was second to none in screaming for the annihilation of capitalist reunification, Arbeitermacht wanted to confront the SED administration with the unification under capitalism (see article from our SpAD comrades exposing the contours of unification under capitalism).

Workers Power, the SDP, was second to none in screaming for a decisive electoral victory for the forces of capitalist reunification, Arbeitermacht for imprisonment in order to reaffirm the DDR. So what has changed? The LRCI has evidently decided that the PDS has capitulated to capitalist Anschluss, PDS leader Gysi (below, left).

For the PDS as a contribution to resolving the current crisis of the left (Arbeitermacht, no 10, 09 October). No call for a break with the party and its cringing reformist leadership. Here, Gysi & Co talk about the “renewal” of the PDS.

Arbeitermacht’s “revolutionary” intransigence corresponds only to the period when the SED-PDS was under heavy fire from the bourgeoisie and its social-democratic lackeys and the DDR deformed workers state had not yet been destroyed. The 3 January Treptow anti-fascist demonstration was a turning point; this powerful pro-Soviet mobilisation of 250,000 could have rallied workers resistance to capitalist reunification. That’s why the bourgeoisie hated it, and why the PDS repudiated it.

Arbeitermacht has claimed that it supported Treptow. It would be bad for their “left” image to simply denounce the largest anti-fascist demonstration in German history. But the LRCI’s international leadership declares that it was possible that “the state used agents provocateurs to exaggerate the impact of the Republikaner in the DDR” (Trotskyst Internationale no 5, Autumn 1990)—almost word for word the same as the reactionary Bildzeitung, which labelled the desecration of the monument to the Soviet war dead (to which the demonstration responded) a “Stasi trick”.

Trotskyst Internationale goes on, “It was essential for revolutionaries to call for independent working class mobilisation against both the fascists and the state.” In other words, the LRCI was actually advocating support for the SED-PDS, and for an imaginary “third camp” which is but a “left” variant of the bourgeois/social-democratic smear campaign against Treptow. For the LRCI the main enemy was the Stasi, not the fascists; the bankruptcy of this line is evident today as brutal containment by fascist scum against leftists, immigrants and Soviet soldiers multiply.

The PDS leadership collapsed under the pressure of the anti-Treptow campaign and forewarned any such mobilisation for the future. Initially, by April, after the PDS’ abject capitulation to the imperialist stance for capitalist reunification, the Little England Labour Party leftists of Workers Power began to call on the PDS and SPD to “use their votes” as an opposition in the Volkskammer and to “table pro-working class legislation.” The stage was set for Modrow’s declaration of support to “Germany, united fatherland” a historic betrayal, which together with Gorbatchev’s green light for capitalist reunification, accelerated the collapse of the DDR deformed workers state.

Neither of these capitulations is even mentioned in the “Call for the formation of a Trotskyist Platform”! And Arbeitermacht is not just “taking it easy with Gysi” here, because they never forthrightly opposed capitalist reunification. The article in Trotskyst Internationale no 5 is tantamount to support for German reunification. [Treptow] also tended to con­demn the left in their view that support for national unification was tantamount to support for Nazism, a Fourth Reich. This sectarian attitude served to deepen the gulf already existing between the mass movement and the left.

Presumably by “mass movement” LRCI means the orgies of German nationalism which took place at the rallies in Leipzig. Sure enough, the “non-sectarian” LRCI published an “action pro­gramme” in August, reprinted in Trotsky­ist International no 5, which whines, “No to the incitement of unification” (our emphasis). In the tradition of Kautsky, the LRCI wanted super-“demo­cratic” Anarchists: “For free elections, without restrictions, to all German constituent assembly.”

The constant references to “Soviet occupation” in LRCI publications (language usually used by German fascists) demonstrates not only rabid anti-Sovietism, but capitulation to German
nationalism. Arbeitermacht continually raised the cry of "freedom for oppressed nations of Germany, putting up peasant/forces and the Red Army on a campaign against Germany, that there are no "Third Reich" on earth. Does the LRCI believe, with Reichskanzler Kohl, in the "mercy of a last birth" for Germany in NATO? Their section followed the social democracy in publicly demanding the resignation of Kohl and Modrow.

The bourgeoisie has targeted the PDF for destruction in its new Reich. As would-be members of this party, Arbeitermacht signals its service to the PDF in the hope that the anti-Soviet imperialism is not bloody, not thorough, enough, who criticise Gysi for letting the PDF's money-which the party leader has been loyally supported by the Labour Party-into the expropriation of the workers state. In a leaflet Arbeitermacht called for the defence of the PDF—... all the PDF's top cop in Berlin who launched the raid. While revolutionaries point out the danger political and military leaders see of the resistance (pillaging incursion), and seek to win the trade unions to united-front defence of the PDF, Arbeitermacht is not on the PDF's side. In the fact that the entire SPD leadership has been the driving force in the expropriation of the PDF and its call on the PDF is thus pure cynicism.

In the next week, the Gysi/Brice leadership threw SPD treasurers Pohl and Langnitsche to the bourgeois wolves, and instead brought the PDF back into SPD headquarter for another razzia. The November Arbeitermacht passed off this criminal capitalization as "the peaceful leadership... sacrificing comrades as scapegoats for their own mistakes". As for Gysi, they write, "We criticize Gysi for letting the myrmidons of the state freely enter party headquarters".

Arbeitermacht was more interested in the "peaceful leadership... thug's structures which are part of the actions of Pohl and Langnitsche possible". They call for control of PDS money by "democratically-elected representatives of the workers from the factories". If the "whole class" decides to send SPD or CDU representatives to sneeze in the PDF books that's just fine by Arbeitermacht! The LRCI believes the adjective "workers" transforms an imperialist slogans into a revolutionary one—"workers sanctions", "workers ballot", etc. Why don't they raise the call "For a workers witchhunt against the PDF?"

As the PDF leadership plots the capture on capitulation in a vain attempt to appease the bourgeoisie, Arbeitermacht knocks on the door to join in this crawling "renewal", taking as their model toothless "oppositionists" like the "Communist Platform", which has yet to seriously oppose a single one of the Gysi leadership's betrayals. In Arbeitermacht's leaflet written after the 19 October raid, they say, "Despite all the affirmations of conformity to the constitution by the party executive, despite all the reformist "easy solutions" to the meanings of the "social market economy", despite all the bowing to German unity, the PDF, by its existence alone, is still a threat to the smooth functioning of social partnership democracy la Bonn."

"By its existence alone"? Trotsky wrote: "the historical crisis of mankind is reduced to the crisis of the revolutionary leadership". The misleadership of the PDF has repeatedly stabbed the fight to organise workers resistance against the Fourth Reich in the back. But that is what the LRCI finds so appealing? To the LRCI, such betrayals demonstrate that the PDF has "broken with Stalinism". For the LRCI, which considers the overthrow of capitalism in the wake of the smashing of Hitler's Third Reich by the Soviet Red Army to be "counterrevolutionary" (not to mention a "reactionary denial of the right of self-determination"), that's the decisive question.

Trotsky made the point that the social-democratic and Stalinist reformists were equal betrays of the proletariat. There was only the difference that the Stalinists rested on the gains of October, proletarian state power. The LRCI proves that Stalinophobia is in essence opposition, not to Stalinism, but to the dictatorship of the proletariat as such. When the PDF is no longer in power, and the DDR destroyed, then it becomes supportable for the LRCI.

They deserve Gysi, but rank and file militants in the PDF who have had enough of his belly-crawling, who want to fight against the Fourth Reich, for a communist future should look to the genuine Trotskyist programme of the Spartacist beispieldemokratie Deutschland and the International Communist League (Fourth International).
The militants of the years of efforts to rediscover the programme of the newly founded Trotskyist movement, initially a somewhat heterogeneous grouping which sought to function as a left wing within the youth organisation of the Polish United Workers’ Party (PZPR—the ruling Stalinist party). Seeking the road to proletarian internationalism, our new Polish comrades came into conflict with the Stalinist nationalist perversion of Marxism and with the deeply nationalist pro-Solidarność left. They were excluded from a May Day demonstration in 1988 for carrying banners hailing Lenin, Luxemburg and Liebknecht, revolutionary leaders. As opposed to workers and the working class.

Three W’s”—Adolf Warski, Henryk Walecki and Wera Kostrzewa of the Solidarność, leader Lech Walesa (right) flaunts money from Western backers.

New York, September 1981: Spartacists opposed power grab by reactionary Solidarność, company union for the CIA and capitalist bankers. Solidarność leader Lech Walesa (right) flaunts money from Western backers.

**Between Young Left Movement of Poland and ICL**

1. From October 1971 on, capitalism has sought to create the world historic achievements of the Russian Revolution. The restoration of capitalism would mean massive immiserisation and unemployment of the working people, bringing back all the backwardness and chauvinism of the past, and preparations for a new inter-imperialist war. We Trotskyists stand for unconditional military defence of the Soviet Union and the deformed workers states against imperialism and internal counterrevolution.

2. In Poland the primary agency for counterrevolution has been Solidarność, aided and abetted by imperialism, the Vatican and social democracy. By the time of its first congress in 1981, Solidarność had consolidated behind a programme of social counterrevolution: support to anti-communist “free trade unions”, restoration of capitalism through bourgeois parliamentarism, and liquidation of the planned economy. Had Solidarność been victorious, it would as well have threatened the existence of the other deformed workers states, placing in the hands of the imperialists the main supply and communication routes between the Soviet Union and the DDR, then the front line state confronting NATO. At that time the international Spartacist tendency (St, now the ICL) demanded “Stop Solidarność Counterrevolution” and supported Jaruzelski’s preventive military coup, while fighting for a proletarian political revolution to oust the parasitic bureaucracy. The RML [Young Left Movement] agrees with this position. These events were as an acid test for all would-be revolutionaries; it is necessary to swim against the stream when the Marxist programme stands counterposed to the existing consciousness of the overwhelming bulk of the workingclass.

3. We reject the claims of fake-leftists that counterrevolutionary Solidarność was leading a “proletarian political revolution” in 1981. A genuine proletarian political revolution is premied on the defence of the collectivised property relations. As opposed to workers “self-management”, which in reality means the introduction of capitalist property relations through the pitting of workers in different enterprises against each other, we stand for a planned, socialised economy (including the collectivisation of agriculture) free of Stalinist bureaucratic parasitism, arbitration and national authority. The basic direction of the economy and society must be decided through workers democracy, that is, by rule of workers councils.

4. True to the programme of the early Communist Party, the ICL stands for world socialist revolution. In contrast, Stalin’s dogma of “socialism in one country” is a nationalistic, anti-socialist...
The following letter was addressed to the 
Spartakist Workers Party of 
Germany.

Wrocław
29 July 1990

To Comrade Spartacists,

As young people, who during their 
studies have arrived, thanks to their 
own efforts and searching, to Trotskyism, 
that forgotten tradition and modern 
revolutionary current of the 
workers movement, we read with interest 
your publications. As far as we know, 
you are the only group which commemorates the anniversary of the 
deaths of Lenin, Luxemburg, Liebknecht. It so happens that we too have 
remembered this anniversary in Poland.

So for your interest, on the 1st of 
May 1988, we were thrown off an 
ofﬁcial demonstration in Warsaw for 
having banners, one of which was about 
"Lenin, Luxemburg, Liebknecht." On 
the 70th anniversary of the death of R. 
Luxemburg and K. Liebknecht we have 
issued a leaflet on the streets of Wro-
cław in dedication to their memory. 
We have organized a series of meetings 
with slides from the German and 
Polish press, in which we have 
documented this forgotten tradition. 
Thanks to you our access to this tradition 
became wider.

In the Trotskyist movement in Po-
land, we often meet with activists who 
have a "Solidarność" pedigree, or in 
any case put all their hopes in "Solidar-
ność". Until now it is difficult for them to 
slade these illusions. Either they 
do not know or they deliberately sup-
press the reality of our true tradition 
(for "tactical" reasons). It is increasing-
ly more difﬁcult for us to have a com-
mon language with them.

We are hearing proposals to sup-
press your position, which they consid-
er as "discrediting the Trotskyist move-
ment" (!). Discussion is cut short at the 
very moment that it should have 
started.

The threat to the workers states by 
German imperialism against which you are 
warning is in Poland used to fuel 
nationalistic hysteria. Our aim is to op-
pose it with an internationalist stand 
calling for a common defense of the 
gains of workers revolution on this and 
the other side of the Oder. We express 
full support to your struggle.

With internationalist greetings, 
AJ, RK

[Confederation for an Independent Po-
land] vermin here to the Great Russian 
chaunists of Pamyat. For workers uni-
ted fronts to smash the fascists! Workers 
in Poland: smash chauvinist attacks on 
Jewish people, Ukrainians, Gypsies, ho-
mosexuals! Honour the heroic ﬁghters of 
the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943! 
Defend leftists and former members of 
the PZPR [Polish United Workers Party] 
against anti-communist witchhunts! For 
class struggle against attempts to dis-
mantle social gains of the collectivised 
economy; for factory occupations and 
strikes against privatisation and plant 
shutdowns!
8. In East Germany what began as a 
political revolution turned into a capital-
ist counterrevolution. This defeat for 
the workers movement has whetted the appe-
tites of the Fourth Reich of German 

ist lie aimed at conciliating imperialism. 
The Gorbachev bureaucracy's appeasement 
of imperialism and its undermining of 
the collectivised economy, unleashing 
bloody national and ethnic conﬂicts, 
threatens the very existence of the 
homeland of October. The Polish Stalinites, 
who managed the escape to the West-
era bankers and drove the working class 
into the arms of the CIA and Vatican, are 
self-evidently politically bankrupt. 
Those who have paved the way for capi-
talist restoration cannot lead the struggles 
to beat it back.
5. Posed pointblank is the need to build 
an authentic Trotskyist vanguard party in 
Poland, part of a reforged Fourth Inter-
national. But we reject the idea of a "family of Trotskyisms"; genuine Trotsky-
ism has nothing in common with such 
pro-Solidarność purveyors of anti-Soviet-
ism as the followers of Nahuel Moreno 
and the United Secretariat [USec] of 
Ernest Mandel, who in 1983 hailed the 
Solidarność leadership as the "best so-
cialists in the world". The RML, a group 
known for honouring the communist 
leaders Lenin, Luxemburg and Liebknecht, 
came to recognise that Trotskyism 
represented the continuation of the 
revolutionary traditions of the "3 Ls". The 
RML ﬁrst came into contact with the 
programme of the ICL while it was enga-
ged in discussions with the Morenoleits. 
Particularly decisive in winning it to the 
programme of the ICL were (a) agree-
ment over the character of Solidarność 
and (b) the RML's support to the "Trots-
kyist Platform" published by the Trotsky-
ist Faction of the Mexican POS, which 
subsequently fused with the Grupo Espar-
taquita de México.
6. A Trotskyist party must be a tribute of 
the people, championing all victims of 
oppression. The drive to restore capital-
ism revives and intensiﬁes all the "old 
crap" of the pre-war social order, from 
reactionary clericalism to Pilsudskiite 
nationalism and anti-Semitism. As Rosa 
Luxemburg wrote in 1905: "The clergy, 
no less than the capitalist class, lives on 
the backs of the people, proﬁts from the 
degradation, the ignorance and the op-
pression of the people." The Catholic 
hierarchy, conciliated by the Stalinites, has 
long exercised decisive inﬂuence over 
Solidarność. Clerical reaction particularly 
targets women. Smash the attacks on 
abortion rights! For free abortion on 
demand! For free 24-hour childcare facili-
ties! For the strict separation of church 
and state! Down with the conservative 
Stalinist dogma that glorifies the institu-
tion of the family, the main social institu-
tion oppressing women. Only the achieve-
ment of a genuine socialist society, based 
on material abundance and egalitarian-
ism, can truly liberate women.
7. We honour the 600,000 soldiers of 
the Red Army who died liberating Poland 
from the Nazis. But today the forces of 
capitalist restoration have fuelled the 
growth of virulent anti-Semitism, from 
skinhead Nazis in Germany to the KPN 

Top: Polish 
railway workers in 
Szczytno strike in 
May against 
Solidarność. 

Communist 
capitalist "shock 
treatment". 

Bottom: women 
with pickled 
vegetables to 
survive.

La Bochiche

Warsaw monument to 
1943 Ghetto rising, 
executed by 
Jewish survivors in 1945.

November/December 1990
Labour, Tories... (Continued from page 1)

needed to administer the degrading capitalist society. Unlike the Labourite fake lefts, many of whom are dizzy with delight over the prospect of a general election and Labour victory, we say the truth. For the working masses the choice between loyalty to the Tories or the knife of the Labour Party is no choice at all! We need a revolutionary party committed to the only solution to the crisis of imperialist war, racism and economic immiseration: proletarian revolution.

Tory power struggle

For many disdained Tory MPs, naked self-interest was motive enough to back the internal revolt. Crushing by-election defeats in Eastbourne, Bradford and Bournemouth, as well as umpteen public opinion polls make abundantly clear that Thatcher is an electoral liability. The Thatcherites, of course, did not take Heseltine’s challenge lying down. The ever scurrilous Sun ran a front page headline characterising Heseltine’s three chief lieutenants as “The Bungler, the Adulterer and the Joker.” A few die-hard right-wingers threatened a split, while Thatcher's three chief lieutenants as threatened a split, while erecting a “fortress Europe” against dark-skinned immigrants (and those from Eastern Europe) far from Leeds. The government’s upping of living standards, as the Labour bureaucrats claim, it will mean the opposite. Thus, one of the central purposes of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) is to prohibit devaluations of currency and instead to force competitive industries to close down or lay off workers. In anticipation of this, the TUC recently offered to negotiate lower wages in exchange for meaningless promises of job security. Although contemptuously dismissed by the Thatcher government, in reality this is an attempt to reintroduce “wage controls, like the infamous ‘social contract’”, under the guise of making British capitalism “more competitive”.

Heseltine & Kinnock—birds of a feather

When Thatcher quipped that Heseltine had the same politics as Labour, she was right. But she was also much more critical of him, who despises both Kinnock and his henchmen for enforcing this onerous tax, on a national level. Pech in politics, Sun shows that Labour has a huge lead over the Tories, but that could easily change if the Conservatives dump Thatcher before the general election... In fact, there wouldn’t be much difference between a government headed by Heseltine, and a Kinnock Labour government.

Both Kinnock and Heseltine promise to modernise the country’s infrastructure through a “partnership” between industry and government, importing German or Japanese-style capitalism with their higher living standards to boot. This is pure poppycock. Under capitalism the bosses own where they can make a profit, and Britain’s clapped-out productive base is too weakened to offer much of that. In reality, any new economic miracle will be paid for by sweating it out of the hides of the working class.

Heseltine’s crusade to improve education is coupled with tirades against the National Union of Teachers. And he is not a proponent of US-style “voucher” system, where the unemployed are expected to work for their meagre dole money. Billing himself as a self-made tycoon, after graduating from Oxford Heseltine parlayed an initial inheritance into much more by buying up seedy rooming houses and hotels, and converting them into high-end “more efficient” hotels and selling them at a large profit. One story has it that the young entrepreneur was caught mixing margarine into their breakfast butter. “Heseltine” is more efficient capitalism will be financed by attacks on the unorganised and poor. Penetrating the spectrum of pro-capitalist politicians, the European Economic Community is resisted by diverse elements, ranging from the Thatcherites and Nicholas Ridley who years after the past split of the British Empire (and the special American relationship), to the “little

true colours during the miners strike when he supported Thatcher’s scrap ballot, while he also was at the forefront of its pickets lines against strikebreakers. Had hard class struggle toppled the Thatcher government during the strike it would have created a pro-revolutionary situation, posing point blank the question of which class should rule...”

With Heseltine’s “lefts” worked overtime to kill the miners. Since then, whether it’s been laying a wreath at the grave of an officer or the patience of a private, donning poll tax resistors or chiming in with the imperialist war cho­rus, it’s always been a question of whether he is an enemy of working people and the oppressed.

Break with Labourism—build a Bolshevik party!

Fake left groups such as the SWP or Workers Power fill their press with militant-sounding anti-Thatcher rhetoric. But anti-Thatcherism does not equate to anti-capitalism. And now with Heseltine on the scene, the SWP is saying “Take Advantage of Tory Splits—Get them All Out!” (Socialist Worker, 17 November). Workers Power advises: “Tory woes are good news for the workers. Celebrations, though, are not yet in order. Eastbourne was showed (sic) the depth of feeling there is against the Tories if a swing to the Liberals on that scale were repeated in an election it would damage Labour’s victory chances.”

The Labour entusiasts have to try to get a mass of people to cross the line to that. These groups are “vote Labour” despite the fact that the Labour Party is little different from its Tory opponents. It is starkly clear that to wage a class fight against unemployment, union-busting, wage-slashing and warmongering, a political party that can break with Labourite electoral parliamentarianism. The line in the sand these groups are given some patronage. She deserves a far harder fate than that. We bet that some of these leaders, homeless youth, impoverished pensioners, families of the Argentine sailors of the Belgrano and victims of racist cop rape—to name but a few—will have something appropriate. Real justice will come with proletarian revolution, which will break with the bourgeois along with the par­asitic labour bakers.

Correction

In the last issue of Workers Hammer (no 117, October 1990) we printed an introduction to tributes from communist comrades to a memorial meeting for Louis Sinclair, the world’s foremost bibliographer of Trotsky, and to his “two-volume bibliography of Trotsky’s writings in the English language, plus the bibliography of trans­scripts and translations of Trotsky’s published works in many languages, cross-referencing each listing back to the first published text.”
Fascism...

(Continued from page 3)

decades an appeal judge and Master of the Rolls

As we noted in Workers Hammer no 103 ("Britain harbours Hitler's war criminals", December 1988/January 1989): many East European Nazis are known to have found a safe haven in Britain in the aftermath of World War II. One of these is Werner Fuchs, personal assistant to Hitler's Third Reich, Gaci was awarded the Iron Cross. Another is Paul Reinhard, director of the Latvia's "Labour Department" responsible for running the Nazi slave labour schemes. Over 280,000 Jews were deported to Germany by Reinhard's administration. For years this "captive nations" war criminal has been at the head of the exiled Latvian community in Britain.

The British authorities have good reason to protect their Nazis. Any attempt to bring the SS tried to the British would risk lifting the lid on the squalid history of Britain's own post-war "rat line", revealing how the British intelligence services, disguised as the "displaced persons" refugee camps in Europe, seeking to extradite the war criminals and "freedom fighters" in the service of the imperialist bourgeoisie's anti-Soviet war crusade. And it was the Labour government of Attlee/Bevin which provided a haven for these mass murderers, a policy shared by the US imperialists whose own "rat line" rescued thousands of Nazi war criminals. We say: extradite all the Nazi war criminals to the scene of their crimes to be tried by their surviving victims!

At Nuremberg the losing side in the imperialist carnage of World War II was put on trial by the victors. But those who fire-bombed Dresden have no place passing judgement on mass murder. The British, American and French imperialists were guilty of heinous crimes against humanity —and dismisses the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Camps to be the result of a fad which "caught on in 1988, it seems, becomes an English rock group called itself to be a tail of the chauvinist Labour Party. The November 24 demonstration called by Benn/CND & Co under the pseudo-pacifist slogan "No to War in the Gulf", far from being an obstacle to Thatcher's war drive, is an attempt to line up the working people behind their real position of pro-imperialist sanctions and imperialist aggression under UN auspices.

\[\text{London, October 10: Spartanist contingent on demonstration called by Ad Hoc Hands Off the Middle East Committee highlights defence of Iraq against imperialist attack.}\]

Workers Power substitutes a different slogan: "No sanctions—no blockade", implying an appeal to the imperialists, rather than mobilising the workers movement to defeat imperialism. And at the conference itself Workers Power supports, in a sterling rendition of their "tactics", barely got beyond some timid suggestions for building the campaign. The prominent WP banner contained no reference to the imperialist blockade whatsoever. In point of fact, all of this is window dressing for WP anyway, since they are perfectly willing to subordinate their "anti-imperialism" to "unity" with Tony Benn: "If we lose the arguments decisively for a broad anti-imperialist campaign in the workers' organisations, then we will work within a pacifist Stop the War movement..." (Workers Power, October 1990).

The Socialist League intervention at the conference underscored the sharp dividing-line between proletarian internationalism and Labourite social democracy. The Liga's campaign against imperialism without breaking with the agents of imperialism within the workers movement... Workers Power & Socialist League London, October 10: Spartanist contingent on demonstration called by Ad Hoc Hands Off the Middle East Committee highlights defence of Iraq against imperialist attack.

Workers Power will all be campaigning for warmonger Neil Kinnock, whose position on the Gulf is identical to that of Margaret Thatcher. The speaker concluded by pointing to the intransigent struggle of Leon against chauvinist social democracy, which enabled the Bolsheviks to build the only successful anti-war movement in the world, the October Revolution.

We reprint below the leaflet distributed by the SL to the CAWG conference:

\[\text{Spartacist League motion for the CAWG conference}\]

London, 10 October: Spartanist contingent on demonstration called by Ad Hoc Hands Off the Middle East Committee highlights defence of Iraq against imperialist attack.

3 November 1990

This conference is for the defeat of British and the other imperialist powers in the Gulf, and stands for the military defence of Iraq. The fight against war cannot take place apart from the fight for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. The responsibility of working-class socialists in the current Gulf crisis is to fight for:

- British, US, French troops out of the Gulf!
- Defeat imperialism: break the blockade of Iraq! For military defence of Iraq against the imperialist forces!
- No to UN sanctions, pretext for and first step towards imperialist war!
- The trade unions to take the initiative: strike action against the war: boycott troop transports, materiel and communications to the Gulf: not one penny, not one man for the imperialist military!
- Defensive of the USSR against imperialism and counterrevolution: there was a genuinely communist government in the Soviet Union it would lift the arms embargo of Iraq and give whatever military aid is required to repulse the Bush/Thatcher offensive!
- No support, however "critical" to the Labour Party, whether it be the right social-chauvinists or the "left" social-pacificists! It is impossible to fight the war hand-in-hand with the Tony Benn/CND camp, left wing of the party, who will "only" countenance war under the leadership of the United Nations, den of imperialism, and organisation of counterrevolution.
- Down with the sheikas, the colonels, the kings and the Zionist butchers! For workers revolution throughout the Middle East: the workers and peasants must settle their own accounts with Saddam Hussein!

Just as in the case of the Vietnam War, the flight against war now requires, with assistance to, alliance with or support for the Labour Party leaders, who in all varieties stand for capitalism and against revolution. Break with Labourism: fight for a revolutionary workers party.

The Campaign Against War in the Gulf (CAWG), for its part, is siding with the US and British imperialism against Iraq and imperialism and its attempts to participate in Benn's "Soviet justice department" as the tail of the chauvinist Labour Party. The November 24 demonstration called by Benn/CND & Co under the pseudo-pacifist slogan "No to War in the Gulf", far from being an obstacle to Thatcher's war drive, is an attempt to line up the working people behind their real position of pro-imperialist sanctions and imperialist aggression under UN auspices.

\[\text{Workers Power substitutes a different slogan: "No sanctions—no blockade", implying an appeal to the imperialists, rather than mobilising the workers movement to defeat imperialism. And at the conference itself Workers Power supports, in a sterling rendition of their "tactics", barely got beyond some timid suggestions for building the campaign. The prominent WP banner contained no reference to the imperialist blockade whatsoever!}\]
Robinson... (Continued from page 12)

nothing. The manner of Brian Lenihan's undoing was the very antithesis of certain bourgeois circles with the "old order". In the middle of the election campaign a highly contrived "continuation of the Fine Gael and the Irish Times over the very old news that in 1982 Haughey, Lenihan & Co. had successfully duped Great Hillery to let them form a government without an election. They proved Lenihan to be a creature of the ethics of a cornered felon. These are two facts that no-one found in the least surprising. The PDs demanded Lenihan go as the price of their support for a government which was new. The exigency of government in the government, and the Taoiscach [Prime Minister] Haughey obliged by taking a deal from the PDs. They would call for a government in order to turn a fresher face towards the "Europe of the 1990s" and to top up the resources of one of the Recoveries of Ireland of the 1990s.

But the working class women and men don't need a gossipy image: they need a social recovery plan. To recover the bourgeois, destroy the strongholds of the Catholic church on social policy and education, and to provide the possibility of a just resolution of the national question in Northern Ireland. From this standpoint Mary Robinson's anti-Haughey coalition is a step forward. The new coalition government is nothing new, recycling a traditional political style. The Eucharistia (the presidential palace in Phoenix Park). The justified derision with which this announcement was greeted in left political volumes: why would anyone that a politician who over and over underlined for the war against abortion and cross party Labour campaign minders insisted never even mention the fact she was the first woman in Ireland to ascend the Well Woman Centre) do such a thing?

Accommodating the Unionist Ascendancy in the North

A noteworthy aspect of Robinson's own politics is her desire to "modify" the political ascendency of the Irish Catholic Church. The policies which declared the whole of the island to be the territory of the Republic and claim jurisdiction over that territory. She resigned from the Labour Party in 1985 over the Anglo-Irish Agreement. As a member from 1973-80 of the Executive Committee of the infamous internal sectoral Commission (a Cold War cabal whose other alumni include David Owen, Henry Amery and George Bush). She is not surprisingly no critic of the Agreement's twin goals of drawing Ireland out of Nato and the British/Irish collaboration in repression of the Republicans. Her objection was that the Agreement was too great a "collar shock" for Unionists in Northern Ireland. Robinson's stance typifies a wing to "peaceful" bourgeois co-existence North and South. Notably Robinson's election was favourably received by Northern Orange politicians. The time of "peace" in the Dail, made the unionists call her "not the sort of individual one would be likely to be found in the Irish Times". I would like to point out that the Labour Party is the first party to "abstain", without any mention of the popular-frontist character of the Labour campaign or of the Labour/centre coalition represented by Labour's support for the PNR.

IWG writes that:

"had she decided to use the election to rally working class workers, the oppressed, in a campaign around every one major issue of importance today, she might have been given the chance of supporting her as a labour movement campaign of struggle against the racist ruling class. That would probably have meant not giving elected to this parasitic section of the nation. The IWG, doubled ourselves the question of the Irish Workers Movement, true to type, happily cast its ballots for the popular front, while the British establishment "whinges generally...". If the result wasn't a clear cut victory for socialists". Naturally the Labourites of the same kind, although the Republicans of Sinn Fein were more equivocal.

The centrists of the Irish Workers Group, completely afflicted by acquired moderation, didn't come out for or against Robinson until two weeks before the election. Having thereby avoided any conflict with the Labourite camp until it was basically all over, the IWG, doubtful of the right of jurisdiction over that territory. For univer­sal education at the universities, the British Isles deliber­ating the Southside, the question of the Irish Catholic nation, not even the elements of Northern Ireland, not even the element of Northern Ireland, not even the elements of the interpenetrated Irish Catholic nation and the Northern Irish Protestant people. And beside that, the question of the Irish revolution is entwined with those in England, Scotland and Wales, not least because of the role of the workers of Irish descent play in the workers movement throughout these islands.

When the votes were counted at the Royal Dublin Society hall in Dublin's southside it was reported that "A lot of faces in the crowd went back to the radical Sixties," celebrating "at last the rise of mass movements to smile about" after all the years of disappointment. If the absence of a real Trotskyist organisation during the seventies and eighties helped those radicalised 20 years ago to end up hugging "Here's to you Mrs Robinson", the task of the Dublin Spartacist Youth Group is to encourage a new youth looking towards revolutionary socia­list today end up as Bolshevik fighters singing the International. Commentator Eamonn O'Brien's inspired reaction to Robinson's victory when he urged the formation of a new social-democ­rat reformist party, "a merger of the two old left-wing parties" and a "home" for all those who "share their basic va­lues" (Irish Times, 8 November).

The policies of social democracy will never liberate Ireland from the scourges of unemployment and emigration, never eradicat the object poverty of the country and the Celtic slums, never lift the pall of clerical obscurantism which shades above all the lives of women.

Yes, the phrase of the Provisional divi­sions of the Partition and Civil War peri­od must be transcended. The venal and weak Irish bourgeoisie might only dream of being more like their Italian class brothers, urban and prosperous Euro­peans in nice parts of Dublin, while the rest of the country suffers in prisoned poverty and oppression, like southern Italy. The growth of the Irish working class in recent decades strengthens the same kind of class struggle.

This can come, not by the workers red flag being dipped before the tricolour, as Labour had done before, nor by dipping it before the stars on blue flag of the EC bosses' club, but by the fight for the interests of the proletariat separate from all its class enemies and false friends, Forward to an Irish Trotskyist party, section of a reforged Fourth Inter­national.!!

"Theses on Ireland"

(Continued from page 11)

At the same time we are opposed to the nationalist irredentist view that the Prot­estant population wishes to be united with an Irish united. Our call for an Irish workers republic in a federation of work­ers republics in the British Isles deliver­ately leaves open the question of where the distinct Protestant community will fall in the context of the proletarian dictator­ship that can only be established in the interpenetrated Irish Catholic nation and the Northern Irish Protestant people. And beside that, the question of the Irish revolution is entwined with those in England, Scotland and Wales, not least because of the role of the workers of Irish descent play in the workers movement throughout these islands.

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Poland...

assist in inflicting the working masses with the poison of national chauvinism. Thus, socialism will yield to fascism, the Nazis and Workers Power back both the Polish nationalists of Solidarność, while in Germany tailing after such groups as the PDS, SPD and/or the United Left, which supported revanchist capitalist reunification. Adapting to conflicting appetites of different national bourgeoisie, the fake-Trotksyists are an obstacle to the construction of an international vanguard party.

10. Polish Trotskyists must seek to reclaim the best traditions of the Polish working class. They are in the vanguard in the struggle against national chauvinism. This is exemplified by Rosa Luxemburg, a Polish Jewish communist and leader of the revolutionary German proletariat. Reviling Luxemburg for her internationalism, Stalin never trusted and finally liquidated Jamal...

(Continued from page 2)
corpus delicti. The convictions overturned would have died innocent people who were wrongly sentenced under these rules. Proposals to guarantee minimally qualified counsel (three years of experience in felony criminal cases) in capital cases were not enough. Adhering to the segregationist "states' rights" principle, the House left such standards to the individual states—such as South Carolina and Arkansas where attorney's fees can be limited to $1000 no matter how long or involved the case.

And a macabre front-page article in the New York Times (13 October) describes the shortage of "experienced executioners". "Hangmen are a dying breed", sighs the Delaware deputy attorney general, a serious problem now that 2400 people are on death row and 23 states are "preparing to join the 15 that have executions".

Fascism...

(Continued from page 9)
be traced. By 1255 when Christendom had now been united under the Holy See, St Hugh of Lincoln—the blood libel had spread throughout Europe to be used as a pretext for pogroms ever since. In York, in 1190, the entire Jewish population was exterminated in a pogrom. The largest massacre of Jewish people in England took place under the reign of Edward I who hanged 300, thereafter exterminated Jews from English soil in 1290. The bourgeois revolutionary, Oliver Cromwell welcomed Jews back in 1656, and the obstacles barring them from mainstream society and professions were gradually abolished.

In the epoch of imperialism and capitalist decay anti-Semitism was revived and fueled. In fact, a precocious part of Britain's racist immigration laws can be located in the 1905 Aliens Act which was explicitly directed toward limiting the immigration of Eastern European and Russian Jews fleeing from pogroms and the aftermath of the Russian Revolution. After the victorious October Revolution of 1917, harsher legislation was enacted by successive governments and hatred of Bolshevism. It should be ABC for anti-fascist militants that it is suicidal to place any faith or hope of survival for communities from this racist war.

Rudolf Rockenbach: "We cannot make war on the fascists while allowing fascists from films in our streets, bands in our parks and on the public transport system. We cannot let racist attacks on Traveller/Traveller are so bad to death in the pubs while both are routinely harassed by the police. These organisations who seek to strike at the fascists often put forward the perspective that a force of community self-defense in the ghettos and segregated communities certainly have a right to defend themselves, such a limited perspective leaves the victims undefended against the whole force that can be mobilized in their tracks: the social power of the working class. It is necessary to mobilize the organised workers movement and all of the oppressed to smash the fascists on the streets. We look to the tradition of the Black Hundreds, where thousands of workers, socialists and other trade unionists stopped the Mosley black-shirts' marches outside their factories. Following the desertion of the Soviet war memorial in Trepтов Park in the DDR the ICL group in Germany for example and the Socialist Arbeiterdeutscheinitiated a protest, supported by the then-SED, of 250,000. In the United States, the Spartacist League-initiated labour/black mobilisations have stopped provocations by the native fascists of the Ku Klux Klan and skinhead re­ports, from Washington, DC to Philadelphia. The fascists and their lumpen­skinned allies are decrying capitalism is a solution" decrying capitalism keeps in reserve. It is the task of the working class and its communist vanguard to smother them on the road to overthrowing the capitalist masters.

Jamal...

(Continued from page 9)
the oppressed women of Afghanistan. Gorbachev's withdrawal was a sellout, greatly encouraging the imperialists in their drive to overthrow the Soviet workers state. We reject the anti-Soviet dem­onstration by fake-leftists to withdraw the Warsaw Pact troops from East Eu­rope—Soviet troops have constituted the first line of defence of the workers states against NATO imperialism. Out of the ranks of Soviet soldiers and officers will come many fighters for Trotskyism.

13. The comrades of the RML constitute themselves as the Spartakowska Grupa Polski (SGP). The SGP and the ICL look toward an early fusion, where the SGP will become part of a democratic-centralist International. In the interim, in matters of mutual concern regarding Poland, both parties to this agreement will consult.

14. The SGP needs to develop a system­atic public face, recruiting cadre and intervening in various struggles and move­ments with ICL propaganda. A Leninist-Trotskyist party in Poland will be built.

Fascism...

(Continued from page 9)
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Fascism...

(Continued from page 9)
those fascist groups that liquidated Winston Hood, Cornell Warren, Jose Reyes, William Green, on city streets, with utter impunity; the same body that shot 700 people between 1971-1981, killing over 300 of the mostly Black, Puerto Rican and poor white youths, with total, utter impunity."

Mumia Abu-Jamal must not die! We need to organise massive protests, take action in case by case to takedown the fascists. The working people are the social force with the power to save this courageous man and stop this deadly killing machine. To join the international campaign to save the life of Mumia Abu­Jamal, contact the Partisan Defense Committee, BCM Box 4986, London, WC1X 3XZ. Phone: 071-485 1396. Reprinted from Workers Vanguard no 512, 19 October 1990.

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990

11
Robinson's popular front: trap for workers and women

On 7 November Mary Robinson was elected in the first presidential election of the Irish Republic. In a campaign master-minded by the reformist Labour Party, Robinson—a liberal constitutional lawyer with a strong civil libertarian and "modemising" reputation—made it clear that she is "not a socialist", and declared "I’m against abortion". Yet her win over discredited Fianna Fáil candidate Brian Lenihan has been hailed by a vast spectrum of commentators both in Ireland and in Britain as a famous victory for progress—including by many self-styled socialists and "revolutionaries". William Rees-Mogg, former editor of the London Times and perpetual grand old bore of English letters, greeted the news of her election under the headline "a blow against establishment".

In Ireland itself the Robinson campaign pulled together a veritable "rainbow coalition" in opposition to the governing coalition partners (the most pro-extradition) Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael (PDs). Directly backed by the Labour Party and the equally reformist Workers’ Party, as well as the ecologists of the Green Party, Mary Robinson drew the official support of bourgeois Fine Gael in a second preference vote transfer pact. The right-wing Progressive Democrats (PDs—the coalition partners of Fianna Fáil in the government) were also rooting for Robinson: as a spokesman put it "Her agenda of change, realism and common sense is the PD agenda" (Irish Times, 16 November). Mary Robinson’s electoral triumph is indeed a symptom of the disgruntlement of wide sections of Irish society with the ossified conservatism symbolised by the notoriously corrupt Fianna Fáil. Robinson’s candidacy struck strong chords among women, who suffer most from the stultification and social backwardness of the bourgeois-clerical state. Attempts by Lenihan and his supporters to drape themselves in the mantle of “national Christian Irish views” and blatant anti-women outbursts fell flat. It is a measure of repressive Irish society that the election of a woman who stands for the simple rights of divorce and contraception, and who has defended in court the right of student leaders to distribute information about abortion is viewed as a watershed, a “breaking of the mould”. But by the standards of what is objectively need-ed by working people and the oppressed, Mary Robinson’s election will change continued on page 10

DUBLIN—Dessie Ellis, a Republican prisoner, was extradited to Britain on 14 November. The Irish Supreme Court ruled against his appeal of the High Court decision to extradite him on conspiracy and explosives charges. Dessie Ellis had been on hunger strike since 10 October in an effort to stop his extradition (he ended the hunger strike after arrival in Britain). Meanwhile the bourgeois press strove to bury the case; Irish “left” TDs were equally quiet.

Dessie Ellis will now be tried by the British judicial system, infamous for its racist frame ups of the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six, Maguire Seven, Winchester Three and many others. Ellis must be defended against British injustice and its handmaidens in Ireland. The Dublin Spartacist Youth Group (DSYG) and Spartacist League/Britain demand his freedom now.

The criminal hypocrisy of the Fianna Fail party in this case is manifest. By an overwhelming majority they passed a motion against extradition at their last Ard Fheis (conference), but they have been the bulwark behind Ellis’ extradition. And Haughey’s government—which has always happily implemented the Anglo-Irish Accord negotiated by an earlier Fine Gael/Labour Party administration—doesn’t need the pressure of their Progressive Democrat coalition partners (the most pro-extradition party in the Dail) to promote a continued campaign of repression of Republicans hand-in-hand with the British imperialists. The travesty of Irish “justice” is coupled with state censorship of members of Sinn Fein under the notorious Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. This meant, for instance, that the chair of the Gateaux strike committee during their recent 14-week strike was unable to be interviewed or quoted in the press because he is a Sinn Fein member!

Dessie Ellis is charged with possession of explosives with intent to endanger life (DSYG) and Spartacist League/Britain demand his freedom now.

Haughey does Thatcher’s dirty work: Free Dessie Ellis!

Dessie Ellis, a Republican prisoner, was extradited to Britain on 14 November. The Irish Supreme Court ruled against his appeal of the High Court decision to extradite him on conspiracy and explosives charges. Dessie Ellis had been on hunger strike since 10 October in an effort to stop his extradition (he ended the hunger strike after arrival in Britain). Meanwhile the bourgeois press strove to bury the case; Irish “left” TDs were equally quiet.

Dessie Ellis will now be tried by the British judicial system, infamous for its racist frame ups of the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six, Maguire Seven, Winchester Three and many others. Ellis must be defended against British injustice and its handmaidens in Ireland. The Dublin Spartacist Youth Group (DSYG) and Spartacist League/Britain demand his freedom now.

The criminal hypocrisy of the Fianna Fail party in this case is manifest. By an overwhelming majority they passed a motion against extradition at their last Ard Fheis (conference), but they have been the bulwark behind Ellis’ extradition. And Haughey’s government—which has always happily implemented the Anglo-Irish Accord negotiated by an earlier Fine Gael/Labour Party administration—doesn’t need the pressure of their Progressive Democrat coalition partners (the most pro-extradition party in the Dail) to promote a continued campaign of repression of Republicans hand-in-hand with the British imperialists. The travesty of Irish “justice” is coupled with state censorship of members of Sinn Fein under the notorious Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. This meant, for instance, that the chair of the Gateaux strike committee during their recent 14-week strike was unable to be interviewed or quoted in the press because he is a Sinn Fein member!

Dessie Ellis is charged with possession of explosives with intent to endanger life (DSYG) and Spartacist League/Britain demand his freedom now.

Haughey does Thatcher’s dirty work: Free Dessie Ellis!

Dessie Ellis

Free Dessie Ellis!

Dessie Ellis whole-heartedly by the Irish bourgeois. The utterly venal Irish rulers also refused for years to offer any support to the Guildford Four, and the Fianna Fail government, backed by the wretched reformists of the Irish Labour Party, continues to hand Republican suspects over to the British police.

The case of the Guildford Four—finally released nearly 15 years after their frame-up convictions for the criminal sectarian 1974 Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings—exemplifies what the British courts have in store for Dessie Ellis. His extradition is a sentence to incarceration in Britain’s prison hell-holes. Down with extradition! Free Dessie Ellis!