

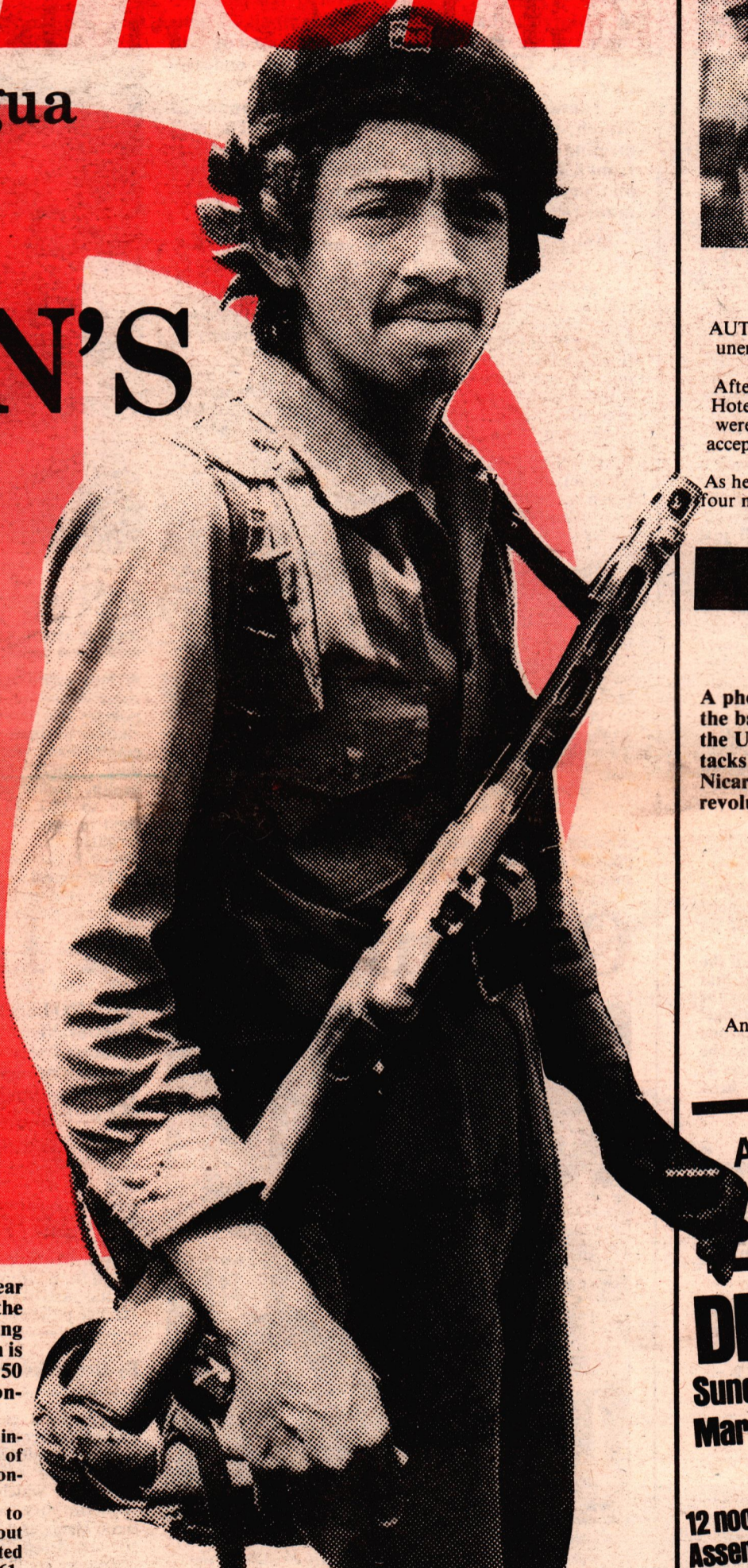


Socialist

ACTION

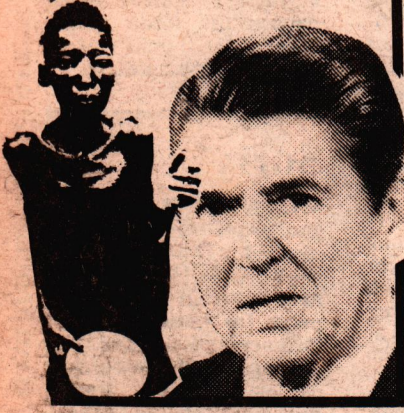
Invasion in Nicaragua

STOP REAGAN'S WAR PLANS



LAST WEEKEND a large force of right-wing insurgents entered Nicaragua, supported by the Honduran army. The invasion force is being repelled by the Sandinista army.

MODERN TIMES



'... free world ... blah, blah ... democracy ... no aid to Ethiopian Commies ... blah, blah ... starve 'em out or blow 'em up ...'

But the incursion is a clear signal. Reagan is planning the overthrow of the left-wing FSLN government. The plan is being masterminded by 50 senior CIA officers in Honduras.

Millions of dollars are going into the training and equipping of the counter-revolutionary 'contras'.

The United States wants to repeat the operation it carried out in Guatemala in 1954, attempted at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba in 1961, and assisted in Chile in 1973.

At the same time as the fighting in Nicaragua 5,000 soldiers of the Salvadorean army went into action to attempt to dislodge the FMLN guerrillas from one of their strongholds.

On 11 March 36 US battleships began manoeuvres off Puerto Rico and a large number of them immediately set sail for waters surrounding the revolutionary island of Grenada.

The war plans for Central America and the Caribbean are part and parcel of the same war drive which threatens all the enemies of Reagan's 'free world'

empire, which gave the green light to the Israeli blitzkrieg in Lebanon, and which wants to threaten the peace in Europe by installing hundreds of new nuclear missiles.

The enemy being fought by the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, by the FMLN in El Salvador and by the Palestinian fighters is the same enemy being confronted by the Greenham Common women and the peace movement in Europe and the United States.

Thatcher is the most willing ally of Reagan's drive to war, openly giving support to US plans in El Salvador by sending British

observers to last year's phoney elections — and going all the way with Reagan's nuclear insanity.

Reagan and his cronies fear the peace movement as one of its most decisive opponents. The British labour movement must play its part in defeating the drive to war.

The Campaign to stop cruise and Trident, throw out the 100-plus US military bases — and the campaigns in solidarity with El Salvador and Nicaragua can strike a blow for those in the front line of the war in Central America.

● Nicaragua — turn to page 3
● Greenham Common — see back page

inside:



Gissa job!

AUTHOR Alan Bleasdale struck a blow for the unemployed at last weekend's British 'Oscars' awards ceremony.

After guests had entered the Grosvenor House Hotel through a hotel workers picket line, they were rocked again by Bleasdale's speech as he accepted the top TV drama award for the 'Boys from the Blackstuff' series.

As he held up the award he said: 'This is for the four million, the 13 per cent who are not supposed to count at the general election.'

● Turn to page 14 for a report on the Grosvenor House strike.

Page 3

A photo-feature and the background to the US-backed attacks against the Nicaraguan revolution.



Page 7

Lebanon:

An eye-witness account of the massacres at Chabra-Shatilla.

ALL OUT FOR THE CARL DEMO!
See pages 8 and 9

DEMONSTRATE

Sunday 27 March

12 noon Assemble Jubilee Gardens near Waterloo Station



CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIST LAWS

- Repeal the Immigration and Nationality Acts
- Stop race checks ■ Stop racist deportations
- Unite the divided families now

Socialist Action urges readers and supporters in London and the Home Counties to assemble at our banner at Jubilee Gardens from 11.30pm.



CND Diary is a regular column in Socialist Action, giving a round up of useful facts, news and dates of forthcoming events in the Anti-Nuclear movement.

The listing of events is free and the details should reach us by the Wednesday, one week before publication. Send to CND Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.

Investment in Scotland

OUR SCOTTISH readers might like to note that the government does feel that it can invest in Scotland. It has given a contract to the Balfour Beatty Group to construct hardened bunkers for aircraft at various RAF establishments in Scotland. The cost of the plan? A mere £19¼ million.

Budget afficiendos and drinkers might like to know that this is just short of the amount of extra revenue raised by the chancellor with his increase in the tax on spirits ... Cheers!

Spent fuel

MORE FASCINATING revelations from the Sixwell B inquiry. British Nuclear Fuels, who reprocess the spent fuel rods and dispose of the wastes, have been giving evidence.

BNF revealed that their plans for reprocessing spent fuel don't go beyond the end of the century. Most of the current generations of reactors have a life of beyond that.

Furthermore, nobody appears to have yet worked out what to do with the bits when the reactors are finished with. After all, you can't just knock them down!

The Ultimate weapon!

SOME OF YOU may have noticed reports that the Pentagon may be removing as many as a thousand nuclear warheads from Europe in the near future.

Don't be fooled. The only reason for the removal of these weapons is that they are 'obsolete' and difficult to use effectively.

Among the likely contenders for removal are, for instance, 600 nuclear warheads for Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missiles.

If you explode a nuclear war-head near an enemy aircraft it will undoubtedly 'down' it. All well and good, but what about the people on the ground underneath?

Davy Crockett

TALKING OF obsolete weapons, one is almost irresistibly reminded of the US 'Davy Crockett' nuclear weapons system. It consisted of a jeep on which was mounted a light rocket projector.

The rig had a range of two kilometers and the rockets had nuclear warheads. Problem was that the warhead was sufficiently powerful to blow the jeep and the crew — even at maximum range!

The weapon was actually deployed in Europe from 1960 until 1967. Come to think of it, maybe the system did have its advantages. The chances of its operators ever firing it must have been vanishingly small!

News letter

SCOTTISH LABOUR CND have just produced a newsletter. It contains information about local authorities and civil defence, Rosyth Dockyard, news from the region and details of forthcoming Scottish events. Copies of the newsletter are available from: SCND, 420 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow. Price 20p.

- ★ Sat 26 March Glasgow West CND Rally. Speakers: Keith Bovey (Chair Scottish CND), Cllr Ian Davidson, and YCND Speaker. Film: 'Protest and Survive'. Starts 11.00am at Dounhill Primary School.
- ★ Sun 27 March Ladbroke Grove CND showing of 'The Peace Game', at 1 Thorpe Close, London W10. Starts 3.30pm.
- ★ Sun 27 March GLC Bunker Party 7.30pm at Lloyd Park Theatre, Waltham Forest, London.
- ★ 28 March-2 April International Peace Studies Week (for students) at Pimlico School, London.
- ★ Thur 31 Mar 12 hour blockade of Greenham Common (women only) and Burghfield Royal Ordnance Factory (mixed).
- ★ Fri 1 April 14 mile human chain from Greenham Common to Burghfield via Aldermaston. Starts 1.30pm, followed by a festival at Aldermaston.
- ★ Sat 2 April Scottish CND March in Glasgow. Starts in George Square at 11.00am, and ends at Carnival in Kelvingrove Park.
- ★ Sat 2 April GLC Bunker Party. 7.30pm at Civic Centre, North Peckham.
- ★ Sun 3 April GLC Easter Parade, featuring specially commissioned 'Peace Float'. Starts Battersea Park at 3.00pm.
- ★ Sun 3 April Demonstration at Faslane Nuclear Sub base.
- ★ Thur 7 April Aberdeen CND meeting discussing END. Starts 7.30pm at 24 Adelphi (off Union St), Aberdeen.
- ★ 8-10 April Campaign Against the Arms Trade National supporters meeting, Friends Meeting House, 16 Newton Terrace, Glasgow G3. Details contact (01)-278 1976.
- ★ 8-10 April International Peace Camp at Wycombe. Contact Bob Saunders Bourne End 22624.
- ★ 8-10 April Nuclear Free North Atlantic Conference Mitchell Theatre, Glasgow.

Socialists for a Labour Victory
What we say

'SOCIALISTS for a Labour Victory' — established on 7 March — have finalised their campaign's platform and are circulating a declaration based on it to all PPCs, CLPs and MPs seeking their endorsement.

There will be a press conference on Monday 28 March, after the Darlington by-election. The next meeting of the campaign, which is open to delegates from CLPs and affiliated campaigns, is to be held on Tuesday 29 March at 7.30pm, House of Commons (Room booked by Ernie Roberts, MP).

The platform reads:

'Socialists for a Labour Victory' is a campaign pledged to organise for a Labour victory in the forthcoming general election on the basis of the socialist policies passed at successive Labour Party conferences.

It will complement the official Labour Party campaign and seek to unite the party behind conference policy.

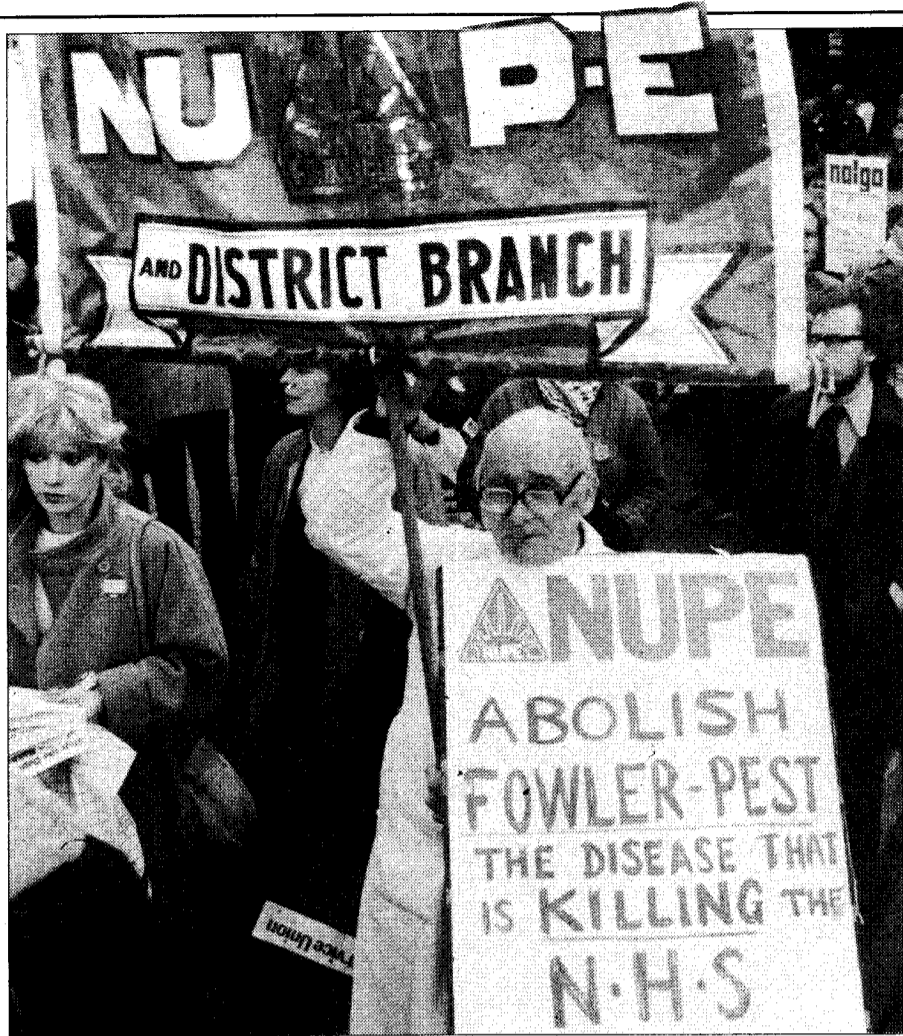
The campaign must start now. The possibility of another Tory government is one of the gravest threats ever faced by the working class and oppressed groups. Only a fighting lead from the Labour Party can save working people from another 5 years of Toryism.

Labour can gain massive support and win the election if it clearly presents its socialist policies and mobilises the support of all sections of

the community who will benefit from them.

SLV believes that Labour conference policies in the following areas should be the core of the campaign:

- 1: Unequivocal commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament and removal of all nuclear bases in Britain. No deployment of nuclear weapons in or by Britain.
- 2: An economic policy which returns to full employment, nationalises 25 top companies, returns social spending to 1977 levels in real terms, introduces a 35 hour week, withdraws from the EEC and expands the NHS, and education for all. Massive house building programmes and renationalisation of hived-off sections of public industry without compensation.
- 3: A commitment to raise working class living standards, and that there should be no incomes



'Return social spending to 1977 levels'

policy. Defence of trade union rights and immediate repeal of all Tory anti-union legislation.

4: Full campaigning and commitment to all Party policies for women, including positive action in employment, public spending, child care and health, including legislation to give women the right to control their own fertility.

5: The repeal of the racist

Nationality Act, the Immigration Acts and a determination to eradicate racism and inequality.

6: To increase civil liberties, obtain police accountability and repeal repressive legislation.

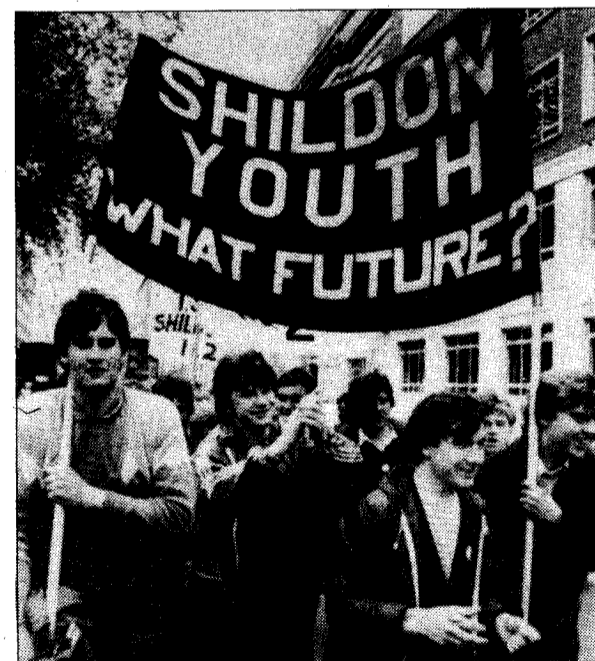
7: A united Ireland.

8: A socialist foreign policy, supporting liberation movements in other countries.

We pledge ourselves to fight for a Labour government committed to implement these policies.

We will campaign for the election of a majority Labour government. After the general election, there must be no formal coalition with other parties in the House of Commons where a Labour Government agrees to water down its programme in return for parliamentary support.

Organise for a Labour victory



Labour must give a lead to youth like these Shildon workers down in London to protest the closure of the railway works near Darlington.

THE POTENTIAL support for 'Socialists for a Labour Victory' campaign in the trade unions and Labour Party is enormous. This was shown by the reaction of regional Labour Party conferences to the expulsions and retreats from conference policy by the official leadership of the Party.

Now that support has to be organised. The first step will be to win every possible constituency, candidates and MPs to endorse SLV's platform, that is to pledge to campaign for a Labour victory on the basis of radical conference policies.

By Redmond O'Neill

The local elections in May will offer the first major opportunity to put that pledge into effect. Any cynicism which results from the horsetrading between Healy and Foot over the manifesto can only be overcome by local parties demonstrating in action

their commitment to socialist policies.

Meetings of SLV supporters should be called together to plan proposals for this kind of campaign. The aim is not to establish local SLV groups, but to win constituencies to campaign through active support to extra-parliamentary actions like the Peoples' March and Greenham Common and giving such campaigns a platform within the elections.

In some areas it will be possible to establish broad labour movement campaigns for a Labour victory which organise, in

particular to take the campaign into the unions.

Now is the time for MPs and PPCs to be committed to factory tours on Labour's socialist policies and to establish workplace branches of the Party.

Win

A socialist campaign by CLPs can win wider support from activists in the peace movement, trade unions, black communities and amongst youth. It can recruit new activists to the Party and begin to build the LPYS as a mass campaigning youth organisation.

At its next national meeting SLV will discuss the ways and means to coordinate such local activity and work in the trade unions into a national movement. CLPs, campaigns and trade union broad lefts should ensure they are represented.

Gay rights policy dropped?

IT IS touch and go whether the campaign document produced by the Labour Party NEC will contain any commitment to lesbian and gay rights.

This was revealed at a meeting in London on 18 March by Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary of NUPE and NEC member. He told the meeting,

organised by the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights, how the right wing are fighting against the inclusion in the document of the policies on gay rights passed by last year's Labour Party conference.

These policies included: ● support for an anti-discrimination law banning discrimination against

lesbians and gay men in housing, employment and

social facilities. ● the lowering of the age of consent for gay men to 18.

In addition there is a need to ensure the inclusion in the Party manifesto of a full commitment to gay rights — including equality in the age of consent for heterosexuals (presently 16).

As Paul Canning described to the meeting,

the fight is now on to win the Labour Party Young Socialists to support for gay liberation starting with a fringe meeting organised by Gay Young Socialists at the LPYS Easter Conference at Bridlington.

● For more information on LCGR and GYSG and details of affiliation, write: c/o The Gay Centre, 51a Bloom Street, Manchester 1.

Sorry!

MISINFORMATION and proof-reading error resulted in two errors last week. Andy Harris is an ex-member of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy Executive.

Joy Hurcombe's article on the NEC draft document should have read: 'But this will not fulfill the Labour Party's conference commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.'

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Photo: ANDREW WARD

Nicaragua: countdown to invasion

AS WE go to press it appears that a substantial invasion force has been infiltrated into the Nicaraguan province of Jinotega, just north of the province of Matagalpa and east of the town of Esteli.

The force is apparently well armed and is at least several thousand strong. Part of this force has come overland, and two thousand or more have been parachuted in using planes of the Honduran air force.

The force appears to be commanded by Augusto Calero, a landowner whose land has been collectivised by the FSLN (Sandinista) government.

Reports indicate that the scale of fighting is such that the Sandinista defence forces are using tanks and artillery.

Campaign

Whether or not this is the beginning of a larger scale invasion is not clear. What is clear is that it is part of a longer term campaign to bring down the Sandinista government — masterminded in Washington and organised by the CIA from Honduras.

It is the most serious incursion yet by the counter-revolutionary 'Somocista' forces, mainly former National Guardsmen who fled the country when the dictator Somoza was overthrown.

The Nicaraguan revolution of July 1979 gave a massive impulse to the struggle against the rul-

ing dictatorships in poverty-stricken Central America.

In El Salvador and Guatemala left wing guerrillas have won sweeping victories and liberated whole sections of the

By Phil Hearse

country.

While political considerations make it difficult to send US marines (as was done in the Dominican Republic in 1965) the United States has embarked on a multi-million dollar campaign to de-stabilise and overthrow the revolutionary Sandinista government in Nicaragua and prop up the ailing military dictatorship in El Salvador.

All along the Honduras-Nicaragua border the counter-revolutionary forces have established camps from which to launch incursions.

The US administration plans to overthrow the Sandinistas started over three years ago.

Reagan's first national security advisor Richard Allen was put in charge of the operation, and worked in a committee with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and his assistant Thomas O. Enders.

Train

This committee was responsible for the plan to organise a counter-revolutionary invasion force, and the assistance of Argentina was sought to train the force in Hon-



duras. Training camps were also established in Florida. In charge of the operation in Honduras is the American ambassador John Negroponte.

Invasion

Preparations for an invasion were stepped up earlier this year when 1600 US troops collaborated in a joint exercise with the Honduran army just seven miles from the Nicaraguan border — operation 'Big Pine'.

Vast amounts of military equipment from the Big Pine exercise were left behind by the US forces for the use by the Somocista forces.

The ideological backup to the US's escalating war in Central America has

been provided by Ronald Reagan's recent speeches on the evil of Communism and the dangers of revolution throughout Central America — which he describes as 'a threat to the entire Western hemisphere'.

Whether or not the present incursion turns out to be a full scale invasion, a dress rehearsal or merely a testing raid, the intention of the US couldn't be clearer — the military overthrow of the Sandinista government.

Reports from Managua say 'the companeros are leaving their desks and re-joining their defence units'.

If the fighting escalates a major mobilisation of the labour movement in defence of Nicaragua will be needed.



Map: SOCIALIST ACTION



Photo: CARLOS AUGUSTO GUERITA (Photon)

Tens of thousands train in the Nicaraguan people's militias.



150 people were mobilised last Sunday by supporters of Socialist Action and the Socialist Teachers Alliance to protest outside the American embassy against the incursion into Nicaragua.

IRELAND UNFREE

Danny Morrison Interview

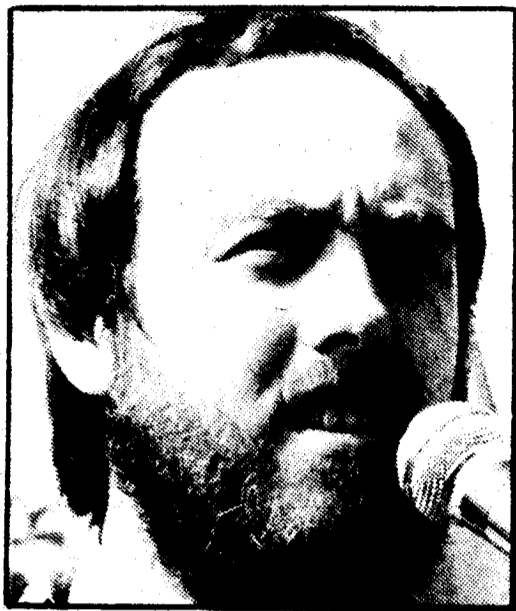


Photo: AN PHOBLACHT

AS SINN FEIN'S elected representatives to the Northern Ireland Assembly have been excluded from Britain by the combined effort of the Thatcher government and Foot leadership of the Labour Party, it is necessary to go to Belfast to interview them. Martin Collins went to the Falls Road for Socialist Action to talk with DANNY MORRISON of Sinn Fein.

In *Republican News*, you have covered both Livingstone's visit and the Labour Committee on Ireland's conference on plastic bullets. How do you see developing a solidarity movement in Britain?

We think the best development would be a broad movement for withdrawal. We have no interest in some irrelevant current which supports bombs in Britain — that just alienates opinion.

When Livingstone says he wants peace, and the best way to get it is through withdrawal, he has had a popular appeal. That way he wins the support of people who may for quite reactionary reasons agree with Irish self-determination.

Livingstone thinks that the best way for the Labour Party to promote the campaign is to declare its intention to withdraw from Ireland within the life of the next Labour government. That provides a useful starting point.

How do you view recent discussions on an 'all Ireland forum'?

The FitzGerald government in the South is trying to restore the credibility of the SDLP. Why else are we being excluded from these talks? It is a dangerous project — basically they are sketching out details of a future Ireland in the absence of the Unionists and making concessions to them in advance.

Once British withdrawal becomes likely, and the Unionists get forced into discussions, they will feel free to demand further retreats.

We want to get over our view of the future, which is for a socialist republic. We do not support a partitioned or federated state.

The left has chipped away at Labour's bipartisan Irish policy, winning resolutions opposing the Prevention of Terrorism Act and plastic bullets. This year, the LCI is arguing Labour should withdraw support from the Assembly yet you seem to have dropped the campaign.

This was a strong feature in our election campaign, but up until now it has been difficult to carry it through. The Assembly had not acquired a sinister image on the streets. It looked as if the wrangling amongst the Unionists would prevent it getting off the ground, and many felt that the imminence of the Westminster elections with the possible ditching of Prior would mean any campaign disappearing into thin air.

Now the 'Scrutiny Committees' and so on have been established, the project for a restoration of a Stormont-type body is much clearer. We are initiating a conference to discuss details of a mass action campaign against the Assembly.

Invitations are going out to Peoples Democracy, the IRSP and other organisations who would participate.

What plans have been laid for a follow up to Ken's visit with a larger delegation?

He has gone back and is taking soundings, working out the best way to proceed. We have made it clear we will fit in with whatever seems tactically best. Obviously the second and third delegations might have a diminishing impact, but we are prepared to go on receiving delegations until the end of the war.

We want to continue the dialogue.

Joint action to beat 'Militant' purge

THE LABOUR Steering Committee Against Witch-hunts and Labour Against the Witch-hunt are to launch a joint campaign to defend the five editors of Militant expelled by the Labour Party's NEC last month.

They aim to win wider support for the stand taken by forty-four Constituency Labour Parties who have signed an advertisement in *Tribune* declaring that they will not expel Militant supporters.

Representatives of the two campaigns agreed last Wednesday to launch a joint appeal for further signatories to the advertisement, and a second instalment of the advertisement now due to be published in early May.

The first advertisement attracted considerable attention earlier this month because it established that the NEC was likely to experience considerable

practical difficulties in carrying through its expulsions. Among the signatories are Islington Central and Hammersmith North CLPs whose members include Militant editors Peter Taafe, Ted Grant and Keith Dickenson.

Delete

The GCs of these parties have subsequently confirmed by large majorities that they will not comply with the NEC's re-

quest to delete the names of these lifelong socialists from their membership records.

Editors

The two anti-witch-hunt bodies are also discussing common activity to secure the reinstatement of the five editors by the next Labour Party conference, and a broad campaign has also been suggested for the adoption of the Greenwich amendment to the con-

By John Bloxam and Alan Freeman. Press Officers, Labour Against the Witch-hunt

stitution of the Labour Party.

This would establish the right of all groups to operate in the party who accept its aims and objectives and who do not stand candidates against it in elections.

• Labour movement bodies and individuals wishing to add their names to the *Tribune* advertisement when next published should write, enclosing £3, to: *Tribune* advertisement, 11 Wilderton Road, London N16.

Witch-hunt hits Manchester Labour Party

By Graham Stringer (Chair Manchester City Labour Party) and John Nicholson (Chair Manchester Ardwick CLP)

MANCHESTER is now a prime target for the witch-hunt within the Labour Party. Since the Tories took power in 1979 there has been a series of battles between the Labour Party in Manchester and the party's national office in London, centring on the question of who should represent working people on the city council. The most recent move in the NEC's campaign against socialist councillors on Manchester city council is the expulsion of 27 members from the Labour group. The NEC has sent letters to this effect to the Labour group, although the individuals concerned have not yet been formally notified themselves.

The district party, which is constitutionally the body to draw up the election policy, has consistently advocated a policy of no cuts, no loss of job opportunity, and rents to cover only repairs, maintenance and management.

Success

On these policies there have been three years of electoral success for Labour in the city, even when the national trend has been against it.

Yet the council has acquiesced in a policy of carrying out Tory government cuts and rent rises — to the tune of £100 million in cuts and 150 per cent rises. The question has thus become one of accountability at the most local level of all — in-

dividual branch Labour parties. And, as a result of the branches' growing awareness of the need for people who mean what they say on election manifestoes, there are now 29 properly selected and elected Labour councillors who vote in line with party policy.

It is this presence of socialists on the council which has caused the witch-hunt in Manchester. The majority of the Labour group — now about 40, in a full council of 99 — cannot ensure success in council, nor, worse still for them, in Labour group.

A series of manoeuvres was recently wheeled out by group, regional office and NEC to try to prevent the left (in its broadest sense) gaining further ground. There materialised the 12-month rule on

membership, that is 12 months membership of the relevant constituency in order to vote in branch elections.

The appeal structure was reorganised, so that branch appeals on behalf of non-recommended council panel candidates would take precedence over all other levels of party organisation.

When these failed, there followed an NEC inquiry into Manchester Labour Party — the second in three years — which predictably replaced the non-recommended candidates on the Panel, without reference to the rules. It also froze the 12 month rule at a point 6 months previously — an 18 month rule in effect.

Sting

None of this, however, could stop an increasing number of branches selecting their existing left-wing representatives. But there was a final sting in the tail of the NEC inquiry — in an unpublished report to the same meeting which expelled five socialists from the party and which heavily restricted parliamentary re-selections in the reorganised constituencies.

The Catch 22 (or 29)

was the expulsion from the Labour group of all those councillors defying the group whip by voting for party policy. Not that removal from the Labour group is a new idea. But the implication — heavily leaked to the press by the NEC right wing — is that councillors without the group whip cannot stand for Labour in local elections.

In other words, the pursuit of anti-Tory policies is a disqualification for representing the Labour Party. Just as Tory measures eliminated Clay Cross councillors a decade ago, so the NEC proposes to remove all opposition to itself. For if these disqualified councillors defy the NEC ban and stand in local elections, they can be expelled from the party, and any local branches supporting them can be disbanded. And we can be sure that these expulsions will be processed rather more quickly than John O'Grady's.

Panels

It is not just that right-wingers are put back on municipal panels without reference to the rules. (The NEC put two SDP members on Manchester's

panel in 1981.) And it is not just that 'dissident' left-wingers are thrown out of the Labour group (which often appears as the politics of palace revolution in the press.) What is at issue is that elected representatives voting for that policy can be effectively witch-hunted out of political activity.

Change

For the reality of the witch-hunt is that working class representatives can be prevented from achieving the one thing necessary to change society in its present form — power through the ballot box. It is the prevention of socialist policies in power, locally and nationally, which is the common thread between the expulsion of Militant's editorial board, the campaign to defeat Peter Tatchell in Bermondsey, the restrictions on conference decisions on parliamentary accountability, and the attempt to debar council candidates in Manchester. And it is the pursuit of socialist policies in power, locally and nationally, which is the common ground for the left's opposition to all these attacks.

A PIECE OF THE ACTION GORMAC

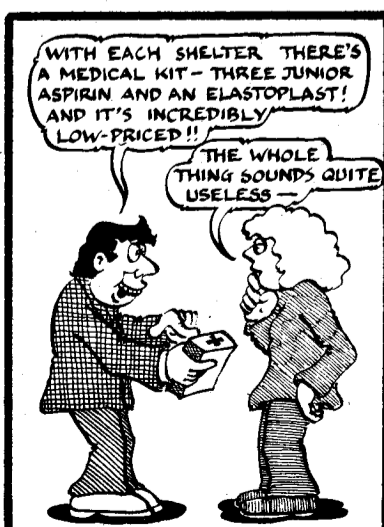




Photo: GM COOKSON.

Women's TUC support Greenham Common but major reforms needed

THE 53rd Conference of the Womens TUC held in Scarborough last week gave its full backing to the Greenham Common peace women. 'We are the givers of life' argued Terry Marsland of the Tobacco Workers Union 'It is up to us to protect that life. We must be determined to stand behind the peace movement and actively involve ourselves in it.'

This motion of support like most of the others at the conference was passed overwhelmingly. But it was left to Helen John a founder member of the peace camp, to explain at a fringe meeting before the debate what the Greenham women were calling on trade unionists to do on 24 May, the International Womens Day for Disarmament — a day of European-wide protest.

'Women have got involved in Greenham who've never been involved in anything in their lives before' she said.

'We're not opposing men, we're positively discriminating in favour of women doing something for a change. An article in *Sanity* accuses us of separatism but its not true. We've always asked men to support us'.

On 24 May Helen urged women trade unionists to express support by 'holding factory gate meetings, or calling for limited strike action. This could be a tremendous spur to the men in the unions to support the peace movement.'

For two days the conference debated many other issues of concern to women trade unionists; unions were strongly urged to fight low pay and adopt

positive action programmes industry by industry. A report was promised on new technology for next year's conference. The sexist portrayal of women in the media was discussed.

By Valerie Coultas

The Tory government was condemned for its assault on womens rights through the Rayner report on eligibility for benefits; its proposal to comply with EEC criticisms of British equal pay legislation through an Order in Parliament that would result in the most cosmetic of changes, and the findings of the Tory 'think tank' on the family were singled out for particularly strong censure.

Barbara Switzer, for AUEW TASS, arguing for the Women's Advisory Committee to play a stronger campaigning role pointed out that the conference, representing three million women trade unionists, was 'the most organised force for change in womens lives'. But her resolution was comprised in such a way that instead of being a clear mandate for giving a lead, it became another list of exhorta-

tions. Another important resolution calling for five motions to go automatically to Congress was lost, possibly because no one organised to win support for it.

A resolution calling for a report on new technology and its effects on women, to be given to the next TUC, was deferred for a year.

A clause in the low pay resolution condemning all forms of incomes policy was somewhat undermined by the statement from Ada Maddox of NALGO that this would have to be looked at in the light of the National Economic Assessment proposed by the TUC General Council.

And when the resolution did demand that the TUC go beyond its existing framework of passive opposition to the Tories you could be sure that the Women's Advisory would have 'reservations' or 'qualification' ready at hand.

Framework

A Day of Action for women trade unionists to 'encourage their participation in the unions' is scheduled for 23 July — a step forward, but there is a crying need to highlight problems facing the mass of women, in particular unemployment.

The need for reform of the Women's TUC is apparent. Like the Women's Labour Party conference

it has no minutes recorded and this speaks volumes for the importance attached to its decisions. Other problems include:

Followers

- The chair is not rotated.
- The 'reservations' of Women's Advisory are very often the last word on the issue despite the fact that delegates formally have the right of reply.
- There seems to be no procedure for reference back of a section of the Women's Advisory Committee report to the conference.
- The Women's Advisory is elected by the conference but the procedure acts in such a way that it is accountable to the General Council above all else.
- The six seats reserved for women on the General Council are elected at the TUC congress and will often include women who have absolutely no record of fighting on behalf of women trade unionists.
- The timetabling for motions is such that the full-time staff in the trade unions are the people who submit policy.

- These are big problems. But they do not mean we should favour abolishing the WTUC as some on the left did. What we must do is fight for major reforms so the WTUC can really act on behalf of women trade unionists.

MALE ORDER

Assault damages

A NEW legal precedent was set in the High Court last week when Maria Church was awarded damages of over £8000 after an assault by her husband.

Mr Church complained bitterly at the decision of Justice Antony Lincoln, claiming that this was 'the first and only time I hit her'. Shame.... the hearts of *The Sun* and the *Evening Standard* bled for the poor man.

The injuries sustained by Maria were cracked nose and cheek bones, and two black eyes which have caused dizziness.

The damages were awarded against any losses incurred because she can no longer do

any dressmaking at which she was very proficient.

Money alone can't compensate for the misery and anguish which many women go through inside the marriage institution. But legal cases like this will help to force the issue.

Writing crap the Waterhouse way.

Keith Waterhouse, journalist for the *Daily Mirror*, plumbed new depths in his column last week. On the hundredth anniversary of Marx's death, Waterhouse devoted his pen to the sort of article you would expect to find in a boys public school house journal.

Here are a few choice bits: 'Marxism was a boyhood craze. It came

US Women vote for peace

A new set of opinion polls in the States had revealed major discrepancies in the voting patterns of men and women.

Women are consistently less approving of Reagan than men. They are also up to 20 per cent more likely to be in favour of outlawing handguns, stopping the electric chair and concluding an arms agreement with the Soviet Union.

Melvin Konner, a Harvard biologist believes that women's

peacable nature is not culturally determined, but shaped by their genes.

'One simple practical policy for reducing world-wide violence would be to replace men with women in positions of military and diplomatic power', Konner argues.

Presumably Thatcher is a genetic deformation ...?

Compiled by HILARY DRIVER. Send contributions to 'Male Order' Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publication.

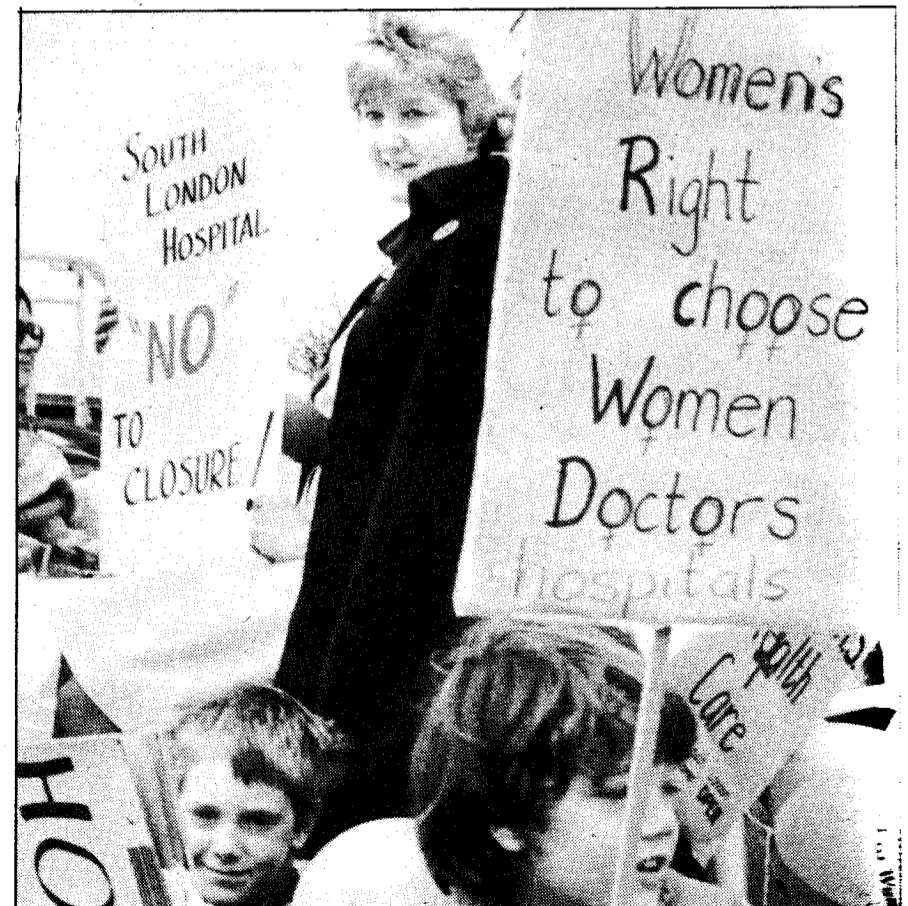
after cigarette-cards but before girls. It was part of the process of growing up.

'One day you were playing conkers and the next you were playing communists. It went with your voice breaking, wearing your first stiff collar and trying to grow a moustache.'

After apologising for his sexism, Waterhouse drivels on:

'... this was the central flaw in Marxism — you could not impress girls ... and so Marxism — just like the state was about to do any minute now — withered away, and we transferred our interest from how the transformation of surplus value into capital is effected, to how to get girls' blouses unbuttoned.'

Hilarious.



Stop the closure of South London Hospital

PASSERS-BY gave a warm reception to an 800-strong demonstration against the closure of South London Women's Hospital last Saturday. Up to forty per cent of its patients are Asian women who choose to have their babies there because

the hospital is staffed by women.

In addition the day-care abortion facilities offered by the hospital are the only ones in the area. The demonstration is the first step in a campaign to stop the closure scheduled for next year.

WORLD IN ACTION

Human rights worker killed

MARIANELLA Garcia Villa, chairperson of the El Salvador Human Rights commission was killed last Sunday in La Bermuda.

Reports indicate that she was arrested while investigating reports of the use of napalm and phosphorus bombs against villages by the Salvador air force.

The Human Rights Commission catalogues the horrific toll of the right wing death squads and the military.

Marianella was murdered after being arrested by government troops, once her fingerprints and true identity were established. The crumbling regime in Salvador is prepared to commit any outrage to maintain itself in power.

Meanwhile the charges against Salvadorean troops accused of murdering four US nuns in 1980 have been dropped for 'lack of evidence'.

Sectarians

PIERRE Lambert's 'Centre for Reconstruction of the Fourth International' (the French PCI for short) have changed their line on Nicaragua. Now it's 'a workers and farmers government'.

RUC Death Squad

THE RUC death squad murdered another victim on Wednesday — for the first time a protestant. William Millar was the tenth person shot dead by the plain-clothes hit squad. In none of these incidents have any shots been fired at police.

Loony Ronnie



RONALD Reagan's latest anti-communist crusade is getting loonier. In a speech last week he approvingly quoted a father he heard saying: 'I would rather my three daughters died in a nuclear war than grew up under Communism.'

Korean exercises

'TEAM Spirit 1983' is the name of the huge military exercise being carried out by US and South Korean forces.

It involves a total of 191,000 personnel, two of the largest US aircraft carriers and 84 fighters and ground attack aircraft.

North Korea has been placed on a war alert as the exercises take place a few miles from its territory.

Pinochet blues

THE TENTH anniversary of the Chilean coup is apparently bringing depression and confusion to General Pinochet.

As Friedman-style monetarism has ruined the middle class and bankrupted business, the good General finds himself isolated and confused.

According to Richard Gott in the *Guardian* Pinochet is going through a very hard time. All our readers, we're sure, will wish the General a speedy end to his problems.

Portuguese socialists fight for SP-CP government

A GENERAL ELECTION is taking place in Portugal on 25 April, in which the workers parties — the Communist Party and the Socialist Party — are likely to win a majority of the votes.

But in all probability, rather than join together to form a working class government, the Socialist Party will form a coalition with the bosses' parties.

Portugal is going through a sustained economic crisis, unable to compete with bigger capitalist powers in the context of the world economic crisis.

Strikes

At the same time the Portuguese working class has shown increased restiveness in the face of the government's austerity measures. There were two general strikes in 1982.

As a result, the governing Democratic Alliance suffered a major defeat in the December 1982 local elections at the hands of the SP and CP. The Alliance, led by Pinto Balsemao of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) resigned, opening up the

way to new elections, and a possible CP-SP victory.

However the Socialist and Communist Parties are engaged in bitter sectarian warfare. The Soares-Gamma-Santos leadership of the SP want a 'National Salvation Government' with some of the bourgeois parties — based on a 'social contract' at the expense of the workers.

Slate

The CP on the other hand is giving tactical support to the formation of a new petty-bourgeois party around President Eanes, in the hope that this party will win support away from the Socialists, thus expanding the CP's room for manoeuvre.

At the same time it continues its ultra-sectarian, hysterical attacks on the Socialists. The manoeuvres of both parties are thus preventing a joint drive to push the right wing parties out of government.

Two far left organisations, the Trotskyist PSR and the UDP, are running a slate in the elections to defend working class interests and to demand a class-independent government committed to socialist policies.



Posters for the 1980 election in Lisbon

Photo: CARLOS AUGUSTO GUARITA

Military takes revenge on Fatsa 'Commune'

Mass trial in Turkey

FATSA, Turkey. A small town of 25,000 inhabitants on the Black Sea coast. No different from thousands of other Anatolian towns. Except that since 12 January this year, 759 of its inhabitants are on trial. They are charged with turning the municipal administration of Fatsa into a 'Commune'.

The military prosecutors are asking for the death sentence for 261 of the defendants. It is the largest mass trial in Turkey's recent history.

It was in the October 1979 municipal elections, to general surprise and against the dominant right wing parties, that Fikri Sonmez was elected as mayor, supported only by left wing organisations such as Devrimci Yol

(Revolutionary Way). Sonmez had a 65 per cent majority.

The programme of the new municipality was radical, democratic and successful. Road repairs, house building, provision

of cheap transport, new provision for water and electricity as well as sewage were implemented. Municipal workers' wages were increased by between 150 per cent and 350 per cent and differentials abolished.

By Nick Robin

'People's Committees' rapidly became the sovereign bodies of administration and decision-making. People from all political viewpoints were allowed to participate in these bodies except for

members of the neo-fascist National Action Party (better known by the name of its military goon squads, the 'Grey Wolves').

The Fatsa experience gained widespread support throughout Turkey. In May 1980, Fatsa hosted ten days of 'popular culture' with the participation of one hundred thousand people.

On 13 July, two months before the military coup, the army surrounded Fatsa. Their intention: 'to put the town in order'.

A statement was issued in the form of a joint declaration by the local representatives of all the establishment parties, including the representatives of the ruling conservative Justice Party, that the town was well in order.

Nevertheless, the army moved in and occupied the town.

In the months following the extreme right provoked bloody confrontations which led to ninety deaths. Naturally, when the army seized power, Fatsa was a principal target. A further twelve deaths and three thousand arrests were the result.

Torture

The Fatsa trial is important for its size and as a symbol of resistance to military rule. It is not, however, exceptional. More than one hundred thousand political prisoners, widespread torture, four thousand people — mostly youths — facing the death penalty, thirty already hanged; this is the barbarous reality of the bastion of NATO's southern flank — the Turkish military junta.

Mayor Fikri Sonmez and the other defendants have been brutally tortured in their two and a half years incarceration. Now they face a terrible fate. They are appealing for representatives of local government worldwide to come to their aid through expressing solidarity with the Fatsa defendants.

For more information: Turkey Solidarity Campaign, BM Box 5965, London WC1N 3XX.

Death warrant



ON HIS TRIP to Salvador, the Pope visited the grave of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador murdered by the death squads.

Immediately after that he popped in to shake hands with Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the National Assembly, who ordered Romero's death.

When Romero appealed to the Pope in 1980 to intervene in support of the Salvador poor, the Pope refused. Lacking papal protection, he was murdered a few days later.

Manifesto

TO COMMEMORATE the Marx centenary a 22-year-old Shanghai textile worker has inscribed the text of the *Communist Manifesto* — 50,000 Chinese characters — on a piece of paper the size of a matchbox.



Main Fikri Sonmez addresses a Fatsa meeting in 1980

THE ACTION INTERVIEW

The Massacre in Sabra Chatila: A day-by-day account

This interview by Caroline Tisdall is with Jamal, a 28-year old Fatah leader who led the resistance in Sabra-Chatila camp to the massacre by Phalangist forces.

It is reprinted with permission from *Beirut: Front Line Story*, Selim Nassib with Caroline Tisdall. Photographs by Chris Steele-Perkins. Pluto Press. £3.95.

AFTER THE evacuation people gradually started to come back to the camps. During the war and the heaviest bombardments most of them had been sheltering in flats and empty schools outside the camps, in terrible conditions and sometimes 20 to a room, while the fighters stayed in the camps. So it was a relief to come 'home', and a relief that the bombardments had stopped. But we were numbed by the devastation and the uncertainty of the future.

At a meeting of the camp committee ten days before the massacre, we had decided to lay down our personal weapons. As you know, the PLO handed over its heavy weapons at the time of the evacuation, but we still had the Kalashnikovs with which we have defended the camps since 1969. We surrendered them to the Lebanese National Movement.

It was a hard decision but we took it for several reasons. After the election of Bashir Gemayel, the Lebanese army came into the camps searching for arms, and found the underground store in Sabra. We knew that if they found more large caches there could be reprisals. That was why, when we realised a massacre was happening in Chatila and tried to organise resistance, we could only find one rocket launcher, 5 rockets, and 15 Kalashnikovs, all of which had been greased, wrapped in sacking and plastic and buried because we didn't expect to use them. We didn't even have time or petrol to clean off the grease so, when it came to it, all we had were about 45 men and boys trying to protect Chatila with 15 boiling-hot greasy guns and one rocket launcher.

But the main reason for disarming was that although the future looked uncertain we didn't expect war to come again. We felt that the PLO had kept the terms of the Habib agreement in evacuating, and we had to put our trust in the multinational peace-keeping force to protect us. They should never have left so early. After that we had to depend on the Lebanese National Movement.

Tuesday, 14 September 1982

At 5.51pm we heard the news that Bashir Gemayel had been injured, on the Phalangist radio, 'The Voice of Lebanon'. At 7.15 the newscaster's voice was deep and sad instead of the usual shouting. At 11pm the death of Gemayel was announced, and programmes replaced with classical music.

Thursday, 16 September 1982

There was heavy shelling all day which lasted till Friday morning. In the early morning we held a meeting in the camp office which is where people usually gather when there is an emergency. That's when we realised that there were two things we had to achieve. Firstly we had to protect the people in the camp by trying to find safe places for them to gather. At the same time we had to organise resistance: we had to gather the fighters left in the camp and try to find some weapons. That meant go-



The aftermath of the massacre. Those surviving search for relatives.

ing round the houses for guns that the old people had hidden since they were mostly too frightened to come out.

At that point we concentrated our resistance. We split up into small groups, each to try to defend the spots they came from and the alleys they knew best: the southern, eastern and western edges, Chatila Place and towards the bridge on the airport road. Some of the groups didn't even have a gun. It was horrible and confusing to the point where you just stopped thinking. It happened so fast: suddenly the enemy was there and the houses were collapsing.

Flares

On Thursday the flares over the camp began at 5.30pm because although the horizon was still light, the narrow spaces between the houses and alleys were getting dark. There were aircraft dropping light bombs too. The night was like day.

At that moment, it was 6pm — a woman running with a child on the street told me the Kitaeb (Phalangist militia) were coming through the alleys in the south-west opposite the swimming pool. They had reached the shelter and killed everyone in it. She said that an Israeli soldier was accompanying a Kitaeb whom she recognised as a Christian from his accent. While the Kitaeb was killing the people in the shelter, the Israeli shouted 'ruch, ruch' to her — that means 'run away' in Arabic but the accent was clear to her. Maybe he was shouting that because the Israelis feel they are more civilised than those they use to do their work.

Four of us were trying to hold the area round the TV studio which had been bombed almost as much as the stadium. We were in a side street and my cousin had the rocket launcher opposite. We were trying to stop them and at the same time save rockets because we only had five. We tried and failed: when we shot they replied with inertia rockets and we were afraid because there were civilians all around.

This part is the most difficult to tell. My father said the rest of the family were in the shelter. I knew they had to get out of there. So I asked my grandmother to go to the shelter to tell them to go. I asked her because in spite of all I'd seen I couldn't believe they would shoot my grandmother. But I knew they would shoot me and I felt I had to continue in this hell. To make it worse, my grandmother is a little deaf and I had to talk loudly to her while we could hear the enemy in our neighbour's house, shouting at

him: 'Come here you son of a bitch.' They were so close.

We heard the neighbour shout 'But I'm Mohammed Nabusi. I'm the brother of the wrestling champion' — as if that would make any difference. They killed him. He was a good man.

There was the daughter of Abu Diab who was 15. They tied her hands and legs and did everything that men can to her. Then they drove an iron bar up her and killed her. There was Fahd, an 18-year-old Syrian whose head was split open with an axe in front of his mother. There was Abu Ibrahim who survived — he was one of the fighters, but he lives with the memory that his mother, sister and brothers were killed and that his pregnant wife had the baby cut out of her and was then killed.

They must have been crazed to do things like that. After the massacre we found the place some of them had stayed in that night, among the breeze blocks we had brought for rebuilding. Piles of lager cans, and two syringes.

Friday, 17 September 1982

From 2am to 6am it was calm, just some shooting here and there, and the flares again. They use their technology to psychological effect and we were sure by now it would be *terra rasa* for us. I was in the Gaza Hospital with my family. At 6.30 an old man and his wife were sniped at just outside by the vegetable market, she in the leg and he in the stomach, so we put up notices written on bits of cardboard box on the corners of the vegetable market, 'Beware of snipers'.

At 7.15am in Sabra Place we heard them calling through loud-speakers. They were telling us to give up and come out of our houses. They were saying the Israeli Defence Force is a peaceful army come to protect the Palestinians from the Christians. All through Friday, Saturday and Sunday they were calling people together to go to the stadium to have their documents stamped.

Sunday, 19 September 1982

I woke at 5.30 to find my father had gone. My mother said he'd returned to Chatila to find the bag with our

family's documents in it, our '48 documents without which one would 'disappear' immediately. I knew he was crazy to go back then and I really broke down, I was shouting and banging my head against the wall.

But he survived and told us what happened. He got back to our house, and found the bag and filled another with some eggs and tomatoes. Then outside the wreck of the Palestinian Red Crescent clinic in Chatila Street he'd been told to stop there by a Haddad man who marched him 10 metres before a Phalangist came up with a gun and told him to drop the bags. My father kept saying they had our documents in them, but he had to leave them. They marched him with hundreds of other people down to the southern entrance of the camp. There the men were separated from the women who all began to recite the Koran, preparing for the worst.

Bomb

The men were marched up the Kuwaiti Embassy Hill and a bomb exploded. The Egyptian in front of my father was killed and the injured were left lying there. Some ran. Then an Israeli lorry came and loaded them up and took them to their headquarters in the stadium. One of the officers who spoke good Palestinian Arabic asked who was from Chatila and Sabra. My father was one of the lucky one who was released. Maybe he was lucky to be arrested — most of the mass shootings in the camp were going on at 7.30.

We did not return to the camp until Tuesday.

WHY?

We do not know how many died. The Red Cross said 1,500 at the time, and then there were at least 900 who were driven off and never seen again. Some dead bodies were found along the roads going east and to the mountains.

You can't separate the war and the massacre. I believe they were trying to set a terrible example for the other Arab countries, to prevent the other Arab peoples ever accepting the Palestinians as an organised force in their midst, and to show them what would happen if they did. They wanted us to run to Syria and be simply absorbed, not organised. I think they failed in this. All through the three months of the war the ordinary Lebanese people helped and protected us. Even at the time of the massacre the people of West Beirut

FROM EVACUATION TO MASSACRE

1 September: Reagan presents American peace plan proposing Palestinian self-government in association with Jordan, rejecting both a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Israeli sovereignty of it, calling for a halt to Jewish settlement in that area, and stating that future negotiations should decide the status of Jerusalem.

2 September: Israeli cabinet unanimously rejects Reagan peace plan. Eight new settlements immediately announced. Sharon, Begin, Shamir and perhaps 'Major' Haddad hold secret meeting with president-elect Bashir Gemayel who is now reluctant to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

9 September: Fez conference of Arab heads of state produces a peace plan incorporating the spirit of the Fahd peace plan, giving recognition of the PLO, the withdrawal of Israel to pre-1967 borders and the establishment of a West Bank state with Jerusalem as its capital.

13 September: Last French contingent of the multinational peace-keeping force leaves Lebanon.

14 September: Bashir Gemayel killed at 4.10pm by bomb explosion at Phalangist headquarters. 350 members of rival Phalangist factions arrested by SKS, the Kitaeb (Phalange) security service.

Before the announcement of Gemayel's death is officially made, Begin and Sharon, without Cabinet consultation, set in action 'Operation Iron Brain': it involves the occupation of West Beirut 'to prevent dangerous developments' and 'to preserve tranquillity and order'.

15 September: At 2am Israeli Defence Force moves into West Beirut. They claim that '2,000 terrorists' are still sheltering there, some in refugee camps such as Sabra-Chatila.

were finding shelter for us: by the Sunday they had found a flat for my family.

Psychologically it is clear what they were trying to do to us. We were trapped like animals in that camp, and that is how they have always tried to show us to the world. They wanted us to believe it ourselves. They wanted to terrify and traumatise us, to leave us with memories we can never forget. Perhaps in that they have succeeded, but only as long as we remain unarmed.

As fighters they wanted to humiliate us. They couldn't beat us armed so they beat us unarmed: 'the hordes came when the fighters left' is what we say to that. The experience of being unable to defend even my own family when the whole camp is my family has left me confused and very angry. But as a fighter I don't have a sense of failure because I feel that as a resistance we were able to do much more than we thought we could with limited and unimpressive weapons.

Before the war they said we were terrorists and that we were training terrorists in our camps. Everyone who knows us knows we were fighters you could trust, and that we were trying to build a progressive mentality. Why didn't they write that every day? It's related to philosophy: when you are building something and the enemy comes and destroys this thing again and again, it means you are on the right road, however long it may be.

RACIS LEAD

BLACK PEOPLE'S resistance to state racism has had its impact on the Labour Party. At last year's conference, delegates deplored the past role of the Labour Government in implementing Immigration Laws, particularly the 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act.

They went on to commit conference to repeal the 1971 Immigration Act and the 1981 Nationality Act as 'amongst the highest priorities for the next Labour government.'

Probably many blacks greeted this decision with a lot of cynicism. Past Labour governments have had a shameful record in their dealings and legislation concerning black people.

After the Second World War, Britain relied heavily on black labour to staff those jobs which were ill-paid, involved shift work and unpleasant conditions in an economy where labour was short.

White workers had left these jobs in increasing numbers to get better paid employment in more congenial conditions.

By the late '50s and early '60s the emphasis had moved towards use of technology and away from the labour intensive industries and services.

The cheap reservoir of Commonwealth labour had served its purpose. The 1962 Commonwealth Act recorded that by the introduction of a vouc-



Photo: MARK RUSHER (IPL)

"Leave it to me" - Hattersley

ROY HATTERSLEY, Labour's shadow Home Secretary, has condemned 'The authoritarian state the Tories are creating, with the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Tebbit's anti-union Bill and the new Police Bill.'

But Hattersley seems content to restrict his displeasure with the Tories to speeches. On action he is a little short.

In Birmingham there is a campaign against the attempt to deport an Asian social worker Muhammed Idrish. Here surely was a chance for the Birmingham Sparkbrook MP to

By Bob Smith

get cracking in fighting the 'authoritarian state'.

However, Hattersley told us: 'I cannot do anything about Muhammed Idrish yet, but when a Labour government is returned to power, I would look on his case sympathetically, if I am at the Home Office.'

He also explained: 'I do not like taking up cases outside my own con-

stituency. People should visit their own MP.'

Hattersley has been less than energetic in relation to the West Midlands police. This force has built up quite a reputation. One of their victims in Coventry is hanging on to his life through a support machine in a Coventry hospital.

They have twice busted into the homes of older people and knocked around their innocent victims. Their racism is renowned in the black community.

But for Roy Hattersley: 'Sir Philip Knight's men are the best run force in the country, self-regulation for them is OK by me. The need for new community controls over the police is a left-wing exaggeration ...'

On immigration Hattersley makes no concessions to humanity or socialism. He says: 'The ethnic groups realise that an open-door policy would only create more problems for them ...'

But black people don't need to worry. They have a guardian, although he is self-appointed. He modestly explains: 'That I and the local councillors are the only people who can look after the community's interests effectively.'

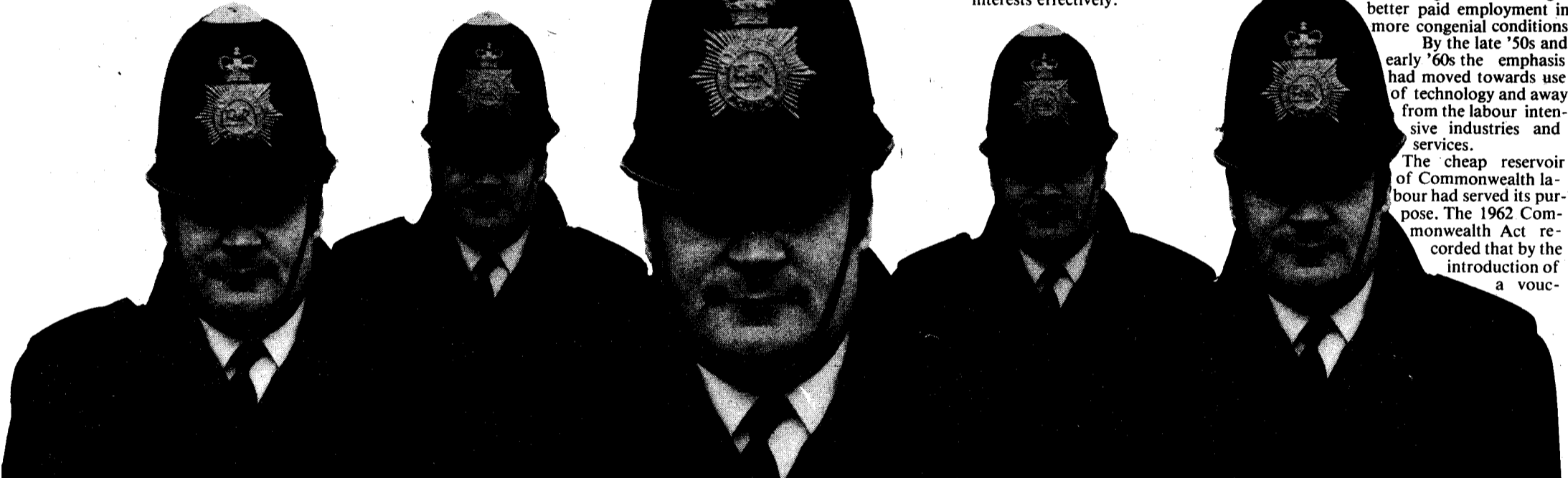


Photo: GIM COOKSON

Frightening new powers in Police Bill

'A BILL being rushed through parliament could bring Britain closer to becoming a police state'. No, it wasn't some way out 'lefty' who said that. It was Lord Salmon, one of our 'esteemed' Law Lords.

So you now have it from the horse's mouth. This Bill is aimed at attacking the rights of young blacks and also is intended to take a swipe at the labour movement.

If passed it will be part of the armoury of anti-black, anti-Irish and anti-working class measures like the Immigration laws, Tebbit's anti-union laws, and the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

MIKE RODNEY goes

through what is being proposed.

● **Stop and search:**

'The constable may on reasonable suspicion search any person or vehicle found in a public place for stolen or prohibited articles and may detain a person or vehicle for the purpose of such a search.'

This means that the police will have the powers to stop any one they don't like the look of. 'Swamp 81' which sparked off the Brixton rebellion will become commonplace.

● **Powers of arrest:**

'Where a constable has reasonable grounds for suspecting an offence has been committed or attempted ... he may arrest any person whom he has reasonable grounds to suspect of having committed the offence ...'

This gives the police alarming new powers. Up to now they have only been able to arrest people on suspicion if they think they have done something that carries a five year prison sentence.

Now you can be 'nicked' for not giving your name and address or even

dropping your cigarette packet on the pavement.

● **Powers of detention:**

'A person shall not be kept in police detention for more than 24 hours without being charged' (unless) 'there are reasonable grounds that his detention without being charged is necessary to secure or preserve evidence of or relating to the offence for which he was arrested or to obtain such evidence by questioning him ...'

This now means people can be held for up to four days without being charged. The police will be able to define what 'a serious offence' is. Intimate body searches will be allowed, without consent.

● **Access to a lawyer:**

'A person arrested and held in custody in a police station or their premises shall be entitled if he so requests to consult a solicitor privately at any time.'

But then comes the rub because the arrested person must not be a person 'who is in police detention for a serious arrestable offence.' Nor must seeing a solicitor 'lead to interference with or harm to evidence connected

with a serious arrestable offence ...'

So you only get your 'rights' if the police think you should have them. Even these 'rights' do not apply to people arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

For the labour movement and black people this Bill is very bad news.

Pickets and demonstrations could be searched at any time for 'offensive weapons'. Items like placard poles or banners would easily get in this category. Coaches going to rallies could be stopped and delayed or even prevented from getting to their destination and police could search them.

Anyone who has experienced the use of 'sus' laws against the black population will know what to expect now that even greater discretionary powers are to be given to individual police.

Mass 'pick-ups', stop and search operations, passport checks and home raids will rise dramatically. Unemployed youth hanging around street corners, broke and having nothing to do will become prey to the racist coppers.

Once in the police station they will get the treatment and be subjected to

body searches and fingerprinting which is not allowed under present legislation.

This new Bill is one more weapon in the hands of the ruling class and if passed will mean greater repression and violence on the streets and in the police stations.

WE HAVE TO STOP the Police Bill becoming law. The Greater London Council and a number of police monitoring groups are in opposition.

Civil rights organisations are also coming out against it. In Leeds a day of action has been held against the Bill. The Labour Party too is committed to oppose the Bill.

But we must make sure that it does not slip off the hook as it did with other racist acts once it got elected. This Bill can be defeated by mass action of the black movements in alliance with the labour movement.

The 27 March CARL demonstration is the beginnings of such a campaign.

M-LABOUR ERS' DIRTY RECORD

her system which differentiated between unskilled and skilled labour. Two years later the unskilled vouchers were abolished. Britain only wanted those immigrants who had been trained by Commonwealth countries.

The Labour Party opposed the 1962 Act. But the low turn-out of Labour MPs in the House of Commons when the Act was voted law

By Chris Guthrie

showed that many Labour MPs either secretly sympathised with its aims or did not think the issue was important.

When Labour got into office in 1964 instead of repealing the Act they toughened it up. Wilson brought in a White Paper which slashed the number of vouchers; introduced stricter tests of eligibility of children and most importantly gave the Home Secretary powers to deport illegal immigrants at his discretion without a court ruling.

In 1967/68 Labour rushed through the 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act. At that time the media was whipping up hysteria — a disease the Labour government was specially prone to — about the Kenyan Asians.

These were people who the British had taken to Kenya in the days of Empire and had been given British passports with Kenyan independence.

Many Kenyan Asians wanted to come to Britain. But Labour's Act only allowed entry to United Kingdom citizens who had a parent or grandparent born in Britain.

This was a cynical move by Labour to keep out the Kenyan Asians, most of whom could not satisfy this criteria.

The Tories' 1971 Immigration Act removed all rights of Black Commonwealth citizens to come to Britain and extended the powers of deportation.

Roy Jenkins, who was destined to be Home Secretary in the next govern-



Anwar Ditta won campaign to be reunited with her children

ment spoke for Labour in the debate on the then Bill. He said: 'This is a highly objectionable Bill. If the government had any self respect they would withdraw the Bill and start again.'

Unfortunately Mr Jenkins never got around to finding his own self-respect because as Home Secretary in the Labour governments of 1974-79 he forgot to repeal the Act.

This was the Act that was used to deny Anwar Ditta's children the right to join their mother in Britain.

The Labour government also published the Nationality Paper upon which much of the 1981 Nationality Act is based.

Even Labour's new policy of repealing the existing Immigration and Nationality Acts has its drawbacks because it talks of replacing them with 'non-racist laws.'

Immigration laws which are there to deny people the right to work and live where they choose discriminate against people of other countries. By their very nature in a country like Britain, they must be racist.

Anwar Ditta's children were not kept from her for six years because of some clause on 'patriality' but because the racist Home Office officials decided they were not her children.

Nevertheless, Labour's pledge to repeal the Acts is a good step forward.

Amnesty

Now Labour Party activists and militants in the black movement must make sure that Conference decisions are not renegeed on.

Labour's pledge to repeal the Acts must be prominent in its publicity and general election material.

Labour must commit itself to an amnesty for all suspected illegal immigrants and guarantee it will bring together all the divided families.

Local Labour parties must get involved in an active sense with black people campaigning against the Acts and against particular deportations.

Neither black people nor the labour movement can sit back and wait for the return of a Labour government. The fight has to go on now.

Not only is this the best way to stop racial harassment and deportations and defeat the Tories. It is the surest way to stop Labour selling out when it gets back in office.



Photo: GM COOKSON

Afia Begum with her child — victims of the immigration laws.

Tories play the race card

THE 'NEW TECHNOLOGY' is now being harnessed to step up the harassment of black people. *New Scientist* and *Computing* magazines have both blown the gaff on a plan by the Home Office for an Immigration and Nationality Department Electronic Computer System.

The first phase started in August 1980. Visitor's landing cards are sent off to a computer at Bootle. The computer then informs the Home Office if the visitor has not left in time.

This enables the Home Office to make deportation faster and more efficient.

Phase two of this operation involves installing computer terminals

By Walid Hadad

at ports and airports and linking them to a computerised Home Office confidential suspects index.

This list already has over 18,000 names on it, some of whom are known as political activists. When visitors present their passports to the immigration officer the details will be fed into the computer and checked against the index.

The computer may then send instructions such as 'refuse entry', 'refer to Special Branch when gone' or 'press for details of journey'.

The Home Office has another computer at the Harmondsworth

headquarters of the Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit. This stores the names, addresses and telephone numbers of people suspected of aiding illegal immigrants.

This poses the question of whether being active in an anti-deportation campaign constitutes 'aiding an illegal immigrant'.

These new measures follow on the heels of the Tory government's Nationality Act which confers on many black people the title of British Overseas Citizen. This means they are British but have no legal right to come and stay in Britain.

The Tories have also stepped up their use of the Immigration Act. Since being elected in May 1979 deportations have gone up by 20 per cent.

Race checks have been introduced in the NHS hospitals so that black people may be asked to prove that they are legally allowed to stay in Britain before being given hospital treatment.

The Tories economic policies have had a cruel effect on blacks, particularly black youth. A Commission for Racial Equality study shows that six out of ten Afro-Caribbean youth are unemployed and that four out of ten Asian teenagers do not have a job.

The Tories are using racism to encourage a black and white divide and to make the black population scapegoats for their economic and social policies.

But events such as the rebellion of the black youth in the inner city ghettos in the spring and summer of 1981 scared the hell out of the Tories.

The spate of anti-deportation campaigns; the big protest movements built around the massacres of the New Cross 13; the campaigns against the harassment of the Bradford 12 and the Newham 8 as well as the protests over the death of Colin Roach in a Hackney police station show that there is a real will to fight back among black people.

The Tories have responded with even more repression. CS gas and plastic bullets have been issued to the police and they will enjoy frighteningly wide powers if the new Police Bill is passed.

That is why the demonstration called by the Campaign Against Racist Laws on 27 March is so important. Not only can it rally thousands of people but it can show by its size and strength that the Tories are not going to have things their own way.

In the fight against Tory racism the labour movement must stand with black people. The fight for democratic rights affects everybody.

If the Tories get away with playing the racist card they will divide the labour movement at a time when unity has never been so important.

That is why every possible labour movement banner and marcher should be out on Sunday 27 March.

● Assemble 12 noon, Palace Gardens, Waterloo Station, Sunday 27 March. * Repeal the Immigration and Nationality Acts * Stop Race Checks * Stop Racist Deportation * Unite the Divided Families Now.



Socialist Action

Challenge the Labour right now!

AS WE go to press the Labour Party's National Executive Committee is finalising what is, in essence, its first draft election manifesto.

Some on the left, such as the Labour Coordinating Committee and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, have already concluded that we should settle for this draft, unite behind it and draw a balance sheet after the result.

This would be wrong. Whatever appears in this first draft Healey and the right have no intention of carrying out Labour's conference policies.

Leaked

This is reflected in the leaked accounts of the document. The National Economic Assessment is revealed as a new 'Social Contract'. Careful clauses have been inserted in the draft's 'unilateralist' declarations to avoid removing American bases if this disturbs 'existing alliances'.

The right wing therefore must be challenged now.

But there is another problem which Bermondsey revealed and the pre-Darlington polls have done nothing to allay. These polls reveal a sentiment among Labour voters, albeit whipped up by the media and boosted by the NEC's witch hunt, which can be used to siphon votes towards the Alliance and stop Labour winning an overall majority.

This has opened the door to a new and dangerous departure by the right wing: a possible coalition with the SDP and the Liberals in which all of Labour's promises would be scrapped.

This means that the left has to take responsibility for winning the election for Labour.

It is no answer, as some leading figures in the Communist Party are canvassing, to weaken Labour's policy in order to win over the middle ground. This simply paves the way for a deal with the Alliance itself.

Risk

The idea of an 'Anti-Tory League', though not put forward with the same intent, runs the same risk. We need a campaign, not just against the Tories, but for Labour and those policies which meet the immediate and burning needs of the working class and oppressed.

The foundation of Socialists for a Labour Victory suggests such an alternative way. Its declaration lists those policies which can give a decisive labour movement answer to the social and economic crisis. They can unite Labour's ranks and win back people drifting to the SDP.

The declaration calls for an end to the witch hunt whose effects were the main reason given by Bermondsey voters for voting Alliance. SLV also declares categorically here and now it will not enter coalitionist deals.

But most importantly the declaration commits itself to support all actions against the Tory government here and now. Success for campaigns like CND and fights against unemployment can discredit the Tories and their policies.

Some argue that with defeats such as those suffered by the miners it is now too late to turn the tide against Thatcher.

But supporting action now is the best way to prepare for whatever the outcome of the general election, and for our goal of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Editor: ALAN FREEMAN

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We regret that due to the high cost of postage we cannot return or acknowledge unsolicited copy or photographs unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Black activist arrested

ON 12 FEBRUARY I was arrested on a demonstration that was calling for an independent public enquiry into the death of Colin Roach at Stoke Newington police station.

I was arrested for another reason than being on the street protesting about the death of Colin. For this I have been falsely charged with threatening behaviour, assault on the police, obstructing the highway, obstructing the police.

In the van along with other demonstrators I was insulted, intimidated and assaulted. I was grabbed by the ear which was twisted until it bled. I was held until Monday morning, then taken to court.

On 24 February under a pretext of looking for a man who had supposedly entered my house, without a warrant my house was raided by nine police officers accompanied by two dogs.

Two days later the



police attempted to intimidate me when I went to make a complaint to Deptford police station. This harassment comes as no shock to me as I am a member of the Revolutionary Black Activists, and I am not the only

black political activist to have been arrested and harassed during this campaign as in the case of Ace Kelly.

At the Old Street magistrates court, on 8 March I was accused of being a ring leader at the

disturbances. I have been banned from entering the borough of Hackney.

I intend now to make a formal complaint against both Stoke Newington and Deptford police, and I urge you to write to both these police stations con-

demning these actions.

I appear at Old Street Magistrates Court on 10 May at 2.00pm.

CIRUS NOOR,
Spokesperson
(Revolutionary Black Activists)

Healey and NATO

WHILST condemning Michael Foot for keeping unilateralism out of the campaign document, we must recognise that this is not unconnected with Dennis Healey's recent conversion against Cruise missiles.

The winning of Healey's support is, and will be viewed as, a victory for those who support nuclear disarmament.

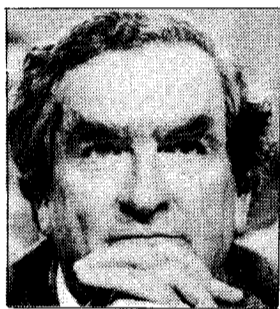
The scrapping of Cruise would be no mere sop for CND. The vast majority of CND activists see stopping Cruise and Trident as their main goal.

The idea that Healey may get rid of Cruise is already strengthening his standing in the party.

Dennis's only problem is that virtually nobody on the left (and not many more in the country as a whole) believe a single radical word he utters.

However we unilateralists also have a problem (deliberately created by Dennis) — how to avoid the label of ultra-leftism when demanding that unilateralism is written into the LP manifesto. Reference to conference decisions only has half the impact needed.

The other point that has to be hammered home is that because Healey is not a unilateralist he is at the mercy of NATO. Healey's commitment to NATO will draw him back



from scrapping Cruise.

Failing any major, Vietnam-type, defeat, imperialism will not call a halt to its current military offensive. Only if the Labour leadership is willing to break with NATO and unilaterally disarm, will the first steps to disarmament be made.

At the moment Labour Party conference has saddled us with the contradiction of supporting NATO and unilateralism. The leadership is preparing to play the NATO card, so we must ensure that the party faces this contradiction, and at least prioritises unilateralism above membership of NATO.

The first step of doing this is, as you say, to fight for the inclusion of unilateralism in the manifesto.

LES HARTOP,
Gillingham

Overtown of 'Resolution 51'

IF THE EXCERPTS from the Labour Party's 'campaign' document printed in the *Guardian* are accurate then we face a complete overturn of October's decisions.

These included: 'opposing unconditionally the replacement of Polaris by Trident ... and the deployment of Cruise ... closing down all nuclear bases, British and American on British soil or in British waters.'

An instruction to the NEC to: 'ensure that the next ... manifesto contains an unequivocal unambiguous commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament and for the Parliamentary Labour Party ... to actively campaign on this policy, in its first session in office.'

Draft

But the draft in the *Guardian* makes only two clear commitments: 'We will not permit the siting of Cruise missiles in this country ... The next Labour government will cancel the Trident programme.'

That there are only tactical decisions to be incorporated in a continued framework of maintaining the 'independent' deter-

rent and American bases is clear: 'We will propose that Britain's Polaris force be included in the nuclear disarmament negotiations in which Britain must take part.'

'Labour's commitment is to establish a non-nuclear defence policy for this country. This means rejection of any fresh nuclear weapons or bases on British soil or in British waters and the removal of all existing bases and weapons ... However all this cannot be done at once and the way we do it must be designed to ... securing nuclear disarmaments agreements and maintaining cooperation with our allies.' (my emphasis).

Paying

If this is an accurate foretaste of the campaign document we are paying a heavy price for our failure to take 1982's political victory onto the field of organisation and leadership.

We are also paying for our failure to win a posi-

tion that is central to a non-nuclear policy — 'Britain out of NATO'. Running right through the document is a re-affirmation of commitment to the Alliance. But NATO is a nuclear alliance or it is nothing. Continued membership makes a non-nuclear strategy impossible.

If we enter an election with this confused and confusing policy, the Party and the most significant mass political movement of this century will pay a still heavier price.

A firmly argued and principled platform of 'Jobs not Bombs' is the only way to beat the Tories.

If our Party could only mobilise half the energy and enthusiasm that drives the peace movement, it would have an unstoppable momentum to victory! Party activists committed to this view have an urgent need to make that happen!

TONY SOUTHALL,
Glasgow Kelvingrove
CLP. Secretary, Scottish Labour CND.

Up and Atom Ant

ballistic missiles
the solo silo
choose a CRUISE
with Tarzans' biro
crazy mushroom
dead air deathrow
nagasaki news
on atom ant show

bang bang, you're dead
sorry, it was a mistake
our magic machine just
blew a fuse
doesn't matter
it had its use
in the interests of security
you can deduct
no panic
this thing can
self destruct

they're making a bomb
out of all our fears
military march
full speed on gears
when the balloon pops
when the bomb drops
when the child sucks
then to scream
no more population
to be seen

phallic symbol
plutonium blond
rude awakening
from the mockingbird sky
whitewashed windows
heads down and fry
might as well kiss
your ass goodbye

GREETINGS

Malcolm Saunders

(PPC for mid-Oxon)

'Greetings on the timely launch of a new socialist paper committed to furthering the struggle in the Labour Party and trade union movement'

Spare Rib

'A wary feminist welcome to *Socialist Action* from *Spare Rib*. May the *Socialist Woman* supplement rise (and bite the hand that feeds it whenever necessary). Women are revolting!'

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Write to us!

This is your page. Send us your comments, criticisms or even congratulations. But please be brief — letters over 300 words will be cut. Write to: Letters, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP. (Tel: 01-359 8180)

Black bookfair

'Resurgence or barbarism'

FROM PEASANTS' theatres in Kenya to poets on the Calcutta streets. From the vile farce of the Nigerian government's call for 'moral revolution' to the rising combativity of Trinidadian oil workers, the discussion at the forum, *Resurgence or Barbarism* on Thursday 17 March, ranged across the concerns and involvements of black activists and writers in this period of growing imperialist barbarism.

The forum, held in South London as an event of the 2nd International Black and Third World Books, included some of the best known international figures of black literature.

Among these were CLR James, the 82 year old Trotskyist and historian; Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, the Kenyan playwright and novelist and leader of the international campaign for the release of political prisoners in Kenya; Sonia Sanchez, a prominent black American poet and playwright; and Farukh Dhondy, a teacher and writer born in India but living in England.

Links

Darcus Howe, editor of *Race Today*, chair of the event, talked in his introduction of the links between black writing and the surges and 'resurgences' of black resistance to imperialism and barbarism.

He spoke of the waves of resistance of black slaves and their descendents in the US, of the upsurge of West Indian radicalism prior to the Second World War, and of the independence struggles in Asia and Africa.

Each of these movements created new writers and 'sharpened the sensitivities of the old'. The speakers bore this contention out. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o was shaped as a writer by the Mau Mau 'Emergency' in the 50's, and his novels and plays feature the struggles of the peasantry and workers in Kenya.

His attempts to involve the working people in

theatrical recreation of the Mau-Mau period — antagonised the Kenyatta and Moi regimes, resulting in his detention and exile.

By Tim Rigby

The present regime, in its deepening alliance with American and British capital, is terrified of the history of struggle and wants to silence the people of Kenya. Ngugi represents a voice of that people, but, as he says, they will not be silenced. A new generation of activist writers will emerge, as he himself came out of the Mau Mau period.

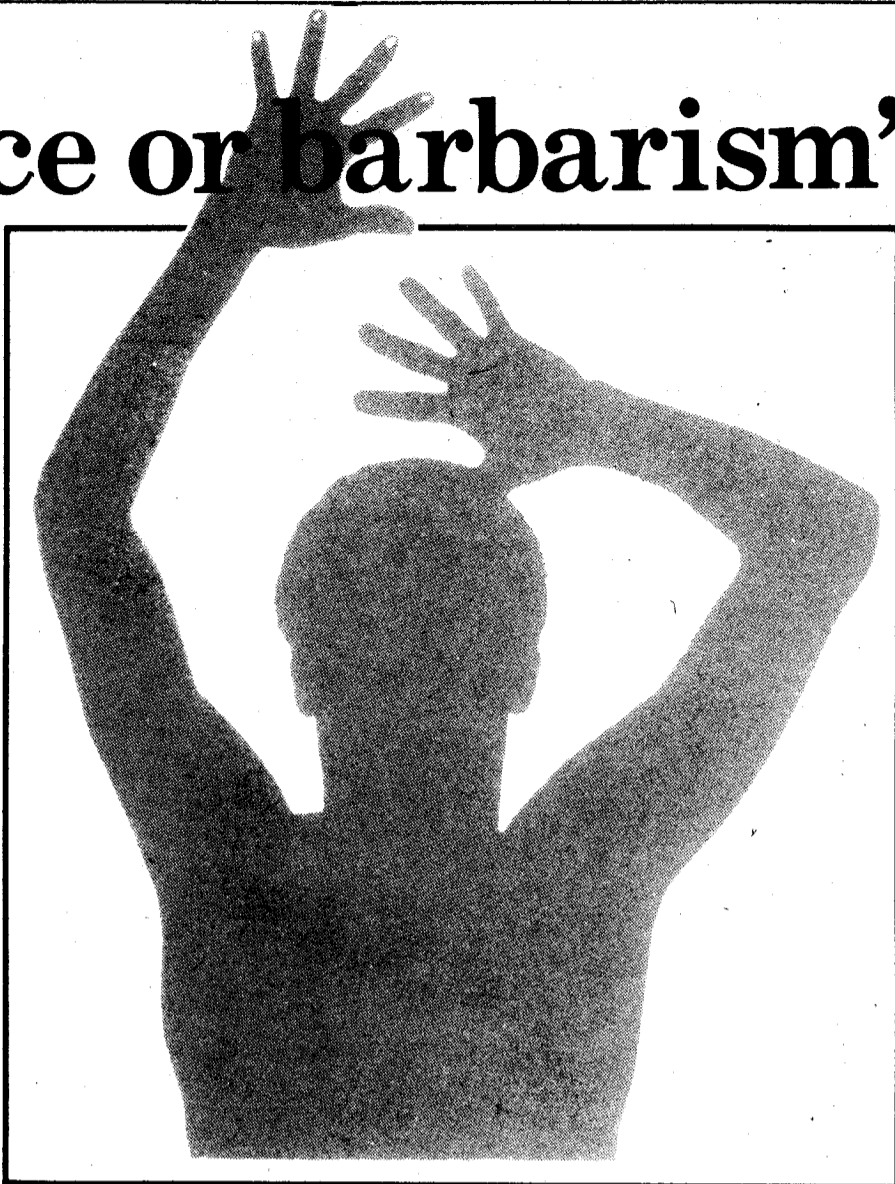
The poetry of Sonia Sanchez flows from her experiences of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements in the late '60s and is now linked with the rising peace movement in the US.

It is about the struggle for a new humanity and the overcoming of the 'nuclear' mentality of the 'inhuman' leaders of imperialism.

Talked

As with many contributors she talked of the way contemporary culture shapes the images the oppressed have of themselves.

Farrukh Dhondy also spoke of how the imperialist media distorted the truth of Third World events. The recent massacres in Assam were blamed by the media on the barbarity of the local peoples rather than being seen as the consequence of enforced migration under British colonial barbarism.



Black authors discuss role of literature in struggle against imperialism.

As all the speakers at the forum showed, the writers of the Third World have a special part to play in assaulting all the oppressed of their history of struggle.

It was CLR James who said the parallels of today

are with the '30s. We face a huge new barbarism.

The working classes of today, as the German workers then, hold the future in their hands — if only they understood their power.

They cannot be misled again, and it is the work of writers committed to the struggle which will aid in clarifying the image of themselves as the only hope for the future, the only force which can resist barbarism.

From a yelp to a whimper

FOR A FEW hours 'Bolshevism' stalked the potted plants and palm trees at TV-am's new £4½ million headquarters at Camden Lock.

When five people whose salaries range up to £70,000 a year see chief sponsor Peter Jay get gobbled up for breakfast you can understand them becoming worried.

Anna Ford, a protesting presenter, earning around £1,000 a week and the owner of 275 shares in the ITV-am described the reason's for Jay's going as 'treachery'.

Michael Parkinson talked about it being a 'great sadness' and threatened to resign.

David Frost was 'totally opposed to Peter resigning' and being a

brave chap actually said so.

Angela Rippon was very indignant. She denounced 'the incredible

By Bob Pennington

shenanigans we have all witnessed behind the scenes'.

For a minute I actually thought we were going to get a real display of militancy and solidarity.

Wisdom

But wisdom prevailed. You do not get around £1,000 a week like Anna does by being rash. After a lot of thought she decided it was worth putting up with a little treachery.

Angela, who had been dropping hints that she would go if Peter

went, bravely decided to stay the course.

Despite his 42,196 shares in the company and his wage of around



£70,000 a year David still remains a trouper at heart. Gratefully, he quoted Peter Jay as saying the 'show must go on' so he too will be back at work next week. Michael, explaining Peter had resigned, described himself as 'just a hired hack' who could hardly be expected to start downing tools and upsetting the new gaffer.

Myself, I cannot

understand why they are all so indignant. The man with the axe, Tory MP Jonathan Aitken, is only exercising his proprietorial rights.

With 91,373 shares and representing a family that has sunk over £1 million into the company. According to the rules of the game he has every right to sack and remove who he wants.

Law

The five presenters all believe in free enterprise and the law of the market. Their audience has slumped from 800,000 in week one to 300,000 by week six. What did they expect — a bonus?

The protest started as a yelp and finished with



Michael Parkinson, claimed to be a 'hack' — who are we to disagree?

an obedient whimper. But ITV-am does have realistic presenters, who know and obey the rules of the capitalist game.



Three years of the Grenadian Revolution

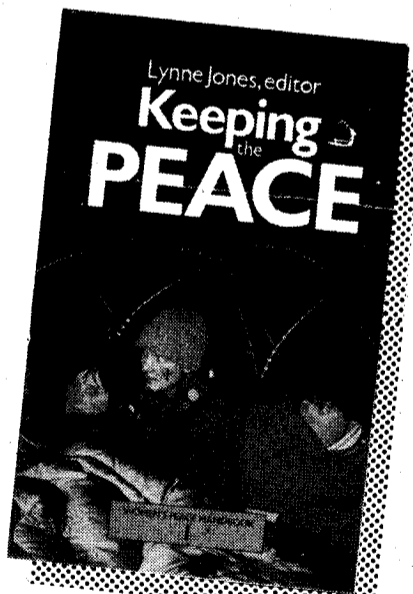
'Forward Ever' (Pathfinder Press £4.95)

In 1979 the peoples of the small Caribbean island of Grenada drove out the corrupt regime of Sir Eric Gairy.

Like the Cubans and the Nicaraguans the Grenadians did the unmentionable and achieved the impossible. They dared to make a revolution in the US's so-called own backyard. What is more they actually won it.

And Maurice Bishop the Prime Minister made it clear that the New Jewel Movement made that revolution because it wanted independence and dignity for the people of Grenada. In May 1979 only one month after the revolution in a radio broadcast Bishop said: 'We are not in anybody's back yard and we are definitely not for sale.' It was not a popular message as far as the American government was concerned.

This book by Pathfinder consists of Bishop's speeches. It takes a wide-ranging look at the first successful revolution in an English-speaking country and it is a real help to anyone who wants to understand what is happening in Grenada.



Women's Peace Handbook

'Keeping the Peace' Edited by Lynne Jones (Published by the Women's Press Ltd)

The women of Greenham Common, by their courage, their originality and their audacity, have done more than anyone else to make sure that a majority of people are against the siting of cruise missiles in Britain.

The women at Greenham have turned upside down that tired adage that men fight and die gloriously in wars whilst women stay at home and weep. Now Lynne Jones has done us all a service by assembling together accounts by women on a world scale to show their diversity and ingenuity in that most important of all campaigns — the fight for the survival of the human race!

Their struggles have been an inspiration and we can all, pacifists and Marxists alike, learn something from them.

Both available from The Other Bookshops: 328 Upper Street London N1 and 137 Digbeth Birmingham 4.

DIARY

(These listings are free for all major labour movement and campaigns activities. Semi-display advertisements cost 5p per word and must be paid in advance. Send to: *Diary, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP* to arrive not later than Thursday one week prior to publication).

Campaign Against Racist Laws national demonstration Sunday 27 March. 'Repeal the Immigration and Nationality Acts/Stop race checks/Stop racist deportations/Unite the divided families now'. Assemble 12 noon, Peace Gardens (next to County Hall) near Waterloo station.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIST LAWS OPEN-AIR FESTIVAL

Orchestra Jazira
Benjamin Zephaniah
Surinder Singh
Fatehpuri Group

● **'Banda Tepeuaní'** — a Salvadorean band — will be touring Britain during March at the following venues:
23rd: Bristol Trinity theatre, Old Market, 8pm.
24th: Leeds Riley Smith Hall, Students Union, 8pm.
25th: London ULU, Malet Street, 7pm.
26th: Sheffield City Poly, Pond Street, 7.30pm.
27th: Newcastle St Thomas' Church, Haymarket, 6.30pm. Organised by CARILA Tel: 01-359 2270.

● **Monstrous Regiment** present 'The Fourth Wall' with material by Dario Fo and Franca Rame. A vocal and musical presentation attacking the political and sexual servitude of women. 22 March-9 April at the Drill Hall, 16 Chenies St, London WC1. Box Office 637 8270

● **Colin Roach Family Support Committee:** Pascal and Skeet present a benefit night with bands, refreshments. Fri 25 March, 7-11.30pm, Downtown Youth Club, Downs Road, London E5. £1.50 or £1 advance. Tel: 01-985 3459.

● **'Nicaragua — Defending the Revolution'**. Hounslow Socialist Forum meeting, Sunday 27 March with speaker from Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. George IV Pub, 185 Chiswick High Road, W4, 7pm.

● **'The Politics of the Family'**. Socialist Society two-day conference with plenaries, workshops, films, videos and exhibits. Creche must be booked. 27/28 March at Sir William Collins School, Charrington St, London NW1. Details 01-734 8501.

● **'Politics Party'** organised by Southwark Labour Party with theatre, film, stalls, workshops, food and drink. Creche available. Sat 9 April, Camden TA Hall, 9.30-11pm. Details: 01-701 7821/703 9456.

● **'Towards a Police State?'** Hounslow Socialist Forum meeting, Sunday 10 April with Brian Rose-Smith, a leading criminal lawyer, speaking on the new Police Bill. George IV Pub, 185 Chiswick High Road, W4, 7pm.

● **Labour Research Department AGM.** Saturday 16 April, 2.30-5pm, Tudor Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, SW1. Details: 01-928 3649.

● **Black Theatre Cooperative** benefit for Roach Family Support Committee. Guests include Saka Eati, Benjamin Zephaniah, Spartacus, Indian Dancers. Sun 17 April, Half Moon Theatre, Mile End. Details: 01-254 7480.

● **Easter Sunday Commemoration March:** Assemble at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park at 1.30pm, march to rally at Kilburn.

● **Hunger Strikers Commemoration Rally,** 4 May in Birmingham. Assemble at Spark Hill at 1.30pm.

● **'Plantation Workers of Sri Lanka'**. An international conference on 23/24 April organised by the Sri Lanka Research and Information Group. Further details from SLRIG, 9 Grays Inn Buildings, Rosebury Ave, London EC1.

● **El Salvador Labour Movement Conference.** 14 May, County Hall, SE1, 10am-5pm. Speakers include Judith Hart MP and Dr Salvador Moncada, senior FDR/FMLN London representative. TUs, LP and LPYS branches are invited to send two delegates. Details from El Salvador Solidarity Campaign 29 Islington Park St, London N1. Tel: 01-359 2270.

● **International Women's Day for Disarmament** — 24 May. For more information please contact 'May 24th', 16 Arundel Rd, Brighton, E. Sussex.

● **'Stop the Witch-hunt'** LAW/Labour Briefing joint

open meeting at the West Midlands Region LP Conference. Sat 26 March, 1pm, Saracen's Head, Stone Street, Dudley. Speakers: Les Huckfield MP, Peter Tatchell, Jack Turner PPC, Pete Bilson PPC.

● **Labour Committee On Ireland Conference/AGM.** Sat 23 April, County Hall, London SE1. Discussion on new magazine and trade unions. Details: Box BM 5355, London WC1N 3XX.

Southern Africa: The Time to Act. Launch of week of action by Anti-Apartheid Movement, details below. The AAM has changed its address to: 13 Selous St, London NW1 ODW. Tel: 01-387 7966.

● **Local Authorities Anti-Apartheid Conference** to discuss cooperation in the campaign. 25 March in Sheffield. Details from AAM.

● **'Scotland and Apartheid South Africa — Time to Act'** Conference organised by Scottish Committee of AAM. Sat 26 March, 10am-5pm, Henry Wood Hall, Clarendon St, Glasgow. Registration £1.50. Details: John Nelson, tel: Hamilton 426781.

● **Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador Briefings** are produced by the Central America Information Service, 14 Brixton Rd, London SW9. If you would like to receive them regularly, please write enclosing your name and address.

● **Concert for Chile** presented by Chile Solidarity Campaign with Quilapayun and The Boys of the Lough. Sun 1 May, 7pm, Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Ct Rd, London. Tickets £6, £5, £4, unwaged £2 from CSC, Seven Sisters Rd, London N7. Tel: 01-272 4298.

1983 Jose Marti International Work Brigade to Cuba: one months working holiday in Cuba from 1st-30th September. For details contact the British-Cuba Resource Centre (Brigade), c/o CARILA 29 Islington Park St London N1.

OUT NOW: 'The Death Agony of the Fourth International and the Tasks of Trotskyists Today'. A new book from Workers Power/Irish Workers Group. 120 pages, £1.85 including postage. From: Box 7750 BCM WC1N 3XX or left bookshops.

Socialist Action Forums

'Socialist Action — A New Labour Movement Paper'

HACKNEY Speakers: Carol Turner (SA), Ernie Roberts MP, Alf Lomas Euro-MP, John Aitken (POEU Broad Left), Harry Bristow (Waterworks shop steward), Therese Shanahan (LP Councillor, Tower Hamlets).
Fri 25 March, 7.30pm, Dalston Library, Dalston Lane, E8.

EALING Thur 24 March. Speaker: Val Coultas (SA). 7.30pm, Three Horseshoes pub (opposite Town Hall), Southall.

LEEDS Speaker: Steve Potter (SA). Thur 24 March, 7.30pm, the Trades Club.

MANCHESTER Speakers: Alan Freeman (SA), Dennis Green (Horwich Convenor)

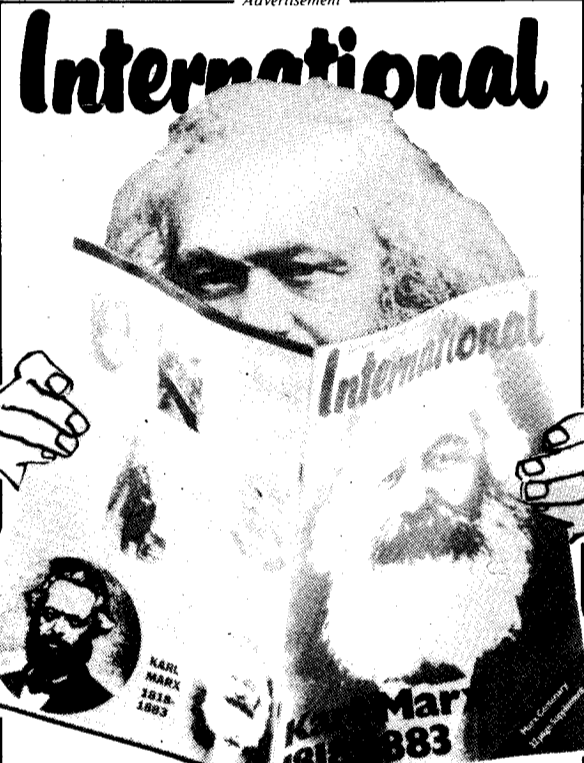
NEWHAM Speakers: John Aitken (POEU Broad Left), Alan Freeman (SA editor), Newham 8 speaker.
Tue 28 March, 7.45pm, Newham NW Labour Party HQ, 306 High St, Stratford.

and others. Fri 25 March, 7.30pm, Gorton Labour Club. Followed by social.

CARDIFF Speakers: Pat Hickey (SA), Ray Davies (PPC Cardiff N), Monica Walsh (NUPE). Wed 30 March, Ex-servicemen's Club, Bristol Mews, Penarth Rd. Followed by social.

BIRMINGHAM 'Labour after Bermondsey'. Speaker Alan Freeman (SA). Thur 24 March, 7.30pm, Birmingham's Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth.

OXFORD 'For a socialist campaign for a Labour victory'. Speaker: Alan Freeman (SA). Mon 28 March, 7.30pm, Buxton Hall, Ruskin College.



DEFINITELY worth a read is the latest issue of *International*, theoretical journal of supporters of the Socialist League. The centrepiece is a 32 page supplement on the Marx centenary. This features articles by Ernest Mandel examining the centrality of the potential of the working class to Marx's thought, and Norman Geras arguing for a Marxist notion of human nature. Marx's ideas on women, Ireland, the British bourgeois revolution, the Commune and on theory and practice are also discussed. The supplement argues for the continuing relevance of Marxism for the struggle of the working class and the oppressed today. Other articles cover a wide spectrum from Bob Sutcliffe's analysis of the capitalists' response to the economic crisis, to animal liberation, to Helen John and Valerie Coultas discussing Greenham Common. At 95p this 56 page double issue is a snip.

Socialist Action Trade Union School 16/17 April

After Bermondsey and the miners ballot, the Labour leaders attack socialists in the movement and passively watch the Tory onslaught against workers' rights. Yet there is a strong minority of working people that reject these right wing policies. Socialists will play the central role in organising this minority into a left wing that can take on the Tories and fight for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The Socialist Action trade union school will examine the history of our movement in order to arm socialists in the unions with the tactics and strategy needed to face this situation. The school will look at the Second Congress of the Comintern, the Minority Movement and the principles underlying the united front. It will finish with an examination of the class struggle in Britain from 1968 to today.

The school will aim to provide some of the programmatic and theoretical weapons for the next steps towards a class struggle left wing. Introductions will be given by speakers from the British and International labour movement. The school will be held in London and accommodation can be arranged. For more details write to: Socialist Action TU school, 328 Upper St, London N1 2XP, or see your local paper seller.

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By Martin Collins

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The scientific discoveries of KARL MARX

By Phil Hearse



THE CENTENARY of Karl Marx has been a time for the outpouring of bile and nonsense. In the colour supplements and newspaper articles, the reader will be hard put to it to find what Marx's important theoretical discoveries were.

A random sample from last week's press has Bernard Levin of the *Times* arguing that Marx was the 'founder of tyrannies'.

Peter Kellner of the *New Statesman* in an ignorant and foolish article says 'Labour should junk all this nonsense about debts to Marx. The party owes him nothing. His heritage is worthless'.

Even Neal Ascherson in the *Observer* goes on about where 'Marx went wrong'. So what were the theoretical breakthroughs that Marx made? And how do they aid the struggle of the working class.

* The theory of historical materialism

Historical materialism, first systematically expounded in the *German Ideology* (1845), is without doubt the fundamental scientific discovery of Marx. He himself summed it up with remarkable clarity and acuteness in his famous *Preface* of 1859:

'The general result at which I arrived and which once won served as the guiding thread for my studies can be briefly formulated as follows: in the social production of their life men enter into definite relations which are indispensable and independent of their will, relations of production which correspond to a definite stage of development of their material productive forces. The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which rises a legal and political superstructure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness. The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life process in general. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but their social being that determines their consciousness'.

Any careful reading of this passage reveals that Marxism is far from being the 'economic' theory that bourgeois ideologues assert. On the contrary Marxism explains that the 'social relations of production' are fundamental, determining level of social reality.



Photos: DAVID KING Archive

The ideology, law and politics of a given epoch cannot be understood outside of the social relations of production. Marx's 'guiding thread' enabled the workers movement to understand the development of modern society, the emergence of capitalism, and its own role as the political representative of a subordinate class — the proletariat.

Historical materialism does away 'at a stroke' with the view of history as the doings of great people, and enables the tangled skein of history to be 'penetrated', by revealing the development of the fundamental modern classes — the bourgeoisie and the proletariat — and the ideological and political forces which represent them.

* The theory of surplus value

Marx's second great discovery was the real nature of the wage labour-capital relationship. Liberal economic theory explained the wage labour-capital relationship as a free exchange on the market.

The workers sold their labour in return for a wage of equal value — an equal transaction freely struck. Marx explained that the proletariat was a propertyless class forced to sell its labour power. In exchange for the workers' labour power the capitalist

advanced a portion of his existing capital (which Marx called 'variable capital') as wages. The capitalist then appropriated the result of the workers production, a newly created 'surplus' value. This theory of surplus value created a scientific basis for understanding the mechanism of capitalist exploration.

* The Marxist theory of capitalist crisis

The derivative of Marx's theory of capitalist production was his insight into capitalist crisis, expounded at length in volume 3 of *Capital*.

Capitalism invariably goes through periods of booms and slumps. The 'motor force' of capitalist production, the incentive to get it going is the production of surplus value, and its result for the capitalists — profit.

A general decline in the rate of profit (the capitalists' 'return'), leads to a period of disinvestment, the closure of factories and mass unemployment. Each capitalist crisis is the result of a combination of specific factors.

But there is a general trend towards crisis in capitalism through the 'tendency of the rate of profit to fall'. As the capitalist production cycle develops, the proportion of accumulated capital — factories,

machines etc — in the production process increases. Production becomes more and more technologically intensive. It becomes more and more expensive to produce a given amount of surplus value. The average rate of profit begins to decline, unless countervailing tendencies intervene.

In the resulting crisis, huge amounts of capital are destroyed as capitalists go bankrupt and the conditions for profitable production are recreated.

* The theory of the state

The state only came into existence with class society. Although the state exists to ensure the continued production of the general conditions of production (in capitalism for example the postal service, a central bank, the fire service, etc) each state represents the interests of a particular class, the ruling class. Part of its function in maintaining the general conditions for the continued domination of the ruling class is its repressive function. As Engels put it: 'the state is in the last instance of a body of armed men.' The experience of the Paris Commune convinced Marx that 'the state cannot be seized by the working class and wielded for its own ends'. It must be broken up, 'smashed', and the standing army replaced by the workers in arms.

* The revolutionary role of the working class

The proletariat plays a unique role in world history. All previous revolutionary classes have been propertied classes, able to use their growing economic power against the ruling class. The working class on the other hand owns no property. Its sole weapons are its collective organisation and its consciousness.

The proletariat revolution is a uniquely conscious revolution. In order to accomplish its historical task of overthrowing capitalism the working class needs to understand society to act on it. The world outlook of the proletariat is Marxism itself.

But revolutionary class consciousness is not created spontaneously, but is the work of a revolutionary political party which links up with, and explains, the spontaneous struggles of the class.

It is clear that in the world of the 1980's — wracked with capitalist economic crisis, the ever present danger of imperialist war, and a savage capitalist offensive against the working class world-wide, Marxism is the only theory which explains the inter-action of the economic, political and ideological elements of the current crisis.

The immense interest in the Marx centenary in the labour movement stems not from sentimental attachment as Peter Kellner seems to think, but from the fact that Marxism continues to be unrivalled in its explanatory power and its ability to guide the political actions of the working class.

No amount of pompous drivel from Marx's bourgeois, liberal and social democratic detractors will conceal this fact from increasing numbers in the Labour Party and trade unions.

WHAT MARX REALLY SAID

On historical materialism:

● *The German Ideology*. Part 1. Marx and Engels. (Lawrence and Wishart). £2.50.

● *The Communist Manifesto*. Marx and Engels. (Pathfinder). 80p.

On surplus value:

● *Wage Labour and Capital*. Marx. 50p.

● *Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory*. Mandel. (Pathfinder). £1.75.

On capitalist crisis:

● *Capital Vol. 3*. Introduction by Mandel. (Penguin). £6.95.

On the Marxist theory of the state:

● *State and Revolution* Lenin 50p.

On the revolutionary role of the working class:

● *What is to be Done*. Lenin. 75p.

● *Leninist Theory of Organisation*. Mandel. 25p.

All available from The Other Bookshop. Plus 20 per cent for postage.

BL's Maestro — no miracle for workers

ON MONDAY 14 March a car body travelled the track in the south works of the Cowley assembly plant without workers touching it. The car was the new Austin Maestro, nicknamed the 'Oxford miracle'.

The real miracle is that such protests against speed ups didn't happen sooner.

The Maestro has already involved £210 million investment. It is seen as the car to make or break BL and management have imposed a tough regime. Many people have been sacked because of lateness or absence.

A three month probation makes sure people keep their heads down and their mouths shut. BL want a docile workforce for high and secure productivity.

Cowley workers have been on the defensive with the sacking of Alan Thornett and the introduction for the first time of a two year pay agreement. But BL haven't been able to destroy resistance to their plans. This was shown with the victory of the strike of 4,000 at the Pressed Steel body plant against the demanning of 14 jobs.

Green

BL decided to recruit a completely green workforce of 1,100 — young people in their first job or recruits from the dole queue.

The stewards' movement has been dismantled in Cowley over the years. Whole sections working on the Maestro don't have stewards to call on when problems arise.

By a Cowley worker

Management want to take away the three minute washing up time before dinner and at the end of the day, gaining 30 minutes a week extra work. This was to be imposed on 28 February but they retreated and are taking this through 'the proper procedure'.

This is different from the media image of 'the new BL' back from the brink with the brand new car to take over the world car market.

The real face of BL was revealed in the launch week, when industrial tribunals found management guilty of wrongful dismissal of a Cowley worker for giving out leaflets and of racial discrimination when a chief security officer issued memos for all black workers to be stopped and searched. Compensation was paid to the workers



Thatcher's backing BL moves for a docile workforce.

involved.

It is fitting that Thatcher was at the centre of the launch celebrations. The Edwardes plan is a test

case for Thatcher's union bashing plans to restore profitability. Recent events show that BL and the Tories won't have it all their own way.

The miracle car may be full of new gimmicks but the same old management techniques remain. There are rumours of guaranteed jobs, a new LM11 model in

12 months and the 'XX' project with Honda.

Management intends to introduce its new work practises for production of

these new models. The events of the past week have shown that the work force will be anything but passive in the face of these attacks.

Rover workers' victory

A RECENT strike at the BL Land Rover plant in Cardiff defeated management attacks on the union organisation. GEOFF STOCKHAM AUEW convener of the Joint Shop stewards committee spoke in personal capacity to Barry Wilkins.

The BL attitude to trade unionism is the background to this issue. Through aggressive Edwardes style management BL are attempting to bypass the trade union organisations, to win direct control over the minds of the membership. They use the fear of mounting unemployment to keep trade unionists in line and to dampen protest at the sacking of union leaders like Derek Robinson and Alan Thornett.

At Land Rover in Cardiff the membership a few years ago had become disillusioned with the union. The plant had been steadily slimmed down through voluntary redun-

dancy without much opposition and there was a marked lack of fight from the national union leaderships.

The stewards committee recognised that a new approach was needed — to rebuild closer links with the membership on the shop floor to defeat the influence of the company.

We aimed to rebuild solidarity amongst the workforce by taking up the issues that faced the members and ensuring regular reports from the stewards back to the section.

Gradually we have turned the situation around and earned the confidence of the member-

ship.

For example in the 1981-82 pay deal the plant voted for industrial action in pursuit of a better deal which was against the national trend in BL. And last year by a large majority the membership supported a half-day strike in solidarity with the health workers.

Threats

There have been continual threats to the shop stewards' organisation from management. They wanted to test our real support on the shop floor. Management took their stand a few weeks ago when they attempted to fundamentally alter the role of trade unions on site.

This led to a five day suspension of myself as

convenor. If this had succeeded it would have opened the way to my dismissal. Then any steward or member would have been at risk.

The stewards' committee recommended immediate strike action. The members overwhelmingly agreed. They saw clearly that this was a testing time for the whole membership and union organisation in the plant.

We went on strike for three and a half days with 100 per cent solid support from the workforce. A national conference was called involving union and management representatives at national and local level.

A general meeting agreed a return to work on the understanding that if the disciplinary action was not unconditionally withdrawn a further general

meeting would be called to discuss resuming the strike. This shop stewards' proposal gave neither management nor national union officials an opportunity to sow divisions in our ranks.

At the national conference the disciplinary action was unconditionally withdrawn by management. Although a joint statement of intent was made in which the unions agreed to work to established practices and agreements, this simply restated the existing position.

The workforce could see that the company had backed down and were trying to cover this up. This was a victory against the management and many lessons can be drawn from it. Even against the aggressive onslaught of Thatcher and Edwardes a

firm basis for a fight back can be built.

To do this it is necessary to win the confidence and support of the members. Our success is an endorsement of the new approach and hard work of the stewards' committee and a testimony to the capacity of the membership to stand up to the management. The stewards' committee must show the members what is happening.

We have the advantage, now as management see our support on the shop floor. But further attacks on our union organisation are inevitable especially because of the strong possibility of privatisation of the Land Rover division.

This shows the need for radical political altern-

vatives. We must win the members confidence for this — the need for a Labour government which acts in our interests on the basis of socialist policies and not the kind of Labour government we've experienced in the past.

But just as we've built firm foundations in the workforce, so too must the Labour Party. It's not good enough just to adopt policies without building real support for them among the grass roots of the working class.

We've shown that with hard steady work you can establish firm foundations which are not easily shaken. The highest tower will come crashing down without a solid base.

With our strong relationship with the members further advances can be gained.

PICKET LINE

'WHAT DO I think of the picket? Gosh, that colourful bunch of peasants, what? Very nice'.

Things aren't so nice for the workers at the plush Grosvenor House Hotel in London's West End. Workers get lousy pay and conditions for cleaning the shit after royalty and other wealthy scroungers.

Their employer is the anti-union Trust House Forte group, which reaps massive profits from exploiting low paid labour.

A bitter dispute has raged for three weeks since 27 workers, including 7 shop stewards, were told they were 'no longer required' — some after 25 years service. The picket line, officially backed by the general workers' union GMBATU, is demanding proper contracts of employment and full union recognition.

● Messages of support and donations should be sent to GMBATU, Thorne House, 154 Brent St, Hendon. NW4 2DP. Assistance for pickets welcome from 6am to midnight every day.



Birmingham's 'privateers'

BIRMINGHAM is in the front line for privatisation of local authority services. ROGER KLEIN explains.

The Birmingham Tories came to office last May on a platform of putting many of the council's services out to private tender. This is part of the Tories' national policy of selling off profitable public services and running down the rest.

The Birmingham Tories refined this. They use the threat of contractors to get existing council workers to cut their own throats and accept massive speed up and cutbacks.

Under Labour in Birmingham, the number of refuse collectors dropped in ten years from 900 to 540. The Sutton Coldfield sports centre was hived off to private contractors.

This did not leave the Tories much scope to cut things further without a frontal assault on the city's trade unions. So far the city's refuse collectors have agreed to 200 more redundancies and massive speed up.

Cleaners

The school cleaners and dinner ladies are heading towards the same disastrous path of tendering for their own jobs. Social workers and the 9000 strong NALGO branch were outfoxed by the Tory leader Bosworth, despite their non-cooperation policy and determined strike late last year.

Resistance to privatisation has been a shambles. The Tories have capitalised on real discontent with existing services — waiting lists, post office queues, inadequate education ser-

vices. The privatisation process is seen as inevitable, in the same way as redundancies often are.

This has meant a steady stream of volunteers ready to undercut any struggle. Official trade union resistance has been half-hearted.

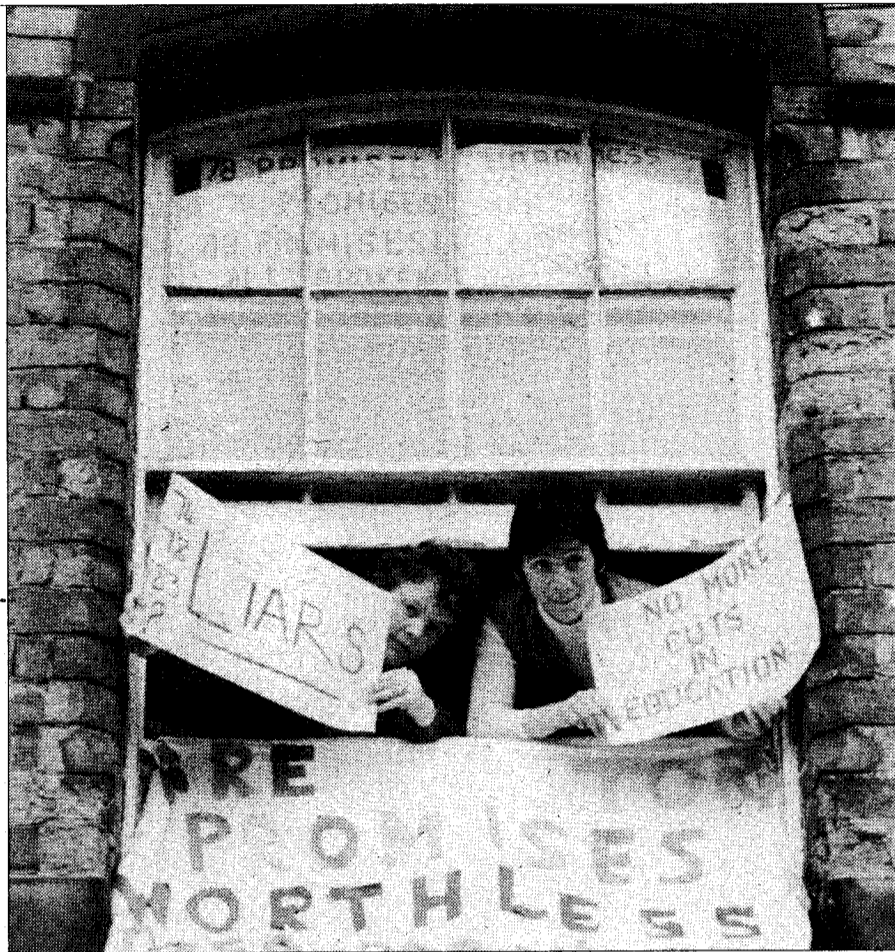
A blind eye is sometimes turned to proposals for in-house tendering. Where action does take place, there is a reluctance to fight to the finish in case it costs too much from union funds. There has also been a dismal failure to involve the users of services in struggles. The NHS dispute showed that such support can be organised.

Campaign

A campaign is needed to improve services as part of the anti-privatisation action. Too often workers are encouraged to 'wait for the next Labour council'. This is used as an alternative to any struggle or to put the brake on ones that do break out in case they 'alienate' people.

In contrast, success is possible in the few places where mass multi-union campaigning has taken place, taking the case to users.

● Roger Klein is a staff member of the new Birmingham Trade Union Resources Centre formally opened on 16 March at Fredrick Street, Birmingham 1 3HE. (Tel 021-236 8323). The Centre provides printing, layout advice, research facilities and plans to offer meeting rooms and a cinema.



Two women occupy Nechells School in Birmingham to protest the Tory closure.

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Why privatisation?

THE TORIES' aims are clear:

● To roll back the welfare state and leave individuals to cope as best they can. Until recently this was a minority view even in the Tory Party. But the growth of monetarism is more than an economic event. For example, the end of the NHS has been floated in Cabinet discussion papers.

● To bash the public sector unions. Private contractors are either non-union or poorly unionised. Threatened use of contractors can lead to big concessions from existing public sector workers. Tebbit's law would prevent union-only contractors and cut across solidarity in disputes.

● To use privatisation to enforce cash limits monetarism. Arguments are brought forward that savings are made in the public sector through privatisation. These savings are often completely phoney. At best they only last while the contractors get a toehold. Socialists talk about public service not public spending. We don't get involved in arguments about savings. These lead workers to accept wages and job cuts.

● To help their pals in private industry with fat contracts. The money involved is enormous. So are the companies. The typical contractor chasing public sector loot is a giant multinational. These companies can afford expensive lobbying. There is constant exchange of personnel between ministries, councils, committees, of inquiry and the contractors.

The mentality of the privateers is shown in this remark from Jack Massey, chairperson of the Hospital Corporation of America:

'The growth potential of hospitals is unlimited. It's even better than Kentucky Fried chicken.'

Bus transport under attack

THE TORIES aim to reduce bus work to lump labour by breaking the standard day, introducing private contractors and selling off the National Bus network.

By Mike Eude (TGWU 3/111 Bristol)

The only criterion for transport will be how cheap it is. County councils and traffic commissioners will have to accept the lowest private tenders.

It will open the harbour to any pirate, sinking bus workers wages, conditions and safety standards.



Countrywide busworkers are attacked. Sheffield day of action.

Photo: JMB HARRIS

Bus workers were all set for their first national strike for several years on 4 March. The transport union's passenger trade group suspended the strike, overturning the decision of a delegate conference for a series of strikes for a 13 per cent claim and a recall delegate

conference to consider any offer.

The offer agreed by the leadership was a five per cent pay increase with reduced hours from 39 to 37½, without loss of pay, and a four day week.

It sounded good but the four day week will not be a standard day, it in-

troduces flexible rostering.

This carrot will be followed by the stick of depot closures, job loss and worse safety as local managements seek to push through rostering 'to the minute'.

Three weeks earlier, Bill Morris, national secretary of the passenger group, spoke at a bus workers rally in Bristol. He promised to fight the employers' attacks but the sell out on the pay deal proved how serious he was.

Morris pinned all on the return of a Labour government and 'tripartite' planning agreements between management, government and unions.

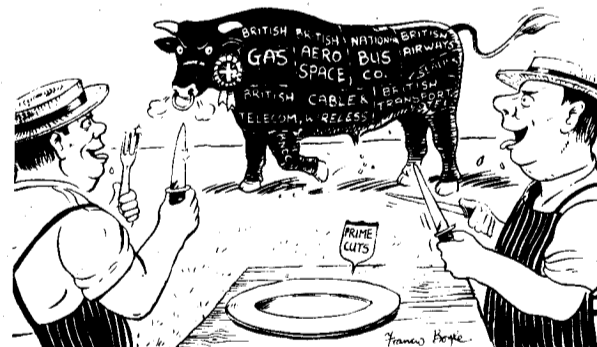
But redundancies occurred under the last Labour government and this workers' participation

formula merely ties the unions closer to management. It makes the independent action we need to defend our jobs and conditions more difficult to achieve.

Our branch meeting after the strike suspension was attended by 80 people. It voted unanimously to censure the national secretary and the national committee for 'violating the democracy of our union and agreeing flexible rostering'.

Branches around the country should fill Morris's office with similar resolutions and demand a national delegate conference to coordinate national action against cuts and closures.

Let's disprove his excuse that the ranks are apathetic!



MacGregor the "whizz kid" who drives a hard bargain

When you pay out over £3,300,000 in transfer fees for a person who is only going to work for you six years you've got to expect results for your money.

So how does the new boss of the Coal Board come out in the bargaining and productivity stakes?

Mrs Catherine Fisher, a widow who cleans MacGregor's

Scottish weekend home, is very impressed by his ability to drive a hard bargain. Or at least she ought to be because he pays her less than 78p an hour.

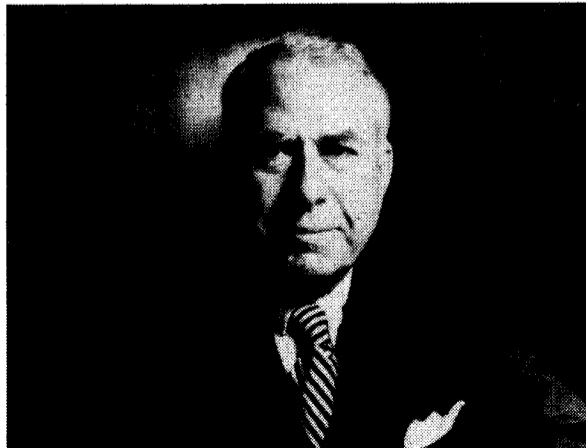
By Bob Pennington

With other peoples' money like his shareholders of his American company

Amx, MacGregor has been not quite so good. When he conducted Amx's big expansion, the company's liabilities went to \$1.3 billion. In 1981 when he was still a prominent board member of Amx he joined the rest of the board in rejecting Standard Oil's record US take-over bid of \$4 billion.

MacGregor rather coyly describes himself as being 'remiss' in not pushing the merger through. Well he might, as Amx liabilities have now gone from \$1.3 billion to \$2.7 billion, and its shares have dipped from the \$78.50 offered by Standard Oil to \$24.

Some US business experts predict he could make the Guinness Book of Records. They say



MacGregor: A costly blunder ...

Amx's rejection of the Standard Oil offer was the costliest financial blunder in US corporate history.

Nor is MacGregor always too good in picking his people. When he stopped being head of

Amx his influence made sure that the little known lower executive Pierre Gousseland stepped into his shoes.

Now some unkind shareholders wish Mr Gousseland had remained little known. Under

his leadership Amx has been having a real tough time. Its losses last year were nearly \$400 million.

Now are you getting some idea why MacGregor was prepared to leave the USA for the stimulation of new challenges in Bri-

tain? Despite these reverses which come in the billions he can still negotiate a deal at local level. It transpires that he has got his golf club to give him membership at the pensioner's reduced rate. No wonder Mrs Thatcher is impressed.

A little reductionist?

East Leeds Labour Party Young Socialists' motion to the LPYS Easter conference reads: 'This conference believes that the increase in glue sniffing is one of the indirect consequences of Tory policies.'

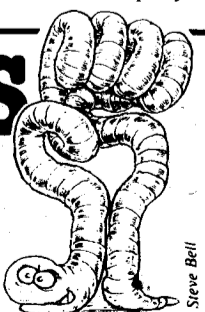
It then asks the next Labour Government to take immediate steps to control the abuse of such solvents.

A suitable amend-

ment might read: 'Labour should nationalise the glue monopolies and the ancillary trades under joint sniffers' and workers' control.'

Compiled by BOB PENNINGTON. Send contributions to Worm's Eye, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP to arrive not later than Thursday a week prior to publication.

WORM'S EYE VIEW



Steve Bell

A Socialist ACTION

KGB bid to crush Soviet peace group

HAVING suffered unparalleled devastation during the Second World War, the Soviet people understand the horrors of modern war. However, no mass peace movement exists.

The Soviet bureaucracy, acutely aware of the burden of military spending on the economy, gives favourable coverage to Western peace movements where these help to divide NATO and prevent the installation of Cruise and Pershing missiles. But its aim is the renewal of detente rather than fundamental opposition to US imperialism.

Within the Soviet Union an official Committee for the Defence of Peace is a haven for ageing academics and notables.

On 4 June 1982, a Group for Establishing Trust between the USSR and the USA proclaimed its formation at a news conference in Moscow. They said that the official Peace Committee was too closely tied to the Kremlin and an independent group was needed to complement official activities. Its initial membership consisted of eleven intellectuals.

Decisive

The Group's original demands were for Moscow to be a nuclear-free zone; the stopping of all nuclear tests; and the establishment of mainly cultural-scientific links between the USSR and the USA (eg. joint space and medical research).

These demands have since been amplified in an interview in the *New Statesman* (11.2.83) with Sergei Batovrin, the 26 year-old artist and leading spokesperson of the Group.

Further demands include negotiations for a bilateral freeze in the deployment of nuclear

weapons and thence to a reduction of nuclear stocks; utilisation of the money saved for a joint programme of world improvement; the dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact; opposition to the development of MX and new ICBM's East and West.

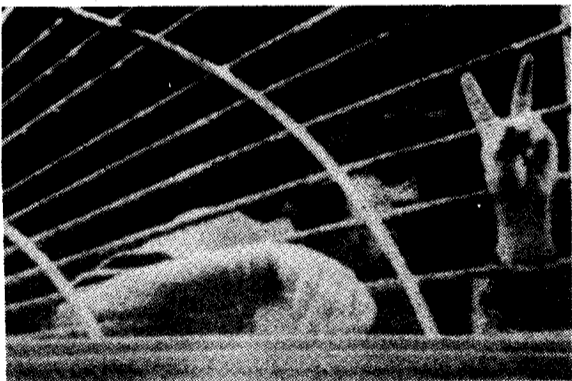
By Rick Hellman

Last October the Group issued a call for a congress of all independent peace groups to be held in Moscow in Autumn 1983.

Since its formation the Group claim to have collected 900 signatures in its support and established further groups in Leningrad, Odessa and Novosibirsk.

Despite its avowed support for Soviet nuclear policy, the fact of the Group's independent activity on an issue which could have a wide response inside the Soviet Union has led to increased repression from the KGB.

Within days of its formation Batovrin had been placed under house arrest. In August he was confined to a psychiatric hospital for a month,



Sergei Batovrin in psychiatric hospital

subjected to treatment with drugs against his will, and on his release made a compulsory outpatient.

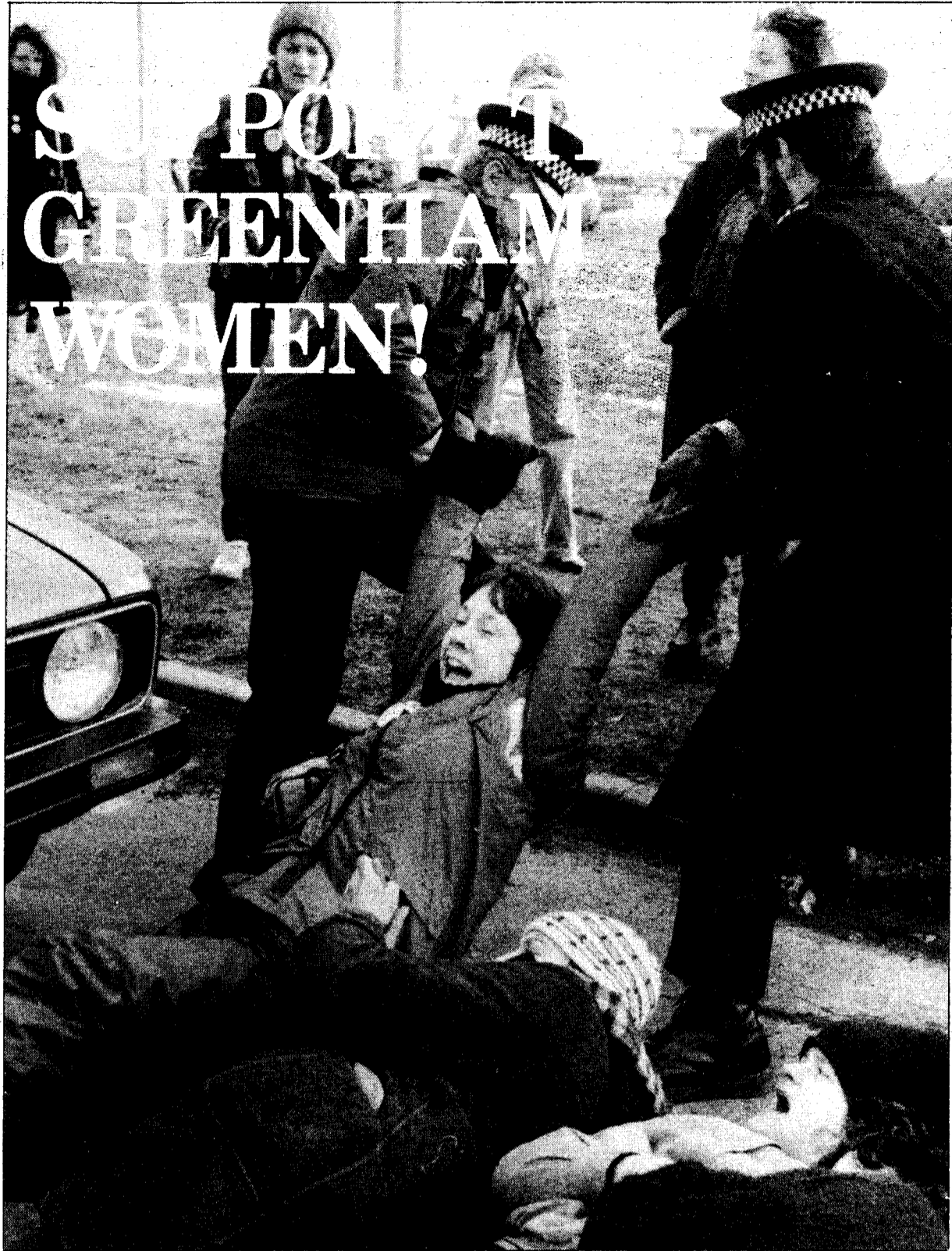
Last July, during the officially-sanctioned peace march through the Soviet Union by Scandinavian women, every effort was made to keep the marchers from meeting members of the Group including detaining two of the Group's leading members, Yuri Khronopulo and Yuri Medvedkov, for 15 days on charges of 'hooliganism'.

Medvedkov and another Group member, Viktor Blok, have been subjects of the almost fatal attention of the KGB — the steering wheel of Medvedkov's car mysteriously came off in his hand and Blok was almost run over by a truck.

At the time of writing Batovrin and Sergei Rosenoer have been on hunger strike for two weeks to protest the continued harassment of the Group. It is imperative that CND and the labour movement offers their support to all independent peace groups in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Messages of protest about the group's treatment should be sent to: Soviet Ambassador, 18 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

SUPPORT GREENHAM WOMEN!



'NO CRUISE, No Trident, Support the Greenham Women' were the slogans of two hundred supporters of Youth CND who marched the thirty miles from Oxford to the Greenham base last weekend.

The dedication of the women peace campers has provided a focal point for the anti-missile campaign. This was reflected in the large numbers of young women on the march. A contingent of young women led and stewarded the march.

A large majority of the marchers were from Oxford and the surrounding area — and for many of them coming on the march was their first step towards active involvement in the fight for unilateral disarmament.

In the run up to the march, Oxford YCNDers

distributed thousands of leaflets in local schools, colleges and in the shopping centres and outside the local Cowley car plant. Meetings and film showings were organised, and collections taken.

By Andy Brooking

YCND members visited a pub by the Cowley works to talk to the young workers there. Over 30 signatures were won for CND's 'Refuse Cruise' petition. Supporters working in Cowley

were able to collect sponsorship and support from their workmates and their union branch.

Further support for the march was built up in the labour movement — Oxford Labour Party Young Socialists, the Southern Region LPYS and a number of other local Labour Party and trade unions branches supported the march.

The marchers were sent off by a rally addressed by the mayor, Labour's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate and representatives from the local labour movement.

Similar delegations greeted the march in Abingdon and Newbury, and a member of Didcot Peace

Committee addressed the marchers as they arrived for an overnight stay in Didcot Labour Club.

News of the fighting in Nicaragua prompted the marchers message of solidarity to the Nicaraguan people.

After a welcoming speech by one of the campers, Annajoy David, YCND's national organiser, addressed the march on its arrival at Greenham Common. She explained how the march was part of the build-up for CND's Easter events — including the peace chain from Greenham to Burghfield — and for YCND's 'Rock the Bomb' Carnival in London on 7 May.

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Stand together: Easter activities



Here is a reminder of the activities planned for the Easter weekend:

- THURSDAY 31 MARCH Demonstration — Greenham Common USAF base and of Burghfield ROF from 6am. For organised groups only, and each group should have a support group. People should aim to arrive on Wednesday evening for final briefing sessions and report to the main support areas. Groups from the North West, West, Wales, West Midlands, South West, West and Ireland should go to Greenham; groups from London, the South East, East Anglia, East Midlands, South Midlands, and North should go to Burghfield.
- FRIDAY 1 APRIL A human chain linking Greenham and Burghfield via Aldermaston. On disembarking from coaches, people should walk

towards Aldermaston — which will be clearly signposted. Toilets, medical facilities, etc. will be available at fourteen 'stations' situated en route at one-mile intervals. Link-up from these stations at 1pm. Later: Aldermaston Festival — bring puppets, music, games, decorations etc. Please pick up your litter.

- SATURDAY 2 APRIL A demonstration and carnival in Glasgow. Assemble from 11.15am in Cochrane St. (by George Square, city centre) for a mass 'die-in'; proceeding to Kelvingrove Park (two miles) for the carnival. Music, speakers, theatre, stalls, children's events, etc.
- SUNDAY 3 APRIL A human chain along the perimeter of Faslane nuclear submarine base on the Clyde. Transport from Glasgow and overnight accommodation will be available.