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C W M
MAOIST

WHY PAUL FOOT SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST

COMMUNIST
WORKERS'
MOVEMENT



the case against the
Socialist Workers
Party

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The Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) has been receiving quite a bit of publicity in the mass media during the last year or so. There are many organisations in this country which claim to break with the reformism of the Labour Party and outline a revolutionary road to socialism; but of them all, the SWP are currently being represented as the whizz-kids.

Certainly the SWP has a flair for publicity, and provides articulate spokesmen for its brand of politics, who strike a very 'left' pose and at the same time provide very quotable comments which are enthusiastically publicised in the papers and on TV as being the last word in 'revolutionary socialism'.

However, there's a bit more to socialist politics than the SWP suggests. In fact on closer examination one finds that, hidden behind the apparent clarity and forcefulness of what the SWP says, there lies a lot of confusion, and even some elementary errors that genuine socialists have long warned against. The harmful results are now becoming evident, as recruit after recruit is attracted by the 'action', burned up, disillusioned and demoralised, with the result that present members of the SWP are now easily outnumbered by ex-members.

We aim to take a closer look at the ideas and policies of the SWP and see how they tally with the fundamental ideas of socialism. We have concentrated much of our criticism at the SWP's best-selling publication, Paul Foot's pamphlet, *Why you should be a socialist, the case for the Socialist Workers' Party*, which conveniently illustrates many of the most glaring faults of the SWP. We do not, however, restrict ourselves to discussing this pamphlet; our criticisms also range over a much wider area of what the SWP says and does.

Many fundamental questions face workers' struggles in Britain today. Though we do not claim to have all the answers, we do at least claim to be confronting the questions, in contrast to the SWP, which puts more effort into dodging questions than into coming to grips with them. Not only through our criticisms of the errors of the SWP, then, but also through what we put forward by way of an alternative, we aim to provide

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